

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE
REGARDING ARIZONA SHOOTING

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I concur in the expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona on January 8, 2011.

Like all Americans, on Saturday morning I was saddened and sick to my stomach when I watched the horrible attack against my colleague Congresswoman GIFFORDS, known as GABBY to me, her staff, her constituents and to all Americans.

We now know, on January 7, Congresswoman GIFFORDS reached out and sought "new ways to reduce the highly partisan divisive tone that all too often dominates our public discourse." Today I am going to do exactly that: not in words of criticism, but thoughts of observation and desire to help.

For law makers whether federal, state or local . . . This tragic incident must make us re-evaluate our spending priorities and accept the fact that our continued failure to provide adequate funding for mental illnesses is a mistake.

For the agencies, whether they be educational, military, or private vendors/businesses . . . we must be diligent in connecting the dots, doing the extra work, taking the time to think out of the box, stop working in silos and to insist on utilizing technology for good like the real time utilization of information.

For the parents, whether your child, who will always be your child regardless of their age, should not be allowed under our own roofs to turn their rooms, garages or backyards to a private area one fails to tread.

For protectors and preservers of the law, it is not okay to tell me there is nothing wrong with someone sending a hate e-mail saying, "I'm concerned it's time for a good old fashioned lynching/tar and feather."

For those who debate and protest, it is not okay to spit, say racial slurs, to say reload or to arm in reference to a debate; neither is it okay to say a group other than yourself is a Neanderthal and they want people to die quickly.

For our court, even in 1919 and 1931 in the cases of Schenk v. United States and Near v. Minnesota, had the wisdom to know "the most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theatre and causing a panic."

Tell me how anyone, any court, or any legislative body could justify a man carrying a AR 15 rifle and a pistol, feet not miles from where our president was speaking that . . . That was not right in August 2009, last Saturday, today, or tomorrow.

And now for those of us, we turn to this resolution on the floor today, page 4, sections (7-8) the resolution references:

Right of the people peaceably to assemble, All can participate without being silenced with intimidation,

And threats of violence.

I have watched right here in this room and on these grounds, leaders not fulfilling this words of "peaceable assembly free of intimidation."

We too must not just react, but now is the time to act. Not just in legislation but in what Congresswoman GIFFORDS asked us to do: "reduce the divisive tone." Maybe if we start as leaders, others will follow.

I express condolences to the families of those who lost their lives, I pray for strength for those who survived and have long roads to recovery, and I commit to do work on this issue and how I work with you my colleagues. As Representative GIFFORDS' husband holds her hand as she heals, I am ready for her to return to hold her hand as we as a country heal as well.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE
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SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 32, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, 2011. My thoughts and prayers go out to those who were lost: Christina Taylor Green, Dorothy Morris, John Roll, Phyllis Schneck, Dorwan Stoddard, and Gabriel Zimmerman, and to their friends and families and all those in the community whose lives they touched. Words can not begin to express my sorrow about their passing. I am also praying for a full and quick recovery for those 14 individuals who were injured, including my good friend and colleague, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS.

On Saturday morning, GABBY was out in her community, as she often was, hosting a meeting with constituents and providing an opportunity for them to ask questions and express concerns in an open and free environment. It is this proximity to the people we represent that we most cherish as Members of the House of Representatives. My number one priority, which I'm sure is shared by all of my colleagues, is to be accessible and available to the families and communities in my district. While we may never understand the motive or reasoning behind the violent event on that day, it felt to many like an attack on all of us, our democracy, and on the freedoms that we work to protect each day as elected officials. As so many Americans have done throughout our history, bystanders became heroes and their actions prevented an even worse catastrophe. I am thankful for their quick actions and grateful to our entire nation for standing together as one community in support of the people of Tucson and speaking with one voice that this senseless act of violence has no place in a civilized democracy.

GABBY's passion for public service is unmatched, and this is clearly evident in her work ethic on the House Armed Services Committee, where we both serve. I greatly admire her ability to be a tough advocate for her district, while always looking for ways to reach across regional, partisan, or ideological boundaries to find common ground to move forward on an important issue. She is always warm, personable and professional, and she stands strongly and passionately for what she be-

lieves in and what she believes is best for her constituents in Arizona. Last week, when we spoke on the House floor, she discussed her desire for the House to quickly consider legislation to create more jobs in our districts. Even after an exhausting election cycle, she never broke her focus and was ready to move forward on day one to get our economy back on track.

My life changed forever at the age of 16 after an accident that left me paralyzed. I wondered what life could possibly have in store for me next. Yet as I lay in my hospital bed, I was overwhelmed with the outpouring of support from my friends, family and neighbors. Along with my faith, which pulled me through one of the darkest times in my life, it was also the generosity and concern from my community that ultimately made me want to give back through a career in public service. I want to share this strength with those who are injured now and fighting to recover, and let them know that many wonderful possibilities lie ahead.

Next week, we will continue our work, the work of the people, but I am grateful for this opportunity to pause and reflect on this national tragedy. Madam Speaker, thank you for bringing forward this resolution and for allowing all Members of the House to express their condolences to those who were lost and support to our friend, Representative GIFFORDS, her staff, and all of those in Tucson and across the nation as we begin to heal together from this tragic event.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I missed a vote yesterday, and I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present: rollcall No. 12, "yes."

HONORING GALVESTON
BUSINESSES

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, on February 3, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce will hold its 165th annual meeting. Established by the Ninth Congress of the Republic of Texas in 1845, making it the oldest chamber of commerce in Texas, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce works to promote and advocate for the business community of Galveston.

At the February 3rd meeting, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce will honor several dedicated volunteers for their years of service to the Galveston community. Among their other accomplishments, all of this year's honorees' are past Chairs of the Galveston Chamber of Commerce. These honorees all remain involved with the Galveston Chamber of Commerce by, among other activities, serving on a new committee of Past Chairs.

Galveston Chamber of Commerce President Gina Spagnola, said the Past Chairs Committee was created because "The Past Chairs

are such an integral part of the Chamber's history. The purpose in forming this committee was to sustain a strong partnership with the Past Chairs by engaging in dialog about the Chamber's history and its future."

Mr. Speaker, it is a tremendous pleasure to join my friends at the Galveston Chamber of Commerce in saluting these past chairs for their years of service to the people of Galveston. I am truly honored to serve as their representative and hope all my colleagues all join me in congratulating these outstanding leaders. Those being honored on February 3 include: Vandy Anderson, Armin Cantini, Carolyn Clyburn, Gene Curry, Henry Freudenburg, Don Gartman, Greg Harrington, Garry Kaufman, Betty Massey, Jerry Mohn, Richard Moore, Roger "Bo" Quiroga, Dr. Ben Raimer, Bix Rathburn, Betty Schocke, Johnny Smecca, Marshall Stein, John Tindel, Lee Otis "Otie" Zapp, Jr.

BLACK JANUARY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as the co-chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I rise today to join with the people of Azerbaijan to commemorate the tragic events of "Black January."

On January 19, 1990, approximately 26,000 Soviet troops stormed Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku in tanks and armored vehicles. That night, the Soviet military bulldozed innocent Azeris and opened indiscriminate fire on peaceful demonstrators, including women and children. According to Azerbaijani sources, as a result of these merciless acts 131 people were killed, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested, and 5 went missing.

The Human Rights Watch report "Black January in Azerbaijan" states that "among the most heinous violations of human rights during the Baku incursion were the numerous attacks on medical personnel, ambulances, and even hospitals." The report concludes that the violence used by the Soviet Army constituted an exercise in collective punishment and that the punishment inflicted on Baku by Soviet soldiers may have been intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in other Republics of the Soviet Union.

Far from crushing the spirit of Azeris, the atrocities of Black January instead consolidated the rising independence movements in the country and united the Azerbaijani nation in its quest for freedom. Today, Azerbaijan is a critical and strategic ally of the United States and is preparing to celebrate 20 years of independence from the Soviet Union.

It is my honor to thank the Azerbaijani people for their friendship and to offer my thoughts and prayers to the families of those who gave their lives for the independence of Azerbaijan. I encourage my colleagues to visit the very moving memorial to Black January in Baku that honors the memories of those killed in these attacks by the Soviet military and to join with me today in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

HONORING CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR PATRICIA WIGGINS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my long-time friend, California State Senator Patricia Wiggins, who recently retired after a long and effective career in public service. From her first years in Sonoma County politics in the 1980s through her terms in the California legislature as an Assemblymember and a Senator, Pat Wiggins was a leader of vision and compassion.

Born and raised in Southern California, Pat grew up in a labor household and, with her father's training, was an accomplished parachutist. At the age of 38, she became the first in her family to graduate from college, earning an English degree with honors from UCLA. She worked as a systems analyst and, in 1979, met a software engineer, Guy Conner, her future husband. They have two stepsons, Jim and Steve Silverman, and four grandchildren.

Wiggins' first political job was with the Nuclear Freeze in 1982. After the couple moved to Santa Rosa, California, in 1984, she worked on several political campaigns and eventually became involved in local land use issues when trail access to Annadel State Park was threatened by development. She was a leader in Santa Rosa's growing liberal environmentalism, and an activist in supporting women and women's issues. In 1994, she was elected to the Santa Rosa City Council.

In 1998, she was elected to the California Assembly and in 2006 to the California Senate. As a State legislator, Pat continued to demonstrate leadership in environmental and social issues. In the Assembly she founded the legislature's Smart Growth Caucus and authored laws on land use planning and compact development (including social equity). In the Senate, she focused on a broad range of issues including agriculture, youth employment, land use, political reform, health care, veterans' affairs, waste reduction, working families, and education. In 2008, she had the most bills approved by the legislature and the most signed into law of anyone in the California legislature.

Guy Conner, her husband and political partner for many years, describes Pat Wiggins as "the finest grass roots politician" he has ever known. She inspired many of us in Sonoma County by demonstrating how a leader works collaboratively for an impressive record of accomplishments while maintaining a commitment to progressive values.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Senator Patricia Wiggins on her many successful years in public service and wish her luck in her retirement. Her voice will be missed in Sacramento.

HONORING JEREMY PHILLIP THON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeremy Phillip

Thon. Jeremy is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeremy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jeremy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jeremy has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and became an Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow. Jeremy has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jeremy designed and supervised the construction of a handicap-accessible deer blind and nature viewing stand at Smithville Lake, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeremy Phillip Thon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE YAHRZEIT OF BETH SHARON SAMUELS

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the fourth anniversary of the passing of Beth Sharon Samuels, an extraordinary Angeleno who lost her life to cancer in January 2007 at the age of 31.

Beth grew up in Los Angeles, attending the Yeshiva University High School of Los Angeles and graduating as valedictorian. She went on to study at a women's seminary in Israel before graduating from Columbia University with a degree in mathematics. She then completed a three-year program at the Drisha Institute in Bible and Talmud, a Ph.D. in math at Yale, and earned an assistant professorship at the University of California, Berkeley. In the meantime, she gave birth to a daughter, Danelle, and later to daughter Natalia while undergoing intensive chemotherapy treatments.

Beth remains with us, even with increasing distance from her passing. Last year, Beth's friends and family published *The Wisdom of Bat Sheva: The Dr. Beth Samuels Memorial Volume*, a series of lectures and discussions on Torah learning, including an essay by Beth. The book highlights that Beth's spirit continues to teach and inspire. Beth was such a powerful force of spirituality, learning, and divine presence, and her memory will continue to serve as a powerful blessing.

My condolences go out to her parents, Elana and Zachary, her husband, Ari, her daughters Danelle and Natalia and her extended friends and family on this solemn occasion.