

HONORING HOT SPRINGS POLICE
DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR SERV-
ICE DURING COVID-19

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary service of the Hot Springs Police Department. In these uncertain times, my hometown department's officers have continued serving and protecting our community.

Now more than ever, we've seen the impact of our communities' first responders and front-line workers, and in the Fourth Congressional District, none are more appreciated than our police. Throughout this pandemic, Hot Springs officers have continued to put their own safety on the line defending our streets, homes and businesses.

I take this time to honor these brave men and women who have stepped up, providing the Fourth District of Arkansas and the rest of the nation with a prime example of what it means to serve the people around you.

RECOGNIZING KENT
CHRISTENSEN'S DISTINGUISHED
CAREER IN THE CONGRESSIONAL
BUDGET OFFICE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Kent Christensen, who retired at the end of July after 34 years of exceptional service to the Congress at the Congressional Budget Office. Kent began his Congressional career in CBO's Budget Analysis Division in 1986 where he worked as a principal analyst in the Defense, International Affairs, and Veterans' Affairs Cost Estimates Unit.

During his time at CBO, Kent was recognized as an exceptionally thoughtful and knowledgeable analyst. As one of the longest tenured members of CBO's Budget Analysis Division, he accrued extensive knowledge of the programs and accounts in his portfolio and a broad understanding of many other federal programs and the federal budget process in general. Kent was a valued colleague, passing along his knowledge to new and experienced analysts alike and encouraging a supportive environment where analysts respect each other and work well together.

Kent has also earned the respect of his counterparts on the staffs of the Armed Services, Budget, and Appropriations committees thanks to his thoroughness, meticulous attention to detail, and incredible memory. He worked closely with the staff of the Armed Services Committees for more than three decades, particularly on annual proposals of the National Defense Authorization Act. His acumen when estimating the budgetary effects of and providing technical feedback on legislative proposals has helped ensure enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act each year.

With his departure, the Congressional Budget Office loses a great asset. Over the past 34

years, CBO—and by extension, the Congress itself—has been fortunate to enjoy the dedication and insight that Kent has brought to his work. I know my colleagues join me in extending our thanks and appreciation to Kent for his service to our nation and our very best wishes for a happy and productive retirement.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate Kent Christensen on his well-earned retirement from the Congressional Budget Office and recognize his outstanding work on the National Defense Authorization Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF FAMOUS HAM-
BURGER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Famous Hamburger as it celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. Its years of service to the community are worthy of commendation.

After returning to Beirut, Lebanon from the United States, Phillip Hider and his father developed the idea to start a burger joint in Lebanon. In 1968, they two opened their first restaurant called "Little White Castle," which quickly transformed into a famous local favorite. After relocating to a new spot in Downtown Beirut, the decision was made to change the name to reflect its widespread popularity, resulting in the Famous Hamburger brand being officially established in 1970. Years later, Hider and his family chose to move to the United States to seek a better life and greater opportunity, and soon found themselves in Michigan in 1989. In March of 1997, Hider introduced the first Famous Hamburger in Detroit, and later relocated to a larger location in Dearborn in July of 2005. As in Lebanon, Famous Hamburger quickly became a beloved institution among the metro Detroit community. Today, it has locations spanning the region, such as Dearborn, Canton, and Auburn Hills.

For half a century, Famous Hamburger has been cherished by people across both Lebanon and Michigan. In Dearborn, the restaurant has become a beloved community staple. Its welcoming environment, dedicated staff, and quality meals have drawn our community together, and its burgers are recognized as one of the best across Michigan. Many patrons are regulars who have frequented the restaurant for years, and even newcomers are made to feel like life-long friends. In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the fiftieth anniversary of Famous Hamburgers have given our Dearborn community a reason to celebrate. It has provided a sense of comfort, unity, and normalcy in a time of unprecedented strife. Famous Hamburger's demonstrated commitment to serving Dearborn is immensely appreciated and is something we all should strive to emulate.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of Famous Hamburger. We are grateful for its years of dedicated service, and wish the restaurant continued success in the year ahead.

INTRODUCING THE ISRAELI AN-
NEXATION NON-RECOGNITION
ACT TO PROTECT THE PALES-
TINIAN PEOPLE AND PROMOTE
PEACE

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, yesterday, with the announcement of the agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates to normalize diplomatic relations, Speaker PELOSI issued a statement regarding the news. An important sentence in the statement was powerful, necessary, and correct: "The House continues to object to steps including unilateral annexation that will undermine future efforts to advance a just, stable, and lasting peace in the Middle East."

I agree.

For years, the centerpiece of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political agenda has been his explicit desire and intent to unilaterally annex as much as 30 percent of Palestinian territory in the West Bank. He calls it a "historic opportunity." Even though annexation is a clear violation of international law and the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, the Trump administration, along with right-wing Jewish groups and extremists in the evangelical Christian community in the U.S., allies of Netanyahu, have championed annexation.

Millions of Palestinians have lived for decades under Israel's military occupation. Now the Palestinian people fear that any hope for self-determination or the opportunity to live with dignity, equality, and justice will be extinguished through the annexation of their land by Israel with the support of an American president.

Today, I am introducing legislation in the U.S. House—the Israeli Annexation Non-Recognition Act—to prohibit appropriated U.S. funds from being directed to any area in the occupied West Bank annexed by Israel. I want Palestinians and Israelis to have their human rights respected, their right to self-determination realized, and a future with peace, security, equality, and justice. Annexation is antithetical to these goals and will fuel conflict, injustice, and an abhorrent system of apartheid. This is an intolerable outcome for Palestinians, Israelis, and Americans.

I reject annexation. I condemn annexation. And, I will work to ensure the U.S. does not support, defend, or legitimize any plan or action by Israel to illegally annex Palestinian lands.

Yesterday's diplomatic agreement between Israel and the UAE changes nothing. Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Trump have taken nothing off the table. Their promises and commitments are worthless. They have both proven time and time again that they cannot be trusted.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz ran a headline today citing comments from the U.S. Ambassador to Israel that makes it clear annexation is still being contemplated by Israeli and U.S. officials at the highest levels. Referring to annexation, the headline read, "Pro-settler Ambassador Friedman argues 'it's not off the table permanently' after historic agreement to normalize relations between Israel and the UAE."

The same Haaretz article, included for the RECORD, cited Prime Minister Netanyahu saying annexation is “still on the table” and that “extending sovereignty will be done only alongside the United States.” A senior Israeli political source is quoted as saying, “Applying sovereignty (to the West Bank) is on the table and we’re committed to it.”

Again, nothing has changed. The annexation of Palestinian lands must be stopped and must never be aided or abetted by any U.S. administration. The Palestinian people should be fully engaged diplomatically by the next U.S. president as partners and constructive peacemakers empowered to negotiate and determine their own political and economic future. Never again should the people of Palestine be ignored, isolated, and boycotted as the Trump administration has done.

Democrats in Congress, led by the courageous and righteous co-sponsors of this bill, must act to send an unambiguous message that annexation is contrary to U.S. interests and would devastate the U.S.-Israel bilateral relationship. The Palestinian people deserve the support of Congress and the American people in this dark moment. If our nation is truly a beacon of democracy, then let us use our power for good to protect the Palestinian people from Mr. Netanyahu’s illegal annexation.

[From Reuters, Aug. 14, 2020]

AFTER NETANYAHU COMMITS TO FUTURE ANNEXATION, TRUMP SAYS IT’S ‘NOW OFF THE TABLE’

(By Noa Landau)

PRO-SETTLER AMBASSADOR FRIEDMAN ARGUES ‘IT’S NOT OFF THE TABLE PERMANENTLY’ AFTER HISTORIC AGREEMENT TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UAE

U.S. President Donald Trump said Thursday night that Israel made a ‘great concession’ by agreeing to suspend West Bank annexation as part of its agreement to normalize relations with the United Arab Emirates, adding that for now ‘it’s off the table.’

Earlier on Thursday, Israel and the UAE reached a historic peace deal on that would lead to a full normalization of diplomatic relations between the two Middle Eastern nations in an agreement that Trump helped broker.

“Israel agreed not to annex parts of the West Bank. It is more than taking it off the table—they agreed not to do it. This is a very smart concession by Israel. It is off the table now,” Trump said during a White House briefing.

This comes in contrast to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s earlier remarks that annexation is “still on the table,” and that it is a pledge the prime minister said he is “committed to.”

In addition, an Israeli senior political source said that “Applying sovereignty [to the West Bank] is on the table and we’re committed to it. The Trump administration requested to temporarily suspend the announcement [of annexation] to first implement the historic peace agreement with the UAE.”

Asked about Netanyahu’s statement that he considers this a ‘temporary suspension,’ and that the option of annexation will still exist in the future, Trump responded that “Right now it’s off the table, I can’t talk about sometime in the future, that’s a big statement, but right now it’s off the table.”

U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, however, said that “it’s off the table now but it’s not off the table permanently. You can’t have peace and annexation at the same time.”

Speaking in a televised speech earlier on Thursday, Netanyahu said that “Today marks a new era in Israel’s relations with the Arab world” and that the two countries agreed on “a full, formal peace.”

“For years, Israel has been portrayed as an enemy . . . now more countries will join us in this circle of peace,” the prime minister said.

He added that annexation is “still on the table,” and that it is a promise Netanyahu said he is “committed to.”

“Extending sovereignty will be done only alongside the United States,” Netanyahu said. “Without coordination, in the best case, will do nothing, and in the worst case, will harm relations between us. The United States asked that Israel temporarily postpone annexation.”

HONORING THE LIFE OF BEAUMONT POLICE OFFICER SHEENA DAE YARBROUGH-POWELL

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Beaumont Police Officer Sheena Dae Yarbrough-Powell, who tragically perished in the line of duty on August 9, 2020.

Sheena Dae Yarbrough-Powell was born on November 22, 1996, in Nederland, Texas to Mark and Shelia Yarbrough. She was the fifth of six girls and remained very close to her family. Highlights of family time included: Sunday lunches, yearly vacations, sleepovers with sisters, competing with family and friends in board games, and, of course, “lots of Blue Bell Ice Cream.” According to family and friends, Sheena never met a stranger, was a social butterfly, and would tire herself trying to make everyone feel included. Sheena graduated from Lumberton High School in 2015.

Sheena’s faith and family were her top priorities. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church where she developed many life-long friends. Her love of Jesus was evident in how she lived her life and treated others. After becoming involved with Calvary’s Renewal Bible study, she met the love of her life, Tyler Powell. From their first date in June of 2018, until her untimely death, Sheena and Tyler were inseparable. The two were married on October 4, 2019, in Beaumont, Texas. In their 10 months of marriage, Sheena was a faithful and loving wife who provided Tyler with a lifetime of great memories.

In 2018, after graduating from Lamar University with a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice, Sheena entered the LIT Police Academy. She was hired by the Beaumont Police Department as a Cadet on August 13, 2018 and was sworn in as a Beaumont Police Officer on December 20, 2018. Her family, friends, and fellow officers lovingly referred to her as “Officer Hopps.” As an officer, Sheena was passionate about preventing sex crimes and helping victims of human trafficking. Becoming a police officer gave Sheena the ability to make a difference in her community and touch the lives of every individual she met.

Officer Yarbrough-Powell is survived by her husband, Tyler; her parents, Mark and Shelia Yarbrough; her sisters, Jennifer Rae, Jessica Mae, Samantha Fae, Sarah Kae, and Madison

Jae; her grandmother, Dorothy Yarbrough; and parents in-law, Rick and Deidre Powell, along with many friends and family whom she loved dearly.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Beaumont Police Officer Sheena Dae Yarbrough-Powell for her faithful service to her community. My thoughts and prayers remain with her family, friends, and her law enforcement family during this difficult time.

WOMAN’S CLUB OF ROCK HILL—CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote.

The Nineteenth Amendment, enshrined in our constitution, lifted millions of women closer to equality in all aspects of American life.

The right to vote raised women across the nation to an equal footing in the laws and politics that govern them.

In my hometown of Rock Hill, South Carolina, The Woman’s Club of Rock Hill will be celebrating that hard-earned right.

The Woman’s Club of Rock Hill was organized in 1939 and is affiliated with some of the largest and oldest women’s volunteer service organizations in the world.

The Woman’s Club of Rock Hill serves our community with distinction. In the very best tradition of civil society, the Club strives to further the cultural, educational and social interest of its members, to promote action in civic development, social welfare, and to preserve its historic property.

Much work remains until the equality between man and woman is fully realized, but we should never forget the example set by the historic Suffragette movement, enabled by organizations like the Woman’s Club of Rock Hill, that did so much to advance the rights of women.

I am proud to honor the 19th Amendment that elevated more than 26 million women from subjects to citizens, thereby bestowing them the means to empower themselves, their families, and all communities.

The importance of this amendment to our society cannot be overstated. Today, I want to thank the Woman’s Club of Rock Hill for organizing such a special event and take the time to honor all women.

RETIREMENT OF CHARLES HUDSON FROM THE COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, it has been a great honor to work closely with Charles Hudson, or Chuck as many know him, for the last twenty-one years.