

Waverly. The Comm continues to be the center of community life in Waverly. Special events like the annual Antiques Show and Sale, the Artisans' Marketplace, the House and Garden Show, Summer Music Concerts, and seasonal children's parties.

It is an honor to recognize Waverly Township and the Waverly Community House on their centennial. The Comm has been the heartbeat of community life in the Abingtons since 1919, and I wish them another hundred years of growth and prosperity in the tradition of service to others, recreation, and civic engagement.

OPPOSING GLOBAL BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I will vote in support of H. Res. 246, a resolution opposing the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

While it will be a difficult vote, I support this resolution because some individuals leading the BDS movement have engaged in anti-Semitic rhetoric and actions and have questioned the right of Israel to exist. While not perfect, this resolution sends an important message that anti-Semitism is unacceptable.

Let me be clear: anti-Semitism, as with any other form of racism or discrimination, is antithetical to the values and aspirations of the American people. I am disturbed by the rise of anti-Semitism in the United States and other parts of the world, and I am troubled by the fact that the genocide that took place during the Holocaust is fading from memory.

That's why I have taken substantive actions to combat anti-Semitism, including joining the House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism, voting in support of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act of 2018, and voting in support of a resolution condemning anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry and intolerance. I am also a cosponsor of the Never Again Education Act, which would help address the rise in anti-Semitism by granting teachers across the country the resources and training necessary to teach our children the lessons of the Holocaust and the horrific consequences of hate and intolerance.

At the same time, I agree with this resolution's statements that boycotts and related actions are legitimate forms of free speech protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. That's why I am cosponsoring H. Res. 496, a resolution affirming that all Americans have the right to participate in boycotts, as protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution. I have also consistently opposed—and will continue to oppose—any legislation that would punish or criminalize individuals' constitutionally-protected right to free speech.

I also agree with the stated support for a two-state solution in H. Res. 246. I have consistently supported a two-state solution throughout my time in Congress, and I am once again a cosponsor of legislation stating that any U.S. plan or proposal for peace in the

Middle East must include and center on a two-state solution. A two-state solution will not only secure Israel's future as a democratic, Jewish state, it will also advance U.S. security interests in the region and enhance our ability to confront the threats posed by Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas, and other dubious actors in the Middle East.

Unfortunately, this resolution does nothing to address the fact that the Trump administration and the Israeli government under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have taken a number of actions that severely undermine a two-state solution. This includes the Trump administration's decision to recognize the city of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital, to relocate the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, to greenlight the continuing expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, and to discontinue U.S. contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and bilateral assistance to the Palestinians—all decisions which I strongly oppose. Regrettably, the Trump administration's actions have undermined the confidence among Palestinians and Arab countries in the region that the U.S. desires to play a productive role as a neutral mediator in the Middle East peace process.

As an ally of Israel, the United States invests more than \$3 billion in aid to Israel annually. Accordingly, I believe it is only appropriate that lawmakers voice their legitimate concerns with Israeli policies in a constructive way, as I have done throughout my time in Congress and will continue to do. That's why I have joined my colleagues in urging the Israeli government not to demolish Palestinian communities in the West Bank, cosponsored legislation such as the Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act, and continued to urge President Trump to restore vital aid to the Palestinians. Protecting human rights, regardless of any ongoing tension between Israelis and Palestinians, should be a fundamental American value.

It is only through thoughtful, respectful, nuanced debate that Congress can productively contribute towards resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and addressing the legitimate needs of both peoples. The bottom line is it is critical that the U.S. pursue policies that will move Israelis and Palestinians towards a negotiated, two-state solution, and I will continue to push the Trump administration and Congress to do so.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING KINDNESS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, remembering to act with kindness in the United States and affirming our commitment to fostering community and building resiliency through every day acts of kindness can do wonders. Kindness can change a family, a neighborhood, a school, a city, a nation, and ultimately, our world.

We must recognize the long history of Americans demonstrating kindness daily in their homes, schools, places of faith, businesses, community organizations, and

throughout their neighborhoods. The resolution also recognizes that kindness and compassion can heal the country from within and promote a healthier society.

Creating a culture of kindness can foster strong bonds that will bring individuals together despite their differences in order to tackle the challenges that face us. We must ensure that we remain a nation who acts with kindness towards one another.

CALLING ON GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON AND ARMED GROUPS TO RESPECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL CAMEROONIAN CITIZENS

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, over the past two years, tensions have escalated in the Northwest and Southwest regions in Cameroon between the minority Anglophone population and the Francophone factions that control the government. The conflict has killed hundreds of Cameroonians, has displaced nearly half of a million people, and human rights violations have been alleged against both security forces loyal to the Francophone-led Cameroonian government and militant Anglophone separatist groups. This conflict has severely impacted the town of Kumbo in Cameroon, which is the sister city of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

As sister cities, Kumbo and La Crosse have exchanged many official delegation visits, and a local nonprofit called the La Crosse Friends of Cameroon has been dedicated to deepening the ties between the two cities and raising awareness about the conflict. Their passion and dedication to finding a sustainable and inclusive peace in Cameroon was clear as I spoke before them at an event in La Crosse. Following that event, I traveled to Cameroon as part of a congressional delegation, and I was grateful to the local leaders from Kumbo who traveled to meet with us to share their powerful stories about how the conflict has affected their home.

The ongoing devastation that our Cameroonian friends are experiencing as a result of this crisis is unconscionable, which is why I helped introduce a resolution calling for the respect of human rights of all Cameroonian citizens, an immediate end to the violence, and for the creation of a broad-based dialogue to seek nonviolent solutions to the conflict. I am proud to see the House of Representatives take up this resolution to show that Congress supports a path to a sustainable, inclusive peace in Cameroon.

HONORING MS. JUDY SCHNEIDER

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Judy Schneider of the Congressional Research Service for her service to the United States Congress and the

American people. After over 40 years of dedicated service, Ms. Schneider is retiring.

When I was first elected to Congress, Ms. Schneider was my most valuable resource for learning how this institution functions. She helped me understand parliamentary procedure, and even took the time to role play scenarios with me so I could best serve my constituents. When Democrats lost the Majority in 1994, Ms. Schneider gave me all the tools I needed to tackle being in the Minority.

Over her storied career, she has honed a singular knowledge of the legislative and political process and has shared this insight for the benefit of the institution and the young people who came to this city to make opportunity real for their communities and their country. It is thanks to Ms. Schneider that many of my colleagues in Congress are able to serve their constituents every day. She taught me everything I know about the steering process, a key part of Congress' work. I still use the knowledge Ms. Schneider shared with me every day.

As well as helping to guide Members of Congress and their staff through the procedures of this institution, she has helped countless young professions through her Direct Connect to Congress classes. Ms. Schneider leaves behind a legacy of hard work and dedication to mentoring other professionals dedicated to civil service that will live on in the Women in Government Relations Judy Schneider Fellowship program.

One of my personal heroes, Shirley Chisholm, said "service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth." Ms. Schneider has certainly paid her rent. The Congress is a place long in history and deep with complexity. It can be a labyrinth where passionate individuals dedicated to service become separated from their original aspirations. It has been Judy who has, again and again, helped others navigate the path to change. I congratulate her on 40 years of service and I thank her for impacting the lives of hundreds of young people, staff and members.

It is my honor and privilege today to recognize Ms. Judy Schneider for her hard work and dedication, and to wish her the best of luck in her new retirement. She will be greatly missed.

HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness to the anniversary of the passage of the American Disabilities Act, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990.

The passage and signing of the Act represent the culmination of many years of hard work and advocacy by countless differently abled individuals, their families, and allies. It is unbelievable that until only thirty-nine years ago, there were no laws in place to protect the civil rights of some of our communities' most vulnerable populations. The American Disabilities Act provides important protections in workplaces, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to those who toiled to bring awareness and visibility to the people who were once disincluded or segregated from public life, due to physical barriers or due to the stigma of misconception. We still have a long way to go to ensure equity for the differently abled, but we can support and acknowledge the organizations that are advocating, educating, and protecting.

I therefore rise today to mark the anniversary of the American Disabilities Act.

VENEZUELA TPS ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 549, "The Venezuela TPS Act of 2019."

The bill would designate Venezuela for temporary protected status (TPS), allowing certain Venezuelan nationals to stay in the U.S., regardless of their current immigration status.

The Secretary of Homeland Security grants TPS to certain individuals who cannot safely return to their home countries due to ongoing armed conflict, environmental disasters, or other extraordinary circumstances.

While the total number of individuals, who would be eligible for TPS under this bill, is unclear, about 72,000 Venezuelans have come to the U.S. since 2014.

The Venezuela TPS Act of 2019 would:

Designate Venezuela for TPS, allowing its nationals to remain in the U.S. for 18 months, regardless of their immigration status if they:

Have been continuously physically present in the United States since the date of the enactment of the bill; and

Meet all other requirements for TPS.

Provide Venezuelan nationals who meet the above requirements with:

Employment authorization; and

Authorization to travel outside the U.S. for emergencies and extenuating circumstances.

Direct the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to work with international partners to increase capacity of countries surrounding Venezuela to provide migration services and asylum, specifically to establish and expand in-country reception centers and shelters and improve migration and asylum registration systems.

Congress should designate Venezuela for TPS because:

The country has been facing unprecedented economic, humanitarian, security, and refugee crisis, consisting of extreme food and medicine shortages, severe infant and child malnutrition, rampant crime, and government-sponsored repression.

Venezuela ranks as the most dangerous country in the world.

In 2017, the country's homicide rate stood at 89 per 100,000 people which compares to 5.3 per 100,000 people in the United States.

TPS holders contribute to the U.S. economy.

For example, TPS holders from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti contribute \$4.5 billion in income to the gross domestic product annually and \$6.9 billion to Social Security and Medicare over a decade.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 549 to allow certain Venezuelan nationals to stay in the U.S., regardless of their current immigration status.

CONGRATULATING THE GUAM TERRITORIAL BAND

HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Guam Territorial Band for taking home a Gold Award in the 2019 Australian International Music Festival held in Sydney, Australia.

The Guam Territorial Band was organized in 1976 as the Governor's Youth Band to perform for the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter in 1977. The band continues its service to the people of Guam as the Official Band of Guam by performing at graduations, military events, national holiday ceremonies, official visits, village fiestas, local government functions, and numerous venues in Guam, the United States, and abroad. The Guam Territorial Band is led by Chief Band Master Maximo Ronquillo, Jr., and the Regional Band Masters, Joanne Matanane Sosa and William Brandon Aydtlett.

The Guam Territorial Band has educational programs for aspiring musicians to gain experience and training. The Guam Honor Band Program provides middle and high school students opportunities to develop their musical talents. For more advanced musicians, the Guam Band Academy offers in-depth training in music theory, marching band, solo performance, and small ensemble performance under the Chief Band Master.

In the 2019 Australian International Music Festival, the Guam Territorial Band was a Command Performance Band and received a Gold Award. The Australian International Music Festival is among the largest music festivals in the southern hemisphere, receiving participation from 62 ensembles and over 1,300 participants in 2019. The Guam Territorial Band has previously received numerous honors and awards, including being a Command Performance Band and received Gold Awards in the 2005 and 2014 Australian International Music Festivals, respectively.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I want to congratulate the Guam Territorial Band for their success in the 2019 Australian International Music Festival. They continue to demonstrate outstanding musicianship in Guam, the United States, and abroad.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH P. LEAHY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize my good friend Mr. Joe Leahy as he nears the end of his term as the 114th chairman of the nation's largest insurance association—the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, also known as the Big "I". He was appointed chairman of the Big "I" in August