

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAY AREA HOUSTON ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP).

For these past 40 years, BAHEP has been an indispensable ally in building economic prosperity in Houston and across southeast Texas. What began as a special project of the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce in 1976, to promote business opportunities in greater Houston, has become a champion for economic development across southeast Texas. The passion and business acumen of BAHEP's member community these past 40 years will continue to fuel BAHEP's success for the next 40 years and beyond.

BAHEP has played an indispensable role in attracting and mobilizing the businesses and industries of southeast Texas. From their 2002 role in defining Johnson Space Center (JSC) as the home of manned spaceflight, to their assistance with the recovery after Hurricane Ike in 2008, BAHEP has both shaped and reshaped southeast Texas.

Under Bob Mitchell's leadership, BAHEP has launched new initiatives and expanded their advocacy on behalf of Houston's chemical, shipping, medical, aerospace and space industries, and the workforce on which those industries rely. Most recently, in 2015, BAHEP worked with the Houston Airport System to successfully petition the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to designate Ellington Airport as Texas' second spaceport.

It is my distinct honor to recognize and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. I look forward to seeing what heights of technological progress and economic prosperity this incredible coalition of job creators will foster in the next 40 years and beyond.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SUMMIT COUNTY EXECUTIVE RUSSELL M. PRY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Summit County Executive Russell "Russ" M. Pry, who passed away on July 31, 2016 following a courageous battle with cancer.

Russ was born on May 30, 1958 to Helen Lucille (Morris) and Donald Pry and grew up in Mogadore, Ohio. His maternal grandmother, Elsie Morris, played a major role in his upbringing and her strong union and Democratic influence molded his values and lifelong desire to help people.

Russ was a successful attorney, two-time Mogadore Village Councilmember, Chair of the Summit County Democratic Party, member of the Summit County Board of Elections and for the last nine years of his life, the Summit

County Executive. More importantly, Russ was a leader, an advocate, a conciliator, and a friend. Russ gave willingly to many people throughout his life and worked in each position during his career to make people's lives richer and our community a better place. He was loyal, faithful and devoted to his friends and always was available with solid advice, a gentle word and a sympathetic ear.

As the Summit County Executive, Russ will be remembered by his many achievements, which include assisting and honoring the men and women of the military, creating and keeping jobs in Summit County, successfully guiding the County through difficult economic times, making Summit County government more efficient and effective and for beginning new programs aimed to help those in the community of greatest need.

Russ was a history buff, an avid reader, crossword puzzle ace and a Jeopardy whiz. He knew everything about our U.S. presidents and often grilled his friends and staff on American History trivia. Russ also enjoyed winding down his day with a cocktail at Rockne's, which he affectionately called his "West Office."

We have lost a brother, a great friend, a loyal Democrat, an incredibly smart man and genuine good guy who worked hard to make his community a better place. Rest in peace, Russ.

RECOGNIZING NEW LENOX'S PROUD AMERICAN DAYS MILITARY TRIBUTE

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight New Lenox's Park District's Proud American Days Military Tribute. Since 1984, the New Lenox Community Park District has been steadfastly dedicated to the commitments and sacrifices of our nation's service members. What started out as a small gathering is now one of the largest programs attended in the area.

New Lenox's motto reads, "The Home of Proud Americans" and they certainly live up to that slogan. On Sunday, July 31, 2016, more than two hundred people, including veterans, paid homage to those who have sacrificed so much to protect our great nation. These brave Americans endured so much so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today and for that, we owe them our eternal gratitude.

During the tribute this year, the following veterans were recognized:

Machinist's Mate Second Class Robert Beazley, United States Navy

Master Sergeant Edward Dima, United States Air Force

Gunner's Mate Third Class Leonard Kapocius, United States Navy

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these names for all to see, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring all of our nation's veterans.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN MARK TAKAI

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Congressman Mark Takai, a friend and colleague who was taken from this institution far too early. Mark worked until his last days to represent the constituents of Hawaii's First Congressional District. Congress and the American people will dearly miss his relentlessness to better his state and country.

As a dedicated member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and from his seats on the House Armed Services and Small Business Committees, Mark saw it as a personal duty to speak up for those who had no voice. Mark was instrumental in efforts to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March of 1965 and Purple Hearts to Filipino veterans of World War II. He also gathered over one hundred Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle to support a measure to provide benefits to veterans exposed to radioactive fallout while serving in the Marshall Islands during the late 1970s. Even though the distance was great between Capitol Hill and Honolulu, Mark was determined to use any opportunity he could, including a short weekend between first and last votes in Washington, to spend time with his family and serve his constituents.

The House Democratic Caucus has lost an incredible champion and friend in Mark Takai, and we are deeply saddened by a sudden end to a young life cut short. May Mark's lovely wife, Sami, his two beautiful children, Matthew and Kaila, and the incredible people of the State of Hawaii find peace and comfort in the days ahead.

RECOVERY MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, every year people all over the country acknowledge National Recovery Month. National Recovery Month recognizes the many thousands of individuals who have successfully recovered from substance use and abuse.

There are millions of people at 12 step classes, Alcoholics Anonymous, and other recovery programs meeting every hour of the day and every day of the week.

It reminds me of what Henry David Thoreau said, "I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man [person] to elevate his life by a conscious endeavor".

National Recovery Month helps to bring awareness and substantial change in our nation and in our communities.

While we are thankful for the success, we must do more. The statistics are stunning.

Prince's death from an opiate overdose in April 2016 made national headlines. His death is one of many thousands that died from overdose of prescribed drugs and illegal substances like heroin.

The Center for Disease Control reported that from 2001 to 2014, there was a, 6-fold increase in the total number of heroin deaths.

3.4-fold increase in the total number of cocaine deaths.

42 percent increase in the total number of pain relievers deaths.

2.8-fold increase in the total number of opioid deaths.

In 2014, experts said that an astounding 900,000 adults and adolescents ages 12 and older used heroin.

It is evident . . . Heroin kills. Cocaine kills. Over the counter opiates and prescribed medications can kill.

We have the support to do something about it.

A Pew Research Center national survey found that 67 percent of Americans support providing treatment for those who use illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine.

Public opinion in local communities shifted to the extent that voters will support using taxpayer dollars for drug treatment. In Cook County Illinois, 76 percent of the electorate overwhelmingly supported a substance use treatment referendum. Voters support Treatment on Demand.

While National Recovery Month means something different for the researcher, for the policy maker, community groups and for people in the neighborhoods.

For the individuals in recovery, National Recovery Month is very personal.

More than a decade ago, we kicked-off the first recovery walk in Cook County. We joined with communities, government, faith-based groups, providers and especially people in recovery. The 13th Annual Recovery Walk will kick-off on September 24, in Union Park.

I urge my colleagues and people all over America to join me in applauding people in recovery for your conscious efforts to remain sober and for being an inspiration for others who sincerely desire to follow in your footsteps.

I urge my colleagues to support legislation which will transform the lives of individuals from addicts to contributing people in recovery.

RECOGNIZING MS. LEETTA C. BEATTY FOR RECEIVING A PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Leetta C. Beatty, one of the winners of the 23rd annual Personal Achievement Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona. This award is given to encourage and recognize those who have made an outstanding effort to deal with or overcome a disability. This year, Ms. Beatty has earned that distinction.

Ms. Beatty suffered a stroke-like incident in April 2016. Since the fateful day of her injury, Leetta has made great gains in her recovery. According to those involved in her rehabilita-

tion efforts, Leetta is known for maintaining her sense of humor throughout the recovery process. She has also been described as hard-working and very cooperative with her healthcare providers and caregivers. Furthermore, she has continued to approach her rehabilitation with high motivation, exemplifying the power of a positive mindset.

I am honored to help celebrate Leetta's impressive efforts and promising recovery, as I believe that her dedicated and positive attitude is something many of us can learn from as we attempt to overcome the hardships in our lives. Furthermore, I am happy to recognize Leetta for her perseverance, and I wish her the best as she continues on the road to full recovery.

BURMA NEEDS CHANGE FOR SANCTIONS RELIEF

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the situation in Burma is still terrible for many of the people there, particularly the ethnic minorities. While the Administration is moving quickly to remove sanctions, our government should slow down and assess what real, sustainable change has actually occurred—many of the same people who were part of the dictatorship are still in power. While there have been some positive changes, ethnic minorities are still being brutally attacked by the Burma Army. Any assessment of Burma's steps toward democracy and human rights climate must take this into account.

I encourage my colleagues to read the message from Kristine Gould and Larry Dohrs of U.S. Campaign for Burma.

U.S. SHOULD MANDATE CHANGE IN EXCHANGE FOR SANCTIONS RELIEF

It is time for the United States to stop agonizing about economic sanctions against Burma. However, the answer is not simply to remove all sanctions, but to keep targeted sanctions in place while providing a constructive pathway forward to later eliminate those remaining as Burma continues its process of democratic reform.

While there has been significant progress toward such reform—particularly since the November 2015 elections that brought the National League for Democracy into power—it is not complete, and significant challenges must be overcome before a genuine, federal, democratic Union—as well as true peace—can be established.

The Obama administration started to restructure sanctions against Burma in May 2012, when it relaxed a prohibition on new investment, relieved stringent visa bans and allowed exportation of most financial services. In general, three classes of sanctions remain:

1. Export of financial services and provision of security services to individuals and organizations related to the Ministry of Defense, state and non-state armed groups, and businesses that are more than 50 percent owned by military organizations.

2. Import of jadeite and rubies or their finished products.

Investment and business dealings with individuals and organizations identified as Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons, commonly referred to as the SDN list.

Armed conflict between Burma's defense services and the country's ethnic armed organizations continues. Even during the recently convened 21st Century Panglong Conference, the government and the Burma Army refused to issue a temporary ceasefire, and battles raged on in Kachin and northern Shan states while stakeholders discussed peace in Naypyidaw.

Exploitation of natural resources continues, with both private individuals and elements of the armed forces profiting significantly from the unrestricted exportation of jade and other natural resources. The military-drafted 2008 Constitution gives the Burma Army significant political power, regardless of the 2015 election results and its clear message from voters that the armed forces should step aside from politics.

Perhaps most significantly, human rights violations by the armed forces and security services organizations continue unabated. Until these issues and challenges are resolved, the United States should keep targeted sanctions in place, as most recently reaffirmed by the U.S. Congress in May 2016.

Just last month, a Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) parliamentarian proposed that Burma's government should attempt to pressure the United States to lift sanctions. The USDP was formed in 2010 by elements of the former military junta, and it ruled the country under former President U Thein Sein from March 2011 to March 2016.

While the proposal was defeated by a vote of 219 to 151, its discussion by lawmakers indicates the importance and value of lifting sanctions. The key here is not to offer blanket relief but to establish a clear pathway forward to eliminate sanctions tied to reform objectives:

1. As long as the Burma Army continues its attacks on ethnic armies and human rights violations, the United States should continue restricting export of defense services, including sales of defense articles and military-to-military assistance.

The armed forces receive more than 20 percent of the country's annual budget, and control two enormous business conglomerates (the Myanmar Economic Corporation and the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings), which are not accountable to the government. While these assets continue to support attacks against the people and perpetuate gross human rights abuses, the United States should not provide military equipment.

The United States has already initiated limited high-level military-to-military contacts focusing on the role of the nation's military forces under a democratic government, the terms of the Geneva Convention and the military's role in protecting its citizens.

This should continue, and the United States should relax funding restrictions that interfere with scheduling and executing these events. However, participation in International Military Education and Training, Joint Chiefs of Staff exercise programs, and other developmental programs must hinge on ending the country's armed conflict and developing a military force that is accountable to an elected civilian government.

2. The Tom Lantos Block Burma JADE Act of 2008 must stay in place until the government cleans up its jadeite and ruby mining practices. An October 2015 report by the London-based NGO Global Witness titled "Jade: Myanmar's Big State Secret" described a US\$31 billion jade industry controlled by a network of military elites, drug lords and cronies companies.

Entire mountains in Kachin State housing some of the world's largest jade deposits have disappeared, with only minimal tax revenue and profits reaching Burma's citizens.