

Tragedies like Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Oscar Grant—one of my constituents—are far too common in communities across this country.

As the mother of two black men and two black grandsons, I have had many uncomfortable but necessary conversations about how to walk, how to talk and how to interact with police.

This is not just my reality. It is also the reality of millions of other black mothers and grandmothers.

Tonight, we stand here, once again, to discuss the ongoing failures of our criminal justice system and over-use of deadly force by law enforcement across the country.

In order to address the problem people need to know the facts.

I applaud President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

The Task Force provided much needed recommendations, such as the creation of a National Crime and Justice Task Force that will review all components of the criminal justice system and provide recommendations on comprehensive criminal justice reform as well as renewed focus on community policing.

The unfortunate facts are since President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing released its report; there have been more than 100 fatal police shootings in America.

Every 28 hours an African American male is killed by a security officer.

1 in 3 African American men and 1 in 6 Latino men will spend some part of their lives in prison.

The truth is that disparity and inequality continue at every level of our society, especially in our criminal justice system.

It's past time that Congress start enacting policies to dismantle the bias endemic in our institutions.

We must come together like never before to tackle the systemic, structural and rampant racial bias endemic in our institutions and criminal justice system.

We need to empower communities and work to build greater trust between law enforcement and the community, especially communities of color.

That is why Congress should pass the bipartisan Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act (H.R. 1232), which I am a proud cosponsor of, to stop the militarization of our nation's police forces.

We need to pass the Police Accountability Act (H.R. 1102) and the Grand Jury Reform Act (H.R. 429) so we can ensure that deadly force cases are heard by a judge and there is more accountability among police officers.

Congress should also work to pass the Shield Our Streets Act (H.R. 103) to increase investments in proven, community-orientated policing programs that reduce crime and increase community and law enforcement trust and understanding.

Congress must work with the Department of Justice to ensure training programs are available to ALL law enforcement officials to reduce racial bias and profiling and provide law enforcement officers with the resources to address, defuse and manage situations without the unnecessary use of deadly force.

We also must support funding programs that focus on increasing police force diversity and retention of qualified officers in communities. This is something that the President's Task Force recommended in its report.

It is vital that Congress acts to ensure the tragedies in Ferguson, Staten Island, Oakland—in my district—and now North Charleston are not repeated.

So I urge my colleagues to support these efforts that can end the structural injustice that is endemic in our criminal justice system.

These events must be our call to action—as Dr. King reminded us in his "Two Americas" speech in 1967.

He said: 'We must come to see that social progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and the persistent work of dedicated individuals.'

We must, each of us, be those dedicated individuals working persistently for the social progress that is so greatly needed.

Too much is at stake to do nothing—we must act and act now.

HONORING VICKI SAPORTA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Vicki Saporta for 20 years of outstanding leadership and service as President and CEO of the National Abortion Federation (NAF).

As the first woman organizing director for an international union and now as a visionary leader in the reproductive health, rights, and justice movement, Vicki Saporta has spent her career fighting for women's equality and to improve women's lives. Since taking the helm of NAF in 1995, President Saporta has worked tirelessly to ensure women's access to safe, legal abortion care.

Recognizing the need to address violence against abortion providers, Saporta successfully advocated for the establishment of the Department of Justice's National Task Force on Violence Against Health Care Providers. She has actively worked with Attorney Generals Janet Reno and Eric Holder; the Department of Justice; Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and U.S. Marshals to improve law enforcement response to clinic violence. As a result, major incidences of violence against abortion providers have decreased significantly in recent years.

Saporta has brought abortion providers and their patients into the forefront of the public debate about abortion. In 1996, she brought five women and their families to the Oval Office to meet with President Clinton, who publicly announced that he vetoed a federal abortion ban because he was so moved by their stories. More recently, she worked closely with Congress to build support for lifting a decades-long ban on federal funding for abortion care for servicemembers and their dependents in cases of rape and incest—one of the only pro-choice legislative victories in the last 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring President and CEO Vicki Saporta for her outstanding service to reproductive health. Her legacy continues to offer a powerful example for serving our communities.

MARCUS LOPEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marcus Lopez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Marcus Lopez is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marcus Lopez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Marcus Lopez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF THE UNVEILING OF THE DACHAU VICTIMS MEMORIAL AT THE DURHAM HEBREW CEMETERY IN DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the unveiling of a very special memorial in my congressional district in Durham, North Carolina. On Sunday, April 26, 2015, a memorial forever marking the final resting place of ashes from victims who lost their lives during the Holocaust at the Dachau Concentration Camp in Germany will be unveiled in the Durham Hebrew Cemetery.

The amazing and unlikely journey that brought these hallowed ashes to their final resting place in Durham, North Carolina took over seventy years.

David Walter Corsbie, Jr. served in the United States Army Air Corps with the 364th Fighter Squadron during World War II. In 1945, shortly after Dachau was liberated by American troops, Mr. Corsbie was sent there on assignment. It was there that a survivor who had been imprisoned at Dachau gave the ashes to Mr. Corsbie telling him to never forget the unspeakable horrors that occurred there.

In late 2012, Mr. Corsbie's son Joseph made the existence of these ashes known after they had remained a secret since the end of World War II. Last year, those ashes were finally laid to rest in the Durham Hebrew Cemetery. The victims whose ashes were interred were finally given the honor and respect they were denied so long ago. A memorial to mark their final resting place will be unveiled this Sunday. This memorial will serve as an enduring reminder that will ensure the victims at Dachau and the millions of others that were lost during the Holocaust are never forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me both in commemorating the unveiling of this