

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, had I been present on May 27, 2020, I would have voted Yea on S. 3744, the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020. Communist China's oppression of millions of its minority Uyghurs population is a gross violation of human rights. In passing this bill, Congress is showing that the United States will not turn a blind eye to the suffering of those oppressed by the Communist Chinese regime.

H.R. 7010, PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2020 AND H.R. 6782, THE TRUTH ACT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, today the House of Representatives is voting on two pieces of legislation designed to improve upon the Paycheck Protection Program—the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020, and the TRUTH Act.

Although I am a cosponsor of both pieces of legislation and will vote in favor of them, I remain concerned that these bills fall short of the Paycheck Protection Program fixes which were already included in the HEROES Act—legislation that the House has passed and which is pending action by the Senate.

For example—I am glad that the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020 includes provisions to modify the use of PPP loans, providing businesses with 24 weeks (instead of just 8 weeks) to use the loan. This bill also makes more flexible the requirement imposed by the Small Business Administration that 75 percent of the loan be used for payroll, and instead only requires 60 percent of the loan to be used for payroll in order to receive the full amount of forgiveness.

Unfortunately, this bill fails to include many of the provisions from the HEROES Act that are urgently needed to assist in our nation's economic recovery. For example, the HEROES Act extended eligibility for PPP loans to nonprofits of all sizes and would carve out funds specifically for the smallest businesses—those with 10 or fewer employees—ensuring that they are not left behind. By expanding PPP to all nonprofits, the HEROES Act would allow chambers of commerce and other nonprofit entities that are not classified as a 501(c)(3) to take advantage of this important assistance. Additionally, the HEROES Act removes the size restrictions for nonprofits, allowing nonprofits with more than 500 employees to still maintain payroll during this time of economic hardship, while their services are needed more than ever.

The HEROES Act—section 20235—also clarifies that expenses paid or incurred with proceeds from PPP loans (or EIDL grants) would not result in the denial of any federal tax deduction. Small businesses need as much support as possible at this time, and tax

provisions such as this in the HEROES Act would provide a much-needed boost to our economy. Unfortunately, the two PPP bills we are voting on in the House today fail to include the full gamut of improvements from the HEROES Act, including this additional tax assistance for small businesses.

I will be voting in support of these bills but believe that it is essential that we not stop here—Congress must improve the PPP and small business assistance beyond what these bills would provide. The HEROES Act provides a strong model for what these changes should entail, and I urge my colleagues to continue improving these programs, even after these PPP bills pass the House.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS “TOM” TROMPETER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Thomas “Tom” Trompeter, President and CEO of HealthPoint in Washington State, on his retirement.

Tom Trompeter's career spans over 30 years in the non-profit, healthcare, and social services sectors. Tom began his career as Executive Director for Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA) and the Association of Community and Migrant Health Centers in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Tom left NWRPCA as CEO before moving on to work at Community Health Centers of King County, now known as HealthPoint. In 1998 Tom transitioned into the roles of President and CEO at HealthPoint and has dedicated 20 years of his career in those roles.

Tom's three prominent areas of impact at HealthPoint were public policy to support the expansion and financial health of community health centers, developing vital partnerships and networks to strengthen the work being done by HealthPoint, and good stewardship as a passionate and dependable leader.

Tom led with the belief that when we make even one person healthier, we help not only that one person, but also that person's whole community. And that's both a privilege and a gift. It is clear Tom has led with that belief from the beginning. Tom has guided HealthPoint's growth to its current state of over 17 comprehensive primary care centers that provide innovative, integrated care beyond traditional healthcare models.

Tom's influence can be seen in the 100,000 plus patients served annually, 900 current employees, and the students who have had the opportunity to learn under Tom's leadership and go on to pursue a career in community health.

Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize and congratulate Tom Trompeter on his retirement and the legacy he will leave in the healthcare community in Washington State.

AMERICAN HERO SAM JOHNSON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, my wife Roxanne and I will always cherish the inspiring opportunity to serve in Congress with Congressman Sam Johnson who died yesterday. He and his late wife Shirley were always encouraging and the embodiment of American Patriots. I include in the RECORD a worthy tribute published today in The Washington Times written by Will Weissert.

[From the Associated Press, May 27, 2020]

SAM JOHNSON, EX-TEXAS GOP CONGRESSMAN AND VIETNAM POW, DIES

(By Will Weissert)

Former Texas Rep. Sam Johnson, a military pilot who spent years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam before serving more than two decades in Congress, died Wednesday at age 89.

The conservative Republican, who lived in the northern Dallas suburb of Plano, died at a Plano hospital of natural causes unrelated to the coronavirus outbreak, said his former spokesman, Ray Sullivan.

Johnson flew nearly 100 combat missions in Korea and Vietnam. He was flying a bombing mission in 1966 when he was shot down and wounded. He was imprisoned in the infamous “Hanoi Hilton” for nearly seven years, mostly in solitary confinement. He retired from the Air Force as a colonel in 1979, after a 29-year career.

The ardent conservative and anti-communist was elected to Congress in 1991 after six years in the Texas House of Representatives. He vowed to stay a maximum of 12 years, though he served more than double that.

Johnson had been a POW with U.S. Sen. John McCain, and although they clashed in Congress, Johnson defended McCain in 2015, when then-presidential candidate Donald Trump suggested he wasn't a hero because he'd been captured. Johnson announced in January 2017 that he would retire at the end of his term. When Johnson stepped down in 2019, at age 88, he was the oldest member of the U.S. House.

“Scripture tells us ‘There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven,’” Johnson wrote in a January 2017 letter to constituents, telling them he would retire at the end of his term. “For me, the Lord has made clear that the season of my life in Congress is coming to an end.”

Another former Texas congressman, Ralph Hall, was the oldest-ever member of the U.S. House when he left office at age 91 in 2014. Hall, a Republican and World War II pilot, was 95 when he died in March 2019.

Samuel Robert Johnson was born on Oct. 11, 1930, in San Antonio. He grew up in Dallas, married Shirley Lee Melton in 1950 and graduated the following year from his hometown's Southern Methodist University with a degree in business administration.

Johnson enlisted in the military at age 20 and served during the Korean and Vietnam wars. He was 35 on April 16, 1966, and flying a night mission carrying loads of napalm, when his aircraft came under heavy enemy fire over Vietnam.

The gun of Johnson's F-4 Phantom II jammed and the plane was hit. Its right engine caught fire, forcing Johnson and co-pilot Larry Chesley to eject, and the future congressman broke his arm and back and dislocated his shoulder.

Johnson recalled trudging through the jungle before being surrounded by North Vietnamese soldiers who took him to the infamous Hoa Lo Prison, better known as the “Hanoi Hilton.” He endured what he would later describe as 3-foot by 8-foot, rat-infested “dark and filthy cell.”

“Forty-two of those months were spent in solitary confinement with 10 other fine American patriots because the Vietcong labeled us ‘die hard’ resisters,” Johnson wrote in 2015.

He recalled tapping code on the wall to communicate with other Americans being held, and that “our captors would blare nasty recordings over the loud speaker of Americans protesting back home.”

While speaking on the House floor in 2003, Johnson said his faith only got stronger through captivity. He recalled how one day his captors put him against a wall and promised to execute him with machine guns.

“I started praying harder than I have ever prayed in my life. In a few seconds, the guns went click, click, click, click, click,” Johnson told the chamber. “It is only because of the grace of God I survived.”

He was released and flew out of Hanoi on Feb. 12, 1973. He earned a master’s degree at George Washington University in Washington in 1976. He retired from the Air Force three years later and began a home-building business. He was elected to the Texas Legislature in 1984 and went to Congress following a special election in 1991, after Rep. Steve Bartlett resigned to become Dallas mayor.

Representing Plano and other conservative northern suburbs of Dallas, Johnson was known for his work on veterans’ affairs and for his efforts to bolster the financial standing of the Social Security program. He took office backing term limits, yet he stayed in Congress more than double his promised maximum of 12 years.

When Bill Clinton ran for president in 1992, Johnson and other Republican military veterans in Congress alleged that Russian intelligence lured Clinton to Moscow during the Vietnam war when “I was sitting in a POW camp in Vietnam eating fish eyes and pig fat.” Questions about Clinton’s patriotism dogged him during his first campaign, but the allegations made by Johnson and the others were largely soon forgotten.

As a prisoner of war, Johnson shared a cell with McCain, who would later become a U.S. senator from Arizona. But the pair later clashed on political issues—including McCain’s efforts to eventually help normalize U.S. relations with Vietnam. Still, Johnson criticized Trump for suggesting McCain was no hero.

“Comments like those of Donald Trump, or any other American, suggesting that veterans like Senator John McCain or any other of America’s honorable POWs are less brave for having been captured are not only misguided, they are ungrateful and naïve,” Johnson wrote in 2015.

In February 2018—marking the 45th anniversary of the operation that led to his release—Johnson donated a chipped green tin cup issued by his captors and tube of toothpaste he smuggled out of North Vietnam to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. Johnson recalled then how he and other prisoners would communicate by tapping on the walls and how he’d hold his cup against them to amplify sounds and better hear their messages.

In his autobiography, “Captive Warriors: A Vietnam POW’s Story,” Johnson wrote of the cup: “For me, it symbolized our war of resistance for seven long years. It had been a means of communication and, as such, a means of survival.”

Johnson’s wife died on Dec. 3, 2015 at their home in Plano at age 85. He is survived by

his adult daughters, Gini Johnson Mulligan and Beverly Johnson Briney, and 10 grandchildren. His son, James Robert “Bob” Johnson, died in 2013 at age 61.

COMMEMORATING THE 102ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE AZERBAIJAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 102nd anniversary of Republic Day in Azerbaijan, which recognizes the establishment of the first independent, secular democracy in the Middle East in 1918.

While they spent much of the 20th century under Soviet control, their undying faith in democracy was rewarded in 1991 when the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic reclaimed its independence after the collapse of the USSR. The United States swiftly established diplomatic relations in 1992.

A reliable American ally, Azerbaijani troops have fought side-by-side with Americans against international terrorism in Afghanistan, Balkans, and Iraq. They help secure international energy security of our allies through their support of Southern Gas Corridor and the diversification of energy routes. A friend of Israel, they provide 40 percent of Israel’s oil consumption. Azerbaijan is a secular Muslim-majority country dedicated to religious pluralism and home to thriving Christian and Jewish communities.

As an Oklahoman and member of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I am proud that Azerbaijan’s friendship with the United States is celebrated in my home state through the Oklahoma-Azerbaijan National Guard Partnership.

I once again wish to extend my sincere congratulations to our partners in Azerbaijan on this worthy day.

ADVOCATING FOR CRITICAL FUNDING FOR TRIBAL NATIONS IN THE HEROES ACT

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Heroes Act and to address the critical need for emergency funding for tribal nations.

Native Americans have been hit disproportionately hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Navajo Nation has experienced nearly 5,000 positive cases and the loss of more than 100 lives. In addition, the Colorado River Indians Tribes on the border of my district and Arizona have seen a sudden rise in cases over the past weeks.

Native Americans remain at particular risk because they face greater health disparities and have higher rates of underlying health conditions than the general population. In addition, those living on rural reservations have reduced access to health services and preventative care.

The toll on tribal nations isn’t just affecting those who are sick. Many Native Americans work in service jobs that have disproportionately been lost, and many tribal governments rely on income from business enterprises that have closed their doors to comply with stay-at-home orders.

The Heroes Act was written with these communities in mind.

This bill represents the House of Representatives’ commitment to fulfilling the trust and treaty responsibility of the United States government to tribal nations across the United States.

The Heroes Act provides an additional \$20 billion to tribal governments in the form of grants to help address the catastrophic impact of this virus and the economic toll it has taken on Indian Country and their surrounding communities.

The Heroes Act expands the use of the funds provided by the CARES Act to account for lost revenue, which is critical to providing effective relief for tribal governments.

It is important to note that unlike the portion of the Coronavirus Relief Fund provided to states and local governments, the fund for tribal governments explicitly does not prescribe a population-based formula for distribution to tribes. Such a formula would be inappropriate given that population is not a proper measure of economic impact that a tribal government and tribally-run businesses have experienced.

This bill also does not codify the current Indian Housing Block Grant formula that the Department of Treasury is using, because such a formula is not representative of the intent of the program.

It is the intent of Congress that the Department of Treasury works with the Department of Interior and tribal governments to develop a new formula that accounts for the tribes’ aggregate expenditures and the total economic hit they have taken as a result of this pandemic.

This is an issue that is critical for Indian Country. I am proud to have voted for the Heroes Act and look forward to seeing the program implemented as Congress intended to support tribal governments.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING JONATHAN CORONADO, KATHERINE PARDY, AND AINSLEY POWERS

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Jonathan Coronado from Stevens Senior High School, Katherine Pardy from O’Gorman High School, and Ainsley Powers from Brookings High School for their recognition as 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholars.

Jonathan, Katherine, and Ainsley have been recognized for their impressive scholastic achievements, leadership skills, and service to their communities. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program honors our nation’s most distinguished graduating high school seniors, and I am proud of each of these students for bringing this high honor to the State of South Dakota. They have graduated in an unprecedented time and I’m sure they will each find