

increases. The question is—will this leverage be used to help the people of Vietnam or their Communist rulers?

I have been to Vietnam. I have met with its rights advocates and young activists for decades now. The younger generation in Vietnam—66 percent of Vietnam is under the age of 40—looks to the U.S. as a land of opportunity and freedom.

This generation wants the same liberties enjoyed by their relatives in California, Texas, Virginia, Louisiana and so many other places where former Vietnamese refugees have flourished.

They want to speak freely, blog freely, worship freely, and be free to choose and change their leaders.

Failing to press for concrete human rights improvements underestimates U.S. leverage and will disappoint the young generation in Vietnam who are that country's dynamic future.

The President will face pressure from his advisors and the business community to look at Vietnam through the lens of trade deals and the containment of China. Hopefully, he will be able to see the situation more clearly than past Administrations.

I know there is great interest in the Pentagon about a partnership with Vietnam to oppose China's aggressive South China Sea policy. The U.S. has an interest in free and open sea lanes.

But no government that represses its own people or restricts fundamental freedoms can be a trusted ally of the United States. No government that censors the Internet, tortures and jails dissidents, and crushes civil society should be given generous trade or security benefits without conditions.

Robust championing of individual rights will meet with some success—if recent history is our guide.

The Vietnamese government has responded to concerns expressed by the last two Administrations when they linked human rights improvements to better U.S.-Vietnam relations.

Whether to gain entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), the TransPacific Partnership (TPP) or to address U.S. concerns over religious freedom abuses, the Vietnamese government took steps toward reform when pressed by past American Presidents.

It is when the U.S. loses interest in human rights that conditions regress—as it has in the past year.

The business of the Communist Party is staying in power and repressing those they believe will challenge their power. They will not embrace human rights improvements or the rule of law unless it is a firm condition of better relations with the U.S.

Putting human rights and the rule of law at the center of bilateral relations is the goal of H.R. 5621—the Vietnam Human Rights Act—bipartisan legislation that was introduced last month.

The bill emphasizes the connection between human rights improvements and U.S. interests and states that U.S. policy should prioritize the freedom of religion, freedom of the press, Internet Freedom, independent labor unions, the protection of women and girls from trafficking, and advances in the rule of law as critical components of both U.S.-Vietnam relations and any U.S.-led effort to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

Similar bills passed three times in the House with overwhelming margins, only to stall in the Senate.

U.S. policy must send the unmistakable message to the Government of Vietnam that human rights improvements are fundamental to better relations, critically linked to our mutual economic and security interests, and will not be ignored or bargained away.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MCCONKEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate John McConkey of CAM High School for winning the Class 2A, 285 pound bracket at the Iowa High School State Wrestling tournament. John finished the season with a record of 57–1.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs, producing college and Olympic champions for years. John contributes his success to years of hard work and commitment and for the support from his parents, family, coaches and fellow teammates.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by John demonstrates the rewards of dedication and perseverance. It is an honor representing John and his family in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating John on competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his education and in his future endeavors.

REFORMING OUR DISASTER RESPONSE SYSTEM

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Harvey hammered Houston last August, bringing with it a deluge of rain. In the nine months since then, Houston has begun to recover. Downtown Houston is full of students and workers of all ages, strolling the streets during their lunch break. However, there is still lots to be done. Only minutes north of downtown Houston, Minute Maid Park, and the Toyota Center is Kashmere Gardens, a neighborhood that 10,000 Houstonians have called home. Each street in this neighborhood has houses that are no longer habitable, with destroyed doors and gutted interiors.

While the rest of Houston is flourishing, Kashmere Gardens is floundering. This is not due to the actions of any one agency, but rather the convoluted and bureaucratic disaster-response system that almost everyone agrees is failing to provide the necessary support in the wake of these disasters. Federal recovery funding currently comes from 17 different federal agencies, including HUD and DHS, which oversees FEMA. We must streamline the recovery process for the sake of those who are impacted by disasters. There are still Houstonians, including those in Kashmere Gardens, who are living in transitional housing because they are unable to navigate the government's cumbersome dis-

aster recovery efforts. When someone's home is destroyed in a hurricane, wildfire, or volcanic explosion, they should not have to spend months trying to discern their eligibility for federal disaster relief. They should be able to focus on rebuilding their home and their life.

Another hurricane season is just beginning, and it is expected to again be a season with above-average activity. We must learn from past disasters to better respond to disasters that are still to come.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT AT WASHINGTON CROSSING NATIONAL CEMETERY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Washington Crossing National Cemetery as the first national veterans' cemetery to accept from the Hershel 'Woody' Williams Medal of Honor Foundation the gift of a beautiful Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, which will be dedicated on Saturday June 9, 2018. Approximately 35 similar monuments have been dedicated across the country, but this one is the very first in a national veterans' cemetery.

The Hershel 'Woody' Williams Foundation is a nonprofit organization that seeks to erect monuments for Gold Star families throughout the United States, and provides scholarships to children of fallen heroes.

At the request of John C. Heenan, Project Chairman, I would like to honor the important and enthusiastic help provided by the Director of Washington Crossing National Cemetery, Gregory J. Whitney, and his team along with the official support group, The Guardians of the Washington Crossing National Cemetery, to bring this most noble project to fruition.

Since opening in January 2010, more than 11,000 of our nation's veterans have made this cemetery their final resting place. The Gold Star Families Memorial Monument is a tribute to Gold Star Families—to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and their loved ones who continue to honor their memory.

We must never forget our fallen service members, who paid the ultimate sacrifice to uphold our liberties and cherished way of life. For the families of those departed, may this monument serve as a small token of our humble gratitude for the heroism of their loved ones.

IN RECOGNITION OF THEOLA JONES FOR BEING NAMED A WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT BY THE KAPPA FOUNDATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Theola Jones for being named a

Woman of Achievement by the Kappa Foundation. Mrs. Jones has impacted countless lives through her career at Wayne County General Hospital and work in the Inkster community.

The Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti-Inkster Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity was established on December 6, 1958. The organization was founded in order to foster relationships between Michigan Kappa Alpha Psis, provide leadership to current students at Michigan universities and mentor youth in suburban Detroit. Since its founding, group members have come together to serve the local community in a variety of ways including golf tournaments, college fairs, pancake breakfasts, Meals on Wheels programs and robust scholarship programming. In addition to their myriad civic endeavors, the fraternity's Kappa Foundation honors female leaders in southeast Michigan annually at their "Women of Achievement" event. This year's honorees include Theola Jones, a beloved public servant in Inkster.

Mrs. Jones distinguished herself throughout her 33-year career at Wayne County General Hospital, serving in numerous roles, including Ward supervisor and Worksite supervisor for students involved in Wayne County's Score program. Additionally, Mrs. Jones was a regular contributor to local newspapers and published the Caregiver's Companion, a collection of prayers and reflections drawn from her career and work as a caregiver to her mother. Mrs. Jones has also been active in community organizations, chairing the first federally sponsored food programs in Inkster, serving on the local YWCA Board of Directors, and remaining engaged in supporting many other local organizations. As a result of her service to the city of Inkster and its residents, Mrs. Jones has received numerous awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award and Key to the City of Inkster from city mayor Byron Nolen. She is well-known in the community for her engagement and activism and remains involved in civic life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Theola Jones for being named one of The Kappa Foundation's Women of Achievement. Mrs. Jones' work and involvement in the Inkster community has been critical to its growth and development.

IN MEMORY OF ARLENE BEVERLY HALLIGAN

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Arlene Beverly Halligan, who passed away on April 1, 2018 at the age of 82, after a lifetime of public service to her community.

Mrs. Halligan was born on March 30, 1936 in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, and later moved to San Francisco in the late 1950s, looking to enjoy the single life in a big city. Not long after, she would meet and marry Jim Halligan, and settle in Marin County to raise their children Shea and Kelly.

Known in and around Marin County as a prominent philanthropist, Mrs. Halligan's most recent, treasured venture was the restoration

of Mt. Tamalpais Railroad's historic Gravity Car Barn and Depot, where she once held the position of Project Director for the Mount Tamalpais Association. Working on her passion project to the very end, just weeks before her passing, Mrs. Halligan helped to secure the final steps to bring back to Marin County the No. 9 Heisler from where it has been located in Scotia, California. It was the only remaining locomotive from the Mt. Tamalpais Scenic Railway.

In addition to her extensive community service, Mrs. Halligan was well known around Marin and beyond for her famous Christmas Eve parties, which many residents looked forward to all year long. Mrs. Halligan could also be found playing a lively game of tennis, traveling around the world, passionately discussing politics, or voraciously reading anything she could get her hands on.

Mrs. Halligan is survived by her son Shea Halligan, daughter Kelly Halligan and son-in-law Don LeBuhn, and her three grandchildren Samantha, Andrew, and Mackenzie LeBuhn.

Mr. Speaker, the depth of Mrs. Halligan's service to her community has left a positive legacy across Marin County and the entire Bay Area, and she will be profoundly missed. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to her today and honor her memory.

TRIBUTE TO GAVIN RODGERS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gavin Rodgers of Glenwood, Iowa for being selected by the Glenwood Area Chamber of Commerce as their Junior Citizen of the Year. Gavin is a senior at Glenwood Community High School and has received numerous awards and honors for his instrumental and vocal music talents.

Gavin is an accomplished drummer and singer and according to the Glenwood Opinion-Tribune, "Gavin provides drum lessons to younger students and is always willing to give his time at school and to his community. He is known for offering encouragement and inspiration to fellow students and always going the extra mile for others."

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Gavin in the United States Congress. It is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for his selection as the Junior Citizen of the Year by the Glenwood Area Chamber of Commerce, and for his commitment to his community and school. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Gavin on receiving this award and in wishing him nothing but continued success in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following votes because I

was very ill and remained in my congressional district in Miami to recuperate. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll Call Vote No. 231; YES on Roll Call Vote No. 232; YES on Roll Call Vote No. 233; NO on Roll Call Vote No. 234; NO on Roll Call Vote No. 235; NO on Roll Call Vote No. 236; YES on Roll Call Vote No. 237; YES on Roll Call Vote No. 238; and YES on Roll Call Vote No. 239.

IN RECOGNITION OF LOIS RICHARDSON FOR BEING NAMED A WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT BY THE KAPPA FOUNDATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lois Richardson for being named a Woman of Achievement by the Kappa Foundation. Mrs. Richardson has distinguished herself through her civic activism and advocacy on behalf of the Ypsilanti community.

The Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti-Inkster Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity was established on December 6, 1958. The organization was founded in order to foster relationships between Michigan Kappa Alpha Psis, provide leadership to current students at Michigan universities and mentor youth in suburban Detroit. Since its founding, group members have come together to serve the local community in a variety of ways including golf tournaments, college fairs, pancake breakfasts, Meals on Wheels programs and robust scholarship programming. In addition to their myriad civic endeavors, the fraternity honors female leaders in southeast Michigan annually at their "Women of Achievement" event. This year's honorees include Lois Richardson, a spiritual and beloved leader in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

A lifelong resident of Ypsilanti, Mrs. Richardson received a B.S. in Social Work from Eastern Michigan University in 1965 and has served the community in various capacities during her distinguished career. She is a licensed and ordained minister, having graduated from Freedom Center Bible College in 1977, where she also served as an instructor. Mrs. Richardson has also compiled an outstanding record of public service through her time on the Ypsilanti City Council. She was first elected to the Council in 2000 and has been a strong advocate for strengthening the city's public education system, as well as spearheading initiatives to address the needs of working families and children. Mrs. Richardson's selection as Ypsilanti Mayor Pro-Tem from 2008 through 2016 by her fellow Council members underscores the respect she has earned for her outstanding service on behalf of Ypsilanti and its residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lois Richardson for being named one of The Kappa Foundation's Women of Achievement. Mrs. Richardson has distinguished herself with her work as a public official and through her involvement in Ypsilanti civic life.