

H.R. 6535, the Coverage for Urban Indian Health Providers Act, when it passed this House on Thursday, December 17, 2020. Enactment of H.R. 6535 will address the lack of parity under the Federal Tort Claims Act within the Indian Health Service for urban Indian health programs, and by sending this bill to the Senate, and hopefully to the President, we are making a necessary correction that will support delivery of health care to Native communities across the country.

However, while I am proud of the passage of this measure, we must not forget that the same lack of parity under FTCA continues to persist for the Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems funded through the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act. I am therefore committed to standing with Native Hawaiians and their representatives in Congress, including Congressman CASE and Senator SCHATZ, to ensure that Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems are not left behind, and will work with them, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the House Natural Resources Committee, and the Senate Committee for Indian Affairs to address the inequitable access to Federal Torts Claims Act coverage among Native health systems in the next Congress. Together, we will continue to fight for the trust and treaty rights and access to benefits for all of our country's Native peoples.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF HARDIN COUNTY'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Bicentennial of Hardin County, Ohio. The perseverance of pioneers and settlers to overcome the challenges faced during the early years of the county's history has persisted throughout the past 200 years. The hard work and spirit shown by generations of county residents have made Hardin County an outstanding example of American ingenuity.

On February 12, 1820, the Ohio Legislature enacted legislation creating fourteen new counties in northwestern Ohio. One of the counties was named Hardin, honoring the American Revolutionary hero, John Hardin. Hardin County was officially established in 1820 and encompasses roughly 470 square miles. The county is home to Ohio Northern University, which was established in 1871. Hardin County is an asset to the great State of Ohio through its many contributions in the fields of agriculture and manufacturing.

By remembering the 200th Anniversary of Hardin County, community members and Ohio residents recognize the outstanding achievements, maintain our pioneer attitude, and strive to better our county through the principles on which it was founded. Thank you and congratulations to Hardin County on this significant milestone.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on December 17, 2020 and December 18, 2020 due to not being in DC. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YES on Roll Call No. 245; YES on Roll Call No. 246; and NO on Roll Call No. 247.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF HENRY COUNTY'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Bicentennial of Henry County, Ohio. The perseverance of pioneers and settlers to overcome the challenges faced during the early years of the county's history has persisted throughout the past 200 years. The hard work and spirit shown by generations of county residents have made Henry County an outstanding example of American ingenuity.

On February 12, 1820, the Ohio Legislature enacted legislation creating fourteen new counties in northwestern Ohio. One of the counties was named Henry, honoring the American Revolutionary hero, Patrick Henry. Henry County was officially established in 1820, but parts of the county remained in Wood County until 1824 and in Williams County until 1834. The county contains roughly 417 square miles and was once part of the Great Black Swamp. The unique nature of the former swampland provided rich soil which allowed the agricultural community to prosper.

By remembering the 200th Anniversary of Henry County, community members and Ohio residents recognize the outstanding achievements, maintain a pioneer attitude, and strive to better our county on the principles on which our county was founded. Thank you and congratulations to Henry County on this significant milestone.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF VAN WERT COUNTY'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Bicentennial of Van Wert County, Ohio. The perseverance of pioneers and settlers to overcome the challenges faced during the early years of the county's history has persisted throughout the past 200 years. The hard work and spirit shown by generations of county residents have made Van Wert County an outstanding example of American ingenuity.

On February 12, 1820, the Ohio Legislature enacted legislation creating fourteen new counties in northwestern Ohio. One of the

counties was named Van Wert, honoring the American Revolutionary hero, Isaac Van Wart. Van Wert aided in the 1780 capture of British Major John Andre, who was convicted and executed for spying with Benedict Arnold. Van Wert County contains roughly 410 square miles, and it was officially established in 1820. A noteworthy part of Van Wert County's history is the establishment of the Brumback Library. The library was founded in 1890 as the first countywide public library to exist in the United States, and it continues to serve over 29,000 residents. Van Wert County is an asset to the great State of Ohio through its many contributions in the fields of agriculture and manufacturing.

By remembering the 200th Anniversary of Van Wert County, community members and Ohio residents recognize the outstanding achievements, maintain our pioneer attitude, and strive to better our county through the principles on which it was founded. Thank you and congratulations to Van Wert County on this significant milestone.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF WILLIAMS COUNTY'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Bicentennial of Williams County, Ohio. The perseverance of pioneers and settlers to overcome the challenges faced during the early years of the county's history has persisted throughout the past 200 years. The hard work and spirit shown by generations of county residents have made Williams County an outstanding example of American ingenuity.

On February 12, 1820, the Ohio Legislature enacted legislation creating fourteen new counties in northwestern Ohio. The fourteenth new county came to be known as Williams County, honoring the Revolutionary War hero David Williams. Williams aided in the 1780 capture of British Major John Andre, who was convicted and executed for spying with Benedict Arnold. When Williams County was officially established in 1820 it originally contained roughly 720 square miles, but it currently encompasses 420 square miles. A pivotal point in Williams County's history was the twenty-year dispute over the northern part of Williams County which contributed to the Ohio and Michigan war. Eventually, the territory lines between the Indiana line and Lake Erie were settled, giving Williams County its first beginnings as a county in the great state of Ohio.

By remembering the 200th Anniversary of Williams County, community members and Ohio residents recognize the outstanding achievements, maintain our pioneer attitude, and strive to better our county on the principles on which it was founded. Thank you and congratulations to Williams County on this significant milestone.

EXCERPTS FROM IRANIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO WERE WITNESSES TO THE 1988 MASSACRE IN IRAN

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following release which includes excerpts from the statement of former Iranian political prisoners, witnesses to the 1988 massacre in Iran.

The Amnesty International report, "Blood-Soaked Secrets: Why Iran's 1988 Prison Massacres are Ongoing Crimes Against Humanity," on the 30th anniversary of the massacre was an important step in accelerating the justice movement and holding the regime's officials to account as those responsible for committing this great crime. The following are the excerpts from the former Iranian political prisoners, witnesses to the 1988 massacre in Iran:

We, political prisoners who personally witnessed the 1988 massacre, as part of the large family of the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), have made a solemn promise to the 30,000 proud martyrs of this massacre that we will spare no effort to shed light on the scope of the horrific and inhumane 1988 massacre and to ensure its perpetrators face justice.

Amnesty International can rely on the support of political prisoners, families of the martyrs, and the Iranian people as it continues to speak the truth and expose this great crime against humanity. The regime's leaders must face the fact that four decades of crime and murder, which continued into the November 2019 massacre and the executions of Mostafa Salehi and Navid Afkari will not go unanswered.

We stress in this regard that insulting and attacking Amnesty International and its researchers and reporters is deplorable and amount to aligning with and accompanying the murderous rulers of Iran. As stated in the statement issued by 1,404 political prisoners, We consider it to be the urgent obligation of all political prisoners and any dignified human being to expose anyone, whether a former prisoner or otherwise, with any political claim, who serves the interests of the clerical regime, and we condemn any silence with respect to such abhorrent actions. Political prisoners, witnesses to the 1988 massacre. October 2020

Three decades after the 1988 massacre of political prisoners in Iran, we are witnessing Amnesty International's efforts to expose the details of this great crime. This is a crime that the former designated heir to Khomeini described at the time as the greatest crime committed by the clerical regime in

its history and called its perpetrators criminals:

This statement was distributed by the Iranian American Community of Texas, member of the Organization of Iranian American Communities-US (OIAC)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on December 3, 2020, I submitted a personal explanation for having missed votes on December 2 and December 3, 2020 due to being out of town. I wish to correct my explanation for Roll Call No. 229. Although my personal explanation submitted on December 3, 2020 stated that I would have voted "no" on Roll Call no. 229, I in fact would have abstained from that vote and I wish to correct the record to reflect that.

NOMINATION OF RETIRED GENERAL LLOYD AUSTIN AS THE 28TH U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of Congress, as a proud citizen of the United States, as an African American woman, and as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I rise in strong support of President-elect Joe Biden's nomination of retired General Lloyd Austin as the 28th U.S. Secretary of Defense.

Retired General Lloyd Austin is an accomplished and respected trailblazer in the United States Army. He is a trusted and crisis-tested leader who has broken barriers in his historic ascent to the highest ranks of the military.

With more than 40 years of service, Retired General Lloyd Austin is a deeply experienced and highly decorated commander who has served with distinction in several of the Pentagon's most crucial roles.

Retired General Lloyd Austin is a son of the South. He was born in Mobile, Alabama and grew up in Thomasville, Georgia. He graduated from West Point United States Military Academy and later earned degrees from Auburn University, Webster University, the Army

Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.

Retired General Lloyd Austin was promoted to Lieutenant General in 2006 and assumed command of the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg. And in 2009 he handed over his command to become the Director of the Joint Staff.

Retired General Lloyd Austin retired from the U.S. Army in 2016 as the first African American to serve as Commander of CENTCOM, the U.S. Central Command, where he oversaw America's military strategy and joint operations throughout the Middle East and in Afghanistan.

He was the chief architect of the military campaign to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria and became the second highest ranking commander in Iraq, taking command of the Multi-National Corps—Iraq. As commander, he directed the operations of approximately 152,000 joint and coalition forces in all sectors of Iraq.

He led the transition of the U.S. and Coalition military forces and equipment out of Iraq, the largest logistics operation undertaken by the Army in six decades.

Retired General Lloyd Austin served in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, Operations Officer for the Army Indianapolis District Recruiting Command, Executive Officer 1st Brigade 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, Executive Officer for the 2nd Battalion 22nd Infantry, Chief of Joint Operations Division J-3, Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Commander of 2nd Battalion 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Commanding General of U.S. Forces in Iraq, Army Vice Chief of Staff and as Commander of CENTCOM.

Retired General Lloyd Austin is highly decorated with many awards and decorations including four Defense Distinguished Service Medals, three Army Distinguished Service Medals, a Silver Star, two Defense Superior Service Medals, and two Legion of Merit decorations.

Retired General Lloyd Austin, if confirmed, will become the first African American Secretary of Defense which culminates a barrier-breaking career as the first African American general to command an Army Division in combat, to lead a Corps in combat, to command an entire theater of war, and to serve as Commander of U.S. Central Command.

Secretary-designate Austin has proven and demonstrated extraordinary leadership across a lifetime of distinguished service and is well prepared to lead our nation's military as a strong and dedicated civilian leader.