

member of the Congressional Vietnam Caucus, it is critical that we continue to represent and celebrate our Vietnamese families, friends, and neighbors, and recognize their significant contributions to American society.

HONORING THE LIFE OF OSCAR  
DUNCAN

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2019*

Mrs. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent, Oscar Duncan, who passed away on April 10th, at the age of 75.

A long-time resident of Geneva, Florida, Oscar Duncan lived an extraordinary life, and leaves behind an enduring legacy. He was a soldier, a law enforcement officer, and a successful small business owner.

Above all, Oscar was the Duncan family patriarch. He and his beloved wife Bernice were married for 44 years, and he was fiercely protective of her. Heaven help the person who said a cross word to Bernice in Oscar's presence.

Together, they had 10 children, which led to 22 grandchildren, which led to 23 great-grandchildren. That's more than a family. That's an army.

My office spoke to one of Oscar's four sons, Hannibal Duncan, about Oscar's life. Hannibal made clear that those who knew his father best had the greatest respect and affection for him.

Oscar was born and raised in Tampa, at a time in our nation's history when African-Americans were treated unequally under both law and custom.

Adversity made Oscar strong, as fire forges steel. Everything Oscar Duncan achieved in life, he had to fight for. Nothing was given to him; he earned it all.

Out of high school, Oscar volunteered for the U.S. Army, serving for five-and-a-half years, including tours in Korea and Germany, and rising to the rank of sergeant.

The same qualities that made Oscar a good soldier made him a great man. Discipline, intelligence, toughness, fairness, self-confidence, the capacity to suppress fear and doubt, a sense of purpose. He was a natural leader that others wanted to follow.

After leaving the service, Oscar earned two degrees at an Orlando-area college and became a police officer in Eatonville, famed as the first city in the country to be organized and governed by African-Americans.

In 1971, Oscar was a member of the first class of black deputies selected to join the Orange County Sheriffs Office, which had officially desegregated in the early 1960s but had accepted only a handful of African-Americans in the ensuing years. For nearly a decade, Oscar woke up every day and worked to keep central Florida safe, always the consummate professional.

Then, in his mid-30s, Oscar decided to walk a different path. He left law enforcement and opened Duncan's Food Mart in Eatonville, located next to the dry cleaning shop that Bernice ran. It became an iconic institution in the city. Oscar did everything at the store—cooking and cleaning, manning the cash register, and handling the finances. The kids were ex-

pected to help as well, and it was here they absorbed their father's lesson that success demands sacrifice.

According to Hannibal, Oscar explained his decision to change careers by saying that, "at some point in your life, you have to choose between being a mouse and being a man." For Oscar, being a man meant striking out on his own, answerable to no one but himself. It also meant giving back to the African-American community he cherished—creating jobs, economic activity, and a place for folks to gather and enjoy each other's company.

Oscar ran the store for nearly 20 years, until he suffered a series of strokes and his health began to unravel. Hannibal said his father died like he lived—no complaints, no self-pity. Just dignity and toughness.

Oscar Duncan was a man until his final breath. He will be deeply missed.

I ask my congressional colleagues to join me in offering our condolences to those he loved and to those who loved him.

PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS FOR  
PALESTINIAN CHILDREN LIVING  
UNDER ISRAELI MILITARY OCCU-  
PATION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 30, 2019*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, it is my hope that Members of Congress and the American people can stand united in the belief that justice, human dignity, and human rights are values we share and promote. Certainly, when it comes to protecting the rights of children we should be able to find universal agreement that ensuring their safety and well-being is a priority.

Today, I am introducing legislation to protect children from abuse, violence, psychological trauma, and torture. This bill condemns the targeting of children with the intent to intimidate, mistreat, and abuse in a manner designed to leave lifelong scars. This abuse is completely preventable. Unimaginably, it is abuse that is perpetrated not only with intent, but systematically applied to intimidate, control, and create fear amongst families, communities, and an entire population. And, unbelievably, it is in part funded by U.S. taxpayers.

The children this legislation seeks to protect are Palestinian who have lived their entire lives under Israeli military occupation. The perpetrator of this system of child abuse is the Government of Israel and its military, police, and intelligence apparatus occupying the Palestinian West Bank. And, it is U.S. tax dollars provided by Congress, the unregulated \$3.8 billion military aid package to Israel, that helps to cover the cost of Israeli soldiers arresting, interrogating, and abusing children, some as young as 9-years old, in the name of Israeli security.

The legislation I am introducing—Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act—is expressly intended to end U.S. support and funding for Israel's systematic military detention, interrogation, abuse, torture, and prosecution of Palestinian children. This bill not only highlights actions by the Government of Israel that violate international humanitarian

law by their treatment of Palestinian children in detention, it affirmatively declares that equality, human rights, and dignity for Palestinians and Israelis are the values the American people expect the U.S. government to advance.

On March 16, 2019, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz ran an in-depth expose detailing the detention and mistreatment of Palestinian boys by Israel's military. It identifies Omar, a ten-year old boy who "looks small for his age." Omar was arrested by Israeli soldiers last December as he played in front of his house because "he threw pebbles at birds that were chirping in the trees." Soldiers saw Omar, caught him, knocked him down, and kicked him. Omar wet his pants. The Haaretz story states, "The 10-year old is one of hundreds of Palestinian children whom Israel arrests every year: the estimates range between 800 and 1,000."

Why would one of the world's most advanced and powerful military forces, a nation that possesses nuclear weapons, send soldiers to attack, terrorize, and detain a 10-year old boy? There can be no justifiable explanation.

On April 1, 2019, only weeks ago, CNN reported on armed Israeli soldiers entering a primary school in Hebron to arrest a 9-year old boy and his 7-year old brother. Such a story is simply too extreme a violation of human rights and decency to be rational. Yet, it happened and there is video footage (provided by the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem) of the soldiers in the school and the principal and teachers trying to protect the children. Eventually, CNN reports 9-year old Zein was "frog-marched away and taken to an army vehicle." Neighbors said the boy "was taken off to a nearby military post."

In a terrifying description, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz tells what happens to the Palestinian children victimized by Israel's system of occupation and military detention: "They're seized in the dead of night, blindfolded and cuffed, abused and manipulated to confess to crimes they didn't commit."

Since 2000, it is conservatively estimated that more than 10,000 Palestinian children have been detained by Israeli security forces. The brutality and trauma inflicted on Palestinian children by Israel's occupation and system of military detention in the West Bank has been extensively documented by credible international human rights monitors, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Israel's B'Tselem, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Defense of Children/Palestine, and the U.S. Department of State.

Israel's system of military detention of Palestinian children must be condemned and it must stop. At a minimum, U.S. funding for this state-sponsored child abuse must be explicitly prohibited by law and fully monitored and enforced by the State Department. The detention and ill-treatment of Palestinian children is a cruel and intentional tactic of Israel's military occupation. It is intended to terrorize, inflict fear, and send an unmistakable message that Palestinian lives lack value.

Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act amends a provision of the Foreign Assistance Act known as the "Leahy Law" (22 U.S.C. 2378d) to prohibit funding for the military detention of children in any country, including Israel. The bill explicitly declares that

it is the policy of the United States to identify Israel's system of military detention of Palestinian children as a human rights violation inconsistent with international law and the laws of the U.S. The bill also establishes "The Human Rights Monitoring and Palestinian Child Victims of Israeli Military Detention Fund." The bill authorizes \$19 million annually for NGO monitoring of human rights abuses associated with Israel's military detention of children. The Fund also authorizes qualified NGOs to provide physical, psychological, and emotional treatment and support for Palestinian child victims of Israeli military detention, abuse, and torture. Any Palestinian age 21 or younger providing documentation of military detention as a child is eligible for services under this provision.

In 2017, I introduced H.R. 4391, the Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act. My goal was to shine a light on the dehumanizing effects of military occupation and human rights abuses on Palestinian children. The more than thirty colleagues who joined as co-sponsors in the 115th Congress were courageous and fearless promoters of human dignity and the belief that the U.S. has the obligation to protect human rights, not use U.S. tax dollars to help fund the abuse of children.

I strongly believe there is a growing consensus among the American people that the Palestinian people deserve justice, equality, human rights, and the right to self-determination. After more than fifty years of Israeli military occupation and now the promise by Israel's prime minister to annex Palestinian lands, it is time to stand up for Palestinian rights and stand with Palestinians, Americans, Israelis, and people around the world to reject the destructive, dehumanizing, and anti-peace policies of Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Trump.

The Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act is a step in that direction. It gives my congressional colleagues a clear choice—support human rights for Palestinian children and their families or support perpetuating the occupation and repression in the name of Israel's security. For the cause of peace, justice, human dignity, and a better future for Palestinians, Israelis, and Americans I intend to work tirelessly this Congress to advance this bill.

ARTHUR GEORGE BENZLE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, a few weeks ago, I hit a 100-milestone that I thought was pretty important—my 100th day in Office. However, I stand here today to celebrate a slightly more important centennial milestone. On Friday, April 26, Hilton Head resident Arthur George Benzle turned 100.

Born in Ohio, Arthur moved to New York City for his first job at UPS when he was only 19 years old. His rent was 15 dollars a month on his 40 cent hourly pay, and he would ride the subway for five cents. Arthur worked over 30 years in a produce brokerage business,

making junior partner and partial owner of AG Benzle & Son.

Arthur describes meeting his wife, Martha, "the luckiest day of his life", and is dedicated to a life of travel—visiting 66 countries and counting. His favorite country is still the United States for its "freedom, beauty, and diversity"; I wholeheartedly agree with Arthur here.

I want to wish a very happy 100th birthday to Arthur Benzle, and many more years of travel, golf, and family.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF GREATER GAINESVILLE AND MANASSAS FIRST TORAH

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Gainesville and Manassas First Torah. On April 7, 2019, the Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Gainesville and Manassas completed and dedicated the First Torah ever in Western Prince William County.

The Torah is an unbroken chain of Jewish survival and tradition going back over 3,300 years to when the Jews received the Torah at Mount Sinai. In fact, crafting a single Torah scroll takes over a year to complete. The Gainesville Jewish Community came out to participate in the Torah's completion and to celebrate with music, singing, and dancing festivities.

Established in June 2017, Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Gainesville and Manassas is currently the only Jewish center/organization in Gainesville and Western William County. Under the guidance and inspiration of Lubavitcher Rebbe and Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson OBM, they have both strived to make it a home for every Jew in Prince William County, regardless of their level of observance or affiliation.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognition of Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Gainesville and Manassas First Torah. The welcoming of the Torah is a remarkable achievement for the Gainesville Jewish Community, just as they continue to grow and establish a welcoming Jewish community in the area. May God bless the Prince William Chabad Center and I look forward to seeing their presence continue for many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN LAURA HEGGINS RECEIVING THE ROBERT JACKSON EURY MEMORIAL AWARD

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Laura Heggins on receiving the Robert Jackson Eury Memorial Award.

Captain Heggins started her career in 1992 and was assigned to the Cabarrus County Detention Center as a Sworn Deputy. During her

law enforcement career, Captain Heggins has served on the Mental Health Task Force, as team leader for the Crisis and Hostage Negotiator Committee, and as a basic law enforcement training instructor. She also finds time to work with the homeless through Main Street Mission.

Over the course of her career, Captain Heggins has climbed the ranks and was the first African American woman to ever be promoted to the Lieutenant rank with the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office. She is hard working, driven, and promotes a level of excellence that is hard to come by, she is a role model for all of us.

The Robert Jackson Eury Memorial Award is presented in memory of Robert Jackson Eury, a man who lost his life in the line of duty while serving as a Cabarrus County law enforcement officer. This award keeps Mr. Eury's legacy alive through officers who share his same admirable and commendable spirit in Cabarrus County. Based on her career of service, I would say Captain Heggins fits the mold of esteemed law enforcement officers in our community set by Robert Eury.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Captain Laura Heggins for receiving the Robert Jackson Eury Memorial Award. We all wish her well as she continues to make a positive impact in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXERCISE TIGER

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Exercise Tiger and the 30th anniversary of its monument being erected in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

Dedicated in 1989, this monument honors the lives lost during the attack on Exercise Tiger, a military training operation that was ambushed by a German flotilla on April 28, 1944. This brutal surprise attack, mounted during a D-Day dry run off the coast of Devon, England, claimed the lives of 749 United States service members in the second deadliest episode of World War II behind Pearl Harbor. This proud memorial will serve as a reminder for generations to come of the service of the men and women who fought in World War II and the sacrifices that were made to protect the United States and banner of peace and democracy across the world.

As we observe the 75th anniversary of this tragic loss of life, we are reminded of the high price paid by those who have laid down their lives in defense of our country. I would like to extend a special thanks to the City of New Bedford and the dedicated members of its veteran community, who continue to inspire through their dedication to preserving history and honoring the legacy of our proud service members.

Madam Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to recognize the 30th anniversary of this important monument and to call attention yet again to the memory of all those who tragically lost their lives during Exercise Tiger.