

Bahá'í community in any country in the world. The Bahá'í International Community at the United Nations Office in Geneva published The Bahá'í of Iran—A Persecuted Community, which revealed that since the current regime took power in 1981, over 200 Bahá'ís have been executed, and more than 10,000 have been dismissed from government and university jobs on account of their religion.

In the last year, the persecution has intensified, resulting in grave human right violations. The number of arrests of Bahá'ís has only increased, and even included that of a 90-year-old man who had previously served 10 years in prison. The Bahá'í center of faith is in the city of Haifa, Israel, which the Iranian government uses as a pretext to classify Bahá'ís as Israeli spies and execute them for committing the spurious crimes of conspiring with the "Zionist regime".

Although the Iranian government persecutes all who are not Shi'a Muslims, since Bahá'í are accused of heresy and group apostasy, they are singled out for particularly savage repression. The Iranian government has denied them access to universities and even in some cases, prohibited them from graduating high school, while also consistently denying Bahá'ís the opportunity to open and own businesses.

In 1982, the Iranian government seized the Bahá'í cemeteries and holy places—and only over ten years later did it allocate them a 20,000-square-meter plot of land in which to bury their dead. As time has passed, that small parcel of land no longer suffices—and finding a place to bury loved ones has become a daunting task. Reportedly, government agents are stationed at the entrance of the cemetery to prevent visitation, and the government has taken control of the buildings used for burial ceremony activities.

In September 2023, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) reported that "Iranian authorities have arrested scores of Bahá'ís across Iran, taken them to locations that were initially undisclosed, and sentenced them to excessive jail terms as the government has attempted to restrict internal dissent in response to protests."

Mr. Speaker, it is sad to say that neither in respect of human rights of the Bahá'í or in any other respect has the government of Iran reformed or even improved its human rights record. But Congress has remained firm in their support of the Bahá'í. Since 1982 Congress has repeatedly passed resolutions expressing support for the religious freedom rights of the Bahá'í's in Iran.

The Iranian government must stop the arbitrary arrests of members of the Bahá'í community. We must continue to speak out and hold the government accountable for the destruction of life and property belonging to people of Bahá'í faith.

ALI ALCALA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ali Alcala for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Ali has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Ali, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Ali's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Ali Alcala on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING CORTEZ POLICE
SERGEANT MICHAEL MORAN

HON. LAUREN BOEBERT

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life, sacrifice, and service of Cortez Police Sergeant Michael Moran, a true American hero who laid down his life in service to our great country and to his community. Sergeant Moran was fatally shot during a traffic stop on November 29, providing a tragic end to a life of great dedication and service.

Sergeant Moran answered the call to serve our nation as a Marine for nine years, including two tours in Iraq, before joining the Cortez Police Department in 2012. His life was marked with selflessness, courage, and love, always putting others before himself. He was a man of honor, and his presence was a source of hope and encouragement to all. His smile lit up even on the toughest days. He was known for his integrity and his mentorship of the officers who looked up to him, instilling in each of them the value of trust. Those close to him say they will remember him for his humor and dedication to serving his community. Sergeant Moran was a respected leader and a true friend, always ready to lend an ear or offer words of encouragement. While Sergeant Moran's passion was law enforcement, his top priority was always his family, and his passing tragically leaves behind two daughters and countless friends and family.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Moran was an incredible gift to this world and a shining example for all Americans. He touched countless lives and was a blessing to everyone who had the honor of knowing him. His career was marked with an unwavering willingness to put everything on the line in service to our nation and the safety of his community. I urge all Americans to join me in honoring Cortez Police Sergeant Michael Moran for his selfless sacrifice and service to his fellow Americans. Sergeant Moran dedicated his life to serving others. His passing is an immeasurable loss for us all, and he was the best that Colorado's Third Congressional District had to offer.

RECOGNIZING THE JACKSONVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MILITARY LOUNGE

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when I'm traveling to and from my home in Florida, it al-

ways lifts my heart to see men and women in uniform at the airport. We have all seen those incredible videos . . . the moment when a deployed service member comes home to the loving embrace of a child or a spouse. Mr. Speaker, tell me you don't get choked up when you see one of those videos. Our Nation's armed forces are full of heroes who go where duty calls, and so, whether headed to deployment, or making their way home, you are know they are defending our great freedoms.

That's why today, I stand before you to recognize the new Jacksonville International Airport Military Lounge. This is a place where service men and women can feel at home, even when they are headed for a long road ahead.

This home away from home for active-duty military includes all the amenities of home, and a very special display of the flags of all branches of the military, and the POW/MIA flag, to remember those who may never come home again.

This Military Lounge is a reality due to the dedication of the North Jacksonville Rotary Club, the Veterans Council of Duval County, the NE Florida Green Beret Chapter 88 of the U.S. Army Special Forces Association. Several other veterans-civic-governmental organizations assisted in recruiting volunteers to staff the lounge.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the Jacksonville International Airport on the grand opening of their new Military Lounge and thank them for their ongoing efforts to help our veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

ANGEL NOEMI RODRIGUEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angel Noemi Rodriguez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Angel has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Angel, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Angel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Angel Noemi Rodriguez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR FRANK KUNTZ

HON. KIM SCHRIER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the public service and accomplishments of Mayor Frank Kuntz, who for the past 12 years has served as the Mayor of Wenatchee, Washington.

Upon entering office, Mayor Kuntz inherited an incredibly difficult situation, as the city faced dire financial challenges. Thankfully, Mayor Kuntz, an accountant by trade, put his professional expertise to good use and worked with Republicans, Democrats, and Independents to restore Wenatchee's financial standing. Moreover, Mayor Kuntz's effective, thoughtful leadership has allowed the city to expand and invest in several development projects that have helped the local infrastructure and economy.

It has been a true pleasure to work with Mayor Kuntz over the past 5 years. His North Star has always been how best to serve the people of Wenatchee. We have shared this goal and worked together in a bipartisan manner to finally make the Apple Capital Loop a reality. Mayor Kuntz and I have also worked together to address crime and the fentanyl epidemic, prevent catastrophic wildfires, and support agriculture, rural economies, and local healthcare. I will miss serving alongside Mayor Frank Kuntz but will continue to cherish our friendship. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING DR. DOCK J. AND
CARRIE THOMAS JORDAN

HON. VALERIE P. FOUSHÉE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mrs. FOUSHÉE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of two civil rights leaders and educators, Dr. Dock J. Jordan, and Carrie Thomas Jordan, who helped shape the education system in Durham and Alamance counties, leading the way for future generations in North Carolina.

Dr. Jordan, the son of a former slave, persevered in a deeply segregated environment in rural Georgia. Despite attending just three months of school yearly, Dr. Jordan graduated high school, and later from Allen University in 1892. During his time at Allen University, Dr. Jordan would go on to receive his law degree, eventually passing the bar in South Carolina in 1892 and in Georgia in 1904.

Following stints as the Professor of Literature at Morris Brown College, Dr. Jordan co-authored, "An Appeal for the Colored Schools in the State of Georgia" with W.E.B. Dubois in 1901 to appeal to the white Georgia legislators and defeat a bill that would close one-half to two-thirds of Black public schools in the state. This was an important step towards highlighting gaps in education, as only 15 percent of public-school property was owned by Black schools, despite 48 percent of the school population being represented by Black children.

In 1917, Dr. Jordan was placed on the United States watchlist when the Raleigh Independent published his letter criticizing President Woodrow Wilson's administration. The letter explained the brutal treatment of African Americans during the 1917 East St. Louis Riots and accused President Wilson of disregarding the feelings and rights of African Americans and not valuing them as humans. This letter would resonate deeply within the African-American community and placed a further spotlight on the mistreatment of Black Americans at the time.

Dr. Jordan's academic career would continue until 1939, serving as the President of Kitchens College in North Carolina from 1902 to 1912. From 1912 to 1920, he served as the director of the Teaching Training Department at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro. And from 1918 to 1939 Dr. Jordan was a professor and the chair of the history department at State Normal School in Durham, now known as North Carolina Central University.

Dr. Jordan's wife, Carrie Thomas Jordan, was as equally dedicated towards advancing African-American education. Growing up in a family with deep ties to educators, Carrie Jordan uniquely emphasized spelling, geography, and nature study during her time as a school administrator. Mrs. Jordan served as the superintendent of colored public schools in Durham and is credited with the construction of twelve new schools, as well as hosting the first commencement exercises in Durham County for African American students.

Mrs. Jordan's new commencement tradition for Durham County's African-American schools became a key pillar for the local community. The county commencements were a time that the Black community could gather and celebrate their achievements, academic or otherwise. Carrie Jordan would later note that these academic achievements were proof to both the Black and White communities of the strength, potential, and resilience of the Black community.

The accomplishments, progress achieved, and contributions to African American students by Dr. Dock J. Jordan and Carrie Thomas Jordan should not go unnoticed. The Jordans were educational powerhouses, contributing immensely to the advancement of African American education in Durham County, Alamance County, and what is now North Carolina's 4th District, as a whole.

BELEN ANGUIANO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Belen Anguiano for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Belen has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Belen, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Belen's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Belen Anguiano on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING
LEGISLATIVE CAREER OF
RANDAL L. GAINES

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman and dear friend, Randal L. Gaines. He is a product of St. James Parish, a parish I serve in Congress. Gaines has distinguished himself as an attorney, public servant, and military leader. He formerly served as a tax attorney for the Internal Revenue Service, Assistant City Attorney for the City of New Orleans, and Associate Director of the Criminal Justice Department at Southern University Baton Rouge. He has played key leadership roles in some of the most significant military actions and crises in this nation's history. While serving as a captain with the 159th MASH, one of the first military units to enter Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, Gaines coordinated the evacuation of over 300 wounded American soldiers from the combat zone. Lt. Colonel Gaines was also awarded the Louisiana Cross of Merit for leadership and bravery in coordinating the rescue and evacuation efforts of over 30,000 evacuees from the Louisiana Superdome during Hurricane Katrina. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Gaines served as Military Advisor and Medical Support Coordinator for Task Force Orleans. Gaines also served on the Southern University Board of Supervisors. He serves as Vice Chairman for Elected Officials for the Louisiana Democratic Party.

In November 2012, Gaines was elected as Louisiana State Representative, District 57. During that term, Gaines was elected with the highest winning percentage of all the State Representative and Senate races in Louisiana. He recently served on a significant Black Entrepreneurship Panel member during the City of Birmingham's Empowerment Week, honoring the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing.

During the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)'s celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, Gaines was awarded SCLC's National Chairman's Award for his leadership and dedicated service to the organization and for being a primary factor in why the organization continues to effectively advance the cause of civil rights and social justice. SCLC was founded and led by Dr. Martin Luther King, with membership that included Jessie Jackson, Ambassador Andrew Young, Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, Joseph Lowery, and many other notable civil rights leaders. He was recently appointed to the position of Vice Chairman of SCLC's National Board. Randal has three children who are his life, Randal Jr., Ariel, and Brienna Gaines.

Louisiana and the Democratic Party were blessed to have this incredible gem in Baton Rouge fighting to make our State a better place. I am proud to say I was able to work alongside him through many challenges throughout my political career in state government, respecting the guidance and support he continues to give. I will forever carry his direction as I serve the Constituents of LA-02.