HONORING BEN KELLY

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Ben Kelly, an entrepreneur, surfboard shaper, and surfer on the central coast of California. Ben will be remembered for his kindness, adventurous spirit, and passion for his religious faith.

Ben Kelly was born in Orange County in Southern California. While attending Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, California, where he met his wife, Katie, Ben began shaping surfboard and eventually developed his own brand, Ben Kelly Surfboards.

Following his move to the central coast of California, Ben and Katie started their social media company, named Authentic Approach. This business encapsulated Ben's quick embrace of his new community. Not only was he dedicated to the work he did with his wife to help others realize their dreams of starting and operating local businesses, but he also quickly established himself in the local surfing community on the Central Coast. Ben's friends knew him as an adventurous young man who formed tight bonds with those around him and used his supportive and sincere nature to encourage friends to excel at their goals.

Ben was especially passionate about his deeply held Christian faith. As a member of Twin Lakes Church in Aptos, California, Ben channeled his faith to guide his generous nature and devotion to helping friends and strangers. Ben's faith was a part of his daily life, finding daily lessons in the world around him and offering earnest guidance to anyone who needed help.

Ben will be remembered for his adventurous and generous spirit and his love for and devotion to his wife, Katie. We, as a community, celebrate his life well-lived. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life of Ben Kelly.

AUTHORIZING REMOTE VOTING BY PROXY AND PROVIDING FOR OFFICIAL REMOTE COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DUE TO A NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

SPEECH OF

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 15, 2020

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 965, which is nothing more than a power grab by my Democrat colleagues that would upend over 200 years of precedent and have serious constitutional and institutional repercussions.

Across our nation, millions of Americans go to work every day to help their communities and defeat the COVID–19 outbreak. They expect their elected officials to do the same. But under the proposal put forth by House Democrats, 20 members would control Congress, while the rest stay home and cede their votes.

Article 1, Section 5 of the U.S. Constitution states, ''a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members.'' At a time when traveling took days to weeks, rather than mere hours, our Founding Fathers recognized that while inconvenient, being physically present was necessary for good governance. And despite recent legislative sessions, which prove Members of Congress can conduct regular business in a safe manner, Democrats want to recklessly alter the U.S. House of Representatives as our founders designed it.

In addition to throwing out 230 years of tradition, H. Res. 965 stifles the voices of tens of millions of Americans. As long as these rules are in place, House leadership will control every step of the legislative process. Rank and file members will be cut out of lawmaking completely, in turn denying the people they represent a seat at the table.

Republican Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY, Rules Committee Ranking Member TOM COLE, and Administration Committee Ranking Member RODNEY DAVIS put forward a detailed plan for how the House can continue operations during this crisis. House Republicans stand ready to find bipartisan solutions that ensure members can fulfill their constitutional duties.

But the resolution proposed by House Democrats is not the answer.

Mr. Speaker, our country has faced serious challenges since its founding, including the Spanish influenza. For the first time in our history, a single party is taking advantage of a crisis to jam through unprecedented and unconstitutional changes that will forever alter this institution. I strongly oppose H. Res. 965, which will devastate our democracy and silence the People's voice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL MITCHELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 105 the Previous Question on H. Res. 967, Roll Call No. 106 Agreeing on H. Res. 967, Roll Call No. 107 Agreeing on H. Res. 965, Roll Call No. 108 Motion to Recommit on H.R. 6800, and Roll Call No. 109 Passage of H.R. 6800, I am not recorded because I was absent.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 105; NAY on Roll Call No. 106; NAY on Roll Call No. 107; YEA on Roll Call No. 108; and NAY on Roll Call No. 109.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on May 15, 2020 for Roll Call Vote 105, Roll Call Vote 106, Roll Call Vote 107, Roll Call Vote 108, and Roll Call Vote 109 as I am on doctors'-ordered bed rest after sustaining a fall two weeks ago. Had I been present, my vote would have been the following: Yea on Roll Call Vote 105, Yea on Roll Call Vote 106, Yea on Roll Call Vote 107, Nay on Roll Call Vote 108, and Yea on Roll Call Vote 109.

RECOGNIZING SOPHIA SAID

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sophia Said for receiving the 2019 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award.

Ms. Said is currently the Chairwoman of the Madina Institute and Mosque located in my hometown of Little Rock, Arkansas. She is also the Executive Director of the Interfaith Center of Arkansas.

Established in 1990 to honor individuals for their efforts in fighting crime, terrorism, and violence in the United States, the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award is a true testament to the work Ms. Said has led to combat violence and hate crimes against religious groups in Arkansas.

Ms. Said has brought together law enforcement agencies, religious congregations, and community leaders for FBI-lead trainings to prevent terrorist attacks in Arkansas.

On behalf of all Arkansans, I thank Ms. Said for her devotion to protecting our Arkansas communities, and congratulations on this deserving recognition.