

82nd Airborne Division; Commander, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division; Deputy Commander-Support, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia; and Commander of Train, Advise, Assist Command-South and Kandahar Airfield while deployed as part of OPERATION FREEDOM's SENTINEL.

His previous staff and special assignments include Platoon Leader, Scout Platoon Leader, and Battalion S-1 in the 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division; Platoon/Company/Battalion Observer/Controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center; C3 Training Officer, 82nd Airborne Division, at Fort Bragg and deployed as part of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM; Operations Officer, 2nd Battalion 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment; Operations Officer, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg and deployed as part of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM; Aide-de-Camp to the Commander, U.S. Army Forces Command and subsequently the Commander, International Security Assistance Force, North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Deputy Director, Soldier for Life, Executive Officer to the Secretary of the Army; and the Chief, Programs Division, Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Army.

MG Bredenkamp's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, four Legions of Merit, four Bronze Stars, six Meritorious Service Medals, five Army Commendations, and five Army Achievement Medals. He is authorized to wear the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Combat Action Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Ranger Tab, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

He holds a Master of Liberal Arts from Louisiana State University and a Master of National Security and Strategic Studies from the National War College. He has been happily married to MG Michele Bredenkamp for more than 26 years, and they are proud parents of two children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the Floor during today's roll call vote (No. 251) on H.R. 3099, the Special Envoy for the Abraham Accords Act. I strongly support this legislation, which builds upon President Trump's important work toward greater stability between the State of Israel and other countries in the region, and would have voted in support of it had I been present,

CELEBRATING STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 75th an-

niversary of the creation of the Stockton East Water District. Over the past 75 years, the Stockton East Water District has played an integral role in supporting our region's agricultural industry and providing San Joaquin families with clean drinking water. On the 75th anniversary of the District's establishment, I'm honored to recognize its incredible level of commitment to our community.

The Stockton East Water District was formed in 1948 under the 1931 Water Conservation Act of the State of California. From 1948 to 1963, the District focused on water resource planning by evaluating groundwater conditions and determining requirements for supplemental water, but have since expanded their focus. In 1971, District boundaries were expanded to include the entire Stockton urban area. Stockton East Water District supplies not only surface water, but also develops sustainable groundwater for both urban and agriculture usage in San Joaquin County. The Central Valley's reputation of being the "food basket of the world" likely would not be without the Stockton East Water District's pivotal role in supporting our community's agricultural industry.

For decades, Stockton East Water District has also worked to protect and develop local habitats. The District partnered with the United States Army Corps of Engineers in 2001 to complete the Farmington Groundwater Recharge and Seasonal Habitat Study. The study was awarded the American Society of Civil Engineers Water/Environmental Project of the Year in 2003 and the San Joaquin Council of Government Regional Excellence award in 2004 for the establishment of 60 acres of recharge ponds and fields adjacent to The Dr. Joe Waidhofer drinking water treatment plant.

As we've seen over the past year, flooding has become a major issue in our community. Yet, in the face of this challenge, the Stockton East Water District has continuously worked day and night with local agencies and constituencies to redirect flood flows from the Calaveras and Stanislaus Rivers. Their constant perseverance in the face of new challenges reiterates the fundamental role that Stockton East Water District fulfills in San Joaquin County.

I am honored to recognize the Stockton East Water District for their service and commitment to San Joaquin County's water supply and congratulate the District for a successful 75 years.

CELEBRATING MRS. DESSIE RADU'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Dessie Radu of Bedford, Texas in celebration of her 100th Birthday.

Mrs. Dessie Radu is a valued member of the Bedford community who has bettered the lives of countless people throughout North Texas. Whether she is spending time with her large family, catching up with lifelong friends, or talking with someone she doesn't know yet, there is no doubt that she leaves a lasting impression on everyone she meets. Dessie spent years traveling the world with her hus-

band, Major (Ret) John Radu II, as he served our Nation for 24 years in the United States Air Force. Following in his father's footsteps, Dessie's son John Radu II served 4 years in the United States Air Force and was a Vietnam veteran. Today, we come together to recognize the 100 years Dessie has spent with us, and the impact that she has and continues to make on our lives.

Mr. Speaker, please join me—and Dessie's many family, friends, and loved ones—in recognizing Dessie and wishing her a happy 100th birthday.

VOTE AGAINST H.R. 3099, THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR ABRAHAM ACCORDS ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address my vote against H.R. 3099, the Special Envoy for Abraham Accords Act.

The Abraham Accords fails to address the plight of millions of Palestinians who are working to build a peaceful future and who have been abandoned by Congress and the broader international community. Peace in the region can only be achieved by respecting human rights, especially the rights of children. By turning a blind eye to the ongoing mistreatment of Palestinian children living under Israeli occupation, Congress only contributes to the continuation of injustice.

I include in the RECORD my June 2016 letter to then-President Obama urging him to appoint a Special Envoy for Palestinian Youth to encourage diplomatic engagement with the Government of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and human rights groups in the region to address the serious human rights abuses that have been well documented against Palestinian children who are living under Israeli military occupation.

I believe no U.S. military aid to Israel should be used to enable or support the military detention and torture of Palestinian children. The demolition of Palestinian homes, or the annexation of Palestinian lands. The American people expect that all children, including Palestinian children, are treated with dignity and have their human rights respected. If the United States is to play a role in ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, we must end human rights abuses against Palestinian children.

My calls for a Special Envoy for Palestinian Youth have gone unanswered.

Enabling an ambassadorial level of U.S. representation for a Special Envoy for the Trump-era Abraham Accords, while ignoring the need for a Special Envoy for Palestinian Youth, is an affront to all those seeking to end the human rights abuses of Palestinian young people living under military occupation. Peace in the region will only be possible if we build a brighter future for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Therefore, I voted no on H.R. 3099.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, June 20, 2016.

President BARACK OBAMA,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: We are deeply appreciative of your administration's efforts in

pursuit of a negotiated peace to end the violence and settlement expansion that are the hallmarks of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict will certainly continue to require American leadership, for the foreseeable future any move to advance the peace process is in the hands of Prime Minister Netanyahu, President Abbas, and their respective governments.

Regardless of the manner in which Israeli and Palestinian political leaders decide to act upon their common future, a reality that must be acknowledged is that forty-six percent of the 4.68 million Palestinians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are under 18 years of age. These children deserve to grow up with dignity, human rights, and a future free of repression.

This enormous youth cohort represents another generation of Palestinian children growing up under military occupation with very few opportunities to improve their lives. These children live under the constant fear of arrest, detention, and violence at the hands of the Israeli military, as well as the threat of recruitment or conscription into armed groups. We view this as an unimaginably difficult and at times hopeless environment for children that only fuels the conflict.

The recent attacks against Israelis, including those perpetrated by Palestinian youth, are profoundly disturbing and must be condemned. These attackers are often using crude weapons knowing they will likely be killed by Israeli security forces. Appropriate measures must be taken by security forces to defend themselves and innocent civilians. At the same time, the root cause of such violent acts must be examined and understood within the context in which they are taking place. Does a life of utter hopelessness and the collective psychological trauma associated with the Palestinian people living for decades under Israeli military occupation directly contribute to the violence?

The people of Israel have a right to security and we support U.S. policies which advance Israel's security. We also strongly believe that human rights—including the human rights of Palestinian children—must be protected and promoted, never ignored. As far as U.S. policy is concerned, we should expect an Israeli child and a Palestinian child to receive equal treatment from the authorities and the legal system. If in fact we are truly seeking security for Israel then it is in the interest of the American people to advance the cause of security, human rights, equality, dignity, justice, and opportunity for Palestinians, just as we do for Israelis.

We must raise our profound concern regarding a longstanding policy of detaining, interrogating, and imprisoning Palestinian children as young as 12 and 13 for up to a year, sometimes longer, without a trial and in violation of international standards. Recently, the Associated Press reported that a 12-year-old Palestinian girl was imprisoned by Israel's military justice system. UNICEF, Human Rights Watch, B'Tselem, and other international NGOs have documented these human rights abuses against Palestinian youth. A report released in April by Defense for Children International-Palestine, based on the testimony of 429 Palestinian children detained by the Israeli military or police, found that three-quarters endured some form of physical violence following arrest. Israeli interrogators used position abuse, threats, and even solitary confinement to coerce confessions from some of these children. Such blatant abuses are unacceptable and contrary to U.S. interests and values.

The situation on the ground is rapidly deteriorating and we must act now. At the end of February, there were 440 Palestinian chil-

dren in Israeli military prisons. This is the highest number since data became available from Israel Prison Service in 2008. For the first time in nearly four years, Israel has reintroduced the use of administrative detention against children. This is a procedure whereby a child can be detained without charge or trial, often renewable indefinitely. According to the most recent data from the Israeli Prison Service (February 2016), there were seven Palestinian children being held under administrative detention orders.

Mr. President, we believe the U.S. has a critical role to play in shaping the environment for peace between the people of Israel and the Palestinian people. Palestinian youth is one of the most critical demographic groups to building a secure future. We must act now to send a clear signal that we value their lives and well-being.

Therefore, we urge you to appoint a "Special Envoy for Palestinian Youth" to travel to the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Israel to hear directly from Palestinian youth, human rights and legal experts, NGOs, Palestinian and Israeli officials, including police and military leaders. Such a fact finding mission will provide the Obama Administration with vital information necessary to actively promote human rights, but also establish a framework for the next U.S. administration. Both Israel and the Palestinian Authority have obligations under universal human rights norms and international human rights instruments for which they are accountable and a "Special Envoy for Palestinian Youth" will serve the important role of highlighting their respective successes and the shortcomings that demand action.

We are also calling on the Department of State to elevate the human rights of Palestinian children to a priority status in our bilateral relations with Israel and our ongoing engagement with the Palestinian Authority. The immediate appointment of a "Special Envoy for Palestinian Youth" will send a strong signal that truly reflects the spirit of your administration's tenure in the White House. Conversely, ignoring the trauma being inflicted on millions of Palestinian children undermines our American values and will ensure the perpetuation of a conflict and occupation we all want to see ended peacefully.

Sincerely,

Betty McCollum, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Andre Carson, John Conyers, Earl Blumenauer, Donald Beyer, Barbara Lee, Keith Ellison, Henry "Hank" Johnson, Bobby Rush, Marcy Kaptur, Chellie Pingree, Danny Davis, Peter DeFazio, Raul Grijalva, Sam Farr, Luis V. Gutierrez, Jim McDermott, Yvette Clarke, Mark Pacon, Members of Congress.

REPORT (H. REPT. 118-108) TO ACCOMPANY H. RES. 495 AND REPORT (H. REPT. 118-102) TO ACCOMPANY H. RES. 463

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee report (H. Rept. 118-108) to accompany House Resolution 495 should have included in its waivers of all points of order against consideration of H.R. 277 and H.R. 288 a disclosure of the following violation:

Clause 2(h) of rule XI, requiring a majority of the committee to be present to report a measure or recommendation.

Further, the Rules Committee report (H. Rept. 118-102) to accompany House Resolution 463 should have included in its waivers of all points of order against consideration of H.R. 277 and H.R. 288 a disclosure of the following violation:

Clause 2(h) of rule XI, requiring a majority of the committee to be present to report a measure or recommendation.

HONORING JOHN DAVIS HIBBARD AND WILLIAM ROBERT HIBBARD

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Davis Hibbard, a special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 48, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years, John has earned numerous merit badges and served in several leadership roles, including as Senior Patrol Leader of his Troop. Through his Eagle Project, John has made a significant contribution to the community in building a garden for the Marin City Senior Center.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to recognize the efforts of John's older brother, William Robert Hibbard, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 48, and earning in 2021, the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William was very active with his troop. Over the many years that William has been involved, he has earned numerous merit badges, and served in several leadership roles, including as Senior Patrol Leader of his Troop. Through his Eagle Project, William made a significant contribution to his community in building seating and storage boxes for Westminster Presbyterian Church of Tiburon.

I am honored to recognize both John Davis Hibbard and William Robert Hibbard for their accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for their efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinctions of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RONALD F. "RON" RICHARD OF JOPLIN, MISSOURI

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of former State Senator Ronald F. Richard of Joplin, Missouri, also known as Ron, or Ronnie, to his closest friends. Sadly, Mr. Richard passed away this past Friday morning.

Senator Richard was born in Parsons, Kansas, on Independence Day in 1947. He moved to Joplin as a child and subsequently graduated from McAuley High School in 1965. He