

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

went on to earn Bachelor of Arts degrees in history and political science from Joplin's Missouri Southern State University in 1969, and a Master of Arts degree in recent American history from Missouri State University in Springfield in 1971.

Senator Richard's first foray into politics began in 1990 when he was elected to the Joplin City Council. He was named mayor of Joplin in 1994, a position he held until 1997. In 2002, Senator Richard was elected to represent the 129th District in the Missouri House of Representatives. While serving in the House, he was elected by his colleagues in 2009 to serve as Speaker of the House.

In 2010, he ran to represent Missouri's 32nd Senatorial District, which at the time consisted of Newton, Jasper and Dade counties. He held that position from 2010 to 2018, when he termed out under Missouri's term limits law. While there, he was elected by his peers as President Pro Tempore, a leadership position he held from 2015 to 2018. Senator Richard is the first legislator in Missouri history to serve as the top leader in both chambers of the Missouri State Legislature.

Senator Richard's life of service did not end with his retirement from the legislature. He was appointed by Missouri Governor Mike Parson to the Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors, a position he held at the time of his death. He also served on the board of the Missouri Higher Education Savings Program and continued to be active in local and state politics.

In December 2022, he was honored as a Missouri Squire, a non-profit organization that honors Missourians for their accomplishments at the community, state, or national level, that was founded by Gov. James T. Blair in 1960. He also was named an outstanding alumnus by Missouri Southern State University, received an RCGA Statesman Award, and also received the St. Louis Business Journal Legislative Award.

Senator Richard owned C & N Bowling Corporation. He and his wife, Patty, have two children, Kara and Chad, and several grandchildren.

It is an honor and a privilege to have known Senator Richard and to have had him as a constituent. He exhibited a life of service, and we mourn his untimely death. Our prayers are with his wife, Patty, and the rest of his family and friends.

HONORING THE 2023 NBA
CHAMPION DENVER NUGGETS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues, Congressman DOUG LAMBORN, Congressman KEN BUCK, Congressman JOE NEGUSE, Congressman JASON CROW, Congresswoman LAUREN

BOEBERT, Congresswoman BRITTANY PETERSEN and Congresswoman YADIRA CARAVEO, to congratulate the Denver Nuggets on their first-ever NBA championship.

After an impressive 53 wins in the regular season and a historic run through this year's NBA playoffs, the Nuggets—led by five-time NBA All Star Nikola Jokic—defeated the Miami Heat on Monday night in Denver to clinch the team's first-ever NBA championship.

It's a moment that Nuggets fans, including myself, have been dreaming about since the franchise started in 1967, and I couldn't be more proud of everyone associated with this historic team on achieving what many thought was impossible.

For more than 56 seasons, Nuggets fans have been cheering our team to victory. While we've had no shortage of talent and victories over the years, this is the first time that Denver can now officially call itself home to the NBA champs.

After a spectacular regular season, the Nuggets were able to clinch the top seed in the NBA's Western Conference for the first time in franchise history. The team then went on an incredible run, beating the Minnesota Timberwolves in the first round of the playoffs 4 games to 1; eliminating the Phoenix Suns in the second round 4 games to 2; and then sweeping the Los Angeles Lakers 4 games to none to win its first-ever Western Conference championship.

It was the first time the Nuggets had ever beaten the Lakers in a playoff series, the first time they had ever swept another team in the playoffs, the first time they'd ever won the Western Conference Championship, and the first time they'd ever have a chance at hoisting the coveted Larry O'Brien trophy in the Mile High City.

Led by Nikola Jokic and Jamal Murray, that's exactly what the Nuggets did this week. After a hard-fought series against the Miami Heat, the Nuggets clinched the franchise's first-ever championship trophy on Monday.

It was a fitting finale to a historic championship run. Just days earlier, Nikola Jokic and Jamal Murray made history of their own in Game 3 when the pair became the first NBA teammates ever to record 30-point triple-doubles in the same game during an NBA Finals. They were also the first pair of teammates to ever record a combined 300 assists during the playoffs, and the first pair to score a combined 1,000 points in a single postseason.

Nikola Jokic, who was named MVP of the final series, recorded more triple-doubles in this year's postseason than any other player in NBA history. He's the first player to lead the league in all three major statistical categories during the playoffs: points, rebounds and assists; the first center, since Shaquille O'Neal, to lead his team in scoring while winning a championship; and only the second player in NBA history to average more than 30 points and 8 assists while winning an NBA title, a feat that, before now, had been accomplished by only one other player in NBA history—and that was Michael Jordan.

Like so many Denverites, I couldn't be more proud of what our Nuggets have accomplished this year—and how, under the leadership of their visionary coach Mike Malone, they were able to put teamwork over personal gain to bring one of the Nation's most coveted prizes to the Mile High City.

As Coach Malone said right after Monday night's historic victory, "I got news for everybody out there. We're not satisfied with one, we want more!"

We couldn't agree more—and we can't wait to see what this incredible team does next.

RECOGNITION OF EUNICE BRINSON

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly represent Ohio's 13th District, the birthplace of champions.

I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Eunice Brinson and extend my deepest and sincerest condolences to the friends and family who knew and loved her.

Eunice was a hardworking and caring individual, who dedicated her life to the Lord. Born to Samuel and Minnie (Warthen) Fort in 1919 in Davisboro, Georgia, Eunice was also the child of Joseph Johnson. She first attended the Little Pine Hill Methodist Church in Georgia, where she sang in the choir. Eunice then went on to be a member of the United Baptist Church for over 70 years, during which time, she served on many committees, including Senior Usher Board, Mission Society, and repast Committee. At her death, she was the oldest living member at United Baptist Church.

Eunice worked for 25 years at Mechanical Industries as a Welder and Trainer until her retirement. She then decided to go back to work as a housekeeper for several families. Eunice lived a full life and in her 103 years on this earth, she enjoyed activities such as fishing, cooking, gardening, and bowling.

Eunice is preceded in death by her loving husband, JK Sr.; brothers Walter, Will, Cleveland, Remus, and Pierce; sisters Gozilla, Daisy, Annie Mae, Carrie Mae, Elizabeth, Sally, Mattie, and Susie; and several other nieces, nephews, cousins, daughters-in-law and brothers-in-law. She leaves to cherish her memory her children, JK Jr., Gregory, Anthony (Clara), William Sr. (Mike), and Connie; 22 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild, as well as many friends.

Though her presence is truly missed, her memory will live on through the people she influenced and the family she deeply loved. Thus, with deepest sympathy, I mourn the loss and pay tribute to a truly phenomenal individual, Eunice Brinson. May her memory be a blessing.