

After completing their training at Fort Fisher in late February of 1942, the 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion of the Regiment were ordered to Fort Cronkhite in San Francisco, California. Until April of 1944, these two battalions rotated along the Central Coast shoreline batteries and manned the coastal artillery weapons at Point Pinos Lighthouse in Pacific Grove shortly after Pearl Harbor Attack on December 7, 1941.

Additionally, many soldiers of the 54th were former Negro Baseball League players. While stationed in Pacific Grove, the soldiers formed a community baseball league. They named it the Twilight League because all the lights in the seaside town were turned off at sunset for increased security from the Japanese.

On April 19, 1944, the 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion were relieved from duty on the Western Defense Command as the threat of Japanese attacks on the West Coast diminished.

Although they have since disbanded, the legacy and influence of the 54th Regiment lives on in the memory of our Central Coast communities. Many troops returned to the Central Coast after the Allied Powers emerged victorious and were active, integral members of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the U.S. Army's 54th Coast Artillery Regiment in honor of their lasting impact on the Central Coast and our Nation's history. We are forever grateful for their service and bravery in World War II and in the defense of our coastline. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

CELEBRATING THE BONANZA CASINO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 2023, the Bonanza Casino in Reno will celebrate its 50th anniversary. In anticipation of this major milestone, I would like to highlight the contributions this family operated business brings to our community and recognize the leadership of one of its original owners and current partner, Russ Sheltra.

The Bonanza Casino is one of Northern Nevada's most successful gaming properties, but its beginnings were quite humble.

As a student at the University of Nevada, Russ Sheltra worked at the local Food King. After graduating with a degree in business, Russ bought the Food King with no formal contract—just an agreement etched out on the back of a napkin. Russ turned the Food King into his V&T Market.

In 1973, he made the decision to transform the V&T Market into the Bonanza Casino when another supermarket was built across the street. The casino thrived, quickly becoming a favorite for locals. Today, the casino has nearly 400 slot machines and two successful restaurants.

Russ's son, Ryan, now works alongside his father in the family business. Both Russ and Ryan believe in the importance of giving back to the community that has given them so much.

For the past 22 years, the Bonanza Casino has provided multiple \$1,500 college scholar-

ships to graduating students at North Valleys High School.

Additionally, the Bonanza Casino supports the mission of the Prostate Cancer Foundation by hosting the "Cruisin' for the Cure" car show, a fundraiser to raise money for prostate cancer research. To date, the Sheltra family and Bonanza Casino has donated over \$165,000 to the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, as the Bonanza Casino celebrates its 50th year of operations, I want to thank Russ Sheltra for his lifetime of commitment to Northern Nevada, and this Nation. His ingenuity and dedication serves as an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KAYE T. GOOLSBY

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy but grateful heart, I rise to recognize the life of Kaye Goolsby. Kaye was not only a political giant in the state of Texas; she was also a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and dear friend to so many, including me.

One of my first supporters, Kaye helped propel me to public service, and she always inspired me to be the best representative I could be for the people of Texas. Originally from Louisiana, she and her family moved to Katy, Texas, in 1977, where they have lived for more than 45 years. And Kaye certainly earned her title as a Texan, holding dozens of leadership roles in the state and helping to advance many Texans to prominent government positions. In 2011, she was honored as one of the Top Ten Republican Women in Texas. Kaye also faithfully supported her local school district, Katy ISD, and selflessly served at First United Methodist Church.

There simply aren't enough words to describe Kaye's contribution to her community, the state of Texas, and our country. No matter what new task she took on, she remained grounded by an unwavering belief in the importance of freedom, faith, and family.

She will be deeply missed by her husband of 48 years, Gary Goolsby, her son Greg and his wife Christie, and her grandchildren, Preston and Avery.

The last words I said to her were, "I love you, Kaye." The fact is: Everyone she touched loved her as well. While we mourn this tremendous loss, we also take comfort in knowing her impact will live on for generations.

RETIREMENT OF DARLA SIDLES, ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and retirement of Darla Sidles, the first female Superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park.

For the last seven years, Darla has been in charge of managing and supervising all oper-

ations within Rocky Mountain National Park—the Nation's fourth busiest national park—an area I am lucky to represent in the United States Congress. Rocky Mountain National Park surpassed 4 million visitors for the first time the year before she took over, and it has exceeded 4 million almost every year since.

Darla has helped Rocky Mountain National Park navigate unprecedented challenges like record levels of visitors, the global pandemic forcing a closure of the park in 2020, and then another closure of the park that same year as a result of Colorado's two largest wildfires ripping through Rocky Mountain and burning about 10 percent of the park. Through it all she remained dedicated to improving and protecting our treasured public lands.

Darla has served at the National Park Service for 34 successful years. She has been a trusted and valued partner to my office and to the Town of Estes Park. We are sad to see Darla go, but wish her a happy retirement.

CELEBRATING ROB STOKER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of the president of the Building Trades Council of Alameda County and longtime member of Sheet Metal Workers Local Union No. 104 (Local 104), Rob Stoker, on the occasion of his retirement after over 30 years of service on Saturday, July 1, 2023.

A lifelong resident of the Bay Area, Rob grew up in Castro Valley and graduated from Castro Valley High School in 1982. Rob's career in sheet metal began when his father, Wayne, signed him up for a class at Laney Community College. Upon completing his sheet metal apprenticeship in 1989, Rob began working at the Monterey Mechanical Company in Oakland, moving his way up from a journeyman to a division manager.

Rob is a proud Local 104 member. He has served as a part-time instructor for the union's apprenticeship programs and as Local 104's executive board officer. Rob was elected as Local 104's union business representative in 2006, where he found his passion for recruiting future unionized sheet metal workers.

Rob has remained a fierce advocate for all trade workers throughout the Bay Area in his roles as Local 104's political and public relations director and then eventually assumed the role of president of the Building Trades Council of Alameda County. He has negotiated countless project labor agreements, including with large Bay Area municipalities, major transit agencies, federal government bodies, and nonprofit agencies.

More specifically, Rob's advocacy efforts helped pass CA Assembly Bill 841 in 2020, creating the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program providing funds for schools to test and assess HVAC systems and supporting unionized labor.

For over 30 years, Rob has dedicated his career to the industry and the men and women that work within it. He has remained an integral part of the building trade community in the Bay Area, and I am sure he will be missed at both Local 104 and the Building Trades Council of Alameda County. I wish him

well-deserved rest and relaxation, filled with quality time with Christine, his wife of 34 years, and his children Will, Lane, and Natalie as he enters this new chapter.

UNITED STATES-TAIWAN INITIATIVE ON 21ST-CENTURY TRADE FIRST AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4004, the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade First Agreement Implementation Act.

This bill expresses the approval of Congress for the June 1, 2023, agreement regarding trade between the United States and Taiwan.

The bill also imposes requirements on the negotiations of certain further trade agreements between the United States and Taiwan.

The bill also imposes requirements on the negotiation of further agreements under the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade, such as requiring the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to:

(1) share any U.S. negotiating texts with Congress prior to sharing the text with Taiwan or any parties outside of the executive branch.

(2) share any negotiating texts from Taiwan within three days of receipt, and

(3) provide daily briefings to certain Members of Congress during negotiating rounds.

A further agreement shall not take effect unless

(1) the President, at least 60 days before entering into the further agreement, makes the text publicly available on a USTR website; and

(2) a bill is enacted into law expressly approving the further agreement.

The United States and Taiwan signed a first agreement under the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade, announced in June 2022.

The initial 2022 agreement aimed to streamline customs procedures, help smaller businesses navigate the regulatory procedures in both markets, and prevent corruption.

This agreement is not a formal free-trade agreement that regulates tariffs, but rather aims to strengthen U.S.-Taiwan trade ties amid heightened tensions.

Taiwan and the United States have maintained commercial ties since 1979.

Although the United States does not have diplomatic relations with Taiwan, we maintain a strong unofficial relationship that must continue, and H.R. 4004 will allow the United States to do such that.

REVEREND DR. PAULSON RAJ SANGALA: A TESTAMENT TO FAITH, RESILIENCE, AND SERVICE

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today. I am privileged to rise in this esteemed

chamber to speak about a man of incredible faith, resilience, and dedication, the Reverend Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala. Born on March 7, 1973, in the humble village of Bheemaram, Telangana State, India, Dr. Sangala's life is a testament to overcoming adversities and committing oneself to a life of service.

The son of a mason and a school attendant, Dr. Sangala grew up amidst financial challenges after his family lost their wealth due to his grandfather's alcohol addiction. Despite these hardships, his spiritual zeal led him to regular Bible study and prayer. His faith would be tested further when he lost his father at a young age, taking on the family burden as the eldest son. When a mysterious illness left him bedridden, Dr. Sangala found solace in his faith, and it was this faith that carried him through his healing and ultimately led him to his calling.

In 1991, Dr. Sangala began his ministry in a small hut following a vision he received during prayer and fasting. Starting with one woman receiving healing from cancer, the ministry steadily grew, bringing the Gospel and the healing power of Jesus Christ to many. This was the beginning of a remarkable journey that would see Dr. Sangala overcome opposition and adversity to serve his community and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, the culmination of Dr. Sangala's journey is the Christ Jyoti Church, inaugurated recently in a grand ceremony attended by pastors and devotees from all over the world. Built on 11 acres of land and capable of hosting an impressive 40,000 people, the Church, with its vast prayer hall and four towers named Moses, David, Peter, and Dr. Paul, is a testament to Dr. Sangala's vision, faith, and years of dedication.

Beyond the grandeur of the Church, Dr. Sangala's work in his community is truly astounding. His organization runs a Bible College and operates 500 churches in different cities and villages. It has commissioned over a thousand pastors for the ministry, prepared a thousand prayer warriors for continuous offering of prayers, and provides spiritual comfort and guidance to thousands through various prayer services, gospel meetings, and media outreach.

Dr. Sangala's life journey serves as a poignant reminder of the transformative power of faith and service. His story shines brightly as a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration, demonstrating how adversities can be converted into opportunities for serving others. His extraordinary path from a small village in India to the founding of a Church that serves thousands testifies to his unwavering faith, unyielding dedication, and his steadfast commitment to his divine calling.

As we stand here in this chamber, dedicated to service and leadership, let the story of Dr. Sangala remind us of the profound impact that unwavering faith, resilience, and dedication to service can have on our communities.

Mr. Speaker, may we carry his spirit of service, resilience, and dedication in our hearts as we continue to serve our constituents and our great Nation.

NEW RISE OF ASSAD

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, recently, Syrian President Bashar Al Assad was invited back into the Arab League after 12 years of being in exile.

I can't tell you how incredibly frustrating and disappointing this is to many, particularly the innocent people of Syria who have endured more than a decade of war, murder, and torture.

Assad's readmittance to the Arab League sends the wrong signal.

It sends the signal to the rest of the world that his atrocious war crimes against his own citizens over the past twelve years are acceptable.

A recent Reuters article had the headline Arabs bring Syria's Assad back into the fold, but want actions, action on the drug trade.

Well that's rich, because the only reason there is an epidemic in the drug trade in the Gulf and the region, is because of Assad.

Assad turned Russia and Iran to maintain his death machine, and now the Captagon drug trade, led by his cousins, led by his military, providing an independent source of funding for his regime while he poisons his neighbors and takes their money and fuels terrorism in the region.

And yet he's invited back to the Arab League meeting.

It's preposterous.

My bill that passed last year's National Defense Authorization Act was called the Captagon Act and requires the U.S. Government to develop a multilateral and all of government approach to disrupting and dismantling the production of the Captagon drug right in the heart of Syria.

Recently, the Treasury Department along with our ally the United Kingdom, took steps to sanction key actors in Assad's inner circle who are producing and trafficking Captagon.

This is a good step, but it's months late Mr. Speaker

It's in the right direction of disrupting and dismantling the trafficking networks associated with this illicit drug.

But it's just a good start, and it comes years after we know the deadly impact of Captagon in the region, on families, but also fueling of terror by Assad through the billions of dollars transferred from that illicit trafficking.

So it's critical that governments across the globe to continue to show their support for the Syrian people by denouncing those who seek to normalize relations with the repulsive regime, granting Assad admittance to the Arab League once again sends the opposite message, it rewards barbaric behavior.

The United States government has an obligation to sanction Assad in our efforts to dismantle the Captagon drug trade and hold Assad accountable for his war crimes.

And that's why I'm pleased this week to co-sponsor the Middle East Subcommittee Chairman JOE WILSON's new bill H.R. 2302, The Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act.

This bill was passed this week unanimously in the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Congress will act where this administration has continuously failed to consistently do so.