

CONGRATULATING RICHIE
DEMARIA, SR.

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Richard DeMaria on having May 20, 2024, officially being named “Richard DeMaria Day” in the Borough of Buena because of the incredible contributions he has given to the area. Richie has owned and operated the Landisville Liquor Store since 1957 and has made it an integral part of the Buena Borough by providing great service to the community as well as initiating and maintaining its economy. The Landisville Liquor Store has been a model for businesses and has set the standard for customer service, quality, and professionalism throughout the years. Leading up to starting the Landisville Liquor Store, he worked in his grandpop’s feed store and bar, and he was a very likeable young man playing three sports in high school and having many friends. After graduation, he joined the Navy and sailed around the world several times before coming back to Buena, buying the bar from his grandpop on credit and paying it off creating what we have today as the Landisville Liquor Store. Richie has risen above many challenges in his life to not only become a successful businessman, but also an outstanding role model family and local community. I thank Richie, for all he has done for South Jersey and congratulate him on a well-deserved new holiday.

God bless Richard DeMaria and God bless the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERIC
PAULSEN

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Eric Paulsen and his many contributions to our community in New Orleans and the state of Louisiana.

Eric tragically lost his battle with cancer on October 26, 2024.

For five decades, Eric kept our community informed as a local news legend, including forty years as a morning news anchor and reporter for WWL TV in New Orleans, making him one of our nation’s longest-tenured broadcasters.

For many people in Southeast Louisiana, turning to Channel 4 to hear the morning news from Eric was a part of their daily routine. For nearly half a century, Eric covered some of our region’s best and worst moments; from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and other major storms to capturing the culture of New Orleans at Jazz Fest, he was there for Louisiana families through it all. His love and passion for the New Orleans food and music scene inspired many of his stories and earned him countless friendships across the City.

Earlier this year, Eric earned the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the Press Club of New Orleans and was recognized by the New Orleans City Council for his out-

standing journalism and commitment to the city and surrounding regions.

In addition to his broadcasting excellence, Eric was also a fixture at so many charitable events around the city and should serve as an inspiration to all of us to strive to give back to this community that has given us so much.

Not only was Eric a true friend, but his professionalism mixed with witty humor and a deep love of the city of New Orleans made him one of a kind who will be irreplaceable.

Eric Paulsen was loved by all who met him and will be sadly missed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COURT IMPROVEMENT EQUITY ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Court Improvement Equity Act which authorizes grants to improve child welfare services in Guam, American Samoa, and my district, the Northern Mariana Islands.

As it stands, courts located in the Pacific territories are the only entities that do not receive support from the Court Improvement Program (CIP) under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act. In all other territories and states, the CIP provides a grant to the highest court of appeal to assess and improve the handling of foster care and adoption proceedings.

Every child, regardless of where they grow up in our country, has the right to a safe, secure, and nurturing family. My bill would enshrine this right by extending the same base grant currently available everywhere else to our islands.

The gentleman from Guam, Mr. MOYLAN, is an original cosponsor of the bill. I urge my colleagues to support this vital bipartisan legislation.

STOP TERROR-FINANCING AND TAX PENALTIES ON AMERICAN HOSTAGES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 9495, the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act.

This legislation would grant the Secretary of the Treasury the unilateral authority to suspend the tax-exempt status of any organization deemed “terrorist supporting” without due process or evidence. U.S. law already prohibits nonprofits from providing material support to terrorists. Additionally, I am deeply concerned about how this legislation could provide President-elect Trump’s incoming administration with unchecked power to cause irreparable damage to any nonprofit he deems a threat to his own political agenda. This could be disastrous for nonprofits across the country, including those doing important work in the Fourth District like Springboard for the Arts,

the Playwrights’ Center, and the Center for Victims of Torture. More than 120 civil society groups—including the ACLU, the American Federation of Teachers, the NAACP, and the League of Conservation Voters—signed a letter opposing this bill due to the potential for abuse. I include in the RECORD this letter. I stand with them, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND LEADER JEFFRIES: We write to express our deep concerns with H.R. 9495, the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act. Specifically, this bill includes the text of H.R. 6408, legislation we strongly oppose as it raises significant constitutional concerns. Because H.R. 6408 vests vast unilateral discretion in the Secretary of Treasury, it creates a high risk of politicized and discriminatory enforcement. The executive branch already has extensive authority to prohibit transactions with individuals and entities it deems connected to terrorism and nonprofit organizations are already prohibited from providing material support to terrorist organizations. In fact, it would be a federal crime for them to do so.

Moreover, we do not oppose the provisions in H.R. 9495 that relate to preventing the IRS from imposing fines and penalties on hostages while they are held abroad. Indeed, these provisions have already passed the Senate on their own, and if the House of Representatives were to pass a version of this bill that did not include the text of H.R. 6408, it could be sent immediately to the President for his signature.

Without any evidence as to the need for this legislation, H.R. 6408 authorizes broad and easily abused new powers for the executive branch. It grants the Secretary of the Treasury virtually unfettered discretion to designate a U.S. nonprofit as a “terrorist supporting organization” and to strip it of its tax-exempt status if the Secretary finds that the nonprofit has provided material support to a terrorist group, even if the “support” is not intentional or connected to actual violence.

While the sponsors of this legislation have stated that it is needed to avoid what they refer to as “time-consuming bureaucratic process” under current law, what the bill sponsors are actually seeking to avoid is fundamental due process. If this bill were to become law, the Secretary of Treasury could strip a US nonprofit of its tax-exempt status without providing the nonprofit a meaningful opportunity to defend itself before a neutral decisionmaker. The legislation further does not require disclosure of all the reasons for such a decision or the evidence relied upon to support it. Nor would the government be required to provide any evidence in its possession that might undermine its decision, leaving an accused nonprofit entirely in the dark about what conduct the government believes qualifies as material support.

The potential for abuse under H.R. 6408 is immense as the executive branch would be handed a tool it could use to curb free speech, censor nonprofit media outlets, target political opponents, and punish disfavored groups across the political spectrum. Moreover, the addition of this authority to the tax code would allow the IRS to explicitly target and harass domestic nonprofits using its investigative authority. It is also not hard to imagine a future administration using this power in far broader circumstances that have nothing to do with the

hostilities in Gaza. And as more recent congressional oversight efforts make clear, these efforts are part of concerted attack on civil society that is targeted at more than just groups involved in the campus protests regarding Gaza. The executive branch could use this authority to target its political opponents and use the fear of crippling legal fees, the stigma of the designation, and donors fleeing controversy to stifle dissent and chill speech and advocacy. And while the broadest applications of this authority may not ultimately hold up in court, the potential reputational and financial cost of fending off an investigation and litigating a wrongful designation could functionally mean the end of a targeted nonprofit before it ever has its day in court.

The lack of guardrails creates the potential for future administrations to weaponize these powers against groups on both ends of the ideological spectrum. Even if they may never be designated as “terrorist-supporting,” let alone charged with a crime, nonprofits will curtail their activities as a precaution in order to avoid stigmatizing and financially devastating punishments. That is why we strongly urge you to oppose the inclusion of H.R. 6408 in H.R. 9495.

Sincerely,

#WelcomeWithDignity, 18 Million Rising, Advocacy for Principled Action in Government, Alliance for Peacebuilding, American Atheists, American Civil Liberties Union, American Federation of Teachers, American Friends Service Committee, American Oversight, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Amnesty International USA, Anethum Global, Arab American Institute (AAI), Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, Asian Law Caucus, Aunties Coalition, Ayuda, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Borderlands Resource Initiative, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law.

Center for American Progress, Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), Center for Common Ground, Center for Constitutional Rights, Center for Democracy & Technology, Center for International Policy, Center for Media and Democracy, Center for Popular Democracy, Center for Victims of Torture, Charity and Security Network, Chinese for Affirmative Action, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), Civil Liberties Defense Center, Coalition for Civil Freedoms, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), COLAGE, Colorado Immigrant Rights, Coalition Color of Change, Community Change Action, Council on American-Islamic Relations.

DAWN, DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, Defending Rights & Dissent, Demand Progress, Democratic Messaging Project, EarthRights International, Earthworks, Emgage Action, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities, Ensaaf, Equality Federation, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Faith in Action, Food Shift, Free Press Action, Freedom of the Press Foundation, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends of Human Rights, Greenpeace USA, HEART.

Hindus for Human Rights, Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, ICNA Dallas, Immigration Hub, Indivisible, International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network, International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP), Islamic Association of The Colony, Islamic Center of Quad Cities, Just Foreign Policy, League of Conservation Voters, McKinney Islamic Association, Medical Center Islamic Society, Middle East Democracy Center (MEDC), MLFA, MoveOn, MPower Change Action Fund, Multicultural Center.

Muslim Advocates, Muslim Counterpublics Lab, Muslim Justice League, Muslims for Just Futures, NAACP, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, National Disabled

Legal Professionals Association, National Education Association, National Immigration Law Center, National Iranian American Council Action, National Lawyers Guild-Mesoamérica subcommittee, National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund, National Network of Abortion Funds, National Women's Law Center, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, New Georgia Project Action Fund, New Israel Fund, North American Indian Muslim Association, NTIC, Oil Change International.

Organization for Identity & Cultural Development (OICD.net), Othman Bin Affan Mosque, OPAWL—Building AAPI Feminist Leadership, Oxfam America, Palestine Legal, PASNY, Peace Action, Peace Appeal Foundation, Peace Catalyst International, Peace Direct, People for the American Way, People's Action, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Plus, Positive Women's Network-USA, Presbyterian Church (USA), Office of Public Witness, Project On Government Oversight, Project South, Protect Democracy, Public Citizen.

Refreshed Refined Reformed R3 Inc, Reproductive Freedom for All (former NARAL Pro-Choice America), Restore the Fourth, September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, Southern Poverty Law Center, Stop AAPI Hate, The Interfaith Center of New York, The Seed Program by Kai, Inc., The Sikh Coalition, The United Methodist Church—General Board of Church and Society, The Workers Circle, The X-Lab, Tides Center, Tides Foundation, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), US Campaign for Palestinian Rights Action (USCPR Action), Win Without War, Women for Weapons Trade Transparency, Women's March.

HONORING JAMES SCALICE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past month, it was my honor to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for an incredible young man, James Scalice. James has learned an incredible amount through the merit badge program earning 41 total badges in subjects such as Life Skills, Business, and Science. Within his troop, this young man has developed leadership skills through elected positions and has learned the value of serving his community by participating in countless hours of service to his church and community. He has displayed his love for God by earning two religious emblems including “Pope Pius the twelfth” from the Catholic Diocese of Camden. With a deep love for his country and great respect for veterans, James decided to help out the American Legion Post 28 in Absecon, South Jersey for his Eagle Scout project.

RECOGNIZING DR. MARK BOUMAN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IN CHICAGO

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the service of Dr. Mark Bouman

who is retiring this week from the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Dr. Bouman worked for the Field Museum for over 15 years, serving most recently as the Senior Environmental Social Scientist and, before that, as the Chicago Region Program Director at the Museum's Keller Science Action Center. His work focused on efforts to build better bridges between people and nature across the Chicagoland region and the urban world.

A lifelong Chicagoan who received his undergraduate degree in Geography from Valparaiso University and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Minnesota, Dr. Bouman has taught at Valparaiso, the University of Minnesota, University of British Columbia, Elmhurst College, Chicago State University, and the University of Chicago. He has received numerous awards for teaching excellence, funding for research and technical assistance projects, and authored or co-authored a myriad of peer-reviewed articles and publications.

Dr. Bouman has played a leading role in raising awareness of the incredible culturally- and environmentally-diverse Calumet region. The Calumet region is a bi-state area that spans from the Pullman National Historical Park to the Indiana Dunes National Park. It is loosely bounded by the former U.S. Steel South Works in Chicago, portions of suburban Chicago, and the Indiana counties of Lake, Porter, and LaPorte. From Lake Michigan to the Indiana Dunes to the Grand Calumet River to the Kankakee River. The Calumet is a landscape reworked for industrial use that is now undergoing vigorous restoration for recreational and educational uses to enrich the lives of its residents and visitors.

While at Chicago State University, which anchors one corner of the Calumet region, Dr. Bouman started the University's Neighborhood Assistance Center, the Calumet Environmental Resource Center, and the GIS Laboratory. He also helped establish the Lake Calumet Ecosystem Partnership and was Project Director on a map for Chicago Wilderness that serves as an important touchstone for current planning work in the region.

Dr. Bouman's many involvements in regional affairs have included serving as: President of the Calumet Heritage Partnership, where he has tirelessly advocated for the creation of a Calumet National Heritage Area; Co-Chair of the Calumet Stewardship Initiative, as a Member of the Working Group of Vital Lands Illinois; and as a Member of the Millennium Reserve Steering Committee.

In addition to his volunteer pursuits, Dr. Bouman is a huge Cubs fan with an encyclopedic knowledge of stats and history about the game overall, a community choir singer, and a train buff; one year, he was even given the chance to drive a train for his birthday. He's also one of those people who shares a lot of obscure trivia, much to everyone's delight, not just about The Calumet region but about old Hollywood movies, politics, and many other things.

Please join me in thanking Dr. Bouman for his service and extending best wishes on his retirement. I have no doubt he will continue to stay actively involved on behalf of our region.