

Paul's story begins in Rwanda, the country of his birth. Nearly three decades ago, he was serving as assistant general manager of a luxury hotel in Kigali, Rwanda, when the Rwandan genocide began.

The genocide, which led to the deaths of an estimated 800,000 people over a 3-month period, targeted mostly members of the ethnic Tutsi minority. Paul is a member of the Hutu majority, but he was determined not to see his Tutsi countrymen die on his watch.

As genocidal killing squads roamed through Rwanda, Paul sheltered more than 1,200 people in his hotel, saving their lives.

In the aftermath of the genocide, Paul and his family received asylum in Belgium and later moved to San Antonio with the help of the late Texas Senator Bob Krueger, an international leader in the fight against genocide. In 2005, President George W. Bush presented Paul with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian honor.

Since the 1994 genocide, the Government of Rwanda has made tremendous strides in economic development and stability. However, the country's government is still plagued by corruption, abuse of power, and human rights issues that amount to violations of international law—including enforced disappearances.

At home and abroad Paul Rusesabagina has used his voice and elevated platform to call attention to the need for change in Rwanda. In response, the Rwandan Government launched an extraordinary campaign of persecution against him.

In August 2020, Paul was extrajudicially transferred from Texas to Rwanda by way of the United Arab Emirates and arrested on trumped-up charges.

The Rwandan Government did not acknowledge his detention for 3 days, during which he was reportedly subject to torture. In September 2021, Paul was found guilty and sentenced in a trial that the European Union described as "marred by numerous violations of his fair trial rights."

He is a cancer survivor who lives with serious cardiovascular issues, and Rwandan authorities have not provided him with the care he needs in prison.

I have my children here on the floor with me, and my heart breaks for Paul's family who can only speak to him once a week for 5 minutes. It is long past time for Rwanda to release Paul and allow him to come home to San Antonio.

My colleagues and I on both sides of the aisle have raised our concerns previously. In December 2020, we sent a bipartisan, bicameral letter to Rwandan President Paul Kagame urging him to release Paul on humanitarian grounds. We spoke out about the way Paul was taken against his will to Rwanda, which for all intents and purposes was a kidnapping by the Kagame regime.

In June 2021, my colleagues and I wrote to Secretary of State Antony

Blinken urging him to use all diplomatic means at his disposal to ensure Paul's safe return to the United States.

We are not the only ones who are concerned.

Last year, the American Bar Association Center for Human Rights issued a report that found Paul's right to confidential communication, his right to the presumption of innocence, and his right to prepare his defense have all been violated.

In October 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution denouncing Paul's illegal arrest. The resolution strongly condemns the conviction, which it said was "exemplary of the human rights violations in Rwanda."

Paul is a permanent resident of the United States, and we must work just as hard as our European allies to bring him home.

In May, the State Department announced its determination that Paul was "wrongfully detained," noting that "The determination took into account the totality of the circumstances, notably the lack of fair trial guarantees during his trial."

I appreciate the support of the State Department, which has been working with Paul's family and the Congress on this issue. I am especially pleased that Paul's case is now under the purview of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, Ambassador Roger Carstens.

Rwanda's President Kagame wants to be seen as a global leader and a reliable partner to the United States, including on issues including climate change. But Paul's unlawful detention is a blight on Rwanda's international reputation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, to support this resolution.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution offered by Representative CASTRO and myself. I want to recognize Paul's family, especially his wife and children, who have tirelessly advocated for his release.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Rusesabagina's history and circumstances as a war hero wrongfully detained and denied adequate medical care is one that we cannot ignore. Congress must stand with Paul Rusesabagina's family who have not wavered in championing his legacy and calling attention to his plight to call for his immediate release and return to the United States on humanitarian grounds.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank Chairman CASTRO for his leadership on this resolution. I urge all my colleagues to join us by voting in the affirmative, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 892, a reso-

lution calling on the Government of the Republic of Rwanda to release Paul Rusesabagina on humanitarian grounds.

The Rwandan genocide is considered one of the deadliest and most brutal tragedies in the history of humankind. In just 100 days, more than 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were systematically assaulted, raped, and slaughtered by the Rwandan and Interahamwe militaries. And except for a few peacekeeping forces, the international community at large refused to get involved—leaving any resistance efforts to come from within the country.

That's when Paul Rusesabagina stepped in. As the manager at a hotel in the capital city of Kigali at the time, he was credited for housing and feeding more than 1,200 Tutsi and Hutu refugees during the genocide. He knew that the consequences of his efforts would put both himself and his family in danger, but he still chose to help his people in their greatest hour of need.

Now, the Rwandan government has convicted, detained, and reportedly tortured Mr. Rusesabagina on charges stemming from a trial that the State Department and American Bar Association considered unfair and irreparable. He has also been denied the medical attention required as a cancer survivor and individual suffering from a cardiovascular disorder.

By passing this resolution, the House of Representatives will join several other international democratic bodies to express concern over his conviction and call for his immediate release. We will also urge the United States Government to continue to raise awareness about Mr. Rusesabagina's case and convey our support to his friends, family, and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Rusesabagina's story reminds us that hope can be found even during our darkest days. I would urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 892, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2022.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a scanned copy of a letter received from Mr. Keith Ingrain, Elections Director, Texas Office of the Secretary of State, indicating that, according to the preliminary results of the Special Election held June 14, 2022, the Honorable Mayra Flores was elected Representative to Congress for the Thirty-Fourth Congressional District, State of Texas.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHERYL L.JOHNSON,
Clerk.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
ELECTIONS DIVISION,
Austin, Texas, June 15, 2022.

Hon. CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. JOHNSON: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, for Representative in Congress from the 34th Congressional District of Texas, show that Mayra Flores received 14,780 or 50.98% of the total number of votes cast for that office.

It would appear from these unofficial results that Mayra Flores was elected as Representative in Congress from the 34th Congressional District of Texas.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by all counties involved and certified by the Governor of Texas, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

KEITH INGRAM,
Director of Elections.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE MAYRA FLORES, OF TEXAS, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlewoman from Texas, the Honorable MAYRA FLORES, be permitted to take the oath of office this evening.

Her certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to her election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the Texas delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise her right hand.

Mrs. FLORES appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of

the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 117th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE MAYRA FLORES TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, central to the preservation of our democracy is recognition of the results of fair elections you lose just as much, if not more, than the elections which you win. Tonight, we welcome to this Chamber a new Member and recognize a fairly won Republican victory in my home State for the 6 months remaining this year in the term of our recent colleague, Filemon Vela, who resigned.

MAYRA FLORES was born and raised in Tamaulipas, Mexico. She came legally to the United States at 6 years old with the help of her father and became a naturalized American citizen.

MAYRA graduated in 2014 as a respiratory care practitioner and currently works caring for those with chronic respiratory issues. With Latino Texans bearing a very disproportionate burden from the pandemic, she has been on the front lines combating COVID. She graduated from South Texas College, and her husband serves as a Border Patrol agent. Mayra will be the first Mexican-born woman to serve in the House and the first Hispanic Republican woman to serve in our Texas delegation.

She ran a very vigorous campaign. I congratulate her on her success. I see that she brings a beautiful family to our Chamber. I look forward to working with her this year.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), who is the senior Texas Republican in my Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, on this day in 1788, the United States Constitution was ratified making that remarkable document the law of this land, and it began with those immortal words: “We the People.”

So 234 years to the day after that call to create a more perfect Union, the U.S. House of Representatives makes history today with the inspiring swearing in of the first Mexican-born Member of Congress, MAYRA FLORES of Texas.

There is so much to be impressed by with MAYRA. She was born and raised with humble beginnings in Burgos, Mexico. From a young age, her parents and grandparents raised her with

strong conservative values of faith, family, and hard work.

She came legally to the United States at 6 years old, and with the enthusiastic help of her father, she became a proud, naturalized American citizen. Growing up, MAYRA worked alongside her parents in the cotton fields in Memphis, Texas, to earn extra money for school supplies and clothes. With the support of her family, MAYRA graduated as a respiratory care practitioner and has worked ever since to care for the elderly and the disabled.

She did serve on the front lines helping patients combat COVID-19 and remains every day an active member of her community in south Texas. She remains a firm believer in the American Dream—it is a dream she is living—and will always fight so that others can achieve it, as she has.

A proud wife and mother of four, her husband serves as a Border Patrol agent in the Rio Grande Valley working to protect our country during an unprecedented border crisis.

So on behalf of the entire Texas delegation, please welcome with me to the United States Congress the Honorable MAYRA FLORES, her husband John, and their four beautiful children.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. FLORES).

Mrs. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give a voice to the voiceless and to say that the people who live and work in south Texas have had enough. We want to be heard, and we are tired of being treated like second-class citizens.

I was born in Burgos, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and raised with strong values to always put God and family first. My father, Saul Flores, moved us to the United States because of the promise of America. He told me that in this country, if you work hard, you can accomplish anything. My story proves he is right.

But right now our people are struggling. They are taken for granted. That ends now.

I am here. I have risen from working in the cotton fields to representing the community I love in the United States Congress. And I will give them a voice. I will use it to say: Our lives are not a game. Our people deserve to have opportunity, security, and freedom, and I will work every day to give it to them.

I am a proud Border Patrol wife and a mother of four young children fighting for a better future for them and for all our children.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath of office to the gentlewoman from Texas, the whole number of the House is 430.

INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SYSTEMS CYBERSECURITY TRAINING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DEUTCH). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule