

President of the National Newspaper Association in 2010. She became only the fourth woman and second New Jerseyan in its 129-year history to lead the institution representing the interests of community newspapers. She also previously served as President of the New Jersey Press Association.

Her passion for her community extends beyond the newsroom with her service on the boards for the Morris County Habitat for Humanity, Morristown Festival of Books and membership in the Rotary Club of Madison.

I congratulate Elizabeth Parker on this well-deserved honor and thank her for the many years of dedicated public service to journalism in New Jersey and indeed the Nation.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE—THE NFL IS OUT OF BOUNDS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, abuse is never okay. It can never be justified, defended or explained. However, the message that the NFL sent last week says otherwise.

Recently, a video emerged of Baltimore Ravens' running back, Ray Rice, dragging his unconscious then-fiancée out of an elevator after allegedly punching her in the face several times.

Rice was charged with third-degree aggravated assault. However, prosecutors later dropped the charge after a plea deal was reached. But what is equally as troubling and disturbing is how the NFL chose to handle the situation.

The league suspended Rice for two games. This pathetic punishment is just a mere slap on the wrist. The NFL has issued harsher punishments for "offenses" such as eating unapproved foods or taking fertility drugs without approval.

For better or for worse, our society idolizes its athletes. In 2013, over 108 million Americans watched Rice help the Ravens win the Super Bowl. Thousands of young Americans wore Rice's jersey with pride. After this decision, would a high school athlete think twice before pushing around his girlfriend? Would the abused girlfriend even bother to come forward?

Sadly, the NFL seems to be more concerned with protecting its image than taking a stand and sending a strong message that violence against women will not be tolerated.

Ravens' head coach, John Harbaugh, called the attack, a "mistake."

Mr. Speaker, a mistake implies an accident. Punching your fiancée until she becomes unconscious is no accident nor should it be treated that way.

Our society has come a long way; domestic violence was once seen as a "family issue," not spoken of outside of the home. We have made some progress, but the NFL's actions show we still have a long way to go.

Those who commit violence against women—yes, even star football players—cannot get away with it. With the NFL's decision, another one just did. Abuse is never okay.

NFL greed, stardom and fame scores points over justice.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VA BONUS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, today Dr. DAN BENISHEK and I will introduce the VA Bonus Accountability Act. This bipartisan legislation claws back bonuses fraudulently paid to VA employees who manipulated wait times data.

The revelations that veterans at the Phoenix VA, and veterans at other VA facilities across the country, were placed on secret lists and had to wait months before seeing a doctor are immoral and un-American. That veterans who served our country honorably may have died while waiting for care is unconscionable. Those responsible for this disaster must be held accountable.

Ongoing audits by the VA and the VA Office of Inspector General reveal systemic problems with wait times, with the scheduling process, and with the honesty and integrity of the system. Evidence from multiple VA facilities shows intentional and systemic manipulation occurred to cover up long wait times and veteran deaths. Despite this misconduct and administrative failures, thousands of VA employees received bonuses for their performance.

In 2013, the VA awarded more than \$380,000 in bonuses to executives and directors at 38 VA hospitals where investigations were ongoing regarding increased delays in patient care and potential falsification of appointment records. Last year in total, the VA gave out \$2.7 million in extra pay to its top ranking officials.

Over the last three years, the Phoenix VA, ground zero for the VA scandal, paid out almost \$10 million in bonuses to its employees. All of this as patient wait times increased, data was intentionally manipulated, and whistleblowers were ignored or punished.

Our legislation requires the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, based on the findings of the VA Office of Inspector General and after notice and opportunity for a hearing, to order employees who contributed to the purposeful omission of veterans from electronic wait lists, and received a bonus in part because of such omission, to repay the bonus.

The first priority of the VA and Congress must be providing our veterans the care they need. Many dedicated VA employees, many of them veterans themselves, work tirelessly to provide the best care to our veterans, but they are limited by this broken system, which is failing millions of our veterans.

If we are going to change the culture at the VA so that veterans truly come first, we must also hold accountable those who intentionally manipulated wait times data and received bonuses based on this fraudulent data.

We urge our colleagues to cosponsor our legislation to bring accountability and change the corrosive culture at the VA.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "CLEARANCE AND OVER-CLASSIFICATION REFORM AND REDUCTION ACT" OR "CORRECT ACT"

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today titled the "Clearance and Over-Classification Reform and Reduction Act" or "CORRECT Act."

The CORRECT Act recognizes that the massive proliferation of original and derivative classified material and the exponential growth in the number of individuals with security clearances present significant homeland security and national security challenges that warrant timely action. In addition to the high costs incurred by the Federal government to investigate an unnecessarily large number of individuals for positions requiring security clearances, over-designations have undoubtedly resulted in the Federal government recruiting, hiring, and paying individuals at rates that are higher than necessary and not hiring individuals who otherwise have the required knowledge and skills.

The CORRECT Act amends the existing Reducing Over-Classification Act by (1) requiring the President to establish a goal for the reduction of classified information by not less than 10 percent within five years through improved declassification and improved original and derivative classification decision-making; (2) creating standardized sampling techniques for use by Federal departments and agencies conducting self-inspections to assess their progress at improving classification decision-making within their organizations; (3) creating annual training to each employee with original classification authority; and (4) requiring the Inspector General of each department or agency to report on the progress of each respective department or agency with respect to implementation of the Reducing Over-Classification Act as well as the President's 10 percent classified information reduction goal.

The CORRECT Act also includes a sense of Congress that a position should only be designated as requiring a security clearance when it requires access to classified information, presents a risk of a material, adverse effect on the national security, or is a position of public trust for any agency that has the authority to issue security clearances.

Additionally, the CORRECT Act sets forth specific reforms at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to make it a leader among Federal agencies with respect to security clearance practices. The reforms at DHS are targeted at the designation, investigation, adjudication, denial, suspension, revocation, and appeals processes. In particular, to increase transparency and improve performance among investigation service providers, including Office of Personnel Management, it requires the DHS Secretary to publish on the Department's website an annual Department-wide satisfaction survey. If a pattern of performance problems with a particular investigation service provider emerges, the DHS Chief Security Officer is required to make a recommendation to the Secretary regarding corrective action, including suspension or cancelation of services.

I urge support of this commonsense legislation.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF TERRY
SCHNELL AND CAPTAIN KURT
IRELAND

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the decorated careers of Chief Terry Schnell and Captain Kurt Ireland of the Olean Police Department. Longtime members of the department, Chief Schnell and Captain Ireland have a combined 68 years of dedicated service to the Olean community.

Terry Schnell joined the Olean Police Department in 1982 and rose to the rank of chief in 2006. Throughout his 32-year career, Chief Schnell earned the trust and respect of his fellow officers, city leaders, and citizens. During his time with the Olean Police Department, Chief Schnell completed training at the FBI Academy, learning advanced skills and strategies that have positively benefited the department. Throughout his tenure as chief, Mr. Schnell repeatedly fought to secure necessary funding and support for the police department. His career exemplifies the values outlined in the department's mission statement, serving with "integrity, common sense, and sound judgment."

Kurt Ireland joined the Olean Police Department in 1977. He spent the majority of his 36-year career with the department's patrol division, earning promotions to sergeant in 1993 and captain in 1998. While holding these leadership positions, Captain Ireland managed the daily operations of his unit and established department procedures. Captain Ireland was a responsible, dedicated, and hard-working officer who served his community with the highest level of integrity.

I congratulate Chief Terry Schnell and Captain Kurt Ireland on their retirement from the Olean Police Department. We owe these men a debt of gratitude for their combined 68 years of service to the Olean community. Their impressive careers in law enforcement and numerous contributions to our community improved quality of life and made Olean a safer place to live.

HONORING ANGELA EVANS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the contributions of a respected and long-serving public servant, Angela Evans. This remarkable woman merits our recognition and gratitude for her dedication and commitment to public service, serving more than 35 years at the Congressional Research Service (CRS)—the Legislative Branch agency created by the U.S. Congress to serve as its primary source for policy research and analysis.

Angela Evans began her career at CRS in 1971 as an analyst working on welfare reform, health care finance, education and training,

and budget reform. She quickly advanced in her management and policy roles, as she displayed a unique talent for advancing the mission of CRS, as well as strategically examining how the agency's role may evolve in the future. By 1982, she was serving as the Section Head for the Education and Public Welfare Division, where she secured the House and Senate Appropriations Committees as first-time clients for CRS. Additionally, in her role as Section Head she began the first formal student intern program, which was then adopted agency-wide.

In 1994, she was hand picked by the Librarian of Congress, James H. Billington, to be the Head of Congressional Relations and to assist with Deputy Librarian duties for the 1994 calendar year. Her leadership in these two roles led to the inauguration of the "THOMAS" website for the Library. Additionally she led the team that developed the "Legislative Information System," or LIS, which was the first integrated confidential website for the Congress. For the next two years, as Acting Assistant Director for the Research at CRS, she achieved Senior Specialist status, the highest research position in CRS at the time, for her research undertaken on the social sciences. She also led efforts to evaluate all CRS research projects, resulting in the establishment of formal standards of quality and analytic rigor that are still in place today.

Beginning in 1996, and for the last 13 years of her time at CRS, she served as the Deputy Director of CRS. She was the first woman to hold this position—a feat worth recognizing on its own. Here she oversaw all facets of research, scholarship, development, and operations at CRS. She personally developed, managed, and supported organizational efforts to build and sustain relationships with Members of Congress, with policy and public administration scholars, university administrators, and with foundations. She believed in the mission of the agency and strived every day to exceed the goals and expectations set before her. Angela Evans led major organizational changes that not only enhanced the research capacity of CRS, but also improved the effectiveness of critical operations. Among her many achievements was developing the first agency-wide research framework used to identify public policy challenges, guide interdisciplinary research on these challenges, and assess the quality of the research. She also led the first agency-wide reorganization in 30 years, where a more streamlined structure was established to support interdisciplinary collaboration across research areas and professional disciplines to better serve Congress. These are just several examples of many contributions that Angela Evans made during her time at CRS that we are still seeing the direct impact of today. Her dedication, leadership, and commitment were recognized by CRS in 2009, when she was honored with the Distinguished Service Award.

Her public service did not end when she retired from the agency in 2009. She continues to serve the public now as a Clinical Professor in Public Policy Practice at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin. There, she has already received a variety of accolades from her students, fellow faculty, and alumni, including: the Best New Professor, 2010; the Most Valuable Class, 2011 and 2012; an alumni Texas Exes Teaching Award, 2012; and the Most Helpful

Professor to Students each year 2010 through 2014. Angela Evans also continues to play essential roles in national organizations which focus on continuing the advancement of public service in this country. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and has served on its Nominating Committee and the Business Model Task Force. She is also the current President of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) and serves on the Executive Committee of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA).

As 2014 marks the 100-year anniversary of CRS, it is only fitting that we recognize Angela Evans for her great contributions to the advancement of public service. I commend her for her lifetime commitment to this challenge and am pleased to recognize her achievements.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT CLYDE
MCDONALD

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute on the passing of a gracious and wonderful man who made a significant impact on his state, his community and his family. A man I was proud to call my father-in-law, Albert Clyde McDonald.

He was the kind of man who some may call old-fashioned with his quiet dedication to service—service to God, his family, his land, and his state.

Albert McDonald passed from this life on July 6, 2014 at his home in the Huntsville area, surrounded by his beloved family.

He was born in Dayton, Tennessee to Clyde McDonald and Nahoma Welch McDonald. He was preceded in death by both his parents and his siblings, Malcolm Rhea McDonald and Mary Lynn Goodwin.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Shirley Shields McDonald; and four children, Mark Russell McDonald, Stan (Mabel) McDonald, Caroline McDonald Aderholt, and Leah McDonald Engler. Also, he is survived by fourteen grandchildren, Dr. Matthew McDonald, Carter McDonald, Lewis McDonald, Locker McDonald, Lloyd McDonald, Mary Eleanor McDonald, Melissa Suzanne McDonald, Luke McDonald, Manie McDonald, Christian Rutherford, Mary Elliott Aderholt, Robert Hayes Aderholt, Bruce Erich Engler, and Anna Kate Engler.

After graduating from Auburn University in 1953, Commissioner McDonald made his home in North Alabama, planting cotton, soybeans, and grain on his family farm in the Huntsville area. He was a member of various agriculture-related organizations, such as the National Cotton Council, and served on the Cotton Incorporated Executive Committee, and as President of the Southern Cotton Growers Incorporated.

Recognizing that he could play a role in representing agriculture because of his talents and farming experience, Albert McDonald launched his political career in 1974. He served two terms in Alabama State Senate. During his second term, Albert served as chairman of the Senate Rules Committee.