

On July 1, 1978, at the age of 21, he was ordained at Wat Somanat Vihara, Bangkok with Chao Phrakhun Somdej Phra Wanrat (Jub Thithadhammo), the abbot of Wat Sommant Vihara, to be a preceptor.

Since being ordained as a novice, monks have continued to study the discipline. He was given duties continually related to the community because they must perform their duties in teaching Dhamma and meditation all the time.

In the year 1993, he was assigned by Phra Thepwaraporn and was approved by Chao prakhun Somdej Phra wanrat (Jab Thitadhammo), the abbot of Wat Sommanat Vihara, to practice religious activities in the construction of the Wat Florida Dhammaram in Kissimmee, Florida to be a spiritual center of people of all nations. Teaching both morality and meditation training.

On April 15, 1993, Wat Florida Dhammaram was opened as a meditation center. Then, construction work began on the place of meditation in order to be ready to set up the center for the community to coexist in peace. Wat Florida Dhammaram has been developed progress until the present.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL
"MICKEY" GANITCH

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and service of Michael "Mickey" Ganitch, a United States Navy veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor, who passed away at the age of 102 on Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

Mickey was born in Mogadore, Ohio on November 18, 1919, as one of 14 children. Upon graduating high school in 1937, he left Ohio bound for California. On January 21, 1941, he joined the United States Navy.

Mickey served in the Navy as a Quartermaster, joining the USS *Pennsylvania* in Pearl Harbor on August 15, 1941. On December 7, 1941, while preparing for a football game against the USS *Arizona*, the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service bombardment of Pearl Harbor began. During the second air attack, a 500-pound bomb hit Mickey's ship, narrowly missing Mickey's station in the crow's nest. This attack killed 23 men and left numerous others injured. After the attack, Mickey and the USS *Pennsylvania* served as ammunition support for most major United States military invasions in the Pacific theater throughout World War II. Just before the end of the war, in 1945, Mickey survived another attack when a torpedo struck the ship he was on, killing 20 in Mickey's 26-man crew.

After the war, Mickey continued his service as a recruiter in Oakland. In the early 1960's, he met his wife, Barbara. They went on to marry in 1963. Shortly thereafter, he retired from the Navy as Senior Chief Quartermaster. He continued to work various jobs throughout his life, at a bowling alley, as a fishing net manufacturer, and as a security guard at the Alameda naval air station, where he retired in 1996.

Mickey's active involvement in his community reflected his heart of service. He served as Pearl Harbor Survivors organization state

treasurer and chapter secretary; he volunteered over 7,000 hours with the VA; he was an active member of the Masonic Lodge; and he served as head usher for his church for more than 49 years.

Mickey, Barbara, and their family have resided in the heart of my community since they arrived. I am grateful for his service and his dedication to sharing his story. He is survived by his wife Barbara, with whom he shared nearly 60 years of marriage, his four daughters, 13 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren.

CONGRATULATING BARRY S.
STERNLICHT ON HIS DEVOTION
TO CONGREGATION AGUDATH
SHOLOM

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Barry S. Sternlicht for his tireless work on behalf of Congregation Agudath Sholom. His devotion to the congregational family at Agudath Sholom, the local Jewish community in Stamford and to the well-being of Jews worldwide is nothing short of inspiring. The community of southwestern Connecticut is stronger, richer and more inclusive because of the work that he does.

It is my unique honor to recognize Barry for his unyielding dedication and outstanding philanthropic contributions to his congregation. With Barry's generosity, Congregation Agudath Sholom restored its synagogue and in doing so, helped spread the core Jewish value of repairing the world. Barry's commitment to preserving the beauty of Agudath Sholom in the spirit of his father exemplifies a core tenet of Judaism: L'dor V'dor, from generation to generation.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in congratulating Barry on his immense accomplishments.

COMMENDING 50 YEARS OF DIPLO-
MATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND THE
STATE OF QATAR

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to commend 50 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and the State of Qatar.

That a country slightly smaller than Connecticut is such an important partner to the United States is no mere accident. Instead, this is the direct result of the dedication and hard work of not only Qatar's leaders, but its people. I would be remiss if I did not give credit to Qatar's leaders who have ensured spending on social programs such as housing, healthcare, education, and pensions. Through this commitment, the people of Qatar have what they need to advance their Nation.

Qatar has also assisted the United States with our diplomatic and military goals in the re-

gion. In 1991, Qatar played a significant role in the Gulf War, particularly during the Battle of Khafji in which Qatari tanks engaged troops loyal to Saddam Hussein. Furthermore, Qatar allowed coalition troops from the United States, Canada, and France to operate in its territory, bolstering Operation Desert Storm. Following this successful arrangement, the United States and Qatar agreed upon the need for a Defense Cooperation Agreement. This pact, which has subsequently been expanded, has served as the basis for military collaboration for the last 30 years.

In 1996, Qatar built Al Udeid Air Base, which now serves as the forward headquarters for U.S. Central Command. Al Udeid is home to the largest U.S. military base in the Middle East and continues to be supported by Qatar, with the Qatari government having provided over \$8 billion in funding for the base over the last 20 years.

Notably, President Joe Biden met with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, in Washington on January 31, 2022. This meeting was the first that President Biden had with a regional leader since he became president and served as a clear signal that Washington views Doha as an important partner in the region. This was underscored when the President told the Emir that the United States would nominate Qatar as a Major Non-NATO Ally. This status recognizes Qatar's growing responsibility as a strong and enduring partner in countering violent extremism, combating terrorism, and deterring external aggressors.

Qatar has also been an invaluable asset on the diplomatic front. Qatar quietly assisted in ending the Israel-Hamas war in May 2021 and continues to be helpful in seeking to improve relations between Israelis and Palestinians.

Without a doubt, Qatar's most significant diplomatic and humanitarian efforts were in the evacuation of more than 100,000 people from Afghanistan after the American withdrawal. Qatar was uniquely positioned because of its ability to speak to various parties on the ground and to escort people through Taliban-controlled Kabul.

A large percentage of the new refugees were brought to Qatar, which arranged housing and other shelter for them as well as food, medicine, and other provisions. At one point, the Qatari military was providing over 50,000 meals per day to the newly arrived refugees. There are still thousands of Afghan refugees in Qatar, where they continue to receive much needed care and assistance.

On September 7, 2021, only weeks after the American withdrawal from Afghanistan, Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III and Secretary of State Antony Blinken flew to Doha to acknowledge the role Qatar played in the transit and care of evacuees from Afghanistan and to thank Qatar for its vital assistance. Secretary Blinken complimented Qatar's efforts in the evacuation saying, "you've facilitated the safe transit of more than 55,000 people. That's nearly half of those who were evacuated in the entire evacuation from Kabul. These are massive numbers. And as I've said a number of times, we spend a lot of time back in Washington talking about numbers: the total number of evacuees, American citizens, and so forth. But you know better than anyone that behind each of these numbers is a real person, is a mother, a father, a sister, a brother, a son, a daughter."

While the military and diplomatic cooperation over the years is impressive, there are so many other areas in which relations between our two nations have flourished over the course of the past 50 years. The United States and Qatar have extensive economic ties. As Qatar's largest foreign direct investor and its single largest source of imports, the United States has developed a robust trade relationship with Qatar, with over 120 U.S. companies operating in country. U.S. exports to Qatar increased by 47.7 percent from 2018 to 2019, totaling \$6.5 billion in 2019.

Major education ties have been developed over the course of the fifty-year relationship. Annually, hundreds of Qatari students study in the United States. In addition, six U.S. universities have branch campuses in Qatar's Education City complex. These include Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, and Northwestern University.

In short, over the course of the 50-year relationship, the United States and Qatar have developed military and strategic ties, cooperated on major diplomatic initiatives, enlarged financial and economic relations, and supported worthy causes and educational advancement for students in both countries. Significantly, although our two nations are in different regions of the world, with different histories and cultures, they have been able to forge an enduring friendship based on many shared values. I look forward to this relationship deepening even further in the next 50 years and beyond.

**HONORING DR. MARIAM ESAT AS
A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN
AMERICAN AND PACIFIC IS-
LANDER HERITAGE MONTH**

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Dr. Mariam Esat immigrated to the United States in 1986 from Zimbabwe. In 1982, at the age of 23, she graduated as a medical doctor from the University of Zimbabwe.

Through dedication and despite a scarcity of resources, she was able to beat the odds and gained acceptance to an internal medicine residency program at New York Downtown Hospital in 1987. She then pursued an infectious disease fellowship at the Manhattan Veterans Administration Hospital/New York University. She is American Board certified in both internal medicine and infectious diseases. At the height of the HIV epidemic, she joined Columbia University/Harlem Hospital as an assistant professor, serving the underprivileged population where she participated in HIV clinical trials at a time when the disease was feared, and much was unknown. She then returned to Zimbabwe for several years as there was a huge need in Sub-Saharan Africa for her expertise where HIV was rampant.

In 2003, she returned with her family to the United States. Since then, she has treated

countless patients throughout the Florida hospital systems. As president of infectious disease consultancy services, P.L. in Hunters Creek, she serves the private sector in Orange and Osceola Counties.

Dr. Esat has worked relentlessly teaching medical staff, and together as a team, they have been in the front line as first responders in the management of patients with COVID-19. She has worked diligently to save lives throughout the hospitals and intensive care units. She initiated new treatment protocols as the disease unraveled and knowledge about the disease was evolving at lightning speed.

She has held many leadership positions including chairman of the Peer Review, Pharmacy and Therapeutics, and Antimicrobial Stewardship Committees, member of the Medical Executive and Crisis Care Committees, and served on the Board of Trustees at Osceola Regional Medical Center.

**RECOGNIZING BISHOP ZACHARY N.
HICKS**

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the Historic First Jurisdiction of Michigan Northeast, a house of worship located in Detroit, Michigan and to honor the Right Reverend Zachary N. Hicks and his elevation to the Bishopric.

Bishop Hicks has faithfully pastored the Faith Clinic Church of God in Christ for over thirty years, ministering to the needs of individuals of many backgrounds in the surrounding community. He has led with a natural instinct to provide for his congregation and community through numerous outstanding programs to residents regardless of age, sex, opportunity, or background.

Bishop Hicks also notably has developed and overseen many housing and food assistance programs over the decades and is currently leading the Love N Kindness Community Development Corporation to provide to homeless veterans in the metropolitan Detroit area. His service shows a clear commitment to community development and prosperity, with a specific focus on the underprivileged and disenfranchised.

Bishop Hicks has proven his love and compassion both with his congregation and with the greater community, and this experience will serve as a great wealth of knowledge and opportunity to lead in this new role. Please join me in celebrating Bishop Zachary N. Hicks in honor of his elevation to Bishop at the Historic First Jurisdiction of Michigan, Northeast.

**FRONT RANGE COMMUNITY COL-
LEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE**

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the team

from Front Range Community College on becoming one of twelve finalists for the National Science Foundation's Community College Innovation Challenge (CCIC). This program asks small teams of U.S. community college students, alongside a faculty or administrator advisor, to craft innovative Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)-based solutions for real world problems. The CCIC is meant to encourage and highlight innovations by students coming out of two-year institutions that are typically underrepresented in the areas of STEM. Finalist teams will participate in an Innovation Boot Camp, which will provide immersion in the thinking, skills, and tools that help transform innovation into entrepreneurship. I congratulate all of the competition's participants for their work on a variety of important projects.

The team at Front Range tackled challenges associated with oil spills through their innovative Orca method. Inspired by the unique feeding style of whales, the Orca Oil-Separating & Bio-Filtration Vessel deploys a new method of cleaning oil spills that is both inexpensive and quick. Oil spills have tremendous environmental and economic costs, particularly on local communities, and I applaud the Front Range team for their work on this important issue.

I congratulate the Front Range team and their faculty advisor for their success. I applaud these students for their dedication to this important project and their leadership and commitment to STEM education, blazing a path for our country's future leaders and innovators. I am proud of the work Front Range Community College does every day and I look forward to seeing what the school and these students accomplish in the years to come.

**RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
BRANDON GRISSOM**

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Brandon Lyle Grissom, an honorable family man and devoted citizen throughout the luka community. Mr. Grissom exemplifies the true definition of honor and selflessness, and brought joy to all he came encounter with.

Brandon was a devoted member to luka First United Pentecostal Church as he served as the Children's Pastor and was a part of the board. A firefighter for over 25 years and was the Tishomingo County District One Supervisor, Mr. Grissom served the ones around him remarkably.

I am deeply grateful for genuine and serving citizens like Brandon Lyle Grissom, and my thoughts are with the people who loved him most.