

It plays an important role in fostering connections with the greater community, celebrating cultural diversity, and promoting fellowship through community events and initiatives. As we mark the occasion of Chinese New Year, we not only celebrate the rich traditions and heritage of the Chinese community, but we also honor the spirit of unity, resilience, and the shared values that bind us together.

Today, let us continue to support and grow organizations like the Chinese Club of Western New York, as they continue to enrich the lives of so many through their vibrant community, past accomplishments, and the exciting future that lies ahead. Please join me in celebrating the Chinese Club of Western New York, and wishing them great success as they remain a source of strength, inspiration, and cultural pride for generations to come.

EXPOSING BIDEN LAWFARE
PERSECUTION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to former Congressman Bob Livingston for courageously exposing the shocking mistakes and abusive lawfare of former Attorney General, Merrick Garland. Innocent Americans have been persecuted by the subversion of the Justice Department under the Biden Administration, beginning with the deranged, maniacal persecution of President Donald Trump.

Under the Republican trifecta of the House, Senate, and Presidency, the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation will work on behalf of the people, not against them. American families can trust Attorney General Pam Bondi and FBI Director Kash Patel, both with proven records of professional competence.

I include in the RECORD the following letter below, written by Bob Livingston to the Wall Street Journal, regarding his own experiences with former Attorney General, Merrick Garland and the Justice Department:

"Dear Mr. Attorney General, Your time in office won't run out a moment too soon. You will be remembered as a tool in the Democratic Party's strategy of misusing the Justice Department to visit injustice on innocent people with differing political views. I am a victim of your dysfunctional leadership, but unlike many of your targets, I have survived unscathed.

I am 81. At the outset of my career, I enlisted in the U.S. Navy and sewed on active duty for two years, followed by an additional four in the reserves. When I returned to civilian life, I completed my undergraduate studies and law school. After some years of private practice, I successfully served as a prosecutor in three separate government offices.

I was then elected to Congress, where I served for 22 years. Shortly thereafter I created and ran the Livingston Group, a lobbying firm. For 25 years we represented defense, education, energy, health and corporate clients of all kinds. We also represented international clients, private and sovereign, but only if we were assured their interests coincided with those of the U.S.

In 2022 two Federal Bureau of Investigation agents came to my home in New Orleans and

questioned me about incidents involving our representation of an international client in 2018. Having nothing to hide, I spoke with them for 2½ hours.

I told them everything I could remember. I told them the truth. They quibbled with me about facts and reminded me of incidents that for whatever reason I couldn't recall. I have been interviewed by FBI agents in the past about varying matters under investigation, never about me, and I thought this no different. I was given to believe that they were looking only for background information.

At the end of the interview, the agents presented me with a search warrant for all my company's records related to their questions. As the lead agent left, she thanked me for my service to the country. But as I read the search warrant, I realized that this meeting was neither benign nor simply for background. The next day, with my wife listening, I called the agent and asked directly: "Am I a target?" To my great shock, the agent said yes.

In all my years as a lobbyist, I have bent over backward to comply with the Foreign Agents Registration Act. My company has always filed reports pursuant to the law when we thought they were due. I have repeatedly told my clients that we must comply with FARA to avoid any possibility of transgressing the law. The company has employed a full-time officer to assure compliance.

Yet Justice Department prosecutors said on several occasions that I was the target of felony charges. Every day and night for 20 months, I lived with the possibility that the hammer could drop at any moment. Everything I worked for would be tarnished. My firm would collapse, my employees would lose their jobs, all of us would be ruined in the press, and I could go to prison.

The conduct of law enforcement was torturous. In January 2024, a prosecutor interviewed a member of my staff, using curse words and accusing her of lying. In December 2023 an FBI agent harassed our FARA compliance officer, David Lonie, who had been a congressional staffer on the House Rules Committee before working with us for many years.

Lonie was an honorable and decent man, the epitome of integrity and honor. The agent nevertheless told him that if he knew what was good for him, he would talk. Dave was scared to death. He went to bed on Dec. 31, 2023, and didn't wake the next day. His family is devastated.

My company and I were innocent of all charges, and while I am pleased this Kafkaesque harassment is over, I am not content to simply shrug my shoulders and move on. We spent incredible amounts of money on legal counsel, more than three times what we earned by representing the client at issue. Our attorneys prepared an 88-page brief rebutting all charges. They succeeded in backing prosecutors down, but I am convinced the department's actions were political and malicious, targeting me as a lobbyist who has supported Donald Trump and been critical of President Biden.

Under your leadership, Mr. Garland, the Justice Department has been guilty of lopsided enforcement. Hunter Biden was nearly given a sweetheart immunity deal following receipt of millions of dollars from foreign sources for which he didn't file income tax returns or acknowledge his probable obligations under FARA. He was subsequently convicted for only a few of his crimes but has now been given a blanket pardon by his father. Members of the Trump administration and Mr. Trump himself have been hounded and arrested. They've had their lives ruined for minor white-collar infractions. Mr.

Trump has prevailed over attempts to destroy him, but others have been less fortunate.

As for our case, as we detailed in our brief, a Democratic firm wasn't as compliant regarding similar facts over a much longer period and to my knowledge was never investigated. If we had been charged and tried for six-year-old incidents despite our constant efforts to comply with the law, our case would have become additional evidence that you have led a department that has overtly ignored its obligation to provide justice.

The statute of limitations expired on our case in November, and prosecutors have said they are no longer interested in pursuing charges. That's nice but hardly satisfactory. As a matter of justice, Mr. Garland, you owe us and the American people a profuse apology."

HONORING CHENAVIA SMITH AS A
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, as a member of Laborers' Local 517 for 13 years, Chenavia Smith, affectionately known as Che Smith, is a proud LiUNA DERO organizer. She has served as a member and in leadership positions with the NAACP and CBTU CFL Chapter.

She was also the first and formerly the youngest Black woman auditor for her local, a member of APRI, the E board, COPE Committee, and delegate member of her CLC, as well as an activist, advocate, and political advisor throughout the state of Florida and beyond.

She has collaborated with numerous resilient communities to bring to fruition economic catalysts like apprenticeship ordinances and Community Benefits Agreements.

She is an especially gratefully gifted wife and mother who believes that all families should have family-supporting wages, great benefits, the opportunity for advancement, and the ability to retire with respect and dignity.

CELEBRATING SISTER BETH
BROSNER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Sister Beth Brosner, whose leadership at Heart, Love & Soul Food Pantry, and Dining Room in Niagara Falls, New York has helped to transform lives and greatly contribute to the community for nearly a decade. Since her appointment in 2010 as Executive Director at Heart, Love & Soul Food Pantry and Dining Room, until her retirement in 2020, Sister Beth has been a force for compassionate and collaborative action—a leader who mobilized her community to transform the way it addresses poverty and inspired long-term positive change in those she faithfully served with dignity and respect.

Sister Beth's gift of making people feel welcome, listened to, and cared for has blessed thousands of guests who used Heart & Soul's services. Additionally, it has touched people from all walks of life—including business leaders, community organizations, and faith communities. Living out her Franciscan values in all aspects of life, Sister Beth's influence grew as she empowered others to join her in the transformative work of serving those in need.

Early in her tenure, Sister Beth became a key figure in a collective effort to better ad-

dress entrenched poverty in Niagara Falls. She collaborated with leaders from Community Missions, YWCA of the Niagara Frontier, ReNU Niagara, Catholic Charities, the Niagara Falls Housing Authority, and many others, all working toward greater community impact.

Sister Beth's influence extended beyond direct service to the creation of a critical community resource. She was instrumental in forming the DePaul Taskforce, which focused on developing a one-stop center for those in need. In 2016, Sister Beth empowered the

Heart & Soul board to take ownership of the center, Daybreak, which officially opened in 2020, ensuring long-term support for the community long after her retirement.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Sister Beth Brosmer, a woman whose legacy of compassion, advocacy, and empowerment continues to inspire change. Her work has touched the lives of countless individuals and families in Niagara Falls and beyond. Sister Beth's leadership has left an indelible mark on our region, and we are all the better for it.