

MARKING THE 1000TH DAY OF  
JIMMY LAI'S IMPRISONMENT BY  
THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

**HON. JAMIE RASKIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2023*

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, this week marked the one thousandth day of imprisonment of one of Hong Kong's 1,648 political prisoners: Jimmy Lai, a hugely successful businessman, owner of Hong Kong's major newspaper, and a freedom fighter for the people of Hong Kong. His "crimes" that have landed him in a maximum-security prison at age 75? Supporting pro-democracy protests and publishing the truth about the Chinese Communist Party's creeping authoritarian takeover of Hong Kong.

I have begun the process of adopting his case as a "prisoner of conscience" with the Tom Lantos Commission on Human Rights and I urge all colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, to adopt a political prisoner, a religious prisoner or some other prisoner of conscience in this time of terrifying global crackdown on human rights and free expression.

Jimmy Lai recognized that a free press that reports the facts is essential to democracy and a free society. He founded one of Hong Kong's most reputable papers in 1991, Apple Daily, in reference to the Garden of Eden's fruit of knowledge. One of the paper's original mottos was "an apple a day keeps the liars away." Jimmy Lai's newspaper continued to report the facts as Hong Kong citizens from all walks of life—led by thousands of courageous young people—demonstrated for their freedom and against Beijing's repressive "National Security Law" in 2019.

It is for this principled defense of truth and common sense in a civil society that Mr. Lai has been unjustly detained by China's authoritarian expansion into the free city of Hong Kong. According to the Hong Kong Democracy Council, a human rights organization, Jimmy Lai is one of 1,648 Hong Kongers who are political prisoners today. This staggering number—reached after just four years—puts the once-free Hong Kong on the same plane as countries like Belarus and Myanmar. Everyday Hong Kongers who dared to dream of a democratic future are instead languishing in detention. They await trial and sentencing before a hyper-politicized judiciary executing a twisted facsimile of Hong Kong's traditionally independent, common law court system.

Jimmy Lai was first arrested in August 2020 as one of the first targets of the repressive "National Security Law" imposed by mainland China. He has since been arrested numerous times, charged with everything from collusion with foreign powers, to so-called "unauthorized assembly," to alleged fraud. Many of his fellow political prisoners in Hong Kong face charges that are similar affronts to a free society.

The reactionary movement against democracy is global, which is why our movement to defend democracy is also global. I salute the courageous activists, like Jimmy Lai, who refuse to bend to the brutal forces of fear and authoritarianism. Whether they live in Washington, D.C. or Hong Kong or Moscow or Kyiv, everyone should have the right to determine

their own destiny. I stand here today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in solidarity with Jimmy Lai as he marks his one thousand and first day as a political prisoner. Please join me in acting in solidarity with Jimmy Lai and demand his immediate release and freedom from the Chinese government.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2023*

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen matter, I was not present for six votes yesterday evening. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 489, NAY on Roll Call No. 490, NAY on Roll Call No. 491, NAY on Roll Call No. 492, NAY on Roll Call No. 493, and NAY on Roll Call No. 494.

RECOGNIZING THE MERITORIOUS  
SELFLESS SERVICE BY MID-  
SHIPMAN SECOND CLASS MADISON  
O'DONNELL

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2023*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Midshipman Second Class Madison O'Donnell who decisively acted with the valor while saving a gentleman in peril when attending the United States Naval Academy in June 2023.

While driving near Santee Basin Dock, Maryland, Midshipman O'Donnell heard cries for help and halted her vehicle. Upon locating the distressed individual, she quickly ran towards the dock to rescue a gentleman who appeared to be drowning.

Midshipman Madison O'Donnell aptly assessed the situation and proficiently deduced that a severe laceration was impeding the gentleman from pulling himself to safety. Without hesitation, she rescued the drowning man by pulling him out of the basin.

Rerieved from the danger of drowning, Midshipman O'Donnell calmed the gentleman and administered first aid treatment. She then drove him home to his family who expressed immense gratitude for her meritorious and selfless assistance.

In recognition of this act of valor, Colonel James P. McDonough, USMC, 89th Commandant of Midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy, awarded Midshipman Second Class Madison O'Donnell the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for professional achievement in the superior performance of her duties as a midshipman on September 8, 2023.

As the member of the U.S. House representing Midshipman O'Donnell's hometown of Greenfield Township, Pennsylvania, and the Member responsible for nominating her to the United States Naval Academy's Class of 2025, I am proud to celebrate Midshipman O'Donnell's admirable act of heroism.

Midshipman Second Class O'Donnell's actions, dedication to duty and the preservation

of life reflect great credit upon herself, our community in Northeast Pennsylvania, the United States Navy, and the nation. I am confident that she will have an exemplary career in service to our Nation, and I look forward to sharing in her successes in the future.

RECOGNIZING SHARON  
LEDBETTER

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2023*

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sharon Ledbetter of Colfax, WA for her selfless service and the incredible impact she has had on the lives of veterans and their families in Eastern Washington.

In 2009, Sharon was instrumental in organizing the Lewis Clark Quilts of Valor, the Eastern Washington region's local branch of the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Her goal was simple and honorable: Award servicemembers and veterans with hand-made quilts that recognize the bravery and sacrifice of our heroes, in the hopes of providing comfort and healing now that they have returned home.

As the wife of a Vietnam-era Air Force veteran, Sharon understood these Quilts of Valor can be lifesaving for veterans. That's why, for the last 14 years, she has organized countless Sew Days, taught quilting classes, and raised financial support from local businesses and veterans' groups. Under her leadership, the group has grown to 60 members and honored more than 3,000 veterans with high-quality quilts to recognize their dedication and sacrifice to our country.

Each Quilt of Valor is dedicated to the veteran it was made for with their name, service branch, and era of service sewed on, making them an incredibly personal gift of recognition and honor. The quilts—many of which Sharon made herself—are then presented at beautiful ceremonies that have been known to move even the most stoic veterans to tears. Thanks to Sharon, these presentations are now conducted by volunteers and members across Eastern Washington and North Central Idaho.

Mr. Speaker, Sharon Ledbetter is a truly remarkable woman who deserves recognition. As she enters her retirement, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating her tremendous work and tireless dedication to the veterans in the greater Eastern Washington region. The profound impact she has had on our communities and the veterans in them will not soon be forgotten.

TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO RYAN  
MARTIN

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2023*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD's (GCISD) Director of Facility Use, Ryan Martin.

A star athlete at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO), Ryan Martin brought his talent and dedication to helping others to North

Texas when he joined GCISD faculty 25 years ago. Since then, he's taught and coached students across several schools in GCISD, including Vista, Grapevine High School, and Colleyville Middle School, working as a special education teacher, history teacher, principal, interim principal, and head wrestling coach before becoming the Director of Facility Use.

Recently, Ryan had the distinction of being inducted in the University of Central Oklahoma's Athletics Hall of Fame, one of just 172 individuals in school history to earn the honor. Ryan wrestled for UCO from 1989 to 1994, becoming a national champion and two-time All-American. He won 91 matches in his 4-year career, including 30 bonus-point victories, qualified for nationals three times, and was a two-time regional champion.

I'd like to congratulate Ryan on his induction into the University of Central Oklahoma's Athletics Hall of Fame.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2023*

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on September 28, 2023, I missed Roll Call vote No. 406. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 466, H.R. 4665 (Amendment No. 17).

#### RECOGNIZING GOLDIE SIMPSON

### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2023*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Ms. Goldie Simpson, a lifelong Detroit resident and "Rosie the Riveter," as she celebrates 100 years of life.

Born in 1923, Ms. Simpson was a bright student who studied business after she graduated from Detroit's Northeastern High School. After the outbreak of World War II, she directed her energies toward the cause of bolstering our nation's economy and morale by taking on work that had previously been performed by men who had been called up to military service. She was one of the hundreds of "Rosies" who contributed so much during a dark time for our Nation and the world, providing critical labor during a time of need.

Ms. Simpson found true joy in her family. She married the love of her life, Elmore Simpson in 1949, and together they raised 9 children. Ms. Simpson embodies the spirit of generosity. She has continued to be an engaged member of the community, whether as a neighborhood mother who looked out for all of the children in her neighborhood or as an active member of her community in faith. Ms. Goldie Simpson embodies the grace, strength, and resilience of Detroit.

Please join me in wishing Ms. Goldie Simpson, a happy 100th birthday as we recognize her contributions to our country and to our community in Detroit.

#### RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE PANCRETAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2023*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pancretan Association of America (PAA) on the ribbon cutting ceremony of their first ever National Headquarters in the greater Washington, D.C. region in Bethesda, Maryland. As a proud Greek American and Co-Chair of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, it is an honor to acknowledge the PAA's work in recognizing and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the island of Crete around the world.

Founded by descendants from Crete, for over 90 years the Pancretan Association of America has been a cornerstone of the Greek-American community, striving to promote the historical significance of Crete, while honoring the cultural and historically Greek values of philoxenia and philotimo. Through its wide array of programs, the PAA promotes the longstanding Hellenic values of education, philanthropy, civil responsibility, and individual excellence. The PAA reaches out to Cretans of all ages and offers programs that strengthen their understanding and recognition of their culture, allows them to enjoy and preserve their heritage, and share it with others. These programs include many social, cultural, and educational activities that encompass Cretan culture, and scholarships that empower Cretan students to continue their education and become effective and responsible citizens.

The Pancretan Association of America's mission to celebrate Crete's historical place in the Hellenic world is critical now more than ever with the ever-expanding relationship between the United States and Greece. I know that I would not be who I am or where I am today without my upbringing in a Greek family, which was so focused on serving others. Through hard work, determination, and the support of the Greek-American community supporting him, my great-grandfather founded what would become our family restaurant, the Puritan Backroom. 106 years later it remains in our family, and the values that my great-grandfather lived by still guide us today. These shared values bind our two nations and our communities together, and I applaud PAA's role in highlighting and furthering those values for generations to come.

I congratulate the Pancretan Association of America on the opening of their first ever National Headquarters. This event marks a significant milestone in their history and is an important step towards the cultural preservation of Crete's heritage, strengthening the ties between our communities, and further solidifying the relationship between the United States and Greece.

#### AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

SPEECH OF

### HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 26, 2023*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4368, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024. This bill falls woefully short of adequately investing in important programs and policies that support the American people.

The bill's provisions targeting low-income women, infants, and children are especially concerning. The insufficient funding included in H.R. 4368 jeopardizes access to food and critical services for low and moderate income pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children by drastically underfunding the program and undermining science-based WIC food benefits. This is especially concerning as the country continues to face an infant and maternal health crisis.

For over 25 years, there has been a bipartisan commitment to provide sufficient WIC funding to serve all eligible applicants and maintain the longstanding no-waitlist commitment—until now. The House agriculture appropriations bill purports to fund WIC at \$6 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, but the bill also demands a \$500 million rescission in a later section. Realistically, the bill only funds WIC at \$5.5 billion. This is \$800 million below the President's budget request for FY 2024 (\$6.3 billion) and \$185 million lower than the level of funding made available in FY 2023 (\$5.685 billion).

Last month, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) outlined the need for an additional \$1.4 billion in Fiscal Year 2024 funding for WIC due to a significant increase in participation this fiscal year with a total of 6.7 million women, children, and infants being served by the program as of June. OMB has warned that without additional funding, participants could see disruptions in benefits. To prevent any disruption to a program crucial to supporting new parents and young children, it is vital that WIC funding be increased to align with projected participation and food costs as the process moves forward. Under the funding levels included in the House agriculture appropriations bill, up to 600,000 eligible new parents and children—including 11,600 Virginians could be turned away from the program.

While WIC participation is increasing, this bill also drastically cuts WIC's increased science-backed fruit and vegetable benefits for roughly 1.5 million pregnant and postpartum participants and 3.5 million children aged one to four. The bill reduces the monthly fruit and vegetable benefit from \$25 to \$11 for child participants, from \$44 to \$13 for pregnant and postpartum participants, and from \$49 to \$15 for breastfeeding participants. Current benefit levels ensure that participating women and children have access to recommended levels of fruits and vegetables, thus improving health outcomes and program retention. Pre-pandemic benefits of \$8 for children and \$11 for