

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BRIAN SICKNICK FUNERAL

HON. DAN CRENSHAW

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, another hero laid to rest here in Arlington Cemetery. I know this place well. Some of my dearest friends are here.

This is a place for America's best. It is not just that these men and women are heroes, of course they are, it is that they are our best. And in my experience, we always seem to lose the best of us.

Brian lived with purpose. He lived asking what he could do for his country, for his community, and small animals. Sandra tells me he was the type of guy that would get out of the car and run across the parking lot to move a small turtle to safety. He was a real man, because real men are comfortable owning two small Dachshunds, as Brian did. I am not saying that just because I also have two small Dachshunds, I am saying it because it's true. Real men don't need to prove anything with big dogs.

Everyone has purpose in this life, I firmly believe that. You're here for a reason. But not enough of us act as if that is true. Brian did.

He lived for his family, his mother, Gladys, his father, Charles, his brothers, Ken and Craig, and his girlfriend, Sandra. He joined the Air Force with a mission to serve our nation's defense. He lived for others. After he was injured on January 6th he spent his last remaining hours texting fellow officers and checking in on them. People needed Brian, because he was a good man, because he was one of our best.

There is another common thread that links those buried here at Arlington with Brian. These are protectors. These are the men and women that stand in the breach. That gap between the helpless and the aggressor, between right and wrong, between good and evil.

Many like to think they too could stand in that gap, but they'd be wrong. So many these days think they know better, think they could do it better, and they'll be the first to tell you so.

But this job is not for the weak and loud, it is for the strong and silent. It is for the brave, those like Brian that quietly and professionally carry out their duty. Because that gap that they stand in isn't always so clear. It's messy. It's complicated. It's not always obvious what is right and what is wrong, who the victims are, or who is good or bad.

And so, we take our best, and we say go forth and stand in the breach and figure it out. Be there to make those split-second choices so that we don't have to. Be there to keep our families safe so that we don't have to. Go overseas and make sure the enemy doesn't come here so that we don't have to.

You be there, and the rest of us will be here waiting, to judge you and second guess you.

We ask them to do the impossible, we don't even ask that nicely, and they do it with pride and with honor.

If I may be so bold as to guess what Brian might have asked of us. I think that he, and the heroes buried here with him, might simply ask us all to be better. I think they appreciate our gratitude and our deference to their memory, but I think most of all they just want us to be better.

And I don't mean trying to make others better, or even our country better. I mean I think they want us to start with ourselves. To make ourselves better. Because that is in fact the hard work.

He might ask us to ask ourselves what went so wrong—in our country and in our hearts—that fellow Americans did what they did to Brian on that day. He might ask us to reflect for a moment before we lash out at each other, before we blame, before we chastise, before we judge, before we lose patience. He might ask us to recall that the greatness of the American spirit lies in a sense of responsibility, of accountability, and perhaps a bit of appreciation for freedom.

Being better means decency. It means citizenship. Living with the duty that Brian exemplified. It means running toward danger not because there is glory in doing so but because you must. It means trying to live up to the memory of the heroes buried here, to be worthy of their sacrifice.

This past year has been a low point, no doubt, but it is men like Brian that remind us of the grit and tenacity and good character that America was built on. He may not be with us anymore, but if we are to honor him then we should do so by using his memory as a reminder of what this country can be.

A reminder that there are indeed more like him. A reminder that the bravery and love inside of Brian Sicknick is not peculiar to him, but part of the American DNA. A reminder that our duty is to make these heroes proud, prove to them that their sacrifice was for a country worth sacrificing for. That we are a people worth sacrificing for. With men like Brian standing in the gap, it is hard to imagine that we are not.

This is still the greatest country on earth. This is still the great American experiment that has done more good for mankind than any other civilization in history. We will not forget that fact just because times are hard. We will persevere and strive to be better and do justice to the memory of those buried here.

May Officer Brian Sicknick rest easy here on these hallowed grounds. He is in good company. He has undoubtedly earned his place here amongst America's best. God bless him. God bless this great country.

Never Forget.

HONORING OFFICER ADAM TACK

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary South Carolinian, Officer Adam Tack of the Horry County Police Department.

Last night, Officer Tack was awarded the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. Officer Tack puts his life at risk daily while upholding his oath to protect his community. He is a true hero.

September 17, 2020, Officer Tack saved the lives of Liam and Levi Cannon trapped in a car sinking in the floodwaters of Hurricane Sally. He dove in the water and using his baton broke the window to pull the two children from the car. Tack only had minor injuries and all five Cannon family members survived.

Madam Speaker, I join the people of Horry County in recognizing Officer Adam Tack. We thank him for his service and commitment to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON AN OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY ACT OF 2021

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security Act of 2021, which would create a commission to investigate how we can maintain our democratic traditions while actively responding to the real and substantial threats posed by foreign and domestic terrorism.

The impetus for this commission was born after the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, grew in importance after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and has reached peak urgency since the insurrectionist attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. The succession of tragic events endured by our nation has led to a series of sweeping security increases that are deemed both necessary and temporary in the moment but create lasting security infrastructure that is difficult to dismantle and infringes on our open, democratic society.

We must acknowledge and accept that we have entered into an era of constant internal and external threats, requiring ever-higher levels of security for our people and public spaces. What we thought would be a temporary infringement on our open society has turned into a permanent restriction on how our citizens interact with each other and our democratic institutions. Because emergencies

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

typically dictate security decisions, essential discussions on the proper balance between national security, individual rights and the freedoms enjoyed in an open society have been repeatedly deferred.

My bill would ensure that this long overdue discussion takes place in a public forum with experts drawn from across the spectrum. To date, security planning has been delegated almost exclusively to security, intelligence and military experts. Although their input is indispensable, they cannot be expected to accurately consider the externalities that lie outside of their expertise. To strike a better balance that gives sufficient importance to our democratic traditions, we need to invite experts from diverse fields to the same table to work together. Therefore, the commission would be composed not only of security, intelligence and military experts, but also experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology and psychology.

We have used commissions before to deeply investigate and address unprecedented challenges, such as the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman Robb Commission) and the Kerner Commission following riots that swept American cities in the 1960s. The commission created by this bill would seek to avert a crisis in basic freedoms before their infringement becomes entrenched. We cannot allow security protocols to proliferate without informed civilian oversight and a thorough analysis of alternatives that might better safeguard freedom and commerce.

Furthermore, we have had decades to develop strategies and technologies for smarter security that can fulfill the responsibility of safety without depriving our citizens of access to institutions and personal liberty. Thus far, we have either relied on imprecise medieval approaches like crude barriers or on over-expansive new technologies that treat privacy like a privilege instead of a right. We can, and must, do better.

As the home of our federal government, the District of Columbia's residents have suffered a disproportionate infringement on public spaces, personal rights and freedoms in the name of security. Public spaces that serve as the heart of our local communities have become restricted zones characterized by a heavy security presence, with individuals liable to be reprimanded for walking on the wrong side of the street or marveling too long at the architecture. Barriers such as walls and fences are touted as essential security features while our citizens are left peering at their democracy from a distance.

Security is not only about reducing lives lost and dollars cost. It is also about safeguarding the institutions, freedoms and values that anchor our country, not only for ourselves but for future generations. The social compact between government and the people should not be the result of a series of hostage negotiations. We must resume reasoned and deliberative decision-making, beginning with a high-level commission composed of experts from diverse disciplines charged with developing a new course that will protect both our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DENTON
RYAN FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding performance of Denton ISD's Ryan High School Football Team, the Ryan Raiders, during the 2020 football season.

In the past year, the team's prowess and exceptional diligence led them to an undefeated season, culminating in a victory at the Conference 5A Division 1 Championship on January 15, 2021. After facing an intense series of preliminary games, the Ryan Raiders finally secured the state title in their game against Cedar Park at Arlington's AT&T stadium.

Led by head coach Dave Henigan, Defensive MVP Ty Marsh, and Offensive MVP Seth Henigan, the team attained its first state championship victory since 2002. The exemplary commitment, teamwork, and effort displayed by the players, coaches, and coordinators of the Ryan Raiders earned them the state title.

The coaches and players of the Ryan High School Football Team overcame pressures and challenges amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and successfully achieved the pinnacle of their season. I am privileged to join their community, family and friends in celebrating their achievement and to recognize each and every one of them for their laudable devotion to their team and their sport. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE CAREER AND
SERVICE OF CHIEF MICHAEL
SURPRENANT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor the career of a consummate public servant—Chief Michael Surprenant of the Plainfield Police Department. A dedicated law enforcement officer, Chief Surprenant has served the town of Plainfield and the 2nd Congressional District for over two decades. His tenure as Chief began in 2012 replacing Robert Hoffman, another role model of public service. His character, dedication to the department, and unwavering professionalism made him an ideal candidate for the role.

Over the past nine years, Michael has ushered in a new era for the department. Not only fighting for the safety and wellbeing of so many in his town, but fighting for the betterment of the department, making sure our first responders, who put their lives on the line every day, are given the encouragement and equipment they are rightfully due. Michael has always put his officers before himself and as leader of the force has never had an officer sustain a serious injury or fatality—a record for which he should be truly proud. Working as an officer through some of the most perilous moments in our nation's history—9/11, Sandy Hook, and other domestic incidents—Michael

has remained steadfast and composed in ensuring that the department was trained and prepared to tackle various threats at a moment's notice.

With Michael's years of experience as a patrol officer, deputy chief, graduate of the FBI's National Academy, and recipient of the Medal of Excellence—Michael has been a beacon of wisdom within the department. Michael has strived to be a police chief that prioritized the wellbeing and safety of his residents above all else and has gone above and beyond to ensure that the department had the resources it needed. Michael has served as a role model for his fellow officers and has truly led by example, and I am certain that his civic dedication will continue into the next chapter of his life.

While Michael's retirement is bittersweet, we know that he has groomed only the best to take his place. Madam Speaker, fellow colleagues—I ask you to join me in honoring Michael's 25 years of service to the State of Connecticut and our nation, and in wishing him, his wife Kristyn, and their twin boys Jefferey and Luke—a safe and happy future.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE
HONORABLE JUDGE PRESTON'S
RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of the Honorable Vernon L. Preston, Ohio Third District Court of Appeals Judge, and recognize the outstanding work he has done for the State of Ohio. On February 8, 2021, Judge Preston will be retiring after twenty-seven years of distinguished judicial service. His hard work and continued dedication to uphold the law and the Constitution is an example for all.

Judge Preston was born and raised in Findlay, Ohio. After attending Findlay High School and the University of Findlay, he proudly served on active duty in the United States Navy for six years. He retired with the rank of Captain in 2003 after serving twenty-five additional years in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

In 1980, Judge Preston graduated with a law degree from the University of Toledo. Upon graduation from law school, he opened a law practice in Portsmouth, Ohio. As a private practice attorney, he specialized in administrative and insurance law representing both individuals and business clients. Later, Judge Preston returned to Findlay where he served in a series of public service positions including Magistrate for the Findlay Municipal Court, Assistant Hancock County Prosecutor, and Assistant Findlay City Prosecutor. Before his appointment to the Third Court of Appeals in 2007, Judge Preston served on the Findlay Municipal Court Bench for thirteen years. In addition to his full-time schedule as a judge, he was an Adjunct Professor of Equine Law at the University of Findlay.

Judge Preston's work has had a lasting influence on our judicial system and a significant impact on his community. The citizens of Fifth District of Ohio join me in congratulating the Honorable Vernon Preston for his service to Ohio and our nation.