

TRIBUTE TO JUDY SCHNEIDER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my deep gratitude and appreciation to someone who has played an indispensable role in Congress for more than four decades—my guide and my great friend, Judy Schneider. After a legendary career as a Specialist on Congress at the Congressional Research Service—really the specialist on Congress—Judy is retiring. Judy will be missed.

Judy Schneider is a recognized institution on Capitol Hill—not just because of her unparalleled knowledge of procedure, but because of her belief in how those of us fortunate enough to work here can use those procedures to move effective policy solutions. She has never failed to recognize the enormous possibilities we have been given to represent our constituents and our nation, and she has never failed to help anyone—on either side of the aisle—who sought her guidance.

Like many of my colleagues and their staffs, I have relied on Judy to help me navigate Congress—not just how the House and Senate are supposed to work according to precedent, but how these bodies actually work in today's world. Along with her colleague Michael Koempel, she literally wrote the book—The Congressional Deskbook: The Practical and Comprehensive Guide to Congress—to help explain the rules under which we operate. My staff and I have turned to the Deskbook countless times, and we are far from alone. Whether you work on the Hill or simply want to understand how Congress operates, you can rely on Judy Schneider's writings for clear, concise and accurate information. That includes not just the Deskbook but hundreds of reports and guidance documents, including one that each of my staffers receives on how to prepare a legislative plan.

But Judy is not just an author. She is available to talk with Members of Congress, their staffs, and others to answer questions and share her vast expertise. I was fortunate to meet Judy at the new member retreat during my first weeks in Congress, and immediately recognized her many talents. It was clear to me that if I wanted to learn how the House really works, I needed to know Judy. I am so thankful that Judy agreed to serve as my mentor and guide. Whenever my staff or I have a question about procedural or legislative options, we turn to not just to Judy's books and reports, but to Judy in person. She is not just on our speed-dial, she is the "go-to" person for offices throughout the House and Senate.

Her influence goes beyond the walls of Congress. Judy has been generous in sharing her understanding of Congress with a wide range of groups off the Hill, speaking to countless associations and organizations while also mentoring many individuals—especially women—who are interested in policymaking careers. Using her trademark Socratic style to challenge her countless students, Judy has taught a generation of thinkers how to use policy and procedures creatively.

Judy Schneider has received many awards and accolades—all of which are richly deserved. The Judy Schneider Fellowship, created by Women in Government in 2015 to rec-

ognize Judy's accomplishments, guarantees that her impact will continue to be felt. Last year, she won the inaugural Democracy Awards Lifetime Achievement award for Congressional staff from the Congressional Management Foundation, a truly fitting honor. And yet, I believe her greatest reward is knowing that she has mentored, trained and inspired so many who have gone on to use her lessons to improve people's lives and well-being.

I thank Judy, I love her and I wish her everything good. I know that she will spend time on the Jersey shore, with family and friends, and enjoy some well-deserved downtime. But I also hope that, even in retirement, she will continue to serve as a resource for all of us who have relied on her for her wisdom. I hope to be able to turn to her for her counsel and friendship in the future, as I have so frequently over the past years.

RUDY GIULIANI COMMENTS REGARDING THE IRANIAN REGIME OF TERROR
HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD comments about the situation in Iran that I believe are relevant and should be widely shared. The comments, from former New York City Mayor and attorney to the U.S. President Rudy Giuliani, address peaceful regime change in Iran and the work of the Iranian Resistance. Giuliani delivered this speech at the International Gathering at Ashraf-3, Tirana, Albania, which is home to members of the Iranian opposition, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (PMOI/MEK). More than 350 bipartisan dignitaries and parliamentarians from 47 countries attended the conference. I offer these comments for thoughtful discussion as follows:

Giuliani: "Thanks to you and particularly to the people who live here in Ashraf 3. You'll be the ones who lead your people to freedom and you'll be honored forever in Iranian history and in the history of those who love and are willing to die for freedom. God bless you."

This organization has grown and grown and I feel in this room today a kind of optimism that I don't remember feeling before when we were in Paris. I feel an optimism maybe because you've done a miracle here in Ashraf. If we were to build this in New York City, it would take 15 years and 14 corruption investigations. I was here a year and a half ago, this wasn't here.

And of course, all of this is possible because of the leadership of Madame Maryam Rajavi, a truly exceptional leader. Just like her husband Massoud Rajavi, who began this movement in one very brave act. He refused to swear allegiance to the Supreme Leader Khomeini to his face. He said, "No, I will not swear allegiance to you. I will not deliver my nation to a tyrant."

I'm here to say three things. First, I accuse the Ayatollah and Rouhani and all of their sycophants and followers of mass murder, crimes against humanity. We should be embarrassed for our countries if they haven't stood up against this. There's no middle ground here. These people have killed at least

120,000 members and associates of this great organization. You see the book. You go through the sad, tragic, but heroic exhibit they have of the martyrs to freedom. Look at the photograph of the people in the infirmary being treated for illness, slaughtered just a few years ago. Killed 52 of them of the last 100 people who stayed at Ashraf, they tried to wipe them all out. In 1988, in two months they slaughtered 30,000 people. These are not numbers, these are human lives.

So there are three things that we have to do. Number one, we have to get the governments of Europe to stand up, to wake up, to reclaim their dignity and their honor. These are the countries that gave us democracy. Greece, Rome, Italy, France, United Kingdom, Germany, all places in which freedom was born, democracy was born, democracy emerged. Democracy for my nation came out of Europe and the experience of Europe. So how can the leaders of those countries turn their back on mass murder? How can they do it and live with themselves? It's time to end that shameful disregard.

There's no statute of limitations on murder. I prosecuted two Nazis 40 years after their horrible deeds. One killed 20,000 people, the other killed 12,000 people and we found them and it took years and we brought them to justice. The people who slaughtered 30,000 people in 1988 should be identified, they should be prosecuted, and they should either be imprisoned for life or executed. They're criminals. They're murderers. They're not leaders of countries. They are no better than the murderer in the street except they're worse because they're mass murderers.

I am so proud of my government because we have stood up. We looked at that agreement that would make Iran a nuclear power and we said tear it up. We're not going to put nuclear weapons in the hands of a maniac. Well, I say to the leaders of Europe, you can be liberators too. You can go down in history as fighters for freedom.

Isn't that better than just running a government and making money and giving blood money to Iran? How can you do commerce with them? We all know they're the largest sponsor of terrorism in the world. What does that mean? That means they fund and they supply murderers not only in their own country but all over the world. And when you give them money, when you relieve them of a debt, which my government did in the prior administration, and put over a billion dollars back in their hands, you are supporting murder. What do they use it for? Their people know, their people know that when they get money, when a French company or a German company does business with them, that money, that profit is going to be used to kill people in Syria or to kill people somewhere else or to send people to Albania to kill us or to send people to France like they did last year to kill Madame Rajavi and us. That's what they're funding, don't you realize it? That makes you complicit in murder.

Number two, let's make it clear, there is an alternative to this horrible regime of terror. This isn't one of those situations in which we have the choice of deposing a horrible dictator and we don't know if a more horrible one will come along. Right? And when we saw that happen, we saw it happen in Egypt, in some ways we saw it happen in Libya.

But here we don't have that problem. We've got the worst regime in the world by far, the

biggest sponsor of terrorism in the world. And then we have the National Council, the NCRI, led by the president-elect, Madame Rajavi. Coalition of resistance organizations respected throughout the world. There are representatives of most of the major countries in the world here. They've gotten to know her. They've gotten to respect her. In my country, she's thoroughly respected.

We know there's a group of people who have been fighting for freedom all their lives, who have lost the closets people to them in the fight for freedom, who are dedicated to it.

People here at Ashraf, let's make it clear. I spent a lot of time with them. These are people who are dedicated to freedom. And if you think that's a cult, then there's something wrong with you. There's something missing in your soul.

But we know that there is a government in exile, it negotiates with the whole world, and it's written down plain as can be what it stands for. And it looks just like our Bill of Rights, just like the universal declarations of freedom and decency and human rights enshrined in the great documents of the world. Free elections within six months is the promise, and I believe it will be fulfilled. They're for gender equality. They're for human rights. They're for a system of law. They're for we don't imprison someone unless they have a fair trial. And because of their history, they oppose capital punishment, because there's been too much of it. And it isn't just capital punishment, it's murder in their country. This is a good organization. And it's an organization that is ready, willing and able not to take over Iran but to guide Iran to elections as quickly as possible and hopefully they will be part of the coalition governing Iran like they're part of the coalition that is trying to guide Iran to freedom. This is a group that we can support. It's a group that we should stop maligning and it's a group that should make us comfortable having regime change in the worst regime in the world.

Here's what you can do. You can be a witness like in the Biblical sense of a witness. You know something that a lot of people don't know. You know really how bad it is in Iran. And you know about MEK. And you know about Madame Rajavi. And you know the truth, not the lies, "the cult, they don't have support in Iran." Why has the Ayatollah been murdering them for 40 years if they don't have support in Iran? The Ayatollah, Rouhani, have said that this organization is the only one that's really a danger to them.

You now have a responsibility because of your knowledge. Don't be euphemistic about it. Don't hide your eyes. You've got to get the leaders of your country to stand up so you can all be proud of your country and its heritage.

I get attacked and my colleagues who will be here in a moment get attacked all the time in America. Why we're doing this? We're doing it really very simply because we love freedom and we can't turn our back on people who are being treated this way and we can't turn our back on a situation that could be catastrophic for them and catastrophic for the world. You know what I say to them? Keep doing it. Keep doing it. I wear it as a badge of honor. I support freedom, you support oppression. I support democracy, you support a dictatorship. I support decent people who share the values of decent governments, and you support mass murderers. Now who's right and who's wrong?

But I know and I feel as I've told you, and I know why there's an optimism in this room. Because we're going to be in Tehran much sooner than all those cynics believe. You know why? [Because we are Hazer, Hazer, Hazer. (We're ready)."]

CELEBRATION OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF HIGGINSVILLE

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of Higginsville, Missouri. For the past 150 years, Higginsville has served as the hub of Lafayette County and the home of a tight-knit, caring community. May it stand for another 150 years as a glittering example to other towns around the country.

In 1869, the town was incorporated on land purchased by its namesake, Harvey Higgins. A post office was soon established, and the growth of the town took off from there. The first school was built in 1886 and enrolled 572 students by 1888. Powered by coal mines, manufacturing, and agriculture, the population exploded until it had over 2,500 people living there in 1910. To point the way to a bustling town, the yellow "Welcome to Higginsville" finger signs were installed on Highway 13 and US Highway 40 (now I-70) in 1924. These four iconic signs stand today as a sunny tribute to the hospitality of Higginsville's people.

The 20th century and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal programs brought development and investment, including Fairground park, a swimming pool, and a new post office with a mural done by a student of the great regionalist painter Thomas Hart Benton. After World War II, further investment brought a golf course, additions to the park, a new city hall, new school buildings, and a municipal airport.

In 1967, the Higginsville and Corder School districts were consolidated forming the Lafayette County C-1 school district. The school has grown to serve almost a thousand students and stands as a center of academic excellence. It was Accredited with Distinction in Performance by the State of Missouri for the 2009-2010 school year. The district's competent instructors, small class sizes, and abundant resources makes it one of the best schools in the county.

Situated less than fifty miles outside of Kansas City and near I-70, Higginsville residents have the advantages of both easy access to city and country living. Jobs in Kansas City are easily accessible, and there are also good jobs in Higginsville. Lafayette County's top employer is the Higginsville Habilitation Center and Northwest Community Services. Higginsville also serves as the central police dispatch for Lafayette County, making it essential to keeping the whole county safe. Higginsville also has innumerable civil society organizations and churches that are the backbone of the community. From the Freemasons and the Odd Fellows to the Rotary and 4-H, the people of Higginsville are civically minded and active volunteers. These volunteers come together every September to put on the Country Fair, a bustling week of activities and con-

tests that culminates in a bustling street fair and parade.

Furthermore, Higginsville is home to some of the best retirement facilities in the area. Meyer Care Center and John Knox Village East (a not-for-profit retirement community) are cornerstones of the community and world-class homes for senior citizens.

The quality schools, solid jobs, and caring retirement communities make Higginsville a good place to grow-up, work, and retire. Higginsville is successful because of its citizens' commitment to improving the community, through their community organizations, churches, and fraternal spirit. This commitment will never diminish, and Higginsville will continue to be a crossroads of Missouri and the center of Lafayette County. Madam Speaker, please join me, Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, and citizens across the nation in honoring the City of Higginsville for 150 years of community and growth.

HONORING AMERICAN VETERANS IN EXTREME NEED ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2938, "The Honoring American Veterans in Extreme Need Act of 2019", or the HAVEN Act.

Section 2 would amend Bankruptcy Code section 101(1 OA), which defines current monthly income" for purposes of the Code's means test, to exclude compensation paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Defense to an individual in connection with a disability, combat-related injury or disability, or death of a member of the uniformed services.

I strongly support this legislation because it would bring certain veterans' disability benefits paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Defense into parity with the treatment of Social Security payments under the Bankruptcy Code's means test.

Although Social Security benefits are not treated as income for purposes of the Bankruptcy Code's means test, veterans' disability benefits do constitute income under this test.

This requirement applies even with respect to servicemembers who have returned to the United States from active service and thus no longer receive combat pay.

Under the means test, such servicemember would have to calculate his or her income based on the average monthly income that he or she received during the six-month period preceding the filing date of the bankruptcy case, rather than the debtor's actual income, which may be much less because of the debtor's non-combat status.

Many veterans become ineligible for the more immediate discharge available under Chapter 7 and, instead, they are steered into Chapter 13, which requires a debtor to make payments to creditors pursuant to a 3 or 5 year plan before he or she can receive a discharge.

According to the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ), such treatment