

match, and he has touched thousands of people's lives in good and positive ways.

His passion for promoting a connected community focused on the success of our youth has helped many young people who are faced with challenging life situations with little hope in their lives.

His dedication to fundraising for the Boys and Girls Clubs has helped to provide resources to make the lives of many young people better through their renewed sense of self, ability to participate in sports, and boost in self-confidence.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the impact Larry Cox has made on so many lives through his selflessness and devotion to others. This Nation is a much better place because of the life he has led.

TRIBUTE TO OPERATION  
RECOGNITION CLASS OF 2017

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of the Operation Recognition Class of 2017. Operation Recognition is a program organized by the Riverside County Office of Education, with assistance from the Riverside County Department of Veteran's Services, that presents diplomas to residents of Riverside County who missed completing high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or due to internment in WWII Japanese-American relocation camps.

Riverside County's Operation Recognition is modeled after programs implemented in other states. Numerous county offices of education and school districts throughout California operate similar programs. The programs are yet another way to express our appreciation and gratitude for the significant contributions and sacrifices made by our veterans.

The Operation Recognition Class of 2017 includes: Timothy Lewis Basquez, San Jacinto, U.S. Marine Corps, Vietnam War; Manuel Blunt, Riverside, U.S. Army, Vietnam War; Edward J. Clark, Norco, U.S. Marine Corps, Korean War, Joseph J. Harrison, Perris, U.S. Army, Vietnam War, Bradford Hotchkiss, Riverside, U.S. Navy, Vietnam War, James Andrew Morrison, Canyon Lake, U.S. Navy, Korean War; and Mack Donald Salesky San Jacinto, U.S. Army, Vietnam War.

On behalf of all Riverside County residents and a grateful nation, I want to thank these veterans for their service to our country and congratulate them on being part of the Operation Recognition Class of 2017.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL J.  
WECHSLER III

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Mr. Paul J. Wechsler III, of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, for his service to the

U.S. Army in the Vietnam War and his continued leadership at home in Springfield, PA.

Mr. Wechsler voluntarily left Temple University to join the U.S. Army and serve his country in Vietnam. Here he fought in the 4th Infantry Division and courageously defended our nation for four years. Since returning home, he has involved himself with a number of organizations such as the Springfield Youth Club, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and his local church's parish all while raising three daughters with his wife Patricia.

Mr. Wechsler continues to give back to his community through his service as a member of the Board of Commissioners for Springfield Township.

I thank Mr. Wechsler for his dedication to the United States through his service in the Army and his commitment to improving his community. I wish him the best as he continues to play a vital leadership role in Delaware County.

CLARIFYING COMMERCIAL REAL  
ESTATE LOANS

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2148, the Clarifying Commercial Real Estate Loans Act. This legislation helps to clarify which loans must comply with the high-volatility commercial real estate (HVCRE) regulations made in 2015.

Two years ago, the Federal Reserve and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency created new lending regulations. In the wake of the new rules and the complexity of the definition of high-volatility commercial real estate loans they created, many banks drew back on commercial real estate lending. This adversely affected acquisition, development, and construction lending by driving up borrowing costs and reducing credit availability. H.R. 2148 seeks to make clarifications on the new regulations to ease the lending process and solve the issues that were unintentionally created with the new regulations.

H.R. 2148 will help lenders understand regulations, reduce borrowing costs, and make more loans available. This bipartisan measure will strengthen our real estate market and make sure Americans have the opportunity to continue constructing our cities, states, and nation. I support H.R. 2148, and I urge my fellow members to do as well.

IN RECOGNITION OF UTSA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the University of Texas at San Antonio's Downtown Campus, which has since empowered its many students and alumni to pursue excellence both in academics and their careers.

In September of 1991, the UTSA Strategic Plan established UTSA Downtown. In 1993,

with the support of the Texas State Government, the South Texas Border Initiative was launched, allotting \$20 million dollars for the UTSA Downtown Campus. With the acquisition of the Fiesta Plaza site gifted by Bill Miller Bar-B-Q Enterprises, and the groundbreaking of Frio Street Building in 1995, UTSA's Downtown Campus location was realized.

Following the subsequent groundbreakings of additional buildings, in 2000, UTSA opened its doors to its first college based in the Downtown Campus: the College of Urban Programs, now the College of Public Policy. In 2002, The College of Architecture would become the second college based in the Downtown Campus.

In the spring of 2004, UTSA expanded its campus from 11 acres to 18 acres with the acquisition of the Cattleman Square parking lot and nearby land later used for additional buildings. Since its inception, the campus has expanded to include two colleges, four academic buildings, and two departments in a third college.

With a current enrollment of 4,000 students at the downtown campus, The University of Texas at San Antonio continues to be an exemplary institution serving the needs of those pursuing a high quality education and successful careers in the downtown San Antonio area.

As a former chairman of the Subcommittee on Education for the Texas Legislature's Appropriations Committee, who worked to secure tuition revenue funding and other state funding for this university, it has been good to see it grow and develop. In addition, as the author of House Bill 713, that created Texas' grant program, it is good to see students at UTSA take advantage of this program. It is clear that this university will continue to thrive and I look forward to many more years of continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the 20th anniversary of the University of Texas at San Antonio.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
VERA SOUZA

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vera Souza as she celebrates 40 years of dedicated service to the Cabrillo Civics Club of California. It is both fitting and appropriate to honor Vera, who has dedicated much of her time preserving and advancing the Portuguese culture in the Central Valley and California.

LaVera Teixeira was born and raised in the Central Valley. Vera spent her career working for the Central Union School District in Kings County, California, as an administrator. She worked there from July 1, 1961 to June 30, 1999. Vera retired and then worked part time for the district until 2007, culminating a 46-year career.

Vera and her husband Bob Souza first joined the Kings County Cabrillo Civic Club No. 9 in 1960. The Cabrillo Civics Club of California is a service organization dedicated to the progress of Californians of Portuguese descent. The club is named after John

Rodrigues Cabrillo, a Portuguese navigator and explorer, best known as the first European to navigate the coast of present-day California. Today there are nine clubs statewide with over 1,975 members. The club members work tirelessly to ensure the preservation of the Portuguese culture, while engaging in service activities to benefit their local communities.

From the beginning, Vera's dedication to the club was evident. In 1978 Vera became Kings County local club secretary and for one period served as both secretary and president. During the 1990s Vera held double duty again, serving as local secretary and Cabrillo Club State secretary from 1991 to 1994. Even after 40 years, Vera will stay on to serve as an active board member for the state and local Kings County Cabrillo Club No. 9.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Vera Souza. I congratulate Vera for her dedicated service to the Cabrillo Club and ask that you join me in wishing her continued success and happiness.

## RISK-BASED CREDIT EXAMINATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3911, the Risk-Based Credit Examination Act. This legislation amends the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to make the annual reporting requirements of the Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations (NRSROs) risk-based.

The Securities Exchange Act was an innovative piece of legislation passed to regulate the secondary trade of securities such as stocks, bonds, and debentures. This act led to the creation of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and is the framework for the current federal regulations on financial markets. H.R. 3911 focuses specifically on federal requirements of NRSROs or credit rating agencies. Currently, the SEC performs annual reviews of NRSROs in eight review areas for its annual reports. These reviews disproportionately burden smaller NRSROs in the market. H.R. 3911 allows the SEC to perform reviews in the eight categories based off of risk-based analyses; reducing the burden on smaller credit rating agencies.

This legislation promotes fairness, encourages small businesses in our financial markets and is a simple fix for a burdensome problem. H.R. 3911 also helps the SEC allocate its energy more efficiently and use its resources more effectively. I support this legislation, and I urge my fellow members to support H.R. 3911, the Risk-Based Credit Examination Act.

## REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, George Orwell wrote, in his novel 1984, "Who

controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past."

The context of this slogan is Winston's struggle to maintain his memory, his vital connection to truth—against the evil ambition of the all-powerful party to control what we remember of the past, and, through that, to control the pathways into the future.

That is also the context in which the Victims of Congress Memorial Foundation carries on its work. This outstanding foundation held a landmark three-day conference in Washington last week, marking 100 years since the Bolshevik revolution unleashed the evils of communism on the world.

The foundation works to ensure that the memories, the real experiences of millions of people who suffered under communism are preserved—notwithstanding the efforts of powerful persons, ideologies, and interests, for whom the memory of the horrific crimes of communism must be forgotten, or more or less subtly distorted so as to promote their own contemporary agendas.

On one level, reluctance to remember the communist crimes might seem an understandable human weakness—the sheer scale of communist crimes is so vast that it beggars our power of comprehension.

Since 1917 communism has claimed at least 100 million lives, in the Soviet Union, China, Mongolia, Eastern Europe, Indochina, Africa, Afghanistan and parts of Latin America according to the painstaking research of demographers.

Writing in the Wall Street Journal two weeks ago, Professor Stephen Kotkin specified that in China, "Mao's program resulted in one of history's deadliest famines, claiming between 16 and 32 million victims." On Cambodia: "All told, perhaps as many as 2 million Cambodians; a quarter of the population, perished as a result of starvation, disease and mass executions during the four nightmarish years of Pol Pot's rule."

Yet we have a duty to remember the past accurately. Rather than dwell, today, on the many ways in which the memory of communist crimes has been obliterated or retouched, let's consider one thing that is common to most, if not all, of them: they deny the profound spiritual significance of the victims' experiences, and of the perpetrator's crimes.

No one has been more eloquent in calling us back to this than Alexander Solzhenitsyn. In 1983 the great writer received the Templeton Prize, which is made to honor an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension. He opened his remarks with these memorable words:

More than half a century ago, while I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of older people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia: Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.

Since then I have spent well-nigh fifty years working on the history of our Revolution; in the process I have read hundreds of books, collected hundreds of personal testimonies, and have already contributed eight volumes of my own toward the effort of clearing away the rubble left by that upheaval. But if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous Revolution that swallowed up some sixty million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.

Solzhenitsyn recalled us forcefully to the spiritual values that were always at stake in the communist assault on humanity—and remain at stake in the struggle to maintain the memory of what communism perpetrated on the peoples who fell victim to it.

Over my many years in Congress, I have been blessed to meet and work with many other men and women who have been great living witnesses to the effort to maintain a true memory of the crimes of communism. It's no coincidence that most of them have also been witnesses to God, and came into conflict with communism for that very reason.

Thirty-seven years ago, during my first term in Congress, I read *Tortured for Christ* by Romanian pastor Richard Wurmbrand.

It is the true story of unspeakable physical torture and psychological abuse of underground Christians under Romania's Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu—and of Pastor Wurmbrand's harrowing 14-year incarceration. Wurmbrand had defied the communists by declaring openly that Communism and Christianity were incompatible. Sabina, his brave wife, stood by him and also suffered prison and forced labor for her faith.

In 1964 the Wurmbrands were ransomed out of Romania for \$10,000, and in 1966 Richard testified before Congress, taking off his shirt to show Americans the scars from his torture.

Like so many, both my wife Marie and I read his book and were inspired by Pastor Wurmbrand's indomitable faith, breathtaking courage and hope and challenged by his admonishment to believers to cease enabling evil by our naivete, cold-hearted indifference or cowardly complicity.

After being drugged and beaten Pastor Wurmbrand said he was in such bad shape that he even forgot the words to the Lord's Prayer so he simply prayed: "Our Father I have forgotten the prayer, but you surely know it by heart. . . ."

Russia gave us many witnesses to the ugly reality of communism. In the 1980s, my first religious freedom mission was to Moscow and Leningrad in 1982 on behalf of Soviet Jews—the heroic refuseniks, like Natan Sharansky. I got to know many of them and their families. And when in 1989 Frank Wolf and I visited Perm Camp 35 the prisoners told us of their hunger—for food, and for Scripture as well.

In Moscow I also met, and prayed with the Siberian Seven—a group of Pentecostal Christians who fled to the U.S. Embassy and lived there for five years until finally getting exit visas. During that trip—and many subsequent trips to meet Orthodox clergy and believers—began to grasp Alexander Solzhenitsyn's astute observation that communism doesn't merely believe that God does not exist, it hates Him.

Solzhenitsyn called it "militant atheism."

Like many of you I saw that hate throughout the Soviet Union, in Romania, the Warsaw Pact Countries—and that God-hatred continues to thrive today within dictatorships like North Korea, Cuba, Vietnam and China.

China has produced many witnesses, and because its communist dictatorship endures, and even hardens its militancy, today, we all have the opportunity to meet those who witness and document its crimes against the Chinese people. As the chair of the China Commission I have many times heard testimony from Bob Fu, Wei Jingsheng, Chai Ling, Harry Wu, Joseph Kung, and so many others.