

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF THE HONORABLE JAMES TORMEY III

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and career of the Honorable James Tormey III, a beloved father and husband, distinguished judge, and honorable public servant, who passed away on June 22, 2019.

A 1972 graduate of SUNY Cortland, and 1976 graduate of Syracuse University College of Law, Judge Tormey committed much of his life to public service. Serving on the Onondaga County Legislature for ten years, and later, as a Syracuse City Court Judge, Supreme Court Justice and District Administrative Judge for the 5th Judicial District of New York, Jim Tormey earned the respect, praise and trust of many in our community.

Over the course of his esteemed judicial career, Judge Tormey took a measured approach in upholding the law and applying it fairly. He firmly believed in the justice system and worked to ensure everyone had access to it.

As District Administrative Judge, Judge Tormey supervised the operations and schedules of more than 300 judges serving in the Fifth Judicial District — many of whom, since his passing this week, have shared stories of his strong leadership, his commitment to ensuring justice, and his respect for all. They have spoken of his commitment to continued legal education and pro bono work, and, importantly, of his friendship, mentorship and distinguished leadership.

Judge Tormey was committed to making Central New York a better place, and the impact of his work went far beyond the courtroom. He used his role to address some of the most pressing issues plaguing our community—overseeing the establishment of local Drug Courts, Opioid Courts, Human Trafficking Court, Youthful Offender Court, and Community Court for lower level offenders. His dedication to Central New York was visible in all of his actions and he will be truly missed.

Above all, Judge Tormey was a family man, and deeply loved his wife, Sue, their children Andrew and Colleen, and his grandchildren. I ask my colleagues to keep them in mind, as we honor and remember the life of this devoted civil servant.

OATH CEREMONY ON JULY 4, 2019

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate the fifty-one individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on July 4, 2019. In true patriotic fashion, on the day of our great Nation's celebration of independence, a naturalization ceremony will take place, welcoming new citizens of the United States of America. This memorable occasion, coordinated by the League of Women Voters

of the Calumet Area and presided over by Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich, will be held at The Pavilion at Wolf Lake in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. The oath ceremony is a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On July 4, 2019, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Mounir Oumansour, Taimoor Syed, Johnson Y. Gah, Joseph Han, Alex Nguyen, Mubarak Bakht Haroun, Naga Sudhakar Chodavarapu, Daniel Jaewon Kim, Elena Ugwoke, Brendan Chidobe Ugwoke, Rani Saxena, Sumesh Saxena, Zaira Nashley Velazquez, Giuseppe Mazzone, Nargis Natasha Yasir, Erika Anabel Saldivar, Rajesh Kumar Sharma, Maya Hamwi, Ibrahim Miss Lissane, Farouk Al Kurdi, Amparo Isabel Alban Montalvo, Ma Teresa Leon, Sikholisile Nyoni, Isabella Njeri Muturi, Lal Lian Mawi, Belinda Radiceska, Ljupco Radiceski, Milka Cocovska, Ananivi Apamba Komla, Blanca Estela Monsivais, Gianella Feoli Soto, Mauricio Leal, Mphasa Maria Mwanza, Sreelatha Chodavarapu, Rajko Vukobrat, Denise Alejandra Godinez, Antonio Manzo Gonzalez, Sirak Kifle Negash, Ahmed E. Khalil, Vidal Torres Alvarado, Eder Jahir Nunez Benitez, David Guillermo Barba, Ai Ong, Jagoda Petroska, Maria Julia Garcilazo, Gustavo Adolfo Osorio, Sergey Borisovich Leonov, Gisela Johanna Kreczmer, Marc Tuyizere, Muhammad Yasir Hanif Khan, and Francisco Javier Contreras Torres.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country “. . . of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these fifty-one individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on July 4, 2019, the anniversary of our Nation's independence. They, too, will be American citizens, guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

HONORING RACINE POLICE OFFICER JOHN HETLAND

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, today, our Racine community honors the life and service of Racine Police Officer John Hetland.

On June 17, Officer Hetland was killed while trying to stop an armed robbery in Racine. Even when off-duty, Officer Hetland did not waver to act.

Officer Hetland served the Racine community for 24 years as a police officer. Born in Racine, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to study criminal justice.

Those who knew Officer Hetland described him as a compassionate, brave man. A great baseball player. A loving father of two and devoted husband. A protector of our community.

But to our Racine community, Officer Hetland will always be regarded as a hero.

This tragedy is a solemn reminder of the sacrifices members of law enforcement make every day to protect us.

My prayers are with the Hetland family, friends, and the entire law enforcement community grieving this loss.

We will never forget Officer Hetland.

RENDITION & TORTURE: AN ACCOUNTING

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to include in the Record the executive summary of the North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture's (NCCIT) seminal report, *Torture Flights: North Carolina's Role in the CIA's Rendition and Torture Program*. I do so today in recognition of the United Nation's "International Day in Support of Victims of Torture," and to emphasize the continuing role of Congress as well as informed and engaged citizens in bringing to light the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) Rendition, Detention, and Interrogation (RDI) program.

I am reminded of this important duty by an exceptional group of North Carolinians who established NCCIT—a non-governmental and non-partisan commission—to investigate North Carolina's participation in the CIA's RDI program following the September 11 attacks, which is described in its September 2018 report.

The report found that in the first stage of the RDI program, a private company based in North Carolina used publicly-funded infrastructure to conduct over 80 percent of identified CIA rendition flights from September 2001 to March 2004. North Carolina public infrastructure was therefore involved in the detention and rendition of at least 49 individuals, without regard for the rule of law or due process. According to the report, some of these individuals turned out not to be involved in terrorism and have yet to receive official acknowledgment or redress, and some of these individuals continue to suffer from their mistreatment.

This report complements the Senate Intelligence Committee's 2014 report on the RDI program, which found that the CIA's "enhanced interrogation techniques" were not effective, that the program was poorly managed, and that the CIA misled Congress and the public. I commend Senator Dianne Feinstein and the other Committee members and staff who worked on this report, and I applaud NCCIT for their steadfast commitment to bringing transparency and accountability to the State of North Carolina's involvement in these activities.

Even in our darkest moments, we must always uphold core American values, including respect for the rule of law and human rights. I encourage my colleagues to read NCCIT's report, including its recommendations for local, state, and federal officials, so that we may learn from the mistakes of the past and chart a more promising course for the future.

TORTURE FLIGHTS: NORTH CAROLINA'S ROLE IN THE CIA RENDITION AND TORTURE PROGRAM—EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture

In the wake of the attacks of September 11, 2001, the U.S. government ushered in a large-scale program of secret detention and torture that relied significantly on the State of North Carolina. Six days after the attacks, President George W. Bush signed a covert memorandum that authorized the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to seize, detain, and interrogate suspected terrorists around the world. This report investigates North Carolina's role in that illegal program.

The program made use of Department of Defense facilities, a network of ten CIA-controlled secret prisons or black sites in six countries, and the facilities of foreign governments. In what was called the Rendition, Detention, and Interrogation (RDI) program, the CIA abducted and imprisoned at least 119 individuals before the practice was officially ended and repudiated by Executive Order in 2009. Given that detainees were also handed over to foreign governments, and the secrecy surrounding the program, the number of affected individuals is likely far higher.

Within weeks of the RDI program's authorization, Aero Contractors, Ltd. (Aero), based in Smithfield, NC, began operating the first of two aircraft for extraordinary, or violent and secret, renditions. Between September 2001 and March 2004, Aero-operated aircraft—a Gulfstream V turbojet and Boeing 737 business jet—were used in more than 80% of identified RDI renditions. Over the full length of the program, Aero transported 34 of the known 119 CIA prisoners, plus at least 15 of those sent by the CIA to foreign custody, on 69 identified rendition circuits. These flights, using North Carolina's public infrastructure and flown by its citizens, implicate North Carolina directly in abduction, forced disappearance, and torture.

Since 2005, North Carolina anti-torture activists from across the political spectrum have protested these actions. Motivated by diverse ethical and religious beliefs as well as a firm commitment to the rule of law, activists from North Carolina Stop Torture Now have joined with the North Carolina Council of Churches and many other allies. Citizens have pressured public officials at all levels of government to investigate the state's complicity in the CIA's illegal and immoral program.

Citizen-led activism culminated in 2015 in the creation of the North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture (NCCIT), a non-governmental organization dedicated to transparency and accountability regarding

the state's participation in U.S. torture. The NCCIT launched officially in 2017 with a blue-ribbon panel of Commissioners who have expertise in domestic and international law, military operations, human rights, interfaith religious dialogue, psychology, and public health.

The Commission initiated a large-scale investigation into North Carolina's involvement in torture and rendition. Torture Flights: North Carolina's role in the CIA rendition and torture program details the results of that investigation and makes recommendations for future action. The report draws on original research and expert testimony provided at public hearings as well as the extensive data compiled by The Rendition Project, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, and the Human Rights Policy Lab of the University of North Carolina School of Law, among other sources.

Torture Flights provides the most comprehensive research to date on North Carolina's complicity in the rendition phase of the RDI program. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence "Torture Report," a redacted Executive Summary of which was released in 2014 while the full report remains classified, focused on the detention and interrogation of detainees who were held in CIA custody. Torture Flights demonstrates that that program depended upon both North Carolina's private citizens and public infrastructure.

Further, Torture Flights builds on the Senate's work by addressing renditions themselves as an integral component of a system to break individuals down through violent interrogations. As the report details, Aero transported at least 49 individuals, who were forcibly seized without any due process, in a manner that itself amounted to torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Preparation for "rendition" involved physical and sometimes sexual assault, drugging, and sensory deprivation. Rendition flights were experiences of prolonged pain, dread, and terror. The whereabouts of the individuals flown by Aero, who were citizens of 16 countries and included a 16-year-old student and a pregnant woman, were not disclosed, not even to their families. They were "disappeared" for months if not years, causing agony to them and their loved ones. Even today, the fates of eight of those rendered by Aero remain unknown.

Many of the prisoners were taken to CIA "black sites," where they experienced beatings, prolonged stress positions, temperature extremes, long-term isolation, various water tortures, mock execution, and sexual abuse. In violation of international law, the CIA transported some prisoners to foreign custody where they were subject to torture and abuse. Kidnapping, torture, and secret detention occurred without respect for victims' innocence or guilt and absent any legal process for them to contest their abductions.

Survivors of the RDI program and their families continue to suffer from these experiences. Torture and prolonged detention have left lasting physical, emotional, and social injuries. This in turn harms relationships and livelihoods, which then amplifies the psychological damage. To resume meaningful and secure lives, survivors need medical, psychological and social support, guaranteed legal status, and economic opportunity.

This report also carefully considers the moral and legal responsibility of North Carolina for its involvement in CIA-sponsored activities. The federal government has international law obligations under both the Convention Against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights not only to prevent torture, but also to provide accountability and redress for torture. It did none of these and therefore has

failed to meet its international obligations. Given that the federal government has abdicated responsibility, North Carolina can and should fill the gap. Its role as home to Aero obligates it to do so. State and federal laws against conspiracy and corruption are among those instruments that apply to Aero's activities.

As this report documents, Aero's central role in the CIA rendition and torture program is beyond dispute. But instead of holding Aero accountable, the State of North Carolina and Johnston County until now have effectively endorsed its activities. This support has taken the form of hosting the company's headquarters at the Johnston County Airport and providing it with various airport and other county services. Since Aero's participation in criminal abduction and assault was publicly revealed, the State of North Carolina has made several grants to the county airport, at least one of which was specifically used to fortify the perimeter of only Aero's corner of the facility.

Torture Flights concludes with specific recommendations directed at federal and state officials as well as toward North Carolina citizens, whose engagement has kept the spotlight on Aero's activities and whose continued attention is needed to ensure accountability. The recommendations seek to increase transparency about the program and accountability for the illegal actions; provide acknowledgment, redress and reparations to its victims; and prevent the future use of torture. As the report notes, additional research is also needed on the involvement of other North Carolina private corporations and public airports in extraordinary renditions in order to complete the record of the RDI program. At the broadest level, the goal is to ensure that neither the federal government nor the state of North Carolina engage in or support torture again.

HONORING GERALD FISCHMAN OF THE CAPITAL GAZETTE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD an obituary of Gerald Fischman, a writer for the Capital Gazette in Annapolis Maryland.

[From the Baltimore Sun]

GERALD FISCHMAN, CAPITAL GAZETTE VICTIM
EDITORIAL WRITER, WAS KNOWN AND RESPECTED FOR HIS SHARP WIT AND COMMAND OF FACTS

(By Frederick Rasmussen)

If veteran Capital Gazette editorial writer Gerald Fischman could have chosen what he would be doing on the last day of his life, this was it:

He was a newspaperman.

Mr. Fischman, longtime editorial page editor for The Capital, was killed June 28 in the attack on the newspaper's Annapolis office. He was 61.

"You know the cliché, still waters run deep? That was Gerald," said Rick Hutzell, editor of the Capital Gazette newspapers. "He was thoughtful, witty, dedicated to his craft—all the things you hear other people say. But he also had a strong sense of what was moral and what was right."

"He was a wonderful person and really quiet, but if you took the time to get to know him you discovered how brilliant he was and his extraordinary dry wit," said Teri Winslow, a former Capital Gazette writer,