

He not only held positions in the judicial system for most of his life, Judge Leary utilized his expertise to educate the next generation of lawyers.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of the Honorable Paul K. Leary. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his commitment to justice and the people of Massachusetts.

HONORING VICTIMS OF SUMGAIT POGROM

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 31st anniversary of the pogrom against the Armenian residents of the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. On February 27, 1988, and for three days following, Azerbaijani mobs assaulted and killed Armenians. The violence left hundreds of Armenian civilians dead and injured, women and girls were raped, and some victims were burned alive. Thousands were forced to flee their homes, leaving behind their belongings.

The pogroms came as a direct result of years of vicious, racist anti-Armenian propaganda by Azerbaijani authorities, dehumanizing the Armenian residents of Azerbaijan and laying the groundwork for mass violence. Azerbaijani authorities made little effort to punish those responsible, instead attempting to cover up the atrocities in Sumgait to this day and denying the government role in instigating the killings. Indeed, even today, racist propaganda against Armenia and Armenians is prevalent in Azerbaijan.

The hateful and dangerous Azerbaijani attacks on Armenians is also seen in a horrific crime which occurred 15 years ago last week. At a NATO sponsored training in Budapest, an Azerbaijani Army officer named Ramil Safarov snuck into the room of an Armenian lieutenant, Gurgen Margaryan, and hacked him to death with an axe as he slept.

For this brutal and despicable crime, Safarov was sentenced to life imprisonment in Hungary. Yet after a determined campaign by Azerbaijan's government, he was extradited to Baku in 2012 where he was greeted not as a criminal but as a hero, provided back pay, and promoted in rank. There is no more dramatic illustration of Azerbaijan's continued posture of hatred and aggression towards their Armenian neighbor than their celebration of a cold-blooded murderer.

The assault on ethnic Armenian civilians in Sumgait helped touch off what would become a direct conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan which took thousands of lives and displaced millions more. The anniversary of Sumgait is a reminder of the consequences when aggression and hatred grow unchecked.

Madam Speaker, in two months we will mark the 104th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, an event the Turkish government, Azerbaijan's closest ally, goes to great lengths to deny. We must not let such crimes against humanity go unrecognized, whether they occurred yesterday or 30 years ago or 100 years ago. Today, let us pause to remember the victims of the atrocities of the Sumgait pogroms. Madam Speaker, it is our moral obligation to

condemn crimes of hatred and to remember the victims, in hope that history will not be repeated.

RECOGNIZING NACDS RxIMPACT DAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill that is coming up next week. This is a special day where we will have the chance to recognize the pharmacy industry's many contributions to the American healthcare system.

Organized by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), this event will take place on March 5–6, 2019. More than 400 individuals from all 50 states representing the pharmacy community—including practicing pharmacists, pharmacy school faculty and students, state pharmacy association representatives, and pharmacy company leaders—will be on Capitol Hill. They will visit every House and Senate office to share their views with us about the importance of supporting their access agenda—legislative priorities that will ensure that our constituents will continue to have access to more than 40,000 community and neighborhood pharmacies across the country and be better able to utilize pharmacists to improve healthcare quality while reducing the cost of care.

Local pharmacists are important community leaders, who are trusted by their patients to efficiently provide high quality, convenient healthcare services. And as demand for healthcare services continues to grow, pharmacists are stepping in to fill gaps in healthcare delivery by partnering with physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers to address the unmet need. Moreover, pharmacists continually innovate to provide unique services that improve overall patient health and wellness.

Further, in many communities the local pharmacist is a patient's most direct healthcare access point. This is particularly true in rural areas. In fact, 91 percent of Americans live within five miles of a community pharmacy. These pharmacies bring value to their communities by providing care to those who need it most—older Americans and those who manage chronic conditions, particularly in rural and underserved areas. In addition, pharmacists frequently work with patients to navigate specific pharmacy benefits and the use of generic substitutions to identify strategies to save money. Pharmacists also ensure medications are administered appropriately, and offer other preventative services that help improve patients overall wellbeing and quality of life.

The pharmacy advocates attending NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill will be educating members on their access agenda. As we debate the future of healthcare, the pharmacy community wishes to work with us to help develop solutions that put pharmacy's value to work for patients and payers. Specifically, NACDS's advocates will be seeking our support for policies that will help address prescription drug affordability and transparency through much-needed reform to DIR fees, a

complicated fee structure imposed on pharmacies to participate in the Medicare Part D program. They will also highlight proposals designed to address the opioid epidemic.

I believe Congress should work with the 2019 NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill advocates to advance policies that support pharmacists in their effort to improve care, increase access, and lower costs.

RECOGNIZING DANNY RUSSELL

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Danny Russell, the morning show host on WMKR in Taylorville, Illinois, who is leaving the broadcasting industry after 40 years.

Local media is so important to our communities and Danny's service is a prime example of this.

Danny graduated from the radio-tv program at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey and spent 17 years as the weekend weathercaster for WICS-TV Channel 20 in Springfield.

His career has included stints at several Springfield radio stations and in 2011, he joined the Miller Media Group to become the Morning Show host on WMKR Genuine Country 94.3.

Additionally, Danny has been the Miller Media Group production director, host of the Saturday Retro Request Show and the "Brown Bag Rewind" show. He has also broadcast live from countless events thru-out central Illinois over his nearly 8 years with Miller Media Group.

I congratulate Danny on 40 years of success in the broadcasting industry, and I wish him well on his next chapter.

SUPPORTING GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGISLATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act and H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act. Both pieces of legislation would close deadly loopholes in federal law to increase public safety. I am proud to co-lead these important initiatives to reduce gun violence.

H.R. 8, which would require background checks on all firearm purchases, is a common sense measure that will help keep our children and communities safe. This is particularly important with the rise of internet and gun show sales, where prohibited purchasers can easily skirt the law to obtain deadly firearms. This bill would also reduce firearms trafficking through secondary sales and enhance law enforcement's ability to trace firearms used in a crime.

Similarly, H.R. 1112 would increase public safety by giving background check operators sufficient time to complete background checks.

While roughly 90 percent of background checks on gun sales are completed immediately, a small amount requires additional time for operators to discern whether a purchaser is prohibited from buying a firearm. However, under current law, if a background check is not completed within three business days, the sale can proceed. This loophole allows thousands of prohibited purchasers each year—including the shooter in Charleston, South Carolina—from obtaining guns without the completion of a background check.

H.R. 1112 would keep everyday citizens safe by keeping firearms out of the hands of prohibited purchasers. It would also protect law enforcement by reducing the need for ATF agents to retrieve guns from individuals who shouldn't have been allowed to purchase them.

While there is no single measure that will completely eliminate gun violence, these bills take crucial steps towards reducing it. They also protect the rights of law abiding gun owners. I am proud to support these pieces of legislation and encourage my colleagues to do so.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, yesterday had I been present, I would have voted in strong support of S. 47, the Natural Resources Management Act. I was detained due to severe weather and cancelled flights in Oregon.

S. 47 is a compilation of approximately 100 public lands and natural resources bills. One of the main provisions would provide permanent authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which I strongly support.

Also included in this essential legislation are three provisions that I authored to protect critical salmon and steelhead habitats in southwestern Oregon and designate more than 30,000 acres of public land as Wilderness.

H.R. 994, the Chetco River Protection Act, would prohibit new mining claims on various rivers and creeks in Southwestern Oregon. The waters protected by this legislation supply clean drinking water to thousands of residents of Southwest Oregon and Northwest California and are critical salmon habitat.

H.R. 999, the Devil's Staircase Wilderness Act, would permanently protect Devil's Staircase, a remote, unspoiled area in the Coast Range. The legislation would designate approximately 30,500 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands as Wilderness. In addition, this legislation designates approximately 14.4 miles of the Wasson and Franklin Creeks, which support native Coho and Chinook salmon, trout, and steelhead runs, as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

H.R. 1056, the Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area Designation Act, would designate almost 100,000 acres of public land in the Steamboat Creek Watershed in the Umpqua National Forest that is vitally important steelhead habitat. The legislation would honor Frank and Jeanne Moore's lifelong efforts to protect the North Umpqua River and its tributaries.

The lands protected in these bills are some of the most beautiful, pristine, and ecologically-diverse areas in Oregon. To leave these areas unprotected would be to subject them to pollution and mining, endanger drinking water for thousands of families, and devastate local recreation economies.

I am proud that Congress overwhelmingly passed this legislation and that President Trump is expected to sign this important legislation into law.

HONORING GRANT THOMPSON

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Grant Thompson, a 14 year-old in my district who found a glitch in Apple's FaceTime software that allowed iPhones to be turned into spying devices. He is a Freshman at Catalina Foothills High School whose interest in technology put him in a position to discover this critical flaw.

The flaw Grant discovered allowed a user to be eavesdropped on before they actually accepted a call. Before his discovery, I'm sure millions of Americans used the app completely unaware of this very serious security and privacy violation. But Grant, his sister, and his mom took initiative to ensure this vulnerability was addressed, and for that, we should all be grateful.

Grant is a lot like other freshmen—he spends time on Instagram, he plays Fortnite, and obviously, he enjoys FaceTiming with his friends. He is a humble young man who told me that he and his sister Lauren simply stumbled across the flaw. His mother, Michele Thompson, supported her son and reached out to Apple so that the flaw could be fixed, which Apple promptly did. Michele is rightfully proud of her son, and I am too.

Grant's future is bright. I hear he dreams of one day being involved in a STEM-related industry, and I have no doubt that with hard work and his natural technology skills his dreams will one day become a reality.

I thank Grant, Lauren, and Michele for protecting the privacy of people around the world. I also want to thank Apple for listening to the Thompson family and for rewarding Grant's work with an investment in his future. Arizona's 2nd Congressional District is excited to watch Grant grow and thrive.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BENJAMIN CAMACHO PALACIOS

HON. MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Command Sergeant Major Benjamin Camacho Palacios. Mr. Palacios was a Retired U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major and will be fondly remembered for his many outstanding contributions and accomplishments throughout his military and civilian career.

A dedicated public servant, Mr. Palacios became one of the most senior noncommis-

sioned officers serving with various commands both in the U.S. and overseas. Primarily serving in leadership positions within the Armor Career Management Field, he eventually assumed duty as the United States Army Forces Command Sergeant Major on July 27, 1998. He was the Army's senior ranking enlisted Soldier in Korea when he was honored with the South Korean Order of National Security Merit Gwanbok Medal. Command Sergeant Major Palacios was the first enlisted soldier to receive the medal since the end of the Korean War. He was also the only person who served over five terms on the Department of Veteran Affairs Congressional Committee Mandated Advisory Committee for Minority Veterans (ACMV).

On Guam and the Marianas, the personal accomplishments and success of native sons and daughters are celebrated and adopted as triumphs for everyone in the community. I am deeply saddened by the passing of Command Sergeant Major Palacios and I join the people of Guam in celebrating his life and legacy. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, loved ones, and friends. Command Sergeant Major Palacios will be deeply missed, and his memory will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for the bipartisan National Resources Management Act. Congress has not enacted a public lands package of this scale since 2009, and passage of this bill will mark a major milestone for the conservation and future of America's public lands. This bill will permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, designate over 1 million acres of wilderness, and protect over 1 million acres of land from destructive practices.

I have supported the Land and Water Conservation Fund for many years and since its creation, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped preserve America's outdoors heritage by supporting anglers and outdoor recreation for families in every state. Wisconsin alone has received \$211 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, helping to protect the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Ice Age National Scenic Trail, and North Country National Scenic Trail.

I am proud that the package includes the Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Act, which reauthorizes the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to help conserve migratory birds in rapid decline in Wisconsin and throughout the country. The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act provides more than \$66 million in grants to support long term conservation, research, and habitat protection of migratory birds.

As the founder and co-chair of the National Parks Caucus and longtime member of the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus and Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I am proud to support this legislation.