

HONORING THE TBK QUAD CITIES
MARATHON FOR WINNING THE
2020 GOVERNOR'S HOMETOWN
PROJECT AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the TBK Quad Cities Marathon for bringing together thousands of athletes, volunteers and speculators to the Moline region. The event was selected as a winner of the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for the positive impact it had in the community.

The TBK Quad Cities Marathon, a USATF certified course and great Boston Marathon qualifier, offers some of the most beautiful views of the Mississippi River. The 26.2 mile run covers four cities and two states in the Quad Cities region. Run by more than 1,400 volunteers, it is a weekend full of activities that celebrates the accomplishments of these dedicated runners. I applaud the TBK Quad Cities Marathon for their philanthropic work and showcasing the very best of the Moline community.

I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District with community leaders like TBK Quad Cities Marathon. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally honor the TBK Quad Cities Marathon for their contributions to the community and to congratulate them for receiving the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
TUPELO POLICE CHIEF BART
AGUIRRE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Tupelo Police Chief Bart Aguirre.

Chief Aguirre has devoted himself to the city of Tupelo, faithfully serving and protecting the citizens for 36 years. Chief Aguirre answered the call to serve as a member of law enforcement by first attending the University of Mississippi where he earned a bachelor's degree in Legal Systems Administration. Later, Chief Aguirre earned a master's degree in Criminal Justice at the University of Alabama.

Prior to becoming a Tupelo Police Officer, Chief Aguirre aspired to work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a forensics expert, specializing in firearms. In 1985, TPD Chief Ed Crider hired Chief Aguirre to serve in the Patrol Division. Chief Aguirre said he fell in love with TPD and the rest is history.

During his successful career, Chief Aguirre worked his way up from a patrolman to the Chief of Detectives. In 2013, he was named the Chief of Police by Tupelo Mayor Jason Shelton.

During his career with the TPD, Chief Aguirre served on an F-B-I task force, carrying out a 4-year mission titled, "Operation Secondhand Smoke." Chief Aguirre and his fellow task force members uncovered a scheme to transport stolen tobacco products

across state lines. Their investigative work led to the multiple arrests and to the seizure of property. The seized land is where the new \$10-million-dollar Tupelo Police Department was built. Chief Aguirre is proud of the instrumental role he played on the task force and the ultimate result of their hard work—a new police department.

Chief Aguirre is the son of Conrado and Joan Aguirre. The family of five moved to Tupelo in 1962. His father worked as a salesman for a meat processing company that sold products to restaurants and supermarkets. Conrado was the owner of a popular restaurant called the Gaslight Inn. Later, he opened another restaurant called Gloster 205. Chief Aguirre grew up working in the restaurants while contemplating a future career in law enforcement.

In 1997, Chief Aguirre married his wife, Patty. They have three children: Shane Aguirre; Jonathan Aguirre (Kirsten); and Ariel Aguirre-Waldrop (Brent). They have five grandchildren: Gryder Aguirre; Grant Aguirre; Brooks Waldrop; Beyla Waldrop; and Baron Waldrop.

Upon retirement, Chief Aguirre said he and his wife plan to spend more time with their children and grandchildren and travel.

We wish Chief Aguirre and his family many more happy years together. We are grateful for the impact of men like Chief Aguirre. I commend him for his devotion to family, the citizens of Tupelo, and to our great Nation.

HONORING MAJOR HARVEY
HARRELL STORMS

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation, I rise today to recognize Major Harvey Harrell Storms of McAllen, Texas, who sacrificed his life in the Korean War.

Major Storms was born in McAllen, Texas and was a proud member of the Texas A&M University Class of 1939. After receiving a bachelor's degree in agriculture, he enlisted in the United States Army where he fought valiantly in World War II, earning the World War II Victory Medal.

After Major Storms' tour during World War II, he re-enlisted for the Korean War. There, he was a member of the Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division.

In November of 1950, Major Storms and his Company fought at the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, a decisive but brutal battle marked by harsh icy conditions. Throughout the battle, Chinese soldiers had Major Storms and his soldiers pinned down. In an attempt to help them, Major Storms led an attack up Hill 1221. During this act of bravery, Major Storms was shot in the crossfire, reported missing in action on December 1, 1950, and declared dead on December 31, 2021.

Major Storms, a loving husband and father of four, made the ultimate sacrifice to help free his fellow soldiers. Major Storms was decorated with the Silver Star and Purple Heart honors for his leadership and valor. Unfortunately, his remains were not recovered for

over 70 years, until in 2018, when North Korea turned over 55 boxes of American service members' remains at the summit between former President Donald Trump and North Korean Leader Kim Jong-Un. It was then that Harvey Storms was finally returned home.

On Friday, July 16, 2021, Major Storms was interred at the Arlington National Cemetery, and a rosette was placed next to his name on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii, indicating that he had been accounted for.

Madam Speaker, I want to honor the memory of Major Harvey Harrel Storms, and thank him for his service and sacrifice. He was an honorable, noble, accomplished, and impressive soldier, one that our nation is so grateful for. As an American and Texan, I am touched by the actions he took to protect our country. I know that his legacy will inspire future generations to honorably serve their fellow man.

BRINGING ATTENTION TO GERD
NEGOTIATIONS

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the negotiations regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. I include in the RECORD the article, "Only Washington Can Save the Renaissance Dam Negotiations Now," written by Ambassador Motaz Zahran, published on April 29, 2021.

[From Foreign Policy]

ONLY WASHINGTON CAN SAVE THE
RENAISSANCE DAM NEGOTIATIONS NOW

(By Motaz Zahran, Ambassador of Egypt to the United States)

In early April, Ethiopia thwarted yet another mediation process, this time led by the African Union, to resolve an escalating crisis on the Nile—where Ethiopia is building the massive Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), which would disrupt a primary source of water for Egypt and Sudan. The negotiations represented what the Egyptian foreign ministry called Ethiopia's "last chance" at a resolution to the dispute, which has been ongoing for 10 years.

With Ethiopia edging closer to unilaterally filling the dam's reservoir for a second time—and thus crossing the "red line" set by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi—it may be up to the United States to help broker a peaceful solution and prevent unrest in the region, which forces of extremism and terrorism would undoubtedly look to exploit.

The Biden administration, which is currently mulling over the best policy for managing this situation, must act now. At stake is the future of the Nile, a lifeline for millions of Egyptians and Sudanese. In 2011, without consulting either of its neighbors downstream, Ethiopia began constructing a 509-foot-tall concrete dam—large enough for a reservoir that can store twice as much water as Lake Mead, the largest artificial reservoir in the United States—on the Blue Nile, a vital upstream portion of the Nile River. If unilaterally filled and operated, the GERD could inflict incalculable socioeconomic and environmental harm downstream in Egypt and Sudan. Last year, flouting a 2015 treaty, Ethiopia started an initial filling of the dam.

Now, balking at calls for an equitable resolution and consistent with its established policy of unilaterally exploiting of international rivers, Ethiopia is vowing to press ahead with a second substantial phase of reservoir filling this summer.

The threat the GERD poses is not hypothetical but real. Choking off an essential supply of water would exponentially increase the dangers posed by climate change in the region. As one of the most arid countries in the world, with less than one-sixteenth the amount of rainfall as Ethiopia, Egypt is already facing severe water shortages, largely because of rising temperatures and rising sea levels. In fact, Egyptians are currently living around 50 percent below the water-poverty line, and with very little annual rainfall, the country is almost entirely dependent on the Nile for renewable water. To manage such conditions, Egypt has adopted a nationwide system of reusing water several times for agriculture, achieving one of the world's highest overall irrigation system efficiencies.

Despite Ethiopia's claims that hydropower projects will cause no harm, the unilateral filling and operation of Ethiopia's dam would quickly make matters far worse for both Egypt and Sudan, causing serious environmental and socioeconomic damage, potentially forcing droves of families from their homes.

Further, the GERD would also have deleterious effects on Egypt's Aswan High Dam, a multipurpose dam, which is the biggest source of renewable energy in Egypt and is indispensable in securing the water needs of Egypt and Sudan. The United Nations notes that every 2 percent drop in available water impacts 1 million people.

An impact study, conducted by the reputable Dutch firm Deltares, found that unilateral filling of the GERD could lead to a water shortage in Egypt of more than 123 billion cubic meters, and that in the agricultural sector alone, every 1 billion cubic meter shortage of water caused by unilateral filling or operation of the GERD, would result in forcing 290,000 people out of work, destroying more than 321,230 acres of cultivated land, an increase of \$150 million in food imports, and a loss of \$430 million of agricultural production.

The threat the GERD poses is not hypothetical but real. Right now, another dam built by Ethiopia is causing enormous harm in Kenya. The fallout is so severe that UNESCO warned of the extinction of Lake Turkana in Kenya. There has also been reporting and research on other Ethiopian unilateral actions, including in the Juba and Shabelle basin, without prior consultation with Somalia, and their significant negative impact on water access and security in Somalia.

The social and economic instability triggered by such unilateral policies could generate greater unrest in the region. And Ethiopia is stoking the flames by villainizing Sudan and Egypt by pushing the misleading populist narrative that attempts to characterize any and all concerns about the GERD as being rooted in colonialism, claiming that its downstream neighbors are against Ethiopia's development and are trying to impose upon Ethiopia "colonial treaties."

The situation as it stands today was entirely avoidable. This mischaracterization is designed to allow Ethiopia to divert attention from its actual international legal obligations toward its downstream neighbors, which include several international treaties that Ethiopia signed—all, with no single exception, as a sovereign independent state—including in 1902, 1993, and 2015. These treaties served and continue to serve Ethiopia's national interests, including, for example, in relation to its borders. Nonetheless, while

Ethiopia has reaped the benefits from signing these treaties, it repeatedly attempted to shirk its obligations related to the Nile River under the very same treaties.

The situation as it stands today was entirely avoidable. A viable solution has been on the table. In 2019, following a decade of adamantly rejecting any kind of agreement, much less the participation of any mediators or observers, Ethiopia finally accepted the participation and input of Washington and the World Bank in the process. The three countries were on the verge of signing an equitable agreement, a compromise deal inspired by the successful model of cooperation governing the Senegal River Basin. But at the eleventh hour, Ethiopia abruptly backed out and claimed that the proposed agreement deprived Ethiopia from its right to generate electricity efficiently from the GERD or undergo future projects, and that it tried to impose water shares to which Ethiopia does not subscribe.

Contrary to Ethiopian claims, this compromise deal assured Ethiopia that it will generate hydropower from the GERD sustainably at optimum levels, in all hydrological conditions, while protecting the downstream countries from ravaging droughts. It unambiguously stipulated that it is not a water-allocation agreement, clearly recognized Ethiopia's right to undertake future projects on the Blue Nile in accordance with applicable international law, and allowed the parties to revisit the agreement in 10 years.

Today, one year later, negotiations are still faltering under the auspices of the African Union, and Ethiopia's statements have now disclosed the actual reason it abandoned the Washington talks: Ethiopia rejects any legally binding agreement on the rules of filling and operation of its new dam, demanding a framework of nonbinding guidelines that it could alter at its whim. This is in contradiction with the 2015 Agreement on Declaration of Principles among the three countries.

Even though Ethiopia's political statements speak to its commitment to the African Union-led mediation process, invoking the shared principle "African solutions for African problems," Ethiopia's actions clearly undermine, in effect, the role of the African Union. This has been evidenced by Ethiopia's categorical rejection, in the most recent meeting in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, in April, of multiple joint proposals from Sudan and Egypt to empower the African Union-led process. That's because Ethiopia prefers a nominal role for the chairperson at the African Union rather than an active role.

A new era of stability and shared economic prosperity is on the horizon in Africa and the Middle East, due in large part to the steady leadership of the United States. One example of the welcome changes sweeping through the region is the recent U.S.-brokered normalization agreements between Israel and a number of Arab states, which was reminiscent of Egypt's trailblazing treaty with Israel—also mediated by the United States—more than 40 years ago.

Through principled diplomacy, the Biden administration can reset the faltering negotiations. The United States has the leverage needed to successfully encourage Ethiopia to engage in good faith in the GERD negotiations and to refrain from unilateral actions and the pursuit of narrow self-interests, which have been detrimental to its neighbors' legitimate interests. Soliciting expertise from international partners, including the United Nations, the European Union, and the United States, in support of the African Union-led mediation process would be invaluable in bringing the negotiations to fru-

ition as soon as possible. This proposal would also ensure there's no room to falsely point fingers; it would not be feasible to challenge the impartiality of all these partners led by the chairperson of the African Union, the way Ethiopia did with U.S. President Donald Trump's administration after Ethiopia abandoned the U.S.-led mediation process last year.

History shows that progress along the Nile can be fragile, and a single dispute can have harmful ripple effects that destabilize the region and reach our allies in the West. Failing to resolve the rapidly escalating issue over the GERD would accelerate the already devastating impacts of climate change in the area, unleash a wave of illegal migration to the West, and open the door to new conflicts and even terrorism in the Middle East and East Africa.

Through principled diplomacy, the Biden administration can reset the faltering negotiations, bring about an equitable solution for all parties, and, in doing so, ultimately safeguard its strategic interests with three important regional allies.

HONORING V-J DAY

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 76th Anniversary of V-J Day on August 14th, 2021. I am forever grateful for the sacrifices of our service members.

Victory over Japan Day, V-J Day, marked the triumphant end of World War II. This day commemorates the announcement of Japan's surrender. This is an event that is important to the United States, the state of Oklahoma, and the veterans in our community.

For the past several years, Frank Reisinger has helped coordinate a remembrance event in Broken Arrow. This is a special occasion that allows our community to honor our veterans, especially those who served in World War II.

Frank, a veteran himself, can still recall witnessing the celebrations in downtown Tulsa 76 years ago. He was an 18-year-old standing in his dad's office overlooking the festivities in the streets below. It is this memory that inspires him to continue to remember this wonderful day in American History.

I am truly grateful for this event and the work of Frank Reisinger and the City of Broken Arrow to honor this day.

CONGRATULATING NATALIA MORENO FOR WINNING THE IHSA'S CLASS 1A TITLE IN THE 1600 METER RUN

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 13, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Natalia Moreno, a senior from Winnebago High School, who won the Illinois High School Association's Class 1A title in the 1600 meter run.

Natalia earned the state championship by 18 seconds, with a personal record time of 5:05:45. As a former student athlete, I admire