

Johnson recalled trudging through the jungle before being surrounded by North Vietnamese soldiers who took him to the infamous Hoa Lo Prison, better known as the "Hanoi Hilton." He endured what he would later describe as 3-foot by 8-foot, rat-infested "dark and filthy cell.

"Forty-two of those months were spent in solitary confinement with 10 other fine American patriots because the Vietcong labeled us 'die hard' resistors," Johnson wrote in 2015.

He recalled tapping code on the wall to communicate with other Americans being held, and that "our captors would blare nasty recordings over the loud speaker of Americans protesting back home."

While speaking on the House floor in 2003, Johnson said his faith only got stronger through captivity. He recalled how one day his captors put him against a wall and promised to execute him with machine guns.

"I started praying harder than I have ever prayed in my life. In a few seconds, the guns went click, click, click, click, click," Johnson told the chamber. "It is only because of the grace of God I survived."

He was released and flew out of Hanoi on Feb. 12, 1973. He earned a master's degree at George Washington University in Washington in 1976. He retired from the Air Force three years later and began a home-building business. He was elected to the Texas Legislature in 1984 and went to Congress following a special election in 1991, after Rep. Steve Bartlett resigned to become Dallas mayor.

Representing Plano and other conservative northern suburbs of Dallas, Johnson was known for his work on veterans' affairs and for his efforts to bolster the financial standing of the Social Security program. He took office backing term limits, yet he stayed in Congress more than double his promised maximum of 12 years.

When Bill Clinton ran for president in 1992, Johnson and other Republican military veterans in Congress alleged that Russian intelligence lured Clinton to Moscow during the Vietnam war when "I was sitting in a POW camp in Vietnam eating fish eyes and pig fat." Questions about Clinton's patriotism dogged him during his first campaign, but the allegations made by Johnson and the others were largely soon forgotten.

As a prisoner of war, Johnson shared a cell with McCain, who would later become a U.S. senator from Arizona. But the pair later clashed on political issues—including McCain's efforts to eventually help normalize U.S. relations with Vietnam. Still, Johnson criticized Trump for suggesting McCain was no hero.

"Comments like those of Donald Trump, or any other American, suggesting that veterans like Senator John McCain or any other of America's honorable POWs are less brave for having been captured are not only misguided, they are ungrateful and naive," Johnson wrote in 2015.

In February 2018—marking the 45th anniversary of the operation that led to his release—Johnson donated a chipped green tin cup issued by his captors and tube of toothpaste he smuggled out of North Vietnam to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Johnson recalled then how he and other prisoners would communicate by tapping on the walls and how he'd hold his cup against them to amplify sounds and better hear their messages.

In his autobiography, "Captive Warriors: A Vietnam POW's Story," Johnson wrote of the cup: "For me, it symbolized our war of resistance for seven long years. It had been a means of communication and, as such, a means of survival."

Johnson's wife died on Dec. 3, 2015 at their home in Plano at age 85. He is survived by

his adult daughters, Gini Johnson Mulligan and Beverly Johnson Briney, and 10 grandchildren. His son, James Robert "Bob" Johnson, died in 2013 at age 61.

COMMEMORATING THE 102ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE AZERBAIJAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 102nd anniversary of Republic Day in Azerbaijan, which recognizes the establishment of the first independent, secular democracy in the Middle East in 1918.

While they spent much of the 20th century under Soviet control, their undying faith in democracy was rewarded in 1991 when the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic reclaimed its independence after the collapse of the USSR. The United States swiftly established diplomatic relations in 1992.

A reliable American ally, Azerbaijani troops have fought side-by-side with Americans against international terrorism in Afghanistan, Balkans, and Iraq. They help secure international energy security of our allies through their support of Southern Gas Corridor and the diversification of energy routes. A friend of Israel, they provide 40 percent of Israel's oil consumption. Azerbaijan is a secular Muslim-majority country dedicated to religious pluralism and home to thriving Christian and Jewish communities.

As an Oklahoman and member of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I am proud that Azerbaijan's friendship with the United States is celebrated in my home state through the Oklahoma-Azerbaijan National Guard Partnership.

I once again wish to extend my sincere congratulations to our partners in Azerbaijan on this worthy day.

ADVOCATING FOR CRITICAL FUNDING FOR TRIBAL NATIONS IN THE HEROES ACT

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Heroes Act and to address the critical need for emergency funding for tribal nations.

Native Americans have been hit disproportionately hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Navajo Nation has experienced nearly 5,000 positive cases and the loss of more than 100 lives. In addition, the Colorado River Indians Tribes on the border of my district and Arizona have seen a sudden rise in cases over the past weeks.

Native Americans remain at particular risk because they face greater health disparities and have higher rates of underlying health conditions than the general population. In addition, those living on rural reservations have reduced access to health services and preventative care.

The toll on tribal nations isn't just affecting those who are sick. Many Native Americans work in service jobs that have disproportionately been lost, and many tribal governments rely on income from business enterprises that have closed their doors to comply with stay-at-home orders.

The Heroes Act was written with these communities in mind.

This bill represents the House of Representatives' commitment to fulfilling the trust and treaty responsibility of the United States government to tribal nations across the United States.

The Heroes Act provides an additional \$20 billion to tribal governments in the form of grants to help address the catastrophic impact of this virus and the economic toll it has taken on Indian Country and their surrounding communities.

The Heroes Act expands the use of the funds provided by the CARES Act to account for lost revenue, which is critical to providing effective relief for tribal governments.

It is important to note that unlike the portion of the Coronavirus Relief Fund provided to states and local governments, the fund for tribal governments explicitly does not prescribe a population-based formula for distribution to tribes. Such a formula would be inappropriate given that population is not a proper measure of economic impact that a tribal government and tribally-run businesses have experienced.

This bill also does not codify the current Indian Housing Block Grant formula that the Department of Treasury is using, because such a formula is not representative of the intent of the program.

It is the intent of Congress that the Department of Treasury works with the Department of Interior and tribal governments to develop a new formula that accounts for the tribes' aggregate expenditures and the total economic hit they have taken as a result of this pandemic.

This is an issue that is critical for Indian Country. I am proud to have voted for the Heroes Act and look forward to seeing the program implemented as Congress intended to support tribal governments.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING JONATHAN CORONADO, KATHERINE PARDY, AND AINSLEY POWERS

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Jonathan Coronado from Stevens Senior High School, Katherine Pardy from O'Gorman High School, and Ainsley Powers from Brookings High School for their recognition as 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholars.

Jonathan, Katherine, and Ainsley have been recognized for their impressive scholastic achievements, leadership skills, and service to their communities. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program honors our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors, and I am proud of each of these students for bringing this high honor to the State of South Dakota. They have graduated in an unprecedented time and I'm sure they will each find

unparallel solutions to the issues they face. Each have shown determination in the face of hardship, confidence in the face of uncertainty, and humility in the face of adversity. I am proud of the contributions they each have made and will continue to make to South Dakota.

Our state and country are better because of hard working citizens like Jonathan, Katherine, and Ainsley. I would like to congratulate them each on their dedication and impressive recognition.

JASON WARING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jason Waring for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jason Waring is a 11th grader at Bollman Technical Education Center/Legacy High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jason Waring 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 Jason Waring for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
NYPD DETECTIVE JOSEPH GUIDICE

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Joseph Guidice and his culmination of 25 years of distinguished service in the New York City Police Department. Detective Guidice went above and beyond as a detective, officer, and teacher to assist and advance our law enforcement's aptitude and ability in investigating auto crime.

In 1995, Detective Guidice started his career as a patrol officer in the NYPD's 109th and 30th Precincts. After five years of service, his exceptional skill and drive propelled him to the rank of investigator in the Auto Crime Division and, eventually, detective in 2002.

While continuing to serve as a citywide investigator in conjunction with local, state and federal agencies, in 2005, Detective Guidice began teaching the NYPD's four-day intensive Fundamentals of Auto Theft Investigation course. Over his 15 years of instruction, he has trained upwards of 17,000 special investigation unit professionals from across the globe, inspiring the next generation of law enforcement.

For his professional excellence and accomplishment, Detective Guidice has been praised

by the NYPD with their commendation for meritorious and excellent police duty on three separate occasions and was given its prestigious 20-year perfect attendance award in 2018.

On behalf of my constituents, the State of New York and our nation, I want to deeply thank Detective Guidice for being a standard-bearer of honorable service in the New York City Police Department. I wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

WITCH HUNT IN ISRAEL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, just mere days after being sworn into office for a fifth term as Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu stood in an Israeli court to stand trial in what amounts to nothing more than a political witch hunt. Formally charged with bribery, fraud, and breach of trust, Prime Minister has denied all wrongdoing from the very outset and has called for an open, televised trial so that the entire world can stand witness to the circus the Israeli left has put together with the sole intention of humiliating Israel's longest serving premier in the hopes that he will step down.

One of the charges in the criminal case against Prime Minister Netanyahu, known as "case 4000," alleges unsubstantiated charges. The distinguished lawyer and Harvard professor Alan Dershowitz perhaps described it best when he said, "Netanyahu's trial poses great danger to democracy and the rule of law. This is the first time in the history of any modern country that a man is being prosecuted for trying to gain positive media coverage."

As we watch this farce play out, we should also remember that a criminal trial of a sitting head of state is a situation that could only take place in the Middle East's sole democracy. At the same time, the partisan nature of the charges and the trial cheapen the value of Israel's democratic and legalistic spirit. Knesset Speaker Yariv Levin commented that "the day of the opening of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's trial will be remembered as one of the low points of the Israeli legal system." Levin went on to say, "The charges against the prime minister are unprecedented in Western democracies. Their realm, if at all, should have been the ethical and noncriminal sphere, and it's no wonder why the world's top jurists have been harshly criticizing it."

Indeed, the sham trial against Netanyahu comes at especially ironic times as the Prime Minister won the highest number of votes of any party since the establishment of the Israel state. This mandate from the Israeli electorate was a personal expression of confidence in the Prime Minister as well as a clear sign that the Israeli public has lost all trust in a judicial system rigged along party lines to force the hand of a popular leader and push him out of the political system.

Knesset Speaker Levin concluded his comments on the matter by saying, "I, like millions of Israeli citizens, stand with the prime minister today. With the truth. With justice." May the truth come to light and may justice prevail.

The similarity with America is obvious that political enemies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are abusing the legal system just as the false efforts to impeach President Donald Trump were a witch hunt. Forces who lose on issues at the ballot box seek to subvert the votes of citizens.

RECOGNIZING REV. DR. DALE A.
MEYER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer upon the occasion of his retirement as President of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

In May 2005, Dr. Meyer became the 10th President of Concordia Seminary. Over fifteen years later, on June 30, 2020, Dr. Meyer will start a new season in life, retiring and turning over the reins of this beloved institution to new leadership.

His contribution to the Seminary was immense. During his tenure, Concordia's long-term debt was eliminated, its endowment quadrupled, and it earned top marks from its most recent accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission and the Association of Theological Schools.

From the start of his tenure to the end, Dr. Meyer worked alongside his wife Diane, the faculty and key staff to cultivate a culture that was service oriented and external facing. This meant instituting activities designed to instill a spirit of community volunteerism into first year students. This meant adding park benches on campus and expanding holiday displays each year so visitors knew they are welcome at this place. It meant working with his wife, Diane, and Gayle Zollmann-Kiel, Coordinator of Campus Grounds, to create community gardens for people to enjoy all summer and fall, thereby feeding the community both spiritually and figuratively. And it meant, during the current pandemic, having the bell tower on campus play music to lift the spirits of all those around.

No wonder the Seminary received several civic awards—including being named among the 100 Top Workplaces St. Louis in 2015.

Dr. Meyer's retirement marks a season of change for the Seminary. However, it also marks the closing of a chapter of a long career of service for him personally. While Dr. Meyer's first job was helping his parents, Arthur and Norma Meyer, deliver milk for the Dixie Dairy on the south side of Chicago, he was called to serve on a full and winding professional path. This path was so full of wonder that he would often marvel at the "milk man moments" that unfolded—remarking, "What I am doing here—God has blessed me so."

Dr. Meyer completed his bachelor's degree in 1969 at Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, Indiana. After earning a Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary in 1973, he earned a Master's degree a year later, and a doctorate in 1986 in classical languages from Washington University in St. Louis. He also is the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Divinity in 1993 from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dr. Meyer first joined the faculty at Concordia Seminary as a guest instructor in