

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

STRONGER CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as the founding Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and a senior member of the Committee on the Judiciary, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2480, the "Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act."

I support H.R. 2480 because this legislation will help states to address the recent rise in child abuse and neglect by providing strategic funding to build networks of prevention services designed to strengthen families and to improve the quality of child protective services.

Madam Speaker, child abuse and neglect is a pervasive public health problem that continues to affect millions of children across the country.

Although we witnessed significant declines in the rate of child abuse and neglect across the 1990s and 2000s, the rate of child maltreatment has ticked up in recent years as the opioid epidemic has devastated families and communities across the country.

In 2017, more children received an investigation or response from child protective services agencies than any other time in the decade prior.

It is long past time for the federal government to provide the necessary funding to reverse the rise in child maltreatment.

The "Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act" authorizes \$270 million for the expansion of prevention services to reach over 3 million children annually and another \$270 million to foster new research and support state child protective services agencies to expand services to meet increased demand without sacrificing quality.

Madam Speaker, another reason I strongly support this legislation is that it will also help address child abuse and neglect by improving the quality of federal and state data.

Specifically, the "Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act" establishes uniform standards for counting child fatalities and near fatalities related to child maltreatment and will create an electronic system that allows states to share data from their child abuse and neglect registries with other states.

H.R. 2480 also combats childhood maltreatment and protects children by initiating protocol designed to detect infant abuse earlier, prevent child injuries and fatalities and halting the effects of maltreatment before they even develop.

By supporting the training and careers of medical and child welfare professionals, the "Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act" will help successfully identify and respond to signs of potential abuse in infants under age three, better protecting them from the immediate and lifelong negative impacts of

childhood maltreatment and offering an ensured solution to end abuse.

Madam Speaker, it is unconscionable that 1 in 7 children in the United States suffers from child abuse or neglect.

The effects of this abuse are far-reaching and severe, hindering a child's mental, physical, and emotional development with consequences that may follow the person through his or her lifetime.

Childhood maltreatment has also been linked to higher risk for a wide range of long-term and future health concerns, including diabetes, lung disease, and cancer.

It does not have to be this way, Madam Speaker, and we can do something about it, starting with passage of H.R. 2480, the "Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act."

HONORING OUR NATION'S HEROES

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the brave men and women who gave their lives in the defense of freedom and to preserve the liberties that we hold dear in this nation.

Every Memorial Day, our nation unites to remember our military heroes who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend the values and freedoms we all cherish. This day of remembrance represents why so many people in our country are grateful to be Americans. No other nation has sacrificed so much to secure not only its own freedom, but that of other nations as well.

As we reflect on the remarkable lives of our nation's fallen soldiers and their families, we must continue to honor them each and every day, as a single day of commemoration is far short of what they deserve. I know that back home in my district, our community will do their part in carrying on the legacy of these selfless individuals.

This year, the Granbury community will host their annual "Field of Flags," which is a memorial of over a thousand flags flying along Highway 377. These flags are dedicated to the lives of those that were killed in action or that are still missing in action.

Attending Memorial Day events like the "Field of Flags" this weekend is imperative to teaching younger generations about the sacrifices that our military and first-responders make so that we may continue to live by the values that founded this nation.

May God bless our men and women serving today and in days past, may He comfort those who endure the pain of loss, and may He never cease to shed his grace on Texas and this great nation.

CONGRATULATING GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating several extraordinary young women from Missouri's Third Congressional District, for their achievement in earning the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is not an achievement easily obtained. It requires a significant amount of time, initiative, commitment, and leadership. The lessons learned in each of the seven steps that must be completed to achieve the Gold Award can be used beyond the Girl Scouts and applied in their educational choices, career paths, and everyday lives. With each of their Gold Projects, the young women have identified issues in their communities important to them, created plans for solving these concerns, and tackled the problems head-on. Because of their determination and drive, they have helped make their community a better place. Each of these young ladies should be proud of their accomplishments and I am honored to recognize each of them on this momentous occasion.

Congratulations to the following outstanding young women: Allison Bright, Emily Kurtz, Lindsay Picha, Kimberly Coulon, Maddi McGuire, Jillian Marie Rodgers, Madelynn Dickson, Anne Katherine Meister, Victoria Suerig, Nicolette Kolenc, Alyssa Miller, Madison Stumpf, Josephine Schmaltz, Sarah Burke, Shannon Wyss, and Sarah Wyble for their hard work and dedication as they join a selective group of young women.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing these exceptional young women for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING NOAH CONNER

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Noah Conner in honor of his presentation of the Golden Apple Award. Out of 150,000 high schoolers, this distinction is given to 26 students across the state of Illinois who not only exhibit an exceptional work ethic within the classroom, but in athletics as well.

As a senior at Pinckneyville High School, Conner has shown his excellence in track and cross-country running while maintaining a perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average. This balance of academics and athletics is a difficult task, and I can't think of a more fitting individual to be merited this tremendous award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Noah Conner and commend him for his hard work in and out of the classroom.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
KATHLEEN PIERCE-RYAN

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of my constituent Kathleen Pierce-Ryan, who as an active member of her community, passionate about giving back through her gift of song.

Kathleen Pierce-Ryan was born on April 7, 1931, to Irish immigrants in the Bronx. Her talent for singing became evident early in life, and she developed her voice with her music teacher Sister Gabriel at St. Gabriel's Parish School. Going on to win local singing competitions and receive awards for her performances, Kathleen auditioned at the Metropolitan Opera where she was awarded a scholarship and even performed at a concert in Manhattan Town Hall.

It was her brother who invited Kathleen to perform at the inaugural ceremony at Calverton National Cemetery, and she volunteered there, singing the National Anthem and God Bless America every Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremony, for the next 39 years. Having had the honor of attending many of these services, I can attest that her songs touched the hearts of everyone who had the pleasure of listening and provided solace to those who grieved.

It was during some of the hardest moments in the lives of these veteran families that Kathleen's voice comforted them, her patriotic melodies evoking an everlasting sense of pride. There is no doubt her passing pains the hearts of each and every family she touched throughout her 39 years singing at Calverton. Her voice is now sorely missed across Calverton National Cemetery and our entire community.

This Memorial Day, as we honor the service and sacrifice of the brave men and women who have fought for the freedoms and liberties that make this country the greatest in the world and the families that have stood by their side, let us also remember the so many Americans like Kathleen who have done their part to serve and inspire throughout our great nation.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF BETTY
LIGGINS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Betty Liggins, a nurse and community civil rights activist, whose work tackling rampant crime and drugs in her neighborhood helped create a safe environment for families to thrive and grow.

Although she lost her final battle on May 8, 2019, her legacy as a nurse working out of her mobile health clinic and helping those in need lives on. Ms. Liggins' service was inspired by a chance meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at a civil rights march in Chicago, where Dr. King encouraged her to go back to school, finish her education, and help

others. Inspired by his words, she attended the University of Arizona where she received her degree and became a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and vowed to use her talents to champion the causes of the voiceless.

Ms. Liggins received many awards for her service to our community. She received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Drum Major Award" and the National Jefferson Award in 1993 which was awarded in our nation's capital. Her activism and leadership helped lift our community beyond what we could ever imagine, and she was recognized as one of the 25 Most Influential African Americans in Southern Arizona.

Ms. Liggins also took pride in her political activism and worked tirelessly to register voters and use the ballot box for change. An active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), she continually advocated for criminal justice reform to give incarcerated young African Americans a chance at a better life. Bearing witness to the blatant racism and prejudice of her youth endowed her with the grit and determination to ensure that that mistakes and trauma of the past were not inflicted on future generations.

In that vein, she took on the education system and advocated for better policies to improve the graduation rates of African American students. Instead of being discouraged by a justice system that sometimes turned a critical eye to the poor, and a health system that put corporate interests over the health of her community, she remained motivated to create positive change.

Betty Liggins didn't hold back. Her life is an example of how ordinary citizens with ordinary means can always stand up against the evils of injustice and poverty and accomplish extraordinary things.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I had a scheduling conflict which caused me to miss the following vote. I would have voted "No" on roll call vote 166.

IN SUPPORT OF THE 2020 CENSUS

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the 2020 Census. Every decade, the Census shapes important local infrastructure and investment decisions like where to build new schools, establish workforce training sites, invest in road and public transportation projects, and fund health care and affordable housing. The Census also determines how many Members of Congress are allocated per state and informs decisions about Congressional district lines, ensuring fair representation.

An accurate Census is vital to the well-being of Washington's communities. That is why I

oppose adding a citizenship question to the Census. By enabling informed decisions, accurate Census data can create jobs, stimulate economic growth and increase employment opportunities for people in Washington's Second District. Adding an un-tested citizenship question will sow fear and lead people to not respond to the Census survey, negatively impacting local communities.

Madam Speaker, I continue to support a well-researched and just 2020 Census to foster innovation, growth and prosperity for Washington state communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 20, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 218, and Yea on Roll Call No. 219.

CONGRATULATING THE BRADLEY
UNIVERSITY SPEECH TEAM ON
THEIR WIN AT THE AMERICAN
FORENSICS ASSOCIATION'S NA-
TIONAL TOURNAMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bradley University Speech Team on their victories at the American Forensics Association and National Forensic Association national tournaments. Bradley University is the only team to win a national championship every decade since 1980 and is one of the most winning teams in the country.

Bradley's Speech Team is an extremely accomplished program and impressively have now added two more national titles to their long list of championships. The program has also claimed more than 150 individual national champions and has served as a special place on campus for students to come together, tell stories and improve their communication skills along the way. The speech community unites students across the country and provides them with a community to share their passions and discuss topics important to them. I understand the amount of hard work and commitment to have a team as special as this. They are an example of how a strong work ethic and dedication can lead to victory. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see them represent Peoria throughout the state and country. I look forward to following them as they continue their work and build skills that will last a lifetime.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as the Bradley University Speech Team that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Bradley University Speech Team on their victories at the American Forensics Association and National Forensic Association national tournaments.