

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. LEWIS. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Foster Care Month.

For more than thirty years, the month of May has given voice to the unique, often complicated needs and situations of young people in our nation's foster care system. Sadly, too many of our young people are at risk of being left out and left behind. The pandemic only exacerbated the neglect and abuse of young people of all races, ages, and backgrounds in Georgia and across our country.

For these reasons, it is important that, during National Foster Care Month, we recognize the nearly half million children who are currently in our nation's child welfare system. Madam Speaker, they must know that, despite all that is happening in our nation and around the world, I along with many other Members of Congress, mentors, volunteers, friends, and extended families love and value each and every young person in foster care.

We must recommit to doing all we can to maximize their capacity and reaffirm our belief in their hopes, dreams, and aspirations. Foster youth must trust and know that, on the darkest of days, we are always in their corner, and they are always in our hearts and thoughts.

We must each do our part to ensure that every young person and aspiring adoptive and foster parent is able to fulfill their dreams of a stable, loving family. Many adults want to open their homes and their hearts, but they face barriers because the system says that they practice the wrong religion, love the wrong person, or are not married. Many children enter the system because of similar discrimination, and some experience it while in public care.

For these reasons, I am proud to sponsor the bipartisan Every Child Deserves a Family Act to end discrimination in our child welfare system and expand every opportunity for a safe, forever family. I will continue working with my colleagues to pass this critical legislation and provide much-needed protections for children and adults in the child welfare system.

Inspired by the experiences of many former foster youth in Metro Atlanta, I am deeply concerned about the more than 20,000 youth who age out of the foster care system every year. Government authorities share a unique and distinct responsibility to support those youth who transition from foster care to independent living. Far too often, these young adults go on to receive less education, hold fewer jobs, experience more homelessness and housing instability, and often experience imprisonment at higher rates than their peers who did not experience foster care.

Federal, state, and local government have a moral duty to do all we can to protect and as-

sist young people during and after their transition from foster care. The current coronavirus pandemic exposed the difficulties that many of foster youth face in navigating adolescence and adulthood with limited support. Government programs and authorities are often their only available resource, and we must do all we can to help restore hope and opportunities to young people and address the real, critical disparities they face prior to, during, and beyond this pandemic. I plan to introduce a comprehensive legislative package soon to do just that.

During this National Foster Care Month, may we all be rededicated to the task of lifting up the young people entrusted to our nation's care while preparing and enabling them to succeed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY SPC. JUAN MIGUEL MENDEZ COVARRUBIAS

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Army Specialist Juan Miguel Mendez Covarrubias of Hanford, California, who gave his life in service to his country on March 11, 2020. While deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve at Camp Taji, Iraq, his unit was engaged by enemy indirect fire and he lost his life. He was 27 years old.

A Central Valley native, Juan Miguel was a beloved son, brother, and husband. In 2018 he married his longtime girlfriend Bianca Meza and that same year he enlisted in the United States Army as a Signal Support System Specialist. Juan Miguel was assigned to 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Juan Miguel aspired to make the world a better place and always pushed himself to lead by example. He is remembered fondly as someone with a big heart and who always put the needs of others before his own. Our nation has lost a great warrior. He is a true American Hero and his memory will live on in the hearts of those who love him.

Juan Miguel's awards and decorations include the Global War on Terrorism Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon, and the Army Service Ribbon. I ask my colleagues to join me in a moment of remembrance for Army Specialist Juan Miguel Mendez Covarrubias, and for all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Juan Miguel is survived by his wife Bianca, his mother Monica Mendez, his father Alfredo Covarrubias and his younger brother and sisters.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL MORALES (LTC USAF RET.)

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the life and service of my friend, Michael Morales LTC from Naranjito, Puerto Rico who passed away on May 8, 2020 at the young age of forty-two.

Michael was proud to serve his country. He joined the United States Air Force, serving in distinguished roles such as the principal manager for multinational military exercises covering 32 nations across Central America, South America, and the Caribbean, also as instructor and evaluator pilot for the C-7 and C-130, as Commander of the 538th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron, and as a Legislative Liaison for the Secretary of Defense on acquisitions and sustainment on programs for the new Air Force One and KC-46 air tanker programs.

He also served as a Senior Advisor to former Small Business Administrator Linda McMahon and was responsible for bringing the Secretary to the Island for HUBZone events geared towards fueling small business growth in historically underutilized business zones. As a Senior Advisor to the Administrator, he also led the agency's policy efforts in Puerto Rico; working closely with federal and local government, banking sector, and entrepreneurs to develop policy aimed at fostering entrepreneurial repatriation, economic growth, and assist with the Island's economic status.

Michael lived a life of public service. President Woodrow Wilson once said that "You are not here merely to make a living. You are here to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, and with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world. . . ." Michael was the best of us, an example to us all.

Thank you, Michael. *Rest in Peace.*
Descansa en Paz.

OBSERVING THE 102ND ANNIVERSARY OF AZERBAIJAN'S REPUBLIC

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I rise today to recognize Azerbaijan on the occasion of its 102nd Republic Day. Azerbaijan is a critical partner of the United States in the region and maintains a proud heritage as an independent country.

Upon declaring independence in 1918, Azerbaijan earned the unique distinction of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

being the first secular parliamentary democracy in the Muslim world. Azerbaijan was also among the first states to grant women the right to vote. This stands as a testament to the Islamic world of the universal validity of democratic aspirations, and that self-government and the respect for individual rights is not inimical to their traditions.

Unfortunately, Azerbaijani independence was soon snuffed out by totalitarian USSR, which, not unlike Russia under Vladimir Putin, sought to spread values much different to those espoused by the fledgling Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan regained its independence and was recognized by the United States.

Today, Azerbaijan remains a close partner to the United States and our allies. Not only has Azerbaijan been an integral part of our efforts in Afghanistan, but it has also been an excellent partner in the wider war on terror. It is also noteworthy that as a Muslim country, Azerbaijan enjoys strong relations with the Jewish community and maintains a strong friendship with our ally Israel. Finally, Azerbaijan is a critical energy provider for Europe, playing an important role helping our allies there diversify their energy supply away from a domineering Russia.

With this partnership and Azerbaijan's commitment to our friendship in mind, I would encourage my colleagues to join me today in honoring Azerbaijan on its Republic Day.

IN MEMORY OF FORMER
CONGRESSMAN SAM JOHNSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life of a trusted colleague, dear friend, proud Texan, and true patriot, former Congressman Sam Johnson.

What impressed me the most is that, after serving in the Air Force during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, Sam Johnson did not disappear into what would have been a well-deserved retirement. His love for his country and affinity for public service led to a fruitful career in the House of Representatives. Known for his tenacity as a legislator and shrewdness as a statesman, Sam Johnson certainly left his mark on this institution. As senior members of the Texas Congressional Delegation, he and I made progress together on important issues that will benefit our home state for years to come.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Texas Congressional Delegation, I'd like to extend my sincere condolences to Sam Johnson's family, friends, and loved ones during these trying times.

NEW SCANDAL CONFIRMATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, every day new evidence is revealed

of the scandalous government spying on the Donald Trump Campaign and the rogue FBI and intelligence agencies conspiracy to sabotage the Donald Trump Presidency, I include in the RECORD today's revelations in the The Washington Times by Rowan Scarborough entitled 'Tail wagging the dog':

Not much was going on in the Michael Flynn probe until The Washington Post and a leaker reenergized the FBI, according to a newly disclosed transcript of closed-door testimony by former bureau Director James B. Comey.

The FBI had filled out the paperwork to end the Flynn-Russia probe, but Mr. Comey halted the closing in early January 2017. Transcripts emerged of the incoming White House national security adviser talking by phone with Kremlin envoy Sergey Kislyak.

The retired three-star Army general and Mr. Kislyak talked about not overreacting to economic sanctions that President Obama imposed on Dec. 31, 2016, in retaliation for Moscow's election interference.

Mr. Comey went to work. He provided top-secret call intercept material to Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper, who told Mr. Obama. At a Jan. 5 White House meeting, the FBI chief and Mr. Obama again discussed that Flynn had talked with Russians during the transition. There is no law, per se, against such communications.

And there things stood, Mr. Comey said in his most extensive narrative of what he did in the pivotal January time frame when the Obama team was leaving the White House to Donald Trump.

HONORING JUDY GEARHART

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and thank Judy Gearhart for her leadership at the International Labor Rights Forum. Judy, the executive director of ILRF since March 2011, will retire in June. While she will leave that position, I know that she will never leave the fight to protect the rights of workers around the world.

In 2013, 1,134 garment workers were killed and 2,500 injured as the 9-story Rana Plaza factory collapsed—the deadliest garment factory disaster in history. The vast majority of those killed and injured as a result of corporate neglect were women. Like the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in the United States, the disaster spurred activists to push for reforms. Judy Gearhart helped lead the fight and won agreements with the garment industry to make improvements—although much progress remains to be made. I had the privilege to work with Judy in the aftermath of Rana Plaza and have continued to support her and ILRF on international labor rights campaigns since then. Like so many others, I have relied on her expertise, her experience and her passion for improving the lives of working women, men and children around the world.

Judy has made it her practice not to promote herself, but she focused on lifting up the Labor Rights Defenders who are organizing and mobilizing every day, often at great risk to themselves. She has brought workers' leaders to meet with members of Congress, the Administration, the media and the public—making sure that they have the opportunity to tell

their own stories in their own words. She has spotlighted those who face violent attacks, jail and worse for their courage in speaking out, heroes like Tola Moeun in Cambodia, Mahmud Rajab in Uzbekistan and Gaspar Matalaev in Turkmenistan. Because of Judy and ILRF, there are networks of organizers and advocates around the world who are able to provide needed assistance to those fighting for labor rights.

Judy's work exemplifies the concept of intersectionality. She has seen that there are many different forces used to oppress the rights of workers, and she has worked to bring together those fighting them. Laborers in the fields don't just face poor working conditions but live in societies rife with poverty and racism. Children in the tobacco fields are not just being exploited for their labor but are subjected to environmental and chemical hazards. Women in sweatshops are not just subjected to poverty-level wages, they are often the target of gender-based violence and harassment. As a result of Judy's leadership, last year, the International Labour Organization adopted a convention and recommendations on violence and harassment in the world of work.

Judy Gearhart has done the work, at UNICEF's monitoring and evaluation office, working on women's rights and democratization efforts in Mexico, with the ILO's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor in Honduras, on developing research and training programs for workers at Social Accountability International, and, of course, at ILRF. Not only does she put her knowledge to work, she shares that knowledge through her teaching. She has served as a tutor for many of us, not just on labor policies but, more importantly, about the facts on the ground. And, more formally, Judy is a long-time adjunct professor at Columbia University's School for International Affairs, where she teaches students about international human rights and development policy.

Judy Gearhart and ILRF have stood with cocoa workers in Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana, cotton workers in Uzbekistan, garment workers in Bangladesh and fruit workers in Honduras. Judy has provided guidance and inspiration to those struggling for fair pay and just treatment for their labors. For all she has done, and for all she will do in the future, I want to express my deep appreciation and gratitude.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF SAM
FELTON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the extraordinary life of Samuel "Sam" Felton, Jr., one of Lorain County's most honored, visible, and tireless veterans, and a valued father figure for his entire community.

Sam Felton was the only person from Lorain County to win the Navy Cross in Vietnam. He never rested on his laurels and built a legacy of service to Lorain, Ohio. He served three tours of duty during the Vietnam War with the U.S. Marine Corps from December 1968 to August 1971. While serving in Vietnam, he received both the Navy Cross for heroism and