

in Iraq and Germany and helped establish a vital aviation field hospital supporting Middle East and Afghanistan deployments.

Though no longer in uniform, she continues to serve, having been the community outreach coordinator for the Post 9/11 Veterans Corps the past 4 years. In this capacity, she increased Veterans Corps participation by 35 percent annually and their social media following by 4,000 percent. It is this level of dedication and excellence that exemplifies her concern for other servicemembers.

More recently, Ms. Padilla was named president of the 9/11 Veterans Corps, a well-deserved recognition. I know she will do an amazing job in this capacity and build upon her past successes.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot thank her enough for her service, passion, and dedication. She continues to make the 15th District in our country a better place to live, work, and play.

Kari, you represent the best our Nation has to offer and, today, I salute you for your many sacrifices.

EMERGENCY WILDFIRES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, 4 of the 10 largest wildfires in California history are currently burning as we speak—3 of which are in my district.

For decades, our national forests have been mismanaged, turning them into tinderboxes that can ignite in an instant should lightning strike. As a result, there are more dead trees in the State of California than there are people.

This is a serious problem with serious consequences. If there is a time for this body to pass a comprehensive forestry package, it is now.

Today, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will consider the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act. This bipartisan bill, led by my colleague, JIMMY PANETTA, and I in the House, and Senator FEINSTEIN and DAINES in the Senate, take great steps to proactively manage our forests and minimize wildfire risk in the West.

Mr. Speaker, over three million acres in California have burned this year as a result of disastrous wildfires. We have 150 million dead trees in California. It is critical that the House considers the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act immediately.

RECOGNIZING ISLAM AS ONE OF THE GREAT RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCADAMS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the grandson of a Methodist preacher, and I would also add, whose wife—my grandmother—was a missionary, I am proud to rise today to present H. Res. 1090, recognizing Islam as one of the great religions of the world.

I am proud to acknowledge that this resolution was introduced on August 21, 2020, with three original cosponsors: The honorable RASHIDA TLAIB, the honorable ILHAN OMAR, and my friend who is with me today, the honorable ANDRÉ CARSON.

I will say much more about the resolution, but I do want to at this time acknowledge my friend who's present from the Seventh Congressional District of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON), a wordsmith par excellence.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. GREEN, Congressman GREEN, Chairman GREEN, Judge GREEN, Pastor GREEN, public servant AL GREEN.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my colleagues' resolution recognizing Islam as one of the great religions of the world.

I commend my friend, Representative GREEN, for honoring Islam. This action helps to honor the millions of Muslims of many different backgrounds who proudly call America home.

Mr. Speaker, as one of three Muslims currently serving in Congress, it is my great privilege to speak here today in the people's House about a special faith. Though we are a minority in this country, we have participated fully in the story of our Nation since its earliest days. Even before America's founding and our Declaration of Independence, this brilliant declaration enshrined freedom of faith and religion for all of us.

Today, there are Muslims in all parts of the country who are business owners, who are teachers, construction workers, engineers, lawyers, judges, elected officials.

The first Muslim in Congress, my friend, comes to mind—Keith Ellison. We now have sisters ILHAN OMAR and RASHIDA TLAIB, and the list goes on, statewide and locally.

□ 1615

Throughout this COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Speaker, you would be hard-pressed to find a hospital in this great Nation without a Muslim healthcare worker on the front lines serving fellow Americans, not just in urban centers, but in suburbia, in rural parts of our country.

As more and more Muslims call America home, Mr. Speaker, we will continue working tirelessly, guided by our faith, to ensure our great country lives up to the principles of equality, compassion, and opportunity for all. Our faith keeps us motivated every day to advance these great goals.

Around the world, billions of Muslims are also engaged in this struggle,

also using their faith as a guide. We have seen what has happened with Uighur Muslims. We are seeing the dispute in Kashmir. We are seeing conflict dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian question. And, sadly, we still see Muslims who endure hurtful stereotypes and discrimination on this journey.

But our faith teaches us to be bold, to be brave, and to always choose love over hate. We will not be deterred, Mr. Speaker.

I am a proud Muslim. I am a proud American. I am honored to be a member of a very diverse and growing global community, and I am thankful to live in a country that enshrines the right to practice this faith.

We wouldn't have the foundation for American Muslims in this country, Mr. Speaker, were it not for the contribution of African-American Muslims. Scholars say 30, 40, maybe even 50 percent of the slaves who were brought here from West Africa were Muslim.

We see Muslims as first responders. I was one of them. We see Muslims who were a part of responding to the call to fight against terrorism in the post-9/11 reality, oftentimes thwarting potential attacks that you will never hear about in the news. Muslims are on the front lines in our law enforcement community and in our intelligence services.

Muslims have been critical in this country with establishing Islam and promoting self-respect, self-determination, creating your own enterprises and businesses. We hear terms now like "stay woke." I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that that terminology came from the contributions and the foundations laid by African-American Muslims.

It began as a kernel in the inception of this country, and it started to blossom in the early 1920s and 1930s, during the Great Depression. During those times, you had variations of Islam that was not Arabized. Because if it was an Arab presenting Islam, it wouldn't have been attractive. It certainly wouldn't have been attractive to me.

But the Islam that was presented was created in a way to fight against the poison and toxicity of white supremacy. Now, you have a beautiful religion with an interfaith coalition with Christian brothers and sisters, Jewish brothers and sisters, Sikhs, Hindus, atheists, Buddhists, all coming together to make America a better place.

Now, some people are comfortable with talking about Islam, and in their critiques of Islam, they overlook the hypocrisy of their own faith. You cannot really call yourself a lover of God and show hate for others of a different faith. You cannot call yourself an elected official and a representative of the people if you are only committed to serving and representing one segment of the population. You certainly can't call yourself a true public servant without recognizing the contributions that have been made by this wonderful community.

I salute Representative GREEN for his bold leadership, for his visionary leadership, as a proud Christian man in the tradition of Jesus Christ, knowing that in my Father's house, there are many mansions.

To stand up and recognize the wonderful religion of Islam, I commend him, I thank him, because we are America.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very kind words. He is more than generous. I also thank him for his service in Congress.

He and I started out together on the Financial Services Committee. He has since moved on to the Intelligence Committee and is doing an outstanding job serving his country as an American Muslim.

Mr. Speaker, I indicated that I am the grandson of a Methodist preacher, but I am also a very proud Baptist. My grandfather would not hold it against me.

Religion is something that each person has to make decisions about for himself or herself. It is not something that we impose on people. This is a free country, a country wherein you have the right to be whatever you choose to be, within the spirit of what the law allows.

This is the case with religion. You can be whatever you choose to be, be associated with whichever religion you choose to, within the spirit of what the law allows.

I want to just say a few words about why I have brought this resolution. I have lived in this country all of my life. I love my country. It means something to me. I respect the words "liberty and justice for all" in the Pledge of Allegiance. I respect the concept in the Gettysburg Address: "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

It means something to me to know that a person who came from what I consider humble beginnings has had the opportunity to stand in the well of the House of Representatives. So, I love my country.

But it doesn't mean that I overlook some of the things that have happened to me along life's way that were not so pleasant.

I had persons who called themselves Christians to burn a cross in my yard. I don't consider them Christians. They called themselves Christians.

I have had persons who called themselves Christians to say some very ugly things to me and do some very ugly things to me.

But let me tell you what it did not do to me. Those persons who wore the hoods, who came to my yard, burned the cross, it did not cause me to conclude that Christianity was represented in what they did. The people who said ugly things and did ugly things to me in the name of Christianity, they did not cause me to conclude that that is what Christianity is all about.

I am mentioning this because, quite candidly, I want other people to under-

stand that Islam is a peaceful religion, that there are people who abuse others in the name of religion, but that doesn't mean that the religion is about the abuse that is being perpetrated.

I am honored today to present this resolution, and I rise in solidarity with my Muslim brothers and sisters around the world. I do so because I have seen them in action.

In Houston, Texas, we have storms. When these storms have come through our city—Hurricane Harvey being one example—the Muslim community was right there to do all that was necessary to help others.

One of the greatest callings that you have in any religion is to help somebody. They have adhered to the call for justice. They have been there to march in protest for freedom and justice for other people.

This community has been there with aid and comfort for people who have been left homeless. They have been there with aid and comfort for people who have suffered harm by way of their physical well-being.

Muslim doctors have helped people, and I have seen the evidence of it. There is a clinic in Houston, the Ibn Sina Clinic, and they have been assisting people with the COVID virus. Free tests are being administered.

This community has been helpful in my city. Persons from the community have served in public office, on city council. We have persons who are serving as precinct judges.

The community is there and a part of the greater Houston community. Houston is a very diverse city. The Muslim community enhances the diversity of the city of Houston.

This religion is a complete system of strong moral convictions that promotes peace, equality, and social justice. Islam is the second largest and fastest growing religion in the world.

America is home to one of the most diverse Muslim populations. It has within it almost every ethnicity, country, and school of thought. There are approximately 3.45 million Muslims of all ages living in the United States of America. This is as of 2016; this is the last information available to me.

In an overwhelming measure, Muslims make a significant, positive, and growing contribution to our Nation. We have successful Muslims in all areas of our national life. Names that come to mind, for a good many Americans, would include Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, would include one who was known as Cassius Clay but became Muhammad Ali. There are Muslims in all areas of life, including business, sport, media, culture, medicine, law, and politics.

Although American Muslims make up approximately 1 percent of the U.S. population, most Americans can name some of these prominent Muslims that I have called to your attention.

Another is Malcolm X. Many persons don't revere Malcolm X, but I am proud to say that the United States of Amer-

ica has had Malcolm X on a postage stamp. Of course, his name moved from X to Shabazz.

The Nation has honored many American Muslims for their service and sacrifice, including Salman Hamdani. Mr. Hamdani was there for 9/11. He made sacrifices on 9/11 as a first responder.

Many American Muslims are also civically engaged, working with their neighbors to better their communities. They are members of the Rotary Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Yes, Muslims served in the military of the United States of America.

They are members of school boards, and they volunteer in our communities. They actively engage in charitable giving. And I say this with some understanding of it, as I have seen it in action. I have seen the Muslim community not only give their in-kind services but their American dollars to worthy causes.

In short, American Muslims and the organizations they create are a part of the fiber and fabric of the great country that I love.

Today, during this pandemic, many Muslims work on the front lines, as was said by my dear brother, ANDRÉ CARSON, Congressman CARSON. They work on the front lines. They work as essential workers. They put their lives on the line to help others through the pain of the pandemic.

I believe that we must acknowledge and appreciate that Muslims further the diversity and success of our great country.

□ 1630

To this end, I trust that persons will join me in demonstrating solidarity with and support for Muslim members of the community throughout the world by recognizing Islam as one of the great religions of the world.

I hold in my hand the actual resolution that has been filed. I will not go through the whereases, but I do want to go to the be it resolved: "... be it resolved ... to demonstrate solidarity and support for members of the community of Islam in the United States and throughout the world, the House of Representatives recognizes the Islamic faith as one of the great religions of the world."

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the time, but I also want to thank the House leadership for the time. I do so because there was a time in the history of this country when a person who was born into poverty, who had to suffer the slings and arrows of invidious discrimination, would not be allowed to stand in the House of Representatives and present a resolution honoring Islam. We have come a long way.

I would like to acknowledge the fact that we have come a long way, because too many proclaim the notion that nothing has changed. The mere fact that I am standing here bringing this resolution means that things have changed. Many may not agree, but things have changed to the extent that

I have got the freedom to speak my mind with this resolution on the floor of the House of Representatives.

So I thank all of the leadership for acknowledging the change and allowing the resolution to be presented. With this said, I kindly and respectfully yield back the balance of my time.

RECOGNIZING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for very graciously allowing me to speak and for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Police Officer Tamarris L. Bohannon, who gave his life and service to his city on August 30 of 2020. His untimely and tragic killing is a profound loss to the people of St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, according to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, there have been nine—nine—St. Louis police officers shot since June 1 of 2020. We grieve Officer Bohannon's sacrifice, and we honor him for his sense of duty, his dedication, his generosity, and his heroism.

Known as "T" by his family and "Bo" by his squad, Officer Bohannon was a loyal St. Louisan and a hard worker who inspired admiration for his diligent service. With his wife, Alexis, he lived and raised his three wonderful children—Tamara, Ayden, and Tylor—in the city that he protected as a police officer of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. He was a veteran of the force, serving with distinction for more than 3 years.

Officer Bohannon's heroic actions to keep the citizens of St. Louis safe are the truest example of selfless service. I extend my deepest condolences to his fellow officers, his many friends, his loving wife and parents, and the rest of his family. We cannot repay him for his sacrifice, but we will always remember his love for our city and the people who live there.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I will begin by recognizing the heroic men and women who serve in the L.A. County Sheriff's Department as well.

This week, our country witnessed a cowardly evil attack on two L.A. County deputies. As the two county deputies were sitting inside of their parked car in Compton, California, a thug approached their vehicle and shot them point-blank. We are grateful that both of them are expected to survive. We regret that ambush, totally without justification, and we need to bring them to justice.

I am reminded of what the British moralist C. S. Lewis described in his book, "The Abolition of Man," where he said of shallow and heartless people as being "men without chests."

Perhaps, now, we are seeing that from the vicious criminals who are attempting to single out and overthrow our cities and, specifically, attack our police force.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support our First Amendment. I want to support the ability of people to assemble peaceably, but I also want to address the mobs that we have seen in our streets and, fundamentally, to defend our police.

What is it that the mob wants? It is hard to answer. There is a disparate set of views. Some have called them anarchists. They don't really have anarchy in mind; they just don't agree on which leftwing ideology they want to support. But they also are obeying their leaders. They are doing what their leaders have sent them to do.

One of our House colleagues, in June of 2018, said: "You get out and you create a crowd. And you push back on them, and you tell them they are not welcome anymore, anywhere."

Isn't that exactly what the mob is doing? Little old ladies trying to have a meal on a sidewalk here in our Nation's Capital have people shouting at them—mob intimidation.

And it gets much worse, as my colleague, Mrs. WAGNER, just highlighted. Nine police officers shot just in St. Louis alone. We all saw the horrific attacks in Los Angeles over the weekend—unprovoked, unjustified, unjustifiable, indefensible, yet people defend them and are reluctant to condemn them. This is what the mob is doing.

This is not the First Amendment. This is not the right of the people to assemble peaceably. And our law enforcement protect that right. They defend freedom. They protect and defend our communities. They do it heroically with bravery every day and, so often, thanklessly.

We are right to give them thanks. They put their lives in harm's way. And they call out their colleagues when they can when they break the trust of their departments.

We do need to reform some laws. We do need to hold some individuals accountable, but the idea that we can lay at the feet of all police these charges that are made is abhorrent.

So we need to defend our police. We need to defend our First Amendment freedoms to assemble peaceably, and we need to reject the cries of the mobs.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, last week, a husband and wife awoke to see, through their bedroom window, a brazen burglar breaking into their car. The dad retrieved a gun and tried to protect his family. He knew that the console of the car being burglarized contained another gun, and he saw the burglar retrieve it. They exchanged fire, and the confrontation had become more than even that prepared father could handle. So it became the responsibility of Ryan Hendrix.

The 8-year veteran of the Henderson County Sheriff's Department arrived with two other deputies at 2:54 a.m. last Thursday. They spotted the suspect, and at first he appeared to comply with commands, and then suddenly raised a weapon and fired.

The first shot struck Deputy Hendrix in the face before his fellow officers returned fire and shot the gunman dead. Investigation revealed that the gunman was a career criminal, wanted by South Carolina Probation, with arrests in four States.

Ryan Philip Hendrix, 35, Marine Corps vet, was declared brain dead the next day. Ryan's 6-year-old son and 9-year-old daughter will live with only fragmentary memories of their father. Ryan's fiancée will not have that October wedding that they planned.

This murder is not an isolated story. Two hundred law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty in 2020, up 90 percent.

Nothing I say can ennoble the sacrifices of those lost nor of the many others injured. Those sacrifices, that service, speak for themselves.

But I can speak to a fast-growing cancer in our civic spirit, an activism that exploits the wound to our national psyche born of racial injustice in our history, an activism that draws explicitly on Marxism and attacks core foundations of our society, including, and perhaps foremost, the consensus of support for law enforcement, a consensus that abides in every nation capable of surviving. It manifests itself in riots, looting, arson, destruction, shootings, and killings.

I can contend against it along with you. I have introduced into Congress the No Riots Act to criminalize injuries not only for Federal but, also, State and local law enforcement officers and to extend the death penalty for killing an officer in the course of interstate rioting.

But we cannot return to law enforcement officers the protection they deserve if leadership of our country is divided on the institution of police—indeed, if the people are divided. All