

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MARY ESTHER
RODRIGUEZ

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the life and legacy of Mary Esther Rodriguez, who passed away on Sunday, March 10, 2024 in the town of Losoya, Texas.

Mary Esther Rodriguez was born October 4, 1944 in San Antonio, Texas. The oldest of ten children, she was a devoted wife, mother and community servant who enjoyed volunteering her time to help those in need.

As a young woman right out of high school she began working as a nurse's aide at the San Antonio State Hospital and later focused her energy as a Home Health Aide for the sick and elderly.

A woman of deep faith she began teaching religious education at 19 years of age and eventually became the Director of Religious Education at El Carmen Catholic Church in Losoya. She was moved to instill and strengthen the role of faith in the lives of children in the same manner that faith guided her life.

An active member of The Ladies of Charity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, she lived by their motto "to serve rather than be served, in humility, simplicity and charity." As a member she visited parishioners in nursing homes and the homebound, offering assistance to the poor in the community. She helped run their community service programs including the thrift store and wellness center.

She leaves behind her husband, Ramon Rodriguez, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, whom she shared a life of love, joy and many blessings over more than 57 years. She will be remembered by her daughters Rosalinda and Elizabeth, her sons-in-law Henry Macias and Estuardo Rodriguez and her most treasured grandchildren, Maria Isabella, Valencia Lael, Nicolas, Fidel, Abram, and Emilio. She will forever remain the heart of the Rodriguez family and serve as an unyielding call to charity and service for those she leaves behind.

CELEBRATING ENZO GAMBA

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2024

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Isle of Eight Flags, Fernandina Beach, Florida is home to many great things, whether it be the beaches, parks, or our pirate legacy; now we are also home to a wrestling state champion.

I rise today to celebrate Enzo Gamba, a Fernandina Beach High School Pirate from my hometown of Fernandina Beach who recently won the Florida High School Athletic Association wrestling championships.

Enzo, just like the Fernandina Beach pirates of old, went for the treasure and brought home gold. Competing in Class 1A at the 157-pound division, Enzo won the final by decision, 8–4. Not only did this victory win him a state championship, but it also capped off an undefeated season for Enzo. Fifty-four matches, Fifty-four victories.

Enzo was phenomenal all season long and winning the state championship firmly lands him on the map as one of the all-time great Pirate athletes. We are exceptionally proud of this young man.

The Pirates team, led by Coach Eric Kubatzke, brought home four individual state medals in total at the wrestling championships. All of Fernandina Beach High School, under the leadership of Principal Chris Webber, played a role in this success.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Fernandina Beach and Florida's 4th Congressional District, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in congratulating Enzo on this remarkable achievement.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE
TRI-VALLEY NONPROFIT ALLIANCE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2024

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance on a decade of uplifting and supporting Tri-Valley nonprofit organizations, as they celebrated their ten-year anniversary on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

Founded in Livermore 2014 by Kathy Young and Mony Nop, the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance has fostered support for its growing network of over 300 community-based nonprofit organizations through education, collaboration, and financial support. The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance offers educational workshops, industry-related seminars, workforce development programming, and access to a supportive professional network through their monthly meetings and networking events. To date, the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance has offered over 100 educational workshops specifically for nonprofit organizations.

The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance provides financial support through its Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund, which has given over \$380,000 in grants to more than 40 nonprofits. This financial support is crucial to help organizations carry out diverse programs to help those in need.

In June 2022, the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance opened the CommonPoint Nonprofit Center in Downtown Livermore, offering physical workspaces and offices for over 20 growing organizations and consultants.

The Anti-Poverty Collaborative is another Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance-led initiative, and yet another example of their innovative think-

ing and solutions. It seeks to eradicate poverty by bringing together leaders from nonprofit organizations, faith organizations, and elected officials to create innovative policies and solutions to create systems-level change.

With mindful guidance and leadership, Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance has become a force for good in my district. They have fostered a safe space for nonprofits, big and small, to collaborate and grow. I appreciate their work and wish them many more years of success.

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM
FOREIGN ADVERSARY CON-
TROLLED APPLICATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7521, the Protecting American from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act.

This legislation was passed out of the Energy & Commerce Committee with a remarkable vote of bipartisanship, unanimously supported 50 to 0, because our nation is facing a clear, emerging threat from foreign adversaries who have alarming access to Americans' data. Their control of communications applications gives them the ability to push disinformation and propaganda campaigns literally into the hands of 100 million Americans, including tens of millions of children.

When you download an app, you should ask yourself: Who gains access to my information? How are they tracking it? How is it being used? Does a foreign government have access to it?

With regard to TikTok, some answers are clear: TikTok is a company based in China that is regulated by its Communist government. TikTok is tracking users' location information, online activity, and interactions. It is not clear the full extent to which users' data is being used. Just last week, users were targeted and tracked, and received difficult-to-dismiss pop-up alerts. They were tracked based on their geo-location information, and pushed to call their Member of Congress, sharing a misleading message calling H.R. 7521 'the TikTok ban'.

This incident alone raises concerns about the security and safety of the American public's personal information and how it is being used. The public deserves to know about the risks to their privacy when using TikTok.

I support H.R. 7521's provision requiring parent company ByteDance to sell TikTok within six months to continue operating. This bill would also give the President the authority to protect Americans from future threats from foreign adversaries—namely, China, Iran, North Korea, or Russia—by requiring that communications applications are divested from

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

their control if they pose significant threats to our national security.

I urge my colleagues to support these protections for our national security and the integrity of our democracy.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF PINE RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2024

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pine Ridge Baptist Church in Kountze, Texas, on its 150th year of ministry to the families and residents of Hardin County.

Pine Ridge Baptist Church was chartered in 1874 by Rev. D.M. Jordan and his wife, Becky; W.J. Jordan; George B. Jordan and his wife, Sultana; Jessie Jordan and his wife, Missouri; Jordan Daniels; Rev. J.W. Teel and his wife, Milley; Mandy Jordan Shaw Cotton; Mary Jane Jordan Teel; Aletha Laird Herrington; and Thomas Laird.

Land for the new church was donated by Rev. D.M. Jordan and constructed out of rough pine lumber. In its early years, homemade benches lined the walls for seating, handmade quilts were placed on the floor so children could relax or sleep during longer sermons, and church baptisms were held in Little Pine Island Bayou. Following Rev. Jordan's death in 1906, his son-in-law, Rev. J.W. Teel, took on the role, and Pine Ridge has been led by many devoted pastors since. The church congregation has also grown exponentially over the past 150 years, with membership currently at 240 believers.

Pine Ridge owes much of its preserved history to a man named Nathan G. Jordan, who joined the church in the late 1890s. While serving as the church's second clerk, Nathan's meticulous recordkeeping is responsible for the many documents, obituaries, meeting minutes, and biographical information of the area's early settlers and church members still available today.

Over the past 150 years, the church and its congregation have been unwavering in their commitment to sharing the good news of salvation with all who seek to know God. With its long history of service and leadership to the community, Pine Ridge Baptist Church continues to uphold the ideals and traditions of its founders.

I offer my most sincere congratulations on this significant milestone and wish them continued prosperity as they keep to their mission of serving the community as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARY CONTROLLED APPLICATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 7521, the Protecting Ameri-

cans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act.

I agree with my colleagues that we must do more to protect personal information online, safeguard national security from foreign adversaries, and protect our electoral system from foreign interference, but this bill is far from the comprehensive approach our increasingly connected world needs. I also have serious concerns with the scope of the legislation and open constitutional questions about the path forward for its implementation.

Targeting only one foreign adversary-controlled application will not fully protect consumers' data in our nation. Energy & Commerce Committee Chairwoman MCMORRIS RODGERS and Ranking Member PALLONE have already advanced bipartisan, comprehensive data privacy legislation, and the Biden Administration has issued an Executive Order to Protect Americans' Sensitive Personal Data. Instead of addressing one company, as the bill we are considering today does, we could instead consider that bill or a related proposal that would improve how Americans access and control their data across all apps. The limited data safeguards in the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act are not sufficient to justify what could amount to a ban on TikTok in our country.

Civil liberties and legal experts have also raised concerns about potential constitutional questions regarding this bill. During his term former President Donald Trump issued several Executive Orders that would have had many of the same effects of this bill, but courts struck down those orders. Additionally, the state of Montana's legislation to ban TikTok and similarly prevent it from accessing application stores was recently put on hold for exceeding the authority of the state and potentially violating the First Amendment. I am also concerned that this bill limits legal challenges to just the first 165 days after the legislation is enacted and restricts challenges to actions taken under its authority to within 90 days of their implementation. These restrictions and ongoing constitutional questions about limiting consumer choice and speech could create significant uncertainty as the bill is implemented. We should not limit opportunities for Americans to protect their rights through our legal system.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution enshrines the protection of free speech and a press free from fear of retribution from the government. Protecting this right is a cornerstone of our democracy, and one that I am committed to upholding. I encourage my colleagues to vote against this bill so we can return to the table and negotiate a more comprehensive and effective approach to data privacy.

Once again, I urge my colleagues to vote no.

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARY CONTROLLED APPLICATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, my intended vote against H.R. 7521 must not imply I do not

have concerns about cybersecurity in the U.S. but, rather, that I have concerns regarding this specific bill.

This bill's narrow focus on TikTok (which seems well-intentioned by my colleagues) overlooks the expansive landscape of U.S. cybersecurity threats. Adversaries like China unfortunately possess a multitude of channels through which they can harvest Americans' sensitive personal information. Banning a single app does not come close to adequately safeguarding our country's cyber landscape. Congress should enact a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy that fully addresses how our digital infrastructure can be compromised. Additionally, there is an urgent need for digital privacy protections. Rep. ANNA ESHOO and I introduced the Online Privacy Act that would provide far more robust digital protections for Americans than those in this bill that could result in the American ban of TikTok.

Relatedly, the one-off focus on TikTok for potential algorithm manipulation is imbalanced, as the actions cited are widespread practices across the social media landscape. It is not wise to single out one platform for an industry-wide problem. The support for this bill in the House suggests a need for a more equitable and holistic approach to social media regulation.

If there are genuine national security concerns from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I also question why House Republican leadership brought this bill to the Floor before having us vote for urgently needed Ukraine aid. Smart national security policy must include not only the cyber realm, but also strong democratic international alliances.

Compounding these strategic concerns are possible First Amendment violations. There have been various legal challenges to similar state-level legislation, and this bill could infringe upon free speech rights. There must be a delicate balance struck between ensuring security and preserving Americans' fundamental freedoms. I would have preferred having more time to debate, scrutinize, and amend this bill before voting on it. I hope the Senate process varies from that in the House before this bill becomes law.

DENOUNCING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 1065, Denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies.

House Republicans have again brought to the House Floor a partisan messaging resolution that does nothing to begin to fix our broken immigration system. If House Republicans were serious about solving the problems at our southern border, they would negotiate and work to pass bipartisan legislation that could be approved by both the House and the Senate and be signed into law by President Biden.

Instead, they continue to attack the current administration to gain cheap political points. As I've said many times this Congress, House Republicans continue to waste our time and