

occasion of his 99th birthday on April 7th, and thank him for his service to the United States Navy and to the United States of America.

Mr. Kowalewski enlisted as a gunner on a twin-engine PBM flying boat in October of 1941, just two months before the ambush at Pearl Harbor would launch the U.S. into World War II. As a part of Torpedo Squadron Eight present at the Battle of Midway, he and his fellow crew members earned commendations for bravery in engagements at Guadalcanal, Midway, and the British Solomon Islands.

Attempting to fly a mail route off the coast of the Fiji Islands, Mr. Kowalewski's plane stalled on takeoff and crashed into the Pacific Ocean. He was forced to free himself from the downed plane and paddle from the wreckage, fearful the ship's 500-pound depth charges would detonate. Madam Speaker, even after receiving combat honors twice for his heroics, Mr. Kowalewski once again piloted a U.S. Navy plane, instead hunting German submarines in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Mr. Kowalewski moved out to Alaska in 1967 after fulfilling his Naval service, continuing to fly as an FAA Airway Systems Inspection Pilot. But whether he was piloting a torpedo bomber or a twin-engine Cessna, he always conducted himself with valor and should be considered among Alaska's finest Naval Aviators for his service.

An aviator needs quick decision-making and a cool head to fly a plane in combat. Many of us will not know the kind of mental toughness required to see a mission to its conclusion, even under the most dire flight conditions.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Zygmond Kowalewski, who now at the age of 99, will have spent nearly one quarter of his life's work in service to his country having flown missions from Dutch Harbor to the Panama Canal. There are few people that can claim to have sacrificed as much under our flag, and he is owed the thanks and gratitude of all of us here in Washington and in Alaska.

RECOGNIZING THE COUNCIL ROCK HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Council Rock High School South Symphony Orchestra. Beginning April 10, 2019, the Council Rock High School South Symphony Orchestra will be traveling throughout Spain for a nine-day tour.

Notably, the symphony orchestra will perform in three public concerts: at the Teatro Auditorio Riberas del Guadaira in Seville, the Auditorio Manuel de Falla in Granada, and the Plaza Ayuntamiento in Toledo.

These performances not only give these young students the opportunity to perform in historic venues, but allow them to immerse themselves in Spanish music, culture, and history.

I would like to applaud Mr. Christopher Simon, the Orchestra Director at Council Rock High School South, for his visionary leadership. I wish him and all the talented musicians under his direction an eye-opening and rewarding trip.

CONSTITUENTS OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eric and David Groos, two constituents from San Juan Capistrano, as my Constituents of the Month for April.

Each month, I recognize constituents who have gone above and beyond to help their neighbors, give back to their community, and make the country stronger. As co-founders of a non-profit that provides under-served and at-risk youth with outdoor recreational activities, there is no question that Eric and David are deserving of this recognition.

The brothers' non-profit, Great Opportunities, has served over 3000 young people in my district, mainly coming from San Juan Capistrano's geographically identified gang induction zones where kids are most at-risk of being drawn toward gang activity. Organizations like theirs play a critical role in generating opportunity in socioeconomically disadvantaged communities, and I am extremely grateful for the services they provide.

Eric and David provide kids in my district with more than just recreational activities—they are providing experiences that will help kids develop leadership and problem-solving skills, which will serve them well throughout their lives. I believe we must do more at the local, state, and federal levels to support organizations like theirs that provide under-served youth with the skills they need to succeed in life, and that will continue to be one of my priorities.

I am proud to recognize Eric and David as my constituents of the month for April, and I am deeply grateful for everything they do to give back to our community.

MARY JO GIDDINGS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mary Jo Giddings for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce Pioneer Award.

Mary Jo is a former Woman of the Year Award recipient and has had a positive impact on the Arvada community for nearly 50 years. She is well-deserving of this award as she has served as a leader in Arvada for many years and has contributed in many unprecedented ways.

The leadership demonstrated by Mary Jo is exemplary of the type of positive impact that can be made on the Arvada community with hard work and dedication. She has volunteered at the Arvada Center since it opened in 1976 and sits on the Board of Directors for the Arvada Historical Society and the Arvada Vitality Alliance as well as organizes Arvada Garden Tours.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mary Jo Giddings for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce and appreciate his ongoing contributions to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF ROMANI AMERICANS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, this body has long recognized the accomplishments and unique heritage of cultures that make up and enrich the United States. Today, I, along with my colleague Representative STEVE WATKINS of Kansas, am proud to introduce a resolution recognizing and celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans.

Few cultures are as geographically diverse as the Romani people. Tracing their ancestry to the Indian subcontinent, the Romani people migrated and settled throughout Europe over the last millennia. Often, they faced scorn, hatred, persecution and discrimination. Nevertheless, they maintained their unique language and culture while enriching the culture and economies of the countries in which they became citizens. They have made distinct and important contributions in many fields including agriculture, art, crafts, literature, medicine, military service, music, sports, and science.

In 2005, the European Parliament estimated that there were 12 to 15 million Roma in Europe. Roma were among the many groups of people that suffered at the hands of the Nazis and their allies during World War II. It is estimated that between 200,000 to 500,000 Romani people were killed in death camps and elsewhere throughout Europe. In an attempt to liquidate the so-called "Gypsy Family Camp" at Auschwitz-Birkenau, on August 2 to 3, 1944, between 4,200 and 4,300 Romani men, women, and children were murdered in gas chambers in a single night. This year marks the 75th anniversary of that tragic event.

Roma have also been a part of every wave of European migration to North and South America. In the United States, there may be as many as 1 million Americans with some Romani ancestry, whether distant or more recent.

Representative STENY HOYER was the first Member of Congress to raise concern about the situation of Roma, doing so in meetings with Romanian government representatives during a 1990 congressional visit to Romania not long after the execution of Nicolae Ceausescu. In 1994, the late Congressman Tom Lantos, himself a Holocaust survivor, convened Congress's first hearing regarding the situation of the Romani people. That hearing, before the Subcommittee on International Security, International Organizations and Human Rights, received testimony from Dr. Ian Hancock, Andrzej Mirga, Klara Orgovanova, and Nicolae Gheorghe.

Though a great deal has changed since then, sadly, Romani people still face widespread human rights abuses and discrimination in employment, housing, and education. However, there is greater urgency for Roma to advance their causes today than ever before as evidenced by organizations such as the European Roma Rights Center and the still new European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture.

The Helsinki Commission has maintained robust engagement on these issues and, as

chairman during this Congress, I will build on those practices.

The resolution I am introducing today does four things. First, it celebrates Romani American Heritage. Second, it supports International Roma Day and the Department of State's robust engagement in related activities. April 8 marks "International Roma Day" around the world and is a day to celebrate Romani culture and raise awareness of the issues facing Romani people. Third, it commemorates the 75th anniversary of the destruction of the "Gypsy Family Camp" at Auschwitz. Fourth, it commends the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for its critically important role in promoting remembrance of the Holocaust and educating about the genocide of Roma.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask all Members to support this resolution and for its timely consideration on the House Floor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Monday, April 1. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Vote Number 137 (Passage of H.R. 1593, the Coordinating and Leveraging for School Security (CLASS) Act of 2019): YES;

Roll Call Vote Number 138 (Passage of H.R. 1590, the Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel Exercise Act of 2019): YES; and

Roll Call Vote Number 139 (Approval of the Journal): YES.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF SAMUEL S. LIONEL

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise with Representative ERIC SWALWELL today to offer our congratulations to Mr. Samuel S. Lionel, a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, who is celebrating his 100th Birthday on April 7, 2019.

The son of immigrants, Sam Lionel grew up in the Bronx in New York City. He graduated law school at St. John's University in 1940. Shortly after he finished law school, the United States entered WWII, and Mr. Lionel joined the war effort. He fought with the 5th Army in the campaign to liberate Italy. After the war, Mr. Lionel taught at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He retired from the reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel Judge Advocate General.

Mr. Lionel passed the Nevada Bar exam in 1954. Together with the late former Nevada Governor Grant Sawyer, he founded the Lionel, Sawyer, and Collins Law Firm in 1967. The firm quickly became one of the largest and most prestigious in the state, and Mr. Lionel represented many key gaming operators and resorts on the Las Vegas Strip. Through-

out the course of his more than a half-century career, Mr. Lionel has been widely considered the "Dean of the Nevada Bar," and he served as the Chairman of the Board of Bar Examiners for several years.

Mr. Lionel has accumulated numerous awards and honors, including three honorary doctorate degrees from St. John's University, the California Western School of Law, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is the first recipient of the Jurisprudence Award from the Nevada Anti-Defamation League. He won the 2012 Liberty Bell Award, and in 2013 he was named Las Vegas Best Lawyers' Lawyer of the Year.

Samuel Lionel is a fellow with the American College of Trial Lawyers, a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Nevada, and the Clark County Bar Association. He served as a member of the Ninth Circuit Senior Advisory Board from 1990 to 1996.

Remarkably, Mr. Lionel still practices law as a Director at Fennemore Craig, and can be found at the local courthouse waiting his turn to argue a case before the judge. Mr. Lionel, along with his wife Lexy, continue to be active members of the Southern Nevada community. On the occasion of this centennial birthday, we wish him the very best.

COORDINATING AND LEVERAGING ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL SECURITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1593, Class Act of 2019, which addresses the increasing risks of security in schools.

As a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I ensure you that this bill will improve the safety plans and policies within our schools as well as the communication between the homeland security and the Homeland Security Committee.

This Class Act will ensure a council within the Department of Homeland Security that coordinates with school security departments of their policies, plans, and activities in regards to security, and require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report to Congress on the council's effort.

Between January and May 2018, school shootings averaged one per week.

Schools need to be buildings of safety where children can gain an education in peace.

During Homeland Security Committee markups of H.R. 1593, the "Coordinating and Leveraging Activities for School Security Act."

I want to thank and recognize Chairman PAYNE for his tireless work to improve the Department of Homeland Security's capability and capacity to provide services to our youngest citizens.

His dedication to meeting the homeland security needs of children is greatly appreciated.

The amendment I offer to H.R. 1593, the "Coordinating and Leveraging Activities for School Security Act," directs that any engagement with stakeholders should be reflected in the final report provided by this bill.

There are many factors that contribute to school security that we should acknowledge in the bill's report.

I am particularly interested in the work of school architects who design schools and, for decades, have worked successfully to address difficult safety challenges in school design.

As a direct result of school architects, schools are engineered to be resilient against fires, and high winds caused by tornadoes.

School architects are taking on the challenge of addressing the threat of active shooters in schools by developing designs that create visual blind spots in classrooms and hallways as well as engineering features that would delay an active shooter long enough to allow first responders to arrive.

It is my hope that stakeholders will also include students and teachers who can provide different perspectives on what constitutes school safety.

For these reasons, I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 1593.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. VISCOSKY. Madam Speaker, on April 4, 2019, I missed Roll Call vote 153. Had I been present for Roll Call 153, on passage of S.J. Res. 7, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress, I would have voted "Yes."

I am deeply dismayed and saddened by the ongoing civil war in Yemen. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, this conflict has resulted in almost 22 million Yemenis in need of humanitarian assistance due to the worsening violence, including over 2 million internally displaced persons, as well as over 190,000 refugees that have fled to neighboring countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, and Somalia. I firmly believe that it is important for the U.S. to continue to support an end to the worsening violence and prevent further human suffering.

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AUTHORITY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Jefferson County Communications Center Authority on their one-year anniversary of establishment.

Jeffcom 911 is an emergency dispatch center that increased production, reduced overhead cost, and created a more efficient public safety system by regionalizing eight emergency service agencies across Jefferson County. The company has overcome obstacles in staffing shortages, technology updates, and changes to policies, procedures, and work flow processes in order to eliminate delays and accomplish their role in public safety.

A workforce of 136 qualified call-takers, dispatchers, and supervisors were required to