

Petra Ruiz was an organizer, activist, and leader who used her life to stand up for farmworking women across California.

As the son of farmworkers in the eastern Coachella Valley, I am all too familiar with the social, economic, and political hardships the farmworking community faces on a daily basis. The struggles can often be so great that you have to have someone or something to look to for inspiration. For me, and for so many of us in the Coachella Valley, Petra Ruiz was one such inspiration.

Petra was a fierce and loving leader who was held in high esteem, even by the people who didn't agree with what she had to say. But it was hard not to agree with what she had to say. You see, Petra believed in helping farmworking women across California advocate for themselves, for their families, and for their communities in the struggle for equality and their basic human rights.

Petra got involved in the union movement in the 1970s and was a warrior for justice and equality within the farmworking community through her final days.

A phrase that I have heard repeatedly in talking with members of the community and with her family is "she was always there." Petra was always there.

Even as a mother and a grandmother to a big family, she worked with the United Farm Workers of America to advocate for the rights of the farmworker community. Petra led marches; she attended meetings; she would even go door-to-door with flyers making sure that farmworkers knew their rights.

Petra was a remarkable woman, revered, admired, a mover and shaker, an effective leader who led with her actions as much as she did by her words. She inspired me to never say no to my dreams, to pursue justice at every turn, and to always believe I could make a difference.

Madam Speaker, while she is missed dearly, Petra's legacy didn't end with her passing. Her impact is felt today and will continue in the lives of generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, on January 27, 2020, I was unable to be present for the recorded votes on roll call no. 23 and 24. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 943, the Never Again Education Act, and YEA on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 4704, the Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act.

HONORING JACOB WOOTTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Wootton. Jacob is a very special young man who has

exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 135, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jacob has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Wootton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE FOUNDING OF COMMONWEALTH OF FAITH CHURCH

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Commonwealth of Faith Church as they put down their roots in Redford Township, Michigan.

Under the leadership of Pastor Torion Bridges, like-minded community members came together with the common goal of establishing a multi-generational house of worship to serve the spiritual needs of the surrounding community. They were able to establish a brand-new congregation by relighting the lamps of the building formerly home to St. Robert of Bellarmine Church. This group of people have sought to breathe new life into an existing building and work to bring a diverse group of people together in community service and in faith.

Please join me in recognizing Commonwealth of Faith Church as they establish their spiritual community and teachings, and become rooted in Redford.

HONORING MR. KEN ARMSTRONG FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ken Armstrong for his years of dedicated service to the Boy Scouts of America, specifically Troop ONE in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

First Presbyterian Church of Hot Springs chartered Troop ONE in 1923, making it the oldest continuously chartered chapter in the State of Arkansas. Mr. Armstrong's own career with Troop ONE began in 1994 and continued for another 25 years after he was named Scoutmaster for the troop in 1998. He will be retiring on February 9, 2020 after 21 years as the Scoutmaster for Troop ONE.

With more than 40 years of service as both a youth scout and as a Scoutmaster in Arkansas and Texas, Mr. Armstrong was also

awarded the Silver Beaver Award last year in recognition of his lifelong service in leadership. He remains a respected mentor and resource to countless young people in the Fourth District.

I'd like to thank Mr. Armstrong for his years of dedicated service and for his commitment to ensuring a brighter future for young people of the Fourth District of Arkansas.

NEVER AGAIN EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 27, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 943, "Never Again Education Act," which requires the creation of the Holocaust Education Assistance Program Fund for the Department of Education.

The fund will award grants to qualified entities to implement Holocaust education programs and host a series of regional workshops to provide teachers with assistance on how to incorporate Holocaust education into standard teaching while meeting state and local education requirements.

The establishment of the Holocaust Education Advisory Board to prepare application criteria for grant recipients, and the formulation of the Holocaust education program website will allow for a regulated, definitive introduction of this curriculum.

Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, is an international memorial day that marks the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camps in January 1945.

In addition to the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, we must also remember the victims of the Belzec, Bergen-Belsen, Buchenwald, Chelmno, Dachau, Dora-Mittelbau, Flossenburg, Gross-Rosen, Janowska, Kaiserwald, Majdanek, Mauthausen, Natzweiler-Struthof, Neuengamme, Oranienburg, Plaszow, Ravensbruck, Sachsenhausen, Sobibor, Stutthof, Terezin, Treblinka and Westerbork concentration camps.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum states that the extermination by the Nazi regime and its allies led to the deaths of 6 million Jews.

In addition to the millions of deaths within the Jewish community, the Third Reich separately targeted and murdered many other communities and ethnic groups, some estimates range from an additional 3 million to 11 million deaths.

These deaths include members of the LGBTQ community, the physically and mentally disabled, Freemasons, Jehovah's Witnesses, the Romani, Poles, Serbians, Spanish Republicans, members of the Soviet Union, Soviet Prisoners of War, people of Slavic descent, Germans of African descent, Communists, Socialists and more.

After Adolf Hitler's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, France and Britain declared war on Germany, officially beginning World War II.

World War II lasted from 1939 to 1945 and caused about 75 million deaths, including members of the military and civilians, around 3 percent of the world's population at the time.

Almost 75 years have passed since the end of World War II, but the aftermath is still a reminder of a brutal and merciless era of history

where racism and prejudice were unleashed on a grand scale seeking to quench the rights of man.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum reports that its Registry of Holocaust Survivors currently contains the names of over 195,000 survivors and family members.

In 1981, Holocaust survivor and Houston resident Siegi Izakson had the inspiration to create an education center and memorial to preserve the memory of those who perished, the stories of those who survived and to educate the public about the threats of prejudice and hatred in society.

Thanks to Siegi Izakson's tireless dedication, the Holocaust Museum Houston opened on March 3, 1996 and is fully bilingual in English and Spanish, contains a welcome center, multiple galleries, a research library, indoor theater, outdoor amphitheater and interactive terminals with doors open to 130,000 visitors per year.

In the United States, there are over 50 Holocaust museums and memorials dedicated to educating people about the dangers of hatred and genocide, protecting democratic values and preventing antisemitism.

In June 2019, Texas enacted S. Bill 1828, requiring that Texas schools include age appropriate instruction concerning the Holocaust for grades kindergarten through 12.

The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission has worked with Texas government agencies to adopt new educational standards that approach the Holocaust, genocide and mass murders.

Texas students will learn about these topics in their World Geography Studies, World History Studies, and United States History Studies Since 1877 courses.

I support this bill because it will enhance the quality of our students' education and provide them with an authentic understanding of this dark and complex chapter in world history.

The creation of the Holocaust Education Assistance Program Fund for the Department of Education will only improve the knowledge provided to our children.

The Holocaust Education Assistance Program Fund for the Department of Education will award grants to eligible entities to create Holocaust education program and conduct workshops with teachers on how to include this information along with students' normal educational programs.

The Department of Education will maintain a Holocaust education program website with resources for middle and high school students, establish the Holocaust Education Advisory Board to develop criteria for the fund's grants, and decide on content for the Holocaust education program website and lead efforts to promote donations for the fund.

The Holocaust requires us to remember the magnitude with which antisemitism, racism, Nazism and fascism destroyed millions of lives, as well as consider the consequences of apathy and passivity.

I ask my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to vote in support of H.R. 943.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I left the House chamber without casting my vote on the last measure of the evening. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on H.R. 4704 Advancing Research to Prevent Suicide Act.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH BIRTHDAY OF DOUGLAS DILLARD

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Douglas Dillard, a long-time resident of Detroit, Michigan, who celebrates his seventy-fifth birthday this year.

Mr. Dillard was born February 2, 1945, the second of seven children born to the late Christopher and Virginia Dillard. He is proud graduate of historical Detroit Northwestern High School, class of 1963. Mr. Dillard earned a Computer Science and Industrial Management degree from Detroit Institute of Technology.

After graduating, Mr. Dillard worked as a designer for Ford Motor Company Body Engineering, a career that spanned twenty-seven years. In his free time, Mr. Dillard was an enthusiastic softball player. He garnered numerous awards, including many All Stars and Most Valuable Player awards. Mr. Dillard has also participated in the Huntsman World Senior Games and has been inducted into its Hall of Fame. He currently operates Gray Street Housing. He enjoys his time spent with his wife Gloria and their three grown children.

Please join me in celebrating Mr. Douglas Dillard's seventy-fifth birthday.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust. The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 as this remembrance day to inspire reflection on the events that led to the execution of more than six million Jews and countless other oppressed communities.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi death camp, which I visited in August 2018. This complex is most notorious for its horrific death toll, resulting in more than 1.1 million deaths in its few years of operation. To describe the inhumanity observed in Auschwitz and other camps, Holocaust survivor Lilly Appelbaum Malnik stated the following:

"And they said, 'From now on you do not answer by your name. Your name is your

number.' And the delusion, the disappointment, the discouragement that I felt, I felt like I was not a human person anymore."

We must never forget the victims of the Holocaust and never cease working towards a more just society. Within 25 years, it is likely no Holocaust survivor will be alive to account for the events carried out in extermination camps. According to a 2018 survey commissioned by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, 41 percent of American adults do not know about Auschwitz. With hate crimes reaching a 16-year high in 2018, it is imperative that we recount the atrocities of the Holocaust, lest discrimination based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity continue to spread.

Madam Speaker, people throughout the world are coming together to commemorate the more than six million lives lost during the Holocaust. We stand in solidarity with the United Nations in remembering these victims and honoring those who defend human rights. We must always be vigilant that this horror of humanity is never repeated.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF IAN MCBETH

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, today I wish to honor the life and service of Mr. Ian McBeth, a Colorado-born firefighter who was killed in a helicopter crash in Australia this month. Mr. McBeth went to Australia as a volunteer assisting in fighting that nation's devastating wildfires.

Born and raised in Wray, Colorado, Mr. McBeth served in the Wyoming Air National Guard while a student at the University of Wyoming and later joined the Air National Guard in Montana. His service included tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Coloradans and Americans throughout the West know all too well the great cost wildfires have on life, land, and our environment. These devastating impacts are curtailed only through the enormous sacrifice and bravery of the men and women who set aside their personal safety to run toward the blaze with the goal of saving their neighbors and communities. We are endlessly indebted to all those who rise to serve these dire needs, and particularly those who give their lives in these fights.

I send my deepest condolences to Mr. McBeth's family, friends, and all those who were impacted by his loss. We thank Mr. McBeth for his many years of service for our nation.

REMEMBERING KENNETH C. RYKEN

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the life