

RECOGNIZING LEOR TORCHMAN AUERBACH FOR RECEIVING THE SCOOP JACKSON AWARD

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, in partnership with my colleague, Congressman ADAM KINZINGER, I rise to recognize Leor Torchman Auerbach for being honored with the 2019 CityPAC Scoop Jackson Award. Her career and service for over 20 years as an advocate and leader in Chicago's Pro-Israel advocacy community make her an ideal recipient for this honor. She has devoted her personal time and professional career to strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Since the 2000's, Leor has served as a longtime CityPAC Board member and her organizational and fund-raising approach set the standard that CityPAC continues to emulate. She has also served as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Chicago Co-Chair of the Young Leadership Council in addition to her continuing role as an AIPAC Illinois Council Member.

She leads Americans United in Support of Democracy, a political action committee which has organized more than one thousand community events for Members of Congress, cultivating bipartisan support for the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Leor's deep passion for Israel is reflected in her work. As a granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, she is a friend and supporter to the entire community, and her activism is an inspiration and model for us all.

Madam Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in recognizing Leor Torchman Auerbach for her receipt of the 2019 CityPAC Scoop Jackson Award. She is an inspiring figure in our community and we thank her for her years of service.

IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH, WORLD REFUGEE DAY, AND H.R. 2489, THE WAIVER ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Immigrant Heritage Month and World Refugee Day, which comes at a time when this Administration is undertaking unprecedented and cruel actions against immigrants.

Each June, we recognize the enormous contributions that immigrants have made to our country. Our country is a nation of immigrants and during this month we acknowledge their work in our military, as entrepreneurs, as educators, and activists.

Today is also World Refugee Day.

This year, the United States will only accept up to 30,000 refugees—a historically low number. In 2016, our country took in almost 85,000 refugees. We must do better.

As Americans of conscience, we must commit ourselves to standing against any treat-

ment of immigrants and refugees that contradicts our values of inclusion and support for human rights.

This Administration has undertaken a shameful immigration blueprint that has attacked and demonized immigrants at every turn. From the discriminatory Muslim Ban to the cruel Family Separation Policy, these actions will forever be a stain on our nation's history.

The immigration policies of this President will also leave lasting scars for countless individuals and families. These include:

Children ripped away from their parents and loved ones;

Veterans deported after bravely serving our country;

Children in government custody who had legal services, classes and recreation canceled;

DREAMers who have had their DACA protections stripped away; and

Immigrants at detention facilities with abhorrent conditions, including private prisons being run by for-profit contractors.

We are better than this.

I am working to improve conditions at immigration detention facilities. Immigrants in U.S. custody should be treated with dignity and respect. That is why I recently introduced the Waiver Accountability and Transparency Act, H.R. 2489.

My legislation will stop U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's abuse of a waiver system that allows detention facilities to circumvent critical federal standards. Waiving these standards endangers the health and safety of tens of thousands of immigrants.

In January, the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General released a report showing that ICE had no formal policies to manage the waiver process and it detailed egregious waivers granted by ICE.

For example, ICE signed off on a waiver to allow the for-profit contractor CoreCivic to use CS gas, a chemical agent 10 times more toxic than pepper spray, at the Otay Mesa Detention Center in California.

Furthermore, the Otero County Processing Center in New Mexico was given a waiver by ICE allowing them to commingle low-custody and high-custody detainees. Detention standards prohibit commingling detainees with serious criminal histories with those who are non-violent or have only committed immigration-related infractions.

My bill reforms ICE's out-of-control waiver process through increased transparency, accountability, and oversight. ICE would need to notify Congress and post online whenever a waiver is granted. ICE's leadership would need to sign off on waivers. Waivers would no longer be granted for indefinite amounts of time and would need to be renewed every 90 days. In the most serious cases, a corrective action plan must be in place before a waiver could be granted.

We must do better. Those seeking a better life are not criminals and must be treated with dignity and respect.

As we recognize Immigrant Heritage Month and World Refugee Day, it is vital to not only reflect on and celebrate the contributions of immigrants to our country, but to also act against this Administration's anti-immigrant policies.

IN HONOR OF A&W RESTAURANTS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the oldest franchise restaurant in America—A&W. Today is its 100th birthday. As the automobile opened new horizons for Americans, A&W Restaurants pioneered the drive-in restaurant and made the Root Beer Float a household treat.

These small businesses are a source of fond memories for generations of Americans. A&W's beloved mascot Rooty the Great Root Bear is known from coast to coast.

A&W opened doors of opportunity so people could start their own businesses as franchise owners. These iconic restaurants became hubs in towns across America, and A&W developed a culture of giving back, reflecting the very best of heartland values.

Today begins their annual fundraising drive for Disabled American Veterans. A&W has raised over \$800,000 for veteran-related charities since 2011.

A&W is owned by its franchise partners, who independently operate nearly 600 U.S. restaurants. The National A&W Franchise Association headquarters is located in Richmond, Kentucky.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in welcoming the A&W family to Washington to celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING ALICE RODRIGUEZ

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alice Rodriguez of Waco, Texas, who recently retired from the Waco City Council.

Alice was first elected to the Waco City Council in 1991. At the time of her election, she was the first Hispanic woman on the city council. She served for 10 years before taking a break from 2001 to 2005. In 2005, she ran again and served for another 14 years. Her combined years of service make her the longest serving councilmember in Waco's history.

Alice was first encouraged to run for office to make a change in her community. Inspired by her father, and recalling the difficulties faced by the Hispanic community, she wanted to advocate for equality for minorities and Wacoans facing hardship.

During her career on the city council, Alice was a passionate voice for her constituents. While she supported forward looking policies to conserve neighborhoods and bring more opportunities for low-income families, Alice also wanted to preserve the past.

Alice was instrumental in the foundation of the Waco Hispanic Museum that opened in 2016. Alice wanted current and future generations to remember the strides made by the Hispanic community in Waco and appreciate their struggle for equality.

In addition to serving on the Waco City Council, Alice has served on the boards of several organization including National League

of Cities' University Communities Council, the Texas Municipal League Association of Hispanic Municipal Officials, and the Heart of Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee. She has also been a member of the League of United Latin American Citizens and will continue to serve as local Council 273's Executive Director.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Alice Rodriguez for her many years of influential service to our Central Texas community. I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize the community service and accomplishments of Alice Rodriguez.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH
“BETSY” BARRETT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Elizabeth “Betsy” Barrett as she is honored by the Sandy Hook Foundation for her years of service. It is my pleasure to join with the Sandy Hook Foundation in thanking Ms. Barrett for her tenure as President and her continued service on the Board of Trustees. Ms. Barrett’s exemplary leadership and contributions to the Sandy Hook Foundation and the greater Monmouth County area are truly deserving of this body’s recognition.

Throughout her many years with the Sandy Hook Foundation, Ms. Barrett has been a tireless advocate for the park and its historical and ecological importance. Under her leadership, the Sandy Hook Foundation has assisted the National Park Service in preserving valuable landmarks and highlighting the area’s recreational offerings to attract thousands of visitors to the park. At her direction, the Foundation provided resources for the renovations of the deteriorating Sandy Hook Lighthouse Keepers Quarters and Superstorm Sandy-damaged History House along Fort Hancock’s Officer’s Row. Additionally, following Superstorm Sandy’s destruction on Sandy Hook, Ms. Barrett mobilized the Foundation to assist park staff and emergency personnel as they tackled the needs associated with re-opening the park, helping navigate logistical challenges and bringing food to the site.

From her hands-on help after Superstorm Sandy to her friendly assistance to visitors needing directions, Ms. Barrett is deeply involved with the success and vitality of Sandy Hook. Her leadership and hard work have greatly benefited the park and its visitors. Her efforts as President of the Sandy Hook Foundation are valuable to our community and help ensure that this historical and natural site is available for future generations to enjoy.

Madam Speaker, once again, please join me in thanking Betsy Barrett for her years as President of the Sandy Hook Foundation and her continued support and involvement.

IN HONOR OF DORIS IRENE
PROULX

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Doris Irene Proulx, who is being honored as the Franco-American of the year by the Franco-American Centre of New Hampshire. The Franco-American Centre of New Hampshire is a non-profit working to preserve the rich heritage of French communities in New Hampshire by promoting history, culture, and education of their historic, cultural, and artistic contributions. A proud member of the Franco-American community, Doris has served our state with unbridled distinction, as a school guidance counselor, through constant community service, and active involvement in her faith community.

Doris Irene Proulx was born and raised in Manchester, growing up in a bilingual French/English household. She served the community in a professional capacity for 38 years as a guidance counselor at Manchester High School West, including 21 years as Director of Guidance. During this time, she earned the NH Excellence in Education Award for Guidance and was named Counselor of the Year.

Throughout her life, she has been a committed public servant, serving as a former president of both the Manchester Women’s Club and the Richelieu Club of Manchester. She is also a Goodwill Ambassador and is an active Member of the Franco-American Centre.

Doris continued to serve her faith community as a former president of the Missionary Rosebushes, Cardinal Lacroix Academy Advisory Board, Lady of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, and currently serves as a section representative for the Diocese of Manchester. Additionally, she has been a lector in both English and French at St. Ann-St. Augustin and St. Anthony Churches for over 18 years.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire’s First Congressional District, I want to thank Doris for her decades of dedication to our community. I congratulate her again on this well-deserved honor, and I thank her for all that she does to make our state such a wonderful place to learn, live, and grow.

CALLING ON VIETNAM TO
RELEASE MICHAEL NGUYEN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I want to join my colleagues, especially KATIE PORTER who has shown exceptional leadership on this important issue, in calling on Vietnam to release Michael Nguyen and allow him to return home to his family.

Born in Vietnam, Michael left the country in 1975 and is a U.S. citizen who lives in my home state of California. Michael has lived in

the United States for decades and has no criminal record. In fact, he has been an exemplary citizen. Besides being a business owner and committed family man, Michael is active in his church and his community.

In July 2018, Michael traveled to Vietnam to visit elderly family members. He had regularly gone on trips to Vietnam. This time, however, Michael was detained and imprisoned by the Vietnamese police. It was over a week before Vietnam even acknowledged Michael had been detained. Then, for nearly a year, his family, the American consulate, and concerned members of Congress were given no information about his alleged wrongdoings. Instead, despite repeated inquiries into the nature of his alleged crimes, the Vietnamese authorities kept stating that he was under investigation. It is a red flag that Michael was imprisoned for months and months without being formally charged with a crime. Making matters worse, he was not allowed to speak or see his family members, nor was he given access to an attorney.

Only recently was Michael officially indicted on the vague charge of carrying out activities against the Vietnamese government. Although Michael’s trial is expected to begin later this month, his alleged transgressions are apparently still a state secret in Vietnam.

As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, I hope to strengthen the U.S.-Vietnamese relationship. Our two countries have many common interests. Despite the scars of history, we have a burgeoning friendship. Many U.S. companies have large operations in Vietnam—including Nike, Adidas, Under Armour, Levi’s, and Converse—helping to propel Vietnam’s extraordinary economic growth.

Michael’s unjust imprisonment jeopardizes this progress. To avoid that outcome, the Vietnamese government should immediately release Michael and allow him to return home to his family in California. That would be a win-win outcome for the United States and Vietnam. Most importantly, it would bring an end to the unimaginable tragedy Michael’s loving wife and children have had to endure over the last year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on June 18, 2019 for Roll Call Vote 323, Roll Call Vote 324, Roll Call Vote 325, Roll Call 326, Roll Call 327, Roll Call 328, Roll Call 329, Roll Call 330, Roll Call 331, and Roll Call 332. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Aye on Roll Call Vote 323, No on Roll Call Vote 324, Aye on Roll Call Vote 325, Aye on Roll Call Vote 326, No on Roll Call Vote 327, Aye on Roll Call Vote 328, No on Roll Call Vote 329, Aye on Roll Call Vote 330, Aye on Roll Call Vote 331, and Aye on Roll Call 332.