

have made several recommendations designated to end the practice of FGM/C.

However, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 513,000 women and girls in the United States were at risk of, or had been subjected to, female genital mutilation, the United States must be a beacon against this type of immoral practice.

That is why I, along with former Representative Joe Crowley, introduced the Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act, supported by international human rights group Equality Now, that required the federal government to undertake a national study to provide data on and insight into the prevalence of FGM/C in the U.S. and establish a multi-agency strategy to bring the practice to an end.

Following the introduction of the Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation Act, I partnered with 58 other members of Congress to pen a bipartisan letter to the State, Health & Human Services, and Education agencies, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the White House Office of Management and Budget, calling for a cross-agency plan to further fight FGM/C.

This letter included requests for resources to help law enforcement, health workers, and educators detect the practice here the United States, plus a hotline for girls who may be in danger of mutilation.

Given the abhorrent nature of this practice, states should have in place laws that require healthcare professionals, school employees, and other professionals who work with children to report any suspected practice of female genital mutilation to the appropriate law enforcement entity.

FGM/C is currently a crime in 26 States, including Michigan and Texas; it is also a Federal crime.

Around the world, at least five girls are mutilated, cut, every hour, and an estimated 100 million girls and 140 million women worldwide are living with the consequences of FGM/C.

Even though, FGM/C has been banned in the United States, since 1996, people continue to engage in this abusive practice.

It is with great concern that I stand before you today, still fighting to eradicate the practice of FGM/C globally.

Even more concerning is recently, The Justice Department stopped defending a federal prohibition on female genital mutilation making it difficult to combat this practice here at home.

This recalcitrant act coincides with an emerging view inside the Justice Department that it is up to the Trump administration, not members of Congress, to decide whether a law has merit and should be enforced.

The World Health Organization has asserted that FGM/C has no health benefits for women and girls, and can have long-term negative impacts on the physical, psychological, sexual, reproductive health, and to their general well-being.

We cannot be indifferent to this human rights violation that puts so many lives at risk, here in the United States, and around the world.

H. Res. 106 makes clear that this practice is rooted in gender inequality, gender-based violence, and discrimination.

It affirms our dedication to protecting women and girls globally and will help us accelerate eradication and improve access to care for survivors of this practice.

Because this intolerable practice has no medical benefits, it has no place in our society, and those who commit these horrendous crimes should be held accountable for their actions.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this clearly bipartisan resolution.

Put aside partisanship and protect our women and girls from this painful and archaic practice.

CONGRATULATING GAYE DUNN FOR WINNING MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR AWARD GIVEN BY THE ILLINOIS SCHOOL COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gaye Dunn for winning the Middle/Junior High School Counselor of the Year Award given by the Illinois School Counselors Association. Ms. Dunn will be retiring after 42 years in the education system and has been a school counselor in the East Moline School District for more than 25 years.

Ms. Dunn got her start at the University of Illinois and University of Kansas before going on to earn a master's degree in School Counseling from Eastern Illinois University. During the course of her career, Ms. Dunn has earned a reputation among her peers as a team player who will do anything to improve her community. Ms. Dunn dedicated herself to being a positive resource for the students of Glenview Middle School and someone they can turn to. The "Builders Club" was established by Ms. Dunn to fundraise and provide gifts to other students and families in the area. Additionally, she initiated GBAY, which operates in a similar concept to EBAY, where students donate and then bid for holiday presents for community members. Annual Career Fairs are also a tradition jumpstarted by Ms. Dunn and have even included visits by students to local nursing homes. Ms. Dunn is an asset to the East Moline community and her students, and I thank her for all of her tremendous work.

It is because of dedicated leaders like Ms. Dunn that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Gaye Dunn for winning the Counselor of the Year Award.

RECOGNIZING MEGAN BRESLIN

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Megan Breslin in honor of her 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, Megan has shown her excellence on the bas-

ketball court and golf links 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 Megan Breslin and commend her for her hard work in and out of the classroom.

IN MEMORY OF DEBBY HAY SPRADLEY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman COLIN ALLRED, to recognize and pay tribute to the life and legacy of Debby Hay Spradley, who passed away on Sunday, May 19, 2019.

A native Texan, Debby graduated from Southern Methodist University and spent the entirety of her professional career in the Dallas area, first as President of the Hay Agency, Inc., and then as the Director of Development and External Affairs at the Hockaday School. She was respected in the Dallas community for her wisdom as a mentor, her generosity as a volunteer, and her leadership as an administrator.

She began her work with the school in the early 1980s as a parent volunteer before eventually joining the administrative team. During her tenure, Debby served as both a Member and the Chair of the Board of Trustees; was a Member of the Leadership Team for the Hockaday Tomorrow Capital Campaign and the Campaign Executive Committee for the Centennial Campaign; Co-Chaired the 2004 HP A Benefit; Chaired the Annual Fund Campaign; and was rightfully named an Honorary Alum in 2000. We admire and honor Debby's selfless dedication to the Hockaday School.

Debby is survived by her husband Webb; daughter Jessica Werner Epperson and her husband Doug Epperson; daughter Rachel Hay Spradley and her fiancé Jonathan Ben-Horin; and three wonderful granddaughters Kathryn, Virginia, and Margaret.

I ask my colleagues to join us in remembering Debby and her contributions to her family, her community, and the Hockaday School. The Dallas community is better off because of her. We will miss her dearly.

KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL EDITORIAL URGING TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY'S CEO TO FIX COAL ASH PROBLEM

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD an editorial submitted to the Knoxville News Sentinel addressing the Tennessee Valley Authority's new CEO, Jeff Lyash, urging him to fix the current coal ash problem. I am also including a resolution introduced by Tennessee State Senator

Ken Yager calling for the TVA to make all board meetings open to the public.

[From Knoxville News Sentinel, on Apr. 14, 2019]

AN OPEN LETTER TO TVA'S NEW CEO: YOU NEED TO BE THE LEADER YOUR PREDECESSOR WAS NOT, HERE'S HOW

(Unauthored Editorial)

Welcome to Tennessee, Mr. Lyash.

No doubt you had a busy first week as the new CEO of the Tennessee Valley Authority. And what a responsibility!

You lead the nation's first and largest regional planning and economic development agency owned and operated by the federal government.

You provide power for some 10 million people, and you employ thousands in our state. You've taken over an organization whose history and legacy are revolutionary and inspiring. Few organizations have transformed the lives of so many people, across so many generations. And we know you believe deeply in this mission, a mission derived from decades of service to improving the lives of the people of the Tennessee Valley.

This is what has brought you to Knoxville.

Which is why today we challenge you to be the leader your predecessor was not.

We challenge you to launch a fully independent and transparent investigation of safety and workplace practices that occurred in the aftermath of the massive Kingston coal ash spill and cleanup—not just the TVA's own practices, but those of every one of the contractors and subcontractors it employs. We've reported extensively about the workers who have died, and the hundreds of others who are sick, after their exposure to the toxic ash. Learn from the mistakes of the past and demand accountability.

We challenge you to commit to a top-to-bottom review and overhaul of workplace safety at every power plant you operate. Last week we reported about workers at two Tennessee plants who are exposed to fly ash dust and flue gas without masks or respirators.

We challenge you to review your relationship with Jacobs Engineering. Although the case goes on, a federal jury already found Jacobs breached its contract with the TVA and its duty to ensure the health of cleanup workers. Yet you're still doing hundreds of millions of dollars of business with the company.

We challenge you to hire an independent consultant to radically remake your internal reporting and whistle-blowing procedures and make sure they are accessible to your contractors as well. Your people are adamant no one should fear workplace retaliation, yet your workers are coming to us because they don't trust TVA.

We challenge you to rid the agency of double-speak and misdirection—where it's culturally acceptable to mislead the public, as Bill Johnson did when he said that the EPA, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and OSHA were on site daily during the Kingston cleanup. Today at the TVA it's acceptable for your official spokesman to recraft this as mere hyperbole.

Finally, we challenge you to visit your employees in the field. Talk to them. Not with an entourage, not with a phalanx of handlers who will hand-select the ones who'll say the "right" things to you. You need to hear the truth. You need to visit sick men in hospitals and listen to their stories. You need to sit down in the lunchroom with truck drivers who are around fly ash all day. You need to walk through the plant, see things yourself.

And then you need to do the right thing.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 192

By Senators Yager, Kurita, and Representative Powers

A Resolution to express support for the enactment of legislation that requires all board committee meetings of the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors to be open to the public.

Whereas, established in 1933, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is a corporate agency of the United States that provides electricity for business customers and local power companies, serving ten million people in parts of seven southeastern states; and

Whereas, TVA also provides flood control, navigation, and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic development and job creation; and

Whereas, Tennessee Congressman Tim Burchett has introduced the Tennessee Valley Authority Transparency Act of 2019, legislation to require that committee meetings and subcommittee meetings of the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors be transparent and open to the public; and

Whereas, the bill would amend the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 Section 2(g)(2) to include a provision on transparency that would require meetings of the TVA Board to be held in public, properly noticed, and with minutes and summaries of each meeting made available; and

Whereas, it is vitally important to the citizens of Tennessee that TVA, as an entity created and protected by Congress, should conduct their business in the open and be as transparent as possible: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the One Hundred Eleventh General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, The House of Representatives concurring, That we strongly support the passage of the Tennessee Valley Authority Transparency Act of 2019; and be it further*

*Resolved, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of Tennessee's delegation to the United States Congress.*

HONORING VICE ADMIRAL ALBERT CALLAND, III

HON. TROY BALDERSO

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. BALDERSO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the professional achievements of a fellow Zanesville High School graduate, Vice Admiral Albert (Bert) Calland, III.

Vice Admiral Calland is being commemorated in our hometown for his tremendous career, which has spanned many decades, and forms the model life of a selfless calling to public service in defense of this country. From the United States Navy to SEAL Team ONE, from the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Counterterrorism Center to CACI International, Inc., Admiral Calland has always displayed the dedication of a consummate man of service.

After graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 1974, Admiral Calland distinguished himself in the ranks of the U.S. Navy and Special Operations Command, gaining the respect of juniors, peers, and superior

officers alike. His impressive qualities of hard work and strategic problem-solving helped Admiral Calland advance in his field. By the time of the terrorist attacks that devastated our nation on September 11, 2001, Admiral Calland was a key guiding force in the United States' fight against those who seek to do us harm.

As our hometown gathers to recognize this ardent patriot, I salute him for his ongoing service above self. Admiral Calland can take great pride in all he has accomplished and in the impact his legacy will leave. I thank Vice Admiral Calland for bringing honor to Zanesville, Ohio, and in turn, I honor him for his incredible record of achievement.

HONORING PETE RICHMOND

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pete Richmond as the Napa Valley Grower of the Year for 2019.

Mr. Richmond's career in agriculture began in 1986 after earning a degree in Agricultural Business from California State University, Fresno. He gained valuable experience as a viticulturist while working at Bien Nacido Vineyards. Mr. Richmond went on to work for many prestigious wineries. In 1992 he was at Stag's Leap Winery; he worked at Atlas Peak Winery from 1993 to 1995; from 1995 to 2001 he was at Kendall Jackson. Mr. Richmond founded the Silverado Farming Company, a vineyard management company, in 2001. Many of the finest wineries and vineyards in the Napa Valley contract with Silverado Farming Company to manage their vineyards. The company oversees vineyard management for over 650 acres of grapes.

Mr. Richmond's passion for agriculture is not confined to the vineyard. He is involved in our community—through his philanthropic contributions and the Boards on which he sits. In 2006, Mr. Richmond established the One Percent for the Community Fund, a foundation that receives one percent of gross revenue profits made by the Silverado Farming Company. The foundation uses the money to support at-risk youth in our community and helps find a solution for a variety of issues that impact farm workers. Mr. Richmond is on the Farmworker Foundation Board of Directors, OLE Health Operating Board, and the OLE Health Foundation Board. He is also an Advisory Board Member for Teens Connect, a member of the Marketing Committee for the Napa Valley Community Foundation, and a past member of the Napa Valley Grapegrower's Board of Directors. He is active in the housing community as a member of Napa Valley Community Housing and Napa County Housing Commission. Mr. Richmond is also involved with Ag for Youth and is a former Babe Ruth Baseball League Coach.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Richmond is the community member we should all strive to be. He is a person of integrity, is generous and caring, and well-deserving of the title Napa Valley 2019 Grower of the Year. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Pete Richmond here today.