

recognizing Officer Brandon Murphy for the service he has provided to Michigan's Fifth Congressional District and the Bay City community.

Brandon Murphy is a recipient of the Police Officers Association of Michigan's (POAM) Police Officer of the Year Award. This honor was awarded following an encounter where Officer Murphy was injured by gunfire while successfully managing to apprehend a suspect and stop a violent crime spree. Officer Murphy's personal dedication to public safety at the cost of his own safety deserves the utmost honor, and a Police Officer of the Year Award is a worthy and deserving recognition for such an exemplary officer.

It is my honor to represent such brave and honorable members of our community, and Officer Brandon Murphy is a shining example. The true measure of an exemplary public safety officer was exhibited by Officer Murphy when he sacrificed his own wellbeing in order to prevent the further victimization of the community he serves.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work done by Officer Brandon Murphy and thank him for the service he has provided to our community.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN AND SUSAN
BURKE

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John and Susan Burke who will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 6, 2016.

John and Susan were married at Saint Gregory's Church in Dorchester, MA, on August 6, 1966. Susan attended St. Gregory's High School and graduated from Boston State Teachers College. John grew up in South Boston, attended Boston Technical High School, graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and served our country in the U.S. Army for three years. Upon his return home, John worked for the Boston Edison Company and was former Congressman Joe Moakley's Administrative Assistant.

John and Susan are proud parents of their two daughters, Courtney Murray and Patricia Lombardozi and are blessed with five grandsons; Michael, Patrick and John Murray and Declan and Luke Lombardozi as well their two son-in-laws, Tim Murray and Santiago Lombardozi.

Mr. Speaker, I have known John and his brothers, Gerry, Kevin, Tim, Patrick and Brian for nearly four decades, they are a proud South Boston family. It is truly an honor and a pleasure to be able to share in this joyous occasion with a great couple and a wonderful family. I know that John and Susan are looking forward to celebrating their 50 years of marriage next month with their friends and family and I want to again congratulate them both on this wondrous occasion.

RECOGNIZING JIM SPARKS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jim Sparks, a high school teacher in Georgia's First Congressional District for 26 years.

In 1994, while in his late 30s, Mr. Sparks left a corporate position in the transportation industry to pursue a career in education.

At first, when he was hired by the Camden County school system, little did he expect that he would spend 26 years teaching and change a countless number of students' lives.

During his tenure, he has mainly taught high school U.S. history, but as Mr. Sparks says, his job was not to teach a particular class, it was to teach students.

Since Mr. Sparks has been at Camden County High School it has more than quadrupled in the number of students.

Mr. Sparks used his previous life experiences as a soldier in Vietnam and a corporate officer in the transportation industry to bring a unique dynamic to the classroom.

This school year was his last, as Mr. Sparks is retired at the end of the year.

His dedication to develop young minds is something that should inspire us all and I am thankful for his service to the youth of the First Congressional District of Georgia.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF CLAUDE MILLER

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Claude Miller for his life of service, and artistic contributions to the State of Michigan and to my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

On January 16, 2016, at the age of 74 years old Claude Miller died, leaving behind his wife and children. Throughout his long life, Claude was a testament to the community champions that form the foundations of our communities. Following an honorable discharge from service in the United States Air Force, Claude eventually settled in Flint, Michigan. There he dedicated his life to service as an advocate for the city he loved. A tireless volunteer, Claude was the very embodiment of the 'Strong, Proud' spirit of Flint.

Claude had a passion for art, spending much of his remaining free time drawing, painting and taking classes at Mott Community College. There he built a reputation for his artistic abilities and passion for his craft. Following his death, the college hosted an exhibition of his art titled, "Faces, Places, and Spaces." One piece depicting President Barack Obama was featured among that collection. That piece has made the long journey to Washington, D.C. where it has been proudly displayed in my office for the last week, prior to being committed to the White House and the President.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the life of Claude Miller for his commitment to our community,

and for his artistic contributions. His life reminds us that art and service can become the cornerstones of a community and a life well lived.

VICTIMS IN CHINA, CUBA, MALAYSIA
ILL-SERVED BY TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 launched a bold comprehensive public-private sector strategy that included sheltering, political asylum, and other protections for the victims; long jail sentences and asset confiscation for the traffickers; a myriad of preventative initiatives and tough sanctions for governments that failed to meet minimum standards prescribed in the TVPA.

As the prime sponsor of that law, which also created the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report and tier rankings, I remain deeply disappointed and concerned that both last year's TIP Report and the current one gave passing grades to several nations with horrific records of government complicity in human trafficking. Falsifying a country's human trafficking record not only undermines the credibility of the report but was especially dehumanizing to the victims who suffer rape, cruelty and horrifying exploitation.

The politically contrived passing grades for more than a dozen failing governments was exposed by a series of investigative reports by Reuters, which found that the professionals at the State Department's TIP office made one set of recommendations—only to be overruled at a higher level for political reasons.

A hearing I held last week looked closely at the newly released Trafficking in Persons Report, which assesses and ranks 188 countries each year on their records of prosecuting traffickers, protecting victims, and preventing human trafficking.

Sadly, this year's TIP Report has again failed many victims. Some of the rankings comport with the records of certain countries. Burma and Uzbekistan, for example, are designated Tier 3—as they should be. But other nations including trading partners Malaysia and China are given a free pass despite their horrific records of government complicity in human trafficking. Cuba, a dictatorship highly favored by this administration, is again falsely touted with a passing grade.

China was also allowed to keep its Tier 2 Watch List ranking, despite the fact that the reason for their upgrade two years ago was found to be a fraud.

Alexandra Harney, Jason Szep, and Matt Spetalnick of Reuters authored an expose on China's politicized ranking, finding that, "Two years after China announced it was ending the 're-education through labor' system, extrajudicial networks of detention facilities featuring torture and forced labor thrive in its place." China had deceived the U.S. in 2014, and when that became apparent last year—we let them keep their ill-gotten upgrade in 2015, and again in 2016. I chair the Congressional-Executive Commission on China and based on both sex and labor trafficking, China deserves a Tier 3 ranking—egregious violator—

as much if not more than any other nation on the list.

Malaysia, whose ranking was upgraded to the Tier 2 Watch List last year on the flimsiest of justifications and fears it would be disqualified from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, was allowed to maintain its Tier 2 Watch List ranking—despite the fact that Malaysia faltered in its anti-trafficking progress over the last year. In fact, Malaysia, a country with 4 million migrant workers, prosecuted fewer trafficking cases and convicted only 7 traffickers last year—that's less than when it was a Tier 3 country.

Meanwhile, women from Burma, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Nepal are trafficked to China for forced marriages or sexual exploitation. North Korean laborers worked under conditions described by experts as forced or slave labor to earn income for the North Korean government. Prisoners of conscience and other prisoners continue to be held in administration detention facilities where there are numerous credible reports of prisoners being trafficked for the purpose of organ harvesting.

The State Department must get the TIP Report right, or we will lose the foundational tool created to help the more than 20 million victims of trafficking enslaved around the world today.

A tier ranking is about protecting vulnerable lives—lives destroyed or saved by the on-the-ground impact of a government's inaction or action.

The easiest cases for a Tier 3 ranking should be those where the government itself is profiting from human trafficking, such as in Cuba, where thousands of Cuban medical professionals labor in dangerous countries not of their choosing, their passports taken, their movements restricted, their families and licenses threatened—and their salaries heavily garnished—by the Cuban government. It is not a coincidence that Cuban law does not recognize labor trafficking.

Maria Werlau testified at our hearing in March that, “. . . trafficking is a huge operation run by the government through numerous state enterprises with . . . accomplices, participants, sponsors, and promoters all over the world.” Cuba is also a known destination for child sex tourists, and Cuba reports no convictions for child sex tourism.

Yet, Cuba is ranked Tier 2 Watch List.

We've seen many countries take a Tier 3 ranking seriously and make real, systemic changes that improved their tier rankings, but more importantly, protected trafficking victims—countries such as South Korea and Israel.

When the Bush administration branded South Korea and Israel Tier 3 based on their records, both countries enacted and implemented policies to combat human trafficking and were given earned upgrades for their verifiable actions. But other countries attempt to end-run the accountability system with endless, empty promises of action or mostly meaningless gestures of compliance.

China sat on the Tier 2 Watch List for eight years, each year promising the State Department they would implement their anti-trafficking plan. Each year, the State Department took the bait until Congress put a limit on the Tier 2 Watch List—two years only, unless the President gives the country a waiver. Well, China has once again promised to implement

a plan—and the President just gave them a waiver to stay on the Watch List a third year.

Tier rankings are about real prosecutions, real prevention, and real protection—for real people who are suffering as slaves. The TIP Report was meant to speak for the trafficking victims waiting, hoping, and praying for relief.

While the 2016 TIP Report speaks for many of them, too many are still unheard.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION ON CONCURRING IN THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE HOUSE AMENDMENT TO S. 764

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not present for the vote on concurring in the Senate Amendment to the House Amendment to S. 764, dealing with labeling requirements for genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Had I been here, I would have supported this legislation as a step forward in improving consumers' right to know more about the products they consume.

I appreciate that many of my constituents, like many across the country, have expressed a desire to know whether the food they purchase and consume contains GMO ingredients. However, the status quo does not work for consumers, for manufacturers, or for our country.

Today, if a consumer wants to know more about where the ingredients in their food come from, it is far from an easy process. Some manufacturers choose to print it on the packaging, others don't. Some define a genetically modified ingredient one way, others another.

There's not much more clarity right now for food manufacturers. Depending on the state or even city, they may face different requirements about what foods to label, what ingredients need to be labeled, or how the label should look. Many companies have started taking steps to provide more information, but the lack of a consistent standard makes it difficult for consumers to access this information in an easy way.

The bill that came before the House is not perfect, but I believe it moves us in the right direction. It creates a national standard, instead of a patchwork of state and local laws. And under this standard, it will be mandatory, not voluntary, for manufacturers to disclose whether a product has genetically-modified ingredients, which will now be clearly defined.

The measure includes some flexibility for manufacturers to determine for their products what format makes the most sense for this disclosure, but I am pleased that there are clear requirements in place that this disclosure must meet. There is certainly more that can be done to build awareness about what to look for on packaging and how the information can be used, and so I believe this bill can be the first step in a process of education and information-sharing that will help consumers. I also believe the use of electronic scannable codes holds a lot of promise, particularly as manufacturers come together to standardize the codes and information that is provided. I strongly feel that this information should remain easily accessible to the consumer, so

that once a code is scanned, there is a direct link to information such as GMO disclosure, ingredients, and nutrition facts. I am heartened that many manufacturers have begun recognizing the need to make this information clearly available, and I look forward to continued progress in this area.

Overall, I believe that the legislation considered by the House is a needed step forward from the situation we have today, and a significant improvement from previous legislation that did not require the kind of labeling that consumers have asked for. I support this version of the legislation, and I look forward to continuing to work to strengthen our food safety, nutrition, and anti-hunger laws and programs so that all consumers are able to access healthy, affordable food for themselves and their families.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 467 (H.R. 5631), which took place Thursday July 14, 2016; I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE. I firmly stand with my colleagues in the House in support of the Iran Accountability Act of 2016.

RECOGNIZING WARE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ware County High School Robotics Team for winning the world championship at the 2016 Vex World Robotics Championship in Louisville, Kentucky.

The students of Ware County High submitted two robots into the tournament—2015C, known as C-Bot, and 2015A, known as A-Bot.

Both robots performed extremely well in Louisville, in the qualifying rounds. C-Bot won 4th place in programming skills while A-Bot finished with a high ranking in technology skills. Each robot finished in the top 50 within their divisions.

Because of its performance in the qualifying rounds, the C-Bot was chosen to be part of a small team to compete for the world title where it was allied with robots from Connecticut.

This alliance won the final competition for the world championship.

The world title is an impressive achievement as 500 teams from North and South America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East competed for the prestigious honor.

I rise today to congratulate the Ware County High students on their hard work and achievement as they bring world-wide recognition to their school and the First Congressional District of Georgia.