

headstones cascading across Arlington National Cemetery. On the fourth day of July, we join friends and family for a celebration of our nation's independence. On each November 11th, we reach out to the veterans in our lives, thank them for their service, and if we are lucky, listen to their stories of service. Scattered between these national celebrations are memorials hosted in small towns and big cities across America that pay tribute to the local legends who fought to protect the freedoms we hold dear. Every year since 1989, the Exercise Tiger Commemorative Foundation, alongside the Coast Guard Station Barnegat Light, have celebrated the heroes of Exercise Tiger with a wreath-laying ceremony at stations across the United States. It is now the longest-running wreath tribute in Coast Guard history.

Moreover, this year, the Exercise Tiger Commemorative Foundation has worked with the Audrain County Commissioners to memorialize and celebrate the oft-overlooked heroism of our nation's Black soldiers and sailors. We must never lose sight of the fact that while Black soldiers were fighting for the freedom of France, they themselves were not free in America. As they parachuted in Normandy and stormed Omaha and Utah Beaches, our nation was upholding the horrors of segregation and Jim Crow. They did so because they believed in the promise of America. We are all eternally indebted to that faith and their sacrifices, and I want to thank the Foundation and the Audrain County Commissioners for working to ensure that all our veterans receive the praise, glory, and honor they have earned.

A 5,000-pound anchor, located in Audrain County, serves as the memorial for the heroes of Exercise Tiger. However, it is more than just a relic of the past. Rather, it is a constant reminder that our freedom was paid for by the sacrifices of those who came before us. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, a blue ribbon was wrapped around that anchor, and it was only to be cut down when a vaccine was developed. On April 28, 2021, as our scientists, healthcare workers, and soldiers engage in a noble crusade against COVID-19 at vaccination sites across the country, that ribbon will be removed. While its removal does not signal the end of the pandemic, it does celebrate the fact that we are accomplishing what seemed impossible just months ago. We have demonstrated, like the Greatest Generation before us, that America can overcome any threat when we are united, be it a fleet of enemy submarines or an elusive virus. That capacity will always be worth celebrating.

Madam Speaker, please join me and my colleagues in honoring the nearly 750 Americans, including 201 Missourians, who gave their lives during Exercise Tiger. Additionally, please join me in extending a heartfelt "thank you" to the Audrain County Commissioners, the Exercise Tiger Commemorative Foundation, and the Coast Guard Station Barnegat Light, for organizing these memorial events each year since 1989. On April 28th, it is my fervent hope that we all take a moment to remember the victims and veterans of Exercise Tiger and to re-affirm our commitment to honoring their legacy each day through selfless service to others in our community.

RECOGNIZING THE LIMA NOON OPTIMIST CLUB'S ANNUAL YOUTH APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2021

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I always appreciate the opportunity to share positive news about young people from Ohio's Fourth Congressional District. Today, I am pleased to commend to the House twelve high school students who are being honored for their outstanding leadership skills and volunteerism.

On Wednesday, the Noon Optimist Club of Lima, Ohio, will recognize Tyler Arbeit, Anna Delamotte, Lily Floyd, Addison Jones, Aubree Linhart, Lucas Prichard, Trenton Stout, Sara Watkins, Thomas Williamson, Trace Wilson, Ryan Zheng, and Zachary Zwiebel at its annual youth appreciation luncheon. These students were each nominated by their schools for being good role models for their peers.

I thank the Optimists for their efforts to celebrate the many achievements of these students and am proud to join in the accolades to them. They have my very best wishes for continued success in their lives in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, my vote was not recorded on the Motion to Table H. Res. 331. To clarify, here is the correct information with respect to that vote:

Roll Call Vote Number 122: Yea.

IN HONOR OF UAW LOCAL 276 MEMBER KAREN ROHRSSEN

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2021

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to retiring UAW member Karen Rohrsen. Karen is the Administrative Assistant for the United Automobile, Aerospace and Agriculture Implement Works of America Local 276 in Grand Prairie, TX.

With 36 years of faithful service to UAW Local 276, Karen Rohrsen is the conscience and heartbeat of the organization. Her dedication to supporting its members goes above and beyond expectations. She is an essential member of Local 276 who has given her time and talents to helping others.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Karen Rohrsen and extending our best wishes to her for continued success. Her leadership will be greatly missed, but I know she will continue to be an active member of our community and continue to support local union members.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2021

Mr. GIBBS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes in Washington, D.C. due to a health issue which prevented me from traveling from my home district.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 120 and YEA on Roll Call No. 121.

HONORING UNITED STATES ARMY PRIVATE WALTER A. SMEAD FOR HIS HEROIC SACRIFICE AT THE BATTLE OF CHOSIN RESERVOIR DURING THE KOREAN WAR

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Army Private Walter A. Smead for his heroic sacrifice at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War, where he ultimately gave his life for his country at the young age of 24. His remains were recently returned to the United States in 2018 and at long last, identified in March of 2021, after he was listed as missing in action in 1950 and then presumed dead since 1953.

Private Smead was born and raised in Saratoga County, New York in the Town of Hadley. After enlisting in the Army and joining Battery A, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division, he was deployed to Europe in World War II and then to Korea when the North invaded the South in 1950. Private Smead was reported missing in action at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir after his unit valiantly provided cover for retreating forces before retreating themselves. In 1953, he was presumed dead but, for decades, Private Smead's family had no body to bury or knowledge of how he ultimately met his end. The conflict at the Chosin Reservoir saw more than 7,500 American casualties on the battlefield, and thousands more perished due to freezing temperatures and harsh conditions.

Through the dedication and perseverance of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the remains of Private Smead were finally identified on March 17, 2021 through DNA matching. His brother and fellow U.S. Army veteran, Douglas, never stopped searching or gave up hope that he would discover additional information about his brother's death. This recent discovery can hopefully provide closure to Private Smead's family. His brave sacrifice in the line of duty helped to ensure the safety of countless U.S. service members, and for his valor, he was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Korean Ambassador for Peace medal.

Private Smead will finally receive the burial he deserves with full military honors at the Saratoga National Cemetery this summer. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to remember Private Smead's great sacrifice, and I thank him for his service to his country, protecting our American ideals of freedom and democracy for all.

IN HONOR OF THE VICTIMS OF
THE SHOOTING AT THE INDIAN-
APOLIS FEDEX FACILITY

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2021

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise with my fellow Congressional colleagues from Indiana to honor the 8 Hoosiers we lost in the senseless shooting at the FedEx facility in Indianapolis.

We also honor those who were injured, and pray that they have a full and fast recovery.

The deceased were our friends, family and neighbors.

They had hopes, dreams, and plans for the future—only to have their lives tragically cut short.

And sadly, they are part of a much larger group of Hoosiers and Americans we have lost to gun violence.

As our community and our state grieve, and as we seek to move forward, we pledge to never forget those we lost—in this shooting, or any other senseless act of violence.

Their legacies will live on through our efforts to save lives in the future.

Hoosiers are resilient, and we will continue working hard to create safer communities across America, always carrying the memory of those we have lost in our hearts.

We will never forget them.

[Apr. 18, 2021]

INDIANAPOLIS FEDEX SHOOTING: WHO WERE
THE EIGHT VICTIMS?

Officials in Indianapolis have released the names of the eight people who were killed when a gunman opened fire at a FedEx warehouse on Thursday night.

Among the victims were four members of the local Sikh community—including a mother, a father and two grandmothers. Other victims include two 19-year-olds, a university graduate and a father.

Local Sikhs say they feel “traumatized” by the attack.

It remains unclear if Sikhs were targeted, authorities say.

About 90% of workers at the facility are members of the local Sikh community, police chief Randal Taylor said. Here’s what we know about the victims.

AMARJEET JOHAL, 66

Johal was a “mother, grandmother and member of the Indianapolis’ Sikh community”, according to the Indianapolis Star.

Her granddaughter, Komal Chohan, says she is “heartbroken” at the death of her “naniji”, or grandmother.

“I have several family members who work at the particular facility and are traumatized,” Ms Chohan said in a statement released by the Sikh Coalition.

“My nani, my family, and our families should not feel unsafe at work, at their place of worship, or anywhere,” she said. “Enough is enough—our community has been through enough trauma.”

JASWINDER SINGH

Mr. Singh only started working at the FedEx facility this week and had told everyone how excited he was, an inlaw, Harjap Singh Dillon, told the New York Times. He said Mr. Singh had been working a night-shift sorting mail when the attack happened.

An active member of the local temple, Mr. Singh had moved to Indianapolis from California.

“He was a simple man,” Mr. Dillon said. “He used to pray and meditate a lot, and he did community service.” Authorities provided Mr. Singh’s age as 68, but his family told the newspaper that he was 70.

AMARJIT SEKHON

A mother of two sons, Ms Sekhon began working at the FedEx facility six months ago on an overnight shift, her niece told the New York Times.

“She was a workaholic, she always was working, working. She would never sit still unless she felt really bad,” her brother-in-law, Kuldip Sekhon, told the Associated Press news agency.

While officials said Sekhon was 48, her relatives said she was 49.

Ms. Kaur had been planning to make her “renowned yogurt” to celebrate for her granddaughter’s second birthday at a large family gathering on Saturday, Rimpi Girm, a family member, told the New York Times.

“And today we’re gathering to plan a funeral,” she said.

Authorities said Kaur was 64, but her family told media outlets she was 50.

Samaria Blackwell was a 19-year-old soccer and basketball enthusiast who dreamed of becoming a police officer.

Her parents, Jeff and Tammi Blackwell, said they were “blessed by the Lord to have such a fun-loving, caring daughter as the baby of our family”, in a statement posted on GoFundMe page launched to fund funeral and other expenses.

“Samaria was tenacious in everything she did, from playing basketball and soccer to being a lifeguard for Indy Parks,” they said. “As an intelligent, straight-A student, Samaria could have done anything she chose to put her mind to.”

Mr. Weisert was a former Air Force officer who served in Vietnam and had previously worked as a mechanical engineer “to make ends meet”, his son, Mike Weisert, told the New York Times. Mike Weisert said his father had been thinking of retiring in the coming months.

Mr. Weisert’s wife of 50 years, Mary Carol Weisert, told local broadcaster WKRC she felt “terror, horror, fear, shock” at his death. “I don’t know how else to describe it.”

A fan of action and classic movies, he enjoyed playing country and bluegrass guitar, according to the New York Times.

Mike Weisert described his father as “a very decent, kind man, very dedicated to protecting and providing for the ones he loved”.

Ms. Smith was a sister and daughter, the Indianapolis Star reported her family saying.

The recent High School graduate was awaiting her first pay cheque after starting work at the plant two weeks ago, a family member told the newspaper.

“She was a lovely, beautiful and youthful teenage girl,” a family member told the Indianapolis Star. “She had just started to buckle down and get a job and take life a little more serious.”

Mr. Alexander was a former Butler University student who had worked at FedEx for several years, according to the Indianapolis Star.

“He was a great kid. He loved to play golf. Had a big heart—always had a smile on his face,” Albert Ashcraft, a former FedEx colleague, told the newspaper.

“Everybody liked him,” Ashcraft said. “He was always saving somebody’s ass. People would bring doughnuts in and he was always sticking doughnuts back for his drivers.”

“The Butler community is mourning the loss of Matthew Alexander, a former student who was killed tragically along with seven others at the FedEx facility in Indianapolis.

We want to extend our deepest sympathies to Matthew’s friends and families during this time of great sorrow,” the university said in a tweet.

LETTER FROM SIKH COMMUNITY

INDIANAPOLIS FEDEX MASS SHOOTING—
SUPPORTING THE SIKH COMMUNITY

DEAR REP. CARSON, like you, we are deeply saddened by the senseless act of deadly violence at the FedEx facility in Indianapolis where eight people were viciously murdered, including four Sikhs. On behalf of the Sikh Coalition, the nation’s largest Sikh civil rights organization, we write to urge your action in support of the investigation and to outline longer-term recommendations that can help ensure the future safety of the diverse communities across the United States.

By way of background, Sikhism is the world’s fifth largest religion, with over 25 million followers. Sikhs began settling in Indiana more than 50 years ago, and the community established its first gurdwara (Sikh house of worship) in 1999. We estimate that there are at least 8,000–10,000 Sikhs who currently live in Indiana. In the last two decades, the Sikh population in greater Indianapolis has experienced significant growth. As a community that has proudly been a part of the Indiana fabric for generations, Sikhs deserve to be safe in their workplaces, homes, schools, and houses of worship—without hate and bias.

We recognize that a motive has not yet been established by law enforcement; however, the attacker’s knowledge of the demographics of this workplace and who he was targeting, as well as his personal history must be taken into account in order to acknowledge the impact of hate, bias and white supremacist activity affecting our communities. Based on public reporting, the shooter allegedly had a propensity for violence—something his mother had previously warned law enforcement about. On March 3, 2020 Brandon Hole’s mother went to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) after her son had purchased a shotgun. She warned law enforcement that her son might commit “suicide by cop.” At this time, FBI agents stated that they did not identify Hole as espousing a racially motivated ideology. However, according to April 20, 2021 media reports, when IMPD officers went to the family’s home, one of the officers went upstairs to seize the shotgun and “observed what through his training and experience indicated was white supremacist websites” on Hole’s computer. At the time, officers also reportedly notified the criminal intelligence unit about what was observed on Hole’s computer and took the shotgun to the police department’s property room with “seized by dangerous person” written on the inventory sheet. To that end, the Sikh Coalition strongly urges both the IMPD and the FBI to fully investigate Mr. Hole’s attack on the Indianapolis FedEx facility, including all bias motivating factors which may be at play.

It was no accident that the shooter targeted this particular FedEx facility where he had previously worked and knew was overwhelmingly staffed by Sikhs. This was not a crime of convenience or a spur-of-the-moment attack; it was one of methodical planning and selection. As such, we implore your office to help ensure that there is an unfettered investigation into motive, without leaving any stone unturned regarding bias as a motivating factor. We also ask that your office ensure that these concerns are not prematurely dismissed.

The most recent available FBI data shows that 2019 was the deadliest year for hate crimes. Sadly, Sikhs were once again among the top five faith groups targeted on the