

But no one took the risk because all that was going to get the Big 10 back alive was hope and a whole bunch of money, until Dr. Lester Shaw stood in the parking lot of the Big 10 and saw it not for what it was—quite frankly, a place where more pigeons lived than anything else—but for what she could be again.

In 2007, Dr. Shaw bought that building. Quite frankly, his wife was pretty nervous about it, thinking what in the world. But Brenda Shaw knows her husband Lester well, and when he got an idea, she knew it must be from God and it was going to turn out OK because he was going to be tenacious enough to get it done.

You see, Dr. Shaw and Brenda Shaw—by the way, both doctors now, so it is Dr. and Dr. Shaw—the two of them have for the last 23 years committed every second of their spare time to thousands of kids in Greenwood. They run a ministry after school called A Pocket Full of Hope, and a Pocket Full of Hope teaches arts, music, photography, videography.

They invest in the lives of students in that area, and for the last 23 years as they have mentored kids after school—brace yourself—they have helped 100 percent of those kids graduate from high school, not a single one of them hasn't finished high school.

They traveled all over the country, including right here to Washington, DC, to be able to perform music, but they never really had a place to perform. They really never had a place that was their own. In this location, where they have about 350 people a year who come through to be able to be mentored by Pocket players—those who have gone through Pocket Full of Hope in the past and those who are helping—and for Lester Shaw and his leadership, those folks have made a remarkable difference in the community.

Dr. Shaw, in 2007, saw the Big 10 for what she could be again and, last weekend, what she is again.

There is live music again at the Big 10. I was listening to it last weekend as it came alive, and you couldn't imagine how beautiful the inside of that building is, as the community and different groups have all invested dollars and lots of sweat and blood and tears to be able to bring it back again. And when you drive down Apache now, you see the Big 10. You see, Black history is not all ancient history. Black history in America and Black history in my State is still going on right now because people like Lonnie Williams, who set a path for my State and my community decades ago—that baton is being picked up by folks like Dr. Lester Shaw, and they are doing remarkable work to help thousands of students.

So, for me, I was honored to sit and listen to live music in the Big 10. And if anybody is traveling through Tulsa, I would encourage you to swing down Apache and hear live music in the same place where B.B. King and James Brown and Ray Charles, Tina Turner,

Count Basie, and Fats Domino sang, the place intended to be able to hear history come alive.

By the way, Big 10 is not called the Big 10 anymore. Now they call it the Historic Big 10.

We are living out history right now, and I am grateful for the Williams family and the legacy they have left and what Dr. Shaw has picked up. God bless them in the work, and we are grateful for what they have done in the past.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### REMEMBERING OSWALDO PAYA

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise today to honor the memory of Oswaldo Paya, who would have celebrated his 71st birthday this week. His memory and his story have been an inspiration to dissidents across the world, and I would like to briefly retell it here today.

Oswaldo Paya was a dissident and a democracy activist in Cuba with unrelenting passion and dedication. He was someone who stood up against the Castro regime at very direct risk to his own life. He had incredible courage. He spoke up for human rights. He spoke up for free speech. He spoke up for democracy.

Eleven years ago, Oswaldo Paya was murdered. On July 22, 2012, Paya left his house with three other people to go visit friends. From the start of their journey, their car was followed. On the way, the Cuban police drove Paya's car off the road and killed him. The crash is widely believed to have been orchestrated by the Castro regime.

Paya had long been a thorn in the side of the Castros, even from a young age. He was the only person at his school who had refused to join the Communist Youth. As a teenager, he publicly opposed the communist crackdown on protesters in Czechoslovakia who were fighting for freedom, and he was punished with 3 years in prison.

Paya went on to found the Varela Project, which sought a referendum on Cuba's communist system. Their demands were simple: democratic government, religious liberty, freedom of expression, and the freedom to start businesses. Paya managed to get 11,000 signatures to petition the government to hold a referendum, and eventually 20,000 people supported the referendum. Twenty thousand people risked their lives by standing with Oswaldo Paya for freedom. But the Cuban Government refused to hold a referendum.

Paya's fight for freedom made him a target repeatedly of the Communist Party in Cuba. They harassed him, tried to intimidate him, and arrested him numerous times. And in 2012, they killed him.

Paya's friend and the driver of the car said that when he awoke after the crash, he was confronted at the hospital by a government operative, and the hospital was flooded with uni-

formed military personnel. Under extreme duress, drugged, and threatened with death by government officials, he signed a confession that directly contradicted what he knew to be true—that the communist regime had just murdered Oswaldo Paya.

I have met multiple times with Oswaldo Paya's daughter, Rosa Maria, who is an incredible, courageous, powerful leader in her own right, and we have discussed ways we can continue her father's fight for justice in Cuba. One of the things I have done is I have filed legislation to rename the street in front of the Cuban Embassy in Washington, DC, "Oswaldo Paya Way." Renaming the street in front of the Cuban Embassy would send a powerful message to the communist regime.

During the Cold War, President Reagan followed this very same strategy. He renamed the street in front of the Soviet Embassy "Sakharov Plaza" after the famed human rights dissident in the Soviet Union. It was part of a broader strategy to call out the evil regime. My strategy is the same here.

Some people may think a street name is not that big a deal, but think about it for a moment. If you change the street name, it means anyone who wants to write to the Cuban Embassy will have to write Oswaldo Paya's name. If you need to go there, you will have to look up the address and see the same. Tyranny exists in darkness. Oppressive regimes are terrified by dissidents. Members of the Cuban Government who deal with the Embassy will have to acknowledge that Paya existed and that this hero who was wrongfully murdered was real. They will have to say his name. There is power in saying his name.

I want to tell you another story that illustrates just how powerful this renaming strategy can be. Several years ago, I introduced legislation to rename the street in front of the Chinese Embassy in Washington, DC, "Liu Xiaobo Plaza." Liu Xiaobo was a Noble Peace laureate and democracy activist in China who was wrongfully imprisoned there. My bill ended up passing the U.S. Senate 100 to nothing. Every Senator, Republican and Democrat, agreed with that bill. Sadly, even though it was a Democrat Senate at the time, the Republican House failed to take up the bill, so it didn't pass into law.

But here is an epilogue to that story. At the beginning of the Trump administration in 2017, I was having breakfast with Rex Tillerson, the new Secretary of State. We were at Foggy Bottom at the State Department. We were talking about China at one point, and he said he had just had a meeting with his counterpart, the Foreign Minister of China. He said the Foreign Minister came out and said the Chinese Communist Government has three top priorities in foreign policy, and Rex kind of shook his head.

He said: Ted, it is the damndest thing. One of their top three priorities is to prevent your bill to rename the

street in front of their Embassy from passing.

I will tell you what I told Rex that morning. At the time, Liu Xiaobo had passed away. He had never collected the over \$1 million that he was entitled to for winning the Noble Peace Prize. But his widow, Liu Xia, was still in China. China would not let her go.

I told Rex: You go back to China, and you tell them the following. If they release Liu Xia, if they let her go, I will stop pressing to pass this bill. But if they don't, I will continue pressing to pass it, and we will succeed. I have already passed it 100 to nothing in the U.S. Senate, and the next time, we are going to get it passed in the House as well and get it passed into law.

Just a few weeks later, communist China released Liu Xia. She was able to receive the prize money for the Noble Peace Prize and escape the oppression of communist China.

This story speaks volumes about the weakness of a tyrannical regime, just how vulnerable they are to sunshine, to

truth, to transparency, to being called out.

Renaming the street in front of the Cuban Embassy after Oswaldo Paya would shine a light and would highlight the truth about the communist regime in Cuba. It would be a powerful tool in bringing down the machinery of oppression there.

We saw not long ago thousands of Cubans taking to the street, fighting for liberty. The Cuban people should know the American people stand with them against tyranny and against the communist oppression, the poverty, the misery, the death under which they live every day, and it would be a powerful tool to bringing down the machinery of oppression in Cuba in the non-violent way that Oswaldo Paya so powerfully championed.

This Congress, I am very hopeful that my bill to rename the street in front of the Cuban Embassy "Oswaldo Paya Way" will be passed by both Chambers.

Oswaldo Paya fought for a free Cuba—Cuba libre—built on human de-

centy, on human rights, where citizens are heard, not murdered by their government. Let's come together, Democrats and Republicans, to honor Oswaldo Paya. Let's come together and force the communist regime to say his name.

I yield the floor.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:11 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 10 a.m.

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CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate March 1, 2023:

THE JUDICIARY

MARGARET R. GUZMAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS.