

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHARLES W. JOHNSON
III FOR HIS FIFTY YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles W. Johnson III for his 50 years of service to the House of Representatives.

Charles W. Johnson III was appointed as an Assistant Parliamentarian by Speaker John W. McCormack on May 20, 1964. After a 30-year apprenticeship, Charlie was appointed Parliamentarian of the House on September 16, 1994 and served in that role until 2004. He has served as a consultant to the Office of the Parliamentarian from 2004 to the present.

Following his tenure as Parliamentarian, Charlie has devoted his considerable talents to scholarship—working on the precedents of the House and comparative parliamentary procedure. In 2010, Charlie and his British counterpart, Sir William McKay, authored a comprehensive examination of the U.S. House and the British House of Commons. That book entitled “Parliament and Congress” analyzes the constitutional background and procedural history of the legislative bodies of the United States and the United Kingdom. Charlie’s editorial contributions are now represented in over 45 separate parliamentary works. In the most recent volume of the House precedents that bear his name, Charlie’s commentary chronicled procedural changes under seven successive Speakers of the House.

Charlie’s expertise is recognized far beyond the halls of Congress.

He has the unique distinction of testifying before three U.S. congressional committees, a U.S. federal district court, and a joint committee of the British Parliament. In 2011, Charlie was the first witness called by the prosecution in the perjury trial of star pitcher Roger Clemens. In 1999 and 2013, he gave evidence on parliamentary privilege to the Joint Committee on Parliamentary Privilege of the British Parliament.

Charlie’s long-term commitment to international parliamentary exchanges was a driving force behind the creation of the House Office of Interparliamentary Affairs in 2003. He has spent considerable time assisting emerging democracies through work with the House Democracy Partnership. His early efforts with the HDP in Kenya in 2006 were a model for legislative strengthening efforts that now encompass 16 partner countries.

I want to thank Charlie for his exemplary service to the institution over his long and distinguished tenure.

H. CON. RES. 51

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I, as no doubt all of you, have been shocked by images of horrific human rights violations, including summary executions, torture, rape, and chemical weapon attacks in Syria. Since the Syrian Civil War began, perhaps as many as 150,000 people may have been killed and more than 9 million people have been forced to leave their homes, 6.5 million of them internally displaced. By the end of last year, it is estimated that neighboring countries such as Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq were holding nearly 3 million Syrian refugees.

Who is culpable for such heinous acts, and how can they be held accountable, be they members of the Assad regime or Islamist radicals from neighboring countries? Those who have perpetrated human rights violations among the Syrian Government, the rebels, and the foreign fighters on both sides of this conflict, must be shown that their actions will have serious, predictable, and certain consequences. They need to learn the lesson that Charles Taylor learned when he got a 50-year sentence when he was brought to trial and convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

H. Con. Res. 51, introduced on September 9, calls for the creation of an international tribunal that would be more flexible and more efficient than the International Criminal Court to ensure accountability for human rights violations committed by all sides.

Such a tribunal would draw upon past experience, creating a justice mechanism robust enough to hold perpetrators accountable for the most egregious wrongs, yet nimble enough not to derail chances for peace due to rigidity.

Beginning with the Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals, a body of law has developed concerning war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Since the end of the Cold War, we have seen examples of ad hoc tribunals in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and hybrid mechanisms such as the Special Court for Sierra Leone. As chair of the subcommittee on human rights, especially during the 1990s, as well as the Helsinki Commission Chairman, I held a series of hearings on the Yugoslav courts, and those that were in Sierra Leone and Rwanda, and often had the chief prosecutors testify at those hearings, including Carla Del Ponte from the Yugoslav court and others from the Special Court for Sierra Leone, including David Crane. We brought David Crane back this past October 30 to ask him what his view would be on such a court, and he gave riveting testimony, as did other experts, as to the absolute need for the immediate establishment for this kind of flexible court.

Each of these tribunals has achieved a level of success that has escaped the International

Criminal Court. The Yugoslavia tribunal has won 67 convictions, the Rwanda tribunal has won 47, and the Sierra Leone tribunal has won 16 convictions. Meanwhile, the ICC—costing about \$140 million annually—has thus far seen only one conviction.

One thing we do not want to do is go down the ICC route. The ICC process is distant and has no local ownership of its justice process. It is far less flexible than an ad hoc tribunal, which can be designed to fit the situation. The ICC requires a referral. In the case of the President and Deputy President of Kenya, it was Kenya itself that facilitated the referral. That is highly unlikely in the case of Syria. Since Syria is a Russian client state, this U.N. Security Council member would oppose any referral of the Syria matter to the ICC, but might be convinced to support an ad hoc proceeding that focuses on war crimes by the government, as well as the rebels—one that allows for plea bargaining for witnesses and other legal negotiations to enable such a court to successfully punish at least some of the direct perpetrators of increasingly horrific crimes. And Syria, like the United States, never ratified the Rome Statute that created the ICC, which raises legitimate concerns about sovereignty with implications for our country, which this panel also addresses.

There are issues that must be addressed for any Syria war crimes tribunal to be created and to operate successfully. There must be sustained international will for it to happen in a meaningful way. An agreed-upon system of law must be the basis for proceedings. An agreed-upon structure, a funding mechanism and a location for the proceedings must be found. There must be a determination on which and how many targets of justice will be pursued. A timetable and time span of such a tribunal must be devised. And there are even more issues that must be settled before such an ad hoc tribunal can exist.

Those who are even now perpetrating crimes against humanity must be shown that their crimes will not continue with impunity. Syria has been called the world’s worst humanitarian crisis. One might reasonably also consider it the worst human rights crisis in the world today. Therefore, the international community owes it to the people of Syria, and their neighbors, to do all we can to bring to a halt the actions creating these crises for Syria and the region.

We have the opportunity to give hope to the terrorized people of Syria. The subcommittee I chair held a hearing last October 30 where we heard from some of the most experienced voices concerning international justice mechanisms. We have met several times with the State Department, and we have worked diligently with the House Committee on Foreign Affairs—especially Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL and Chairman ED ROYCE—in shaping a lean, muscular resolution that can be adapted to address the situation in Syria as it currently exists, providing broad latitude for the administration to conduct foreign policy.

The suffering of the Syrian people must end, and we have the opportunity to help

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

achieve that. H. Con. Res. 51 is a means to that end, and again, those who are committing these horrific crimes need to know that they face the certitude of punishment.

HONORING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this week, we observe Holocaust Remembrance Day—Yom HaShoah or the Day of Destruction—to remember those lost in the tragic genocide during World War II. I join with all Americans, as well as people around the world, to honor the tens of millions of lives that were lost. While this day is primarily an occasion to remember those who were lost, it also serves as a warning that we cannot let these atrocious acts of violence happen again.

On Yom HaShoah in Israel sirens ring out, and no matter what they are doing, people stop and reflect for two minutes. We too pause and remember those who perished as well as recommit ourselves to never again turn a blind eye to the precursors that led to this mass genocide. The Nuremberg Laws passed in 1935 capitalized on anti-Semitism's already widespread growth. These restrictions were followed by the destruction of Jewish communities, the construction of death camps, families torn apart, and lives lost.

As we reflect on the 6 million Jews lost 70 years ago, we must also remember the victims from other senseless genocides throughout history. From working towards the recognition of the Armenian genocide to today's atrocities in Sudan and the Central African Republic, we must be committed to saying "never again." The violation of basic human rights cannot be ignored and we must come together to stand up for those who do not have the voice to stand up for themselves.

I ask all Members to join me in remembering those lost in the genocide and pledge that this senseless violence will never be forgotten or repeated.

NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Representative GUS BILIRAKIS, my co-chair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, and our caucus members Representatives MADELINE BORDALLO, G.K. BUTTERFIELD, TONY CÁRDENAS, DONNA CHRISTENSEN, BLAKE FARENTHOLD, LOIS FRANKEL, TULSI GABBARD, ALAN GRAYSON, JANICE HAHN, COLLEEN HANABUSA, JOE HECK, RUBÉN HINOJOSA, MICHAEL HONDA, JARED HUFFMAN, WILLIAM KEATING, ANN KIRKPATRICK, BILLY LONG, CYNTHIA LUMMIS, KRISTI NOEM, STEVE PEARCE, PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, SCOTT PETERS, BILL POSEY, DAVE REICHERT, BOBBY RUSH, GREGORIO SABLÁN, LORETTA SANCHEZ, STEVE STIVERS, PAT TIBERI, DINA TITUS, JUAN

VARGAS, and FREDERICA WILSON, we offer our support in celebrating this year's National Travel and Tourism Week.

The week of May 3 through 11, 2014 is designated as National Travel and Tourism Week in the United States. This commemorative week reminds us that travel is a major driver of U.S. economic growth and prosperity as well as an important business tool that promotes efficiency and productivity.

America's travel industry accounted for \$2.1 billion in economic output in 2013, supported nearly 15 million U.S. jobs and generated nearly \$134 billion in local, state and federal tax revenue. Travel and tourism account for 2.7 percent of U.S. GDP and travel is America's No. 1 U.S. industry export.

Travel is a pillar of economic growth. One out of every nine jobs in America depends on travel and tourism. Travel is among the top 10 industries in 49 states, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia in terms of employment. Travel is currently creating jobs at a 17 percent faster rate than other economic sectors. 84 percent of companies in the travel industry are classified as small businesses.

When U.S. travelers spend money in other countries, their purchases are counted as imports. When international travelers visit the United States, the goods and services they purchase here are counted as exports. U.S. travel exports totaled \$181 billion in 2013, generating a positive balance of trade of more than \$57 billion.

Travel, in the context of business meetings, events and incentive travel, constitutes a core business function that helps companies strengthen business performance, educate employees and customers and reward business accomplishments. Business travel yields a return on investment of \$9.50 in increased revenue for every dollar spent.

The majority of all trips taken to and within the United States involve leisure travel, which benefits every state and territory in the country, and was valued at \$621.4 billion in 2013, and generated \$91.9 billion in tax revenue. Leisure travel can be educational, increase historical and cultural awareness of our country and the world, stimulate creativity and productivity, and enhance longevity by allowing us to recharge our batteries and improve our health and wellness.

We strongly support National Travel and Tourism Week as an opportunity to express to the Nation the importance of travel in creating economic growth and opportunity, and enhancing the quality of life in the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO ANTOINETTE BEAUMONT TOMASEK

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Antoinette "Toni" Beaumont Tomasek, an extraordinary and talented Foreign Service officer who passed away on June 29, 2013, at age 41 due to complications from a car accident in Haiti.

Born in Manhattan Beach, California, Toni served in the Peace Corps in Paraguay before embarking on a career that took her all over the world working on international public

health. Prior to her work in Haiti, Toni served as a USAID Development Leadership Initiative Officer in Indonesia, establishing what USAID has called a "groundbreaking program" that works with local organizations to prevent and treat tuberculosis.

At the time of her death, Toni served as a health services team leader at the USAID mission in Port-au-Prince and was making a difference every day in lives of the Haitian people. She died following serious injuries suffered in a car accident as she returned to the American Embassy from a visit to a health clinic.

Toni was a loving wife, mother, daughter, and sister. She is survived by her husband, Adam, and their two young children, Alexandre and Amelie; her parents, Marilyn and William; and her brother and sister, Billy and Jeannie.

On Friday, May 2, Toni is being honored at the annual American Foreign Service Association's Memorial Ceremony at the U.S. State Department for her exceptional service to our nation. I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Toni Tomasek and extending our deepest condolences to her family for their terrible loss. Our nation and the entire world owe a great debt to Toni for her tremendous commitment to making the world a better place and for her indefatigable work to improve the lives of the least among us.

THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: FROM "PRE-GENOCIDE" TO GENOCIDE?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a hearing that I held earlier this week addressed an extremely critical topic: the worsening crisis in the Central African Republic, where untold lives hang in the balance and the window for action is narrowing each day.

It was not the first hearing we have held on the CAR. It follows up a hearing that we held last November when the situation already appeared dire, as well as numerous meetings and interventions with bishops, humanitarian NGOs, diplomats, and interested parties. At our November hearing, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Robert Jackson stated that the CAR was in a "pre-genocide" stage.

Since the time Mr. Jackson last spoke to us, the situation appears to have gotten demonstrably worse. We will hear again today from Mr. Jackson, who will update us not only on the situation on the ground, but also on a change of policy that I believe reflects a course of action that we had recommended the administration undertake last November, namely, that United Nations peacekeepers be introduced into the country as the existing African Union force has been serving too many vested interests.

Hopefully, such an intervention will not come too late, because as we are witnessing a country in rapid disintegration, apparently descending from a "pre-genocide" stage to one characterized by a word almost too painful to articulate: genocide.

In a country that for decades had been characterized by brutal misrule and brazen

corruption, we are seeing for the first time sectarian divisions such have never existed before. Economic tensions and rivalry over land used for grazing versus planting have always existed, but these have given way to butchery based on religious and ethnic affiliation.

This is happening at a time when we mark the twentieth anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda. When that country was being turned into a massive killing field, the world stood idly by. Both President Clinton and then-U.N. Peacekeeping Chief Kofi Annan had actionable intelligence information that could have prevented or at least mitigated the Rwandan genocide but chose callous indifference that enabled slaughter of unprecedented proportions. When the blood stopped flowing, the world looked at the corpses piled high and was shocked, “never again” was the phrase that was on everyone’s lips.

It is happening again. The question before us is whether the phrase “never again” is one that we simply use to pay lip service while doing nothing, or whether we are going to act.

We had two witnesses from the U.S. Government at the hearing, as I mentioned, Acting Assistant Secretary Jackson, and also Anne Richard, Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees and Migration. While the State Department sending two people to testify is encouraging, as it shows a heightened commitment to the issue, the questions I asked them to answer were not only about “what are we doing,” but also whether or not “we are doing enough?”

In 2012, the Obama administration, to much fanfare, created an Atrocities Prevention Board, following a Presidential Study directive which stated that “Preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States.” The APB is supposed to provide early warning of mass atrocities, and mobilize interagency resources to stop such atrocities.

But where has this Board been? Did we take our eyes off the ball in the CAR, perhaps because we are confronted by so many other crises?

While we have taken some steps, including authorizing \$170 million in humanitarian and peacekeeping aid—are such resources adequate given the magnitude of the problem?

We have a situation where in a country with a population of roughly 5.2 million people, 1.3 million are in risk of starvation, while 2.5 million in total are estimated to need some form of humanitarian assistance. That is nearly half the country.

We are seeing ethnic cleansing, whereby whole villages are being emptied and the countryside laid waste. There are more than 600,000 internally displaced persons in the CAR, plus more than 320,000 others who are refugees in neighboring countries. Illustrative of how the situation has worsened, the total number of those displaced has doubled since the time we held our hearing last November.

We are told that an estimated 2,000 people have been killed since December, but I believe that number is a conservative estimate.

What reports we do receive, however, are bloodcurdling. Human Rights Watch reported on an attack on a Muslim neighborhood in the town of Guen in the early morning hours of February 1 by so-called anti-Balaka forces. A father recounted how as the family was fleeing he saw his ten-year-old boy shot in the leg

and fall down. The child was set upon by men with machetes, who hacked at him until he was dead. Four days later, in what was reminiscent of the massacre in the former Yugoslavia, anti-Balaka forces came upon a group of Muslims who were hiding. They separated the men from the women and small children, and executed the men: 45 of them, using machetes and then shooting those who lay wounded.

Though for decades the CAR has been beset by violence and misrule, such religious based violence is something that is a new phenomenon.

But how did the country get to this point?

What began as a political coup d’etat in March 2013 against former President François Bozizé by Michel Djotodia quickly took on religious and ethnic overtones.

As was detailed in our November hearing, Djotodia—who, thankfully, has now been replaced by interim President Catherine Samba-Panza—came to power with the military backing of Seleka, a militia of about 25,000 men, up to 90 percent of which come from Chad and Sudan and therefore constituted a foreign invasion force in the eyes of many. They did not speak the local language, and are Muslim in a nation that is over 80 percent Christian or otherwise non-Muslim. They destroyed churches, executed priests and stirred up sectarian hatreds where little to none had existed previously.

What we began to see happening last November in response to Seleka was a reactionary backlash by anti-Balaka, self-defense gangs. Since then, retaliatory outrages committed by anti-Balaka forces have escalated, and Muslim civilians who had nothing to do with Seleka became targets. As in the case of Guen, whole neighborhoods in the capital city of Bangui, and whole villages, have been cleansed of their Muslim populations.

As we heard from our witnesses, there are numerous causes contributing to grievances, including a fight for control over conflict minerals. Guen, for example, is in a mining area, and thus there are economic motives at work as well.

Insofar as the conflict can be described as religious on one level, it is also true religious fervor and dedication that provides the greatest hope for peace in the Central African Republic.

Some of you will recall how a few months ago three great religious leaders came to Washington and New York to meet with Congressional and U.S. Government leaders, as well as United Nations officials. One was a Muslim imam, another an evangelical Christian leader, and a third the Catholic Archbishop of Bangui—Imam Omar Kobine Layama, Archbishop Dieudonné Nzapalainga, and the Rev. Nicolas Guérékoyame-Gbangou. The three of them spoke with one voice about their efforts to preach reconciliation in their country and to end the violence. They also asked for our help before it became too late.

Finally, I want to relate to you a story about another man of God, someone whom those of you who attended our November hearing, will remember. Two weeks ago was Holy Week, and on Holy Thursday, Bishop Désiré Nongo of the Diocese of Bossangoa and one of the witnesses at our last hearing, was visiting an outlying parish along with three of his priests.

The car he was traveling in was stopped on the road by Seleka gunmen whose leader had

for a period occupied Bossangoa. He accused Bishop Nongo of having thwarted his plans and working with international peacekeepers. He then sentenced him and the other three priests to death. The gunmen removed his Episcopal ring and the large pectoral cross which you might remember Bishop Nongo wore. The four men were placed in a truck and were to be driven north to the border with Chad for the order to be carried out.

On the way to the gallows, their truck was stopped yet again by Seleka gunmen, this time commanded by another warlord who also knew Bishop Nongo and his good work in Bossangoa, where the Bishop provides care for over 35,000 people displaced by the violence. He ordered the Bishop and his priests freed and, through the efforts of international aid organizations and the peacekeepers, they were helicoptered back to Bossangoa in time for Good Friday.

This story really hit home with me. Here is someone who shared coffee with me in my office, who sat in that witness chair over there and gave a powerful defense of the weakest and most vulnerable, someone I especially know and deeply admire and respect, who just two weeks ago today was about to be killed until Providence intervened.

But be it a bishop or a farmer, every precious life has value. Far too many have died, and, unless we act, far too many more will likely die.

Recall the words of the Presidential Directive I cited earlier: “Preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States.” I believe this is true, but such sentiments are empty if they are not backed up by action.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF EU-
LESS MAYOR PRO TEM LEON
HOGG

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the Honorable Leon Hogg who is retiring from his position on the Euless City Council after 18 years of service.

Mayor Pro Tem Leon Hogg has served on the City Council since 1996. His dedication to the City of Euless, Texas, has ensured happier and healthier lives for its citizens, and his commitment to enhancing the infrastructure of the city has been vital to the area’s prosperity and growth.

Mayor Pro Tem Hogg has a long-standing history of serving in leadership roles. He currently presides on the Animal Shelter Advisory Board and the Crime Control and Prevention District Board. Prior to his existing leadership positions, he served as the Council representative to the HEB Economic Development Foundation and as a member of the Half-Cent Sales Tax Education Committee. For 12 years, he served on the Parks and Leisure Services Board; furthermore, for eight of those years he presided as the chairman.

Mayor Pro Tem Hogg is involved in various community and civic groups. He graduated from the inaugural class of the Euless Citizens Fire Academy, and he is a graduate of the

12th class of the Euless Citizens Police Academy. Additionally, he is a charter member of the Euless Citizens Fire Alumni Association. He has represented the City of Euless in the National League of Cities where he served on the Program Committee in 2005 and the Community Development Policy and Advocacy Committee in 2006. He has also represented the City of Euless in the Texas Municipal League, serving on the Resolutions Committee in 2004 and 2005, and the Legislative Policy Committee on General Government in 2006.

In 2003, Mayor Pro Tem Hogg was inducted into the Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD Sports Hall of Fame. The recognition was in honor of his positive impact on the community and HEB ISD students.

Mayor Pro Tem Leon Hogg is a retired businessman who has owned several businesses over his lifetime. He and his wife, Jan, have been married for over 55 years. They have 3 children, 8 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking the Honorable Leon Hogg for his years of service on the Euless City Council.

INCOME INEQUALITY IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, today we find ourselves five decades since the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, as well as the onset of the War on Poverty and still, race and economic empowerment remain entangled in stark and distinctive ways throughout the nation. Not only has income inequality persisted over the years, but perhaps even more daunting is the wide and growing gulf in wealth inequity between Black and White America. Wealth, that is what one owns minus what one owes, anchors families. It provides a layer of stability in times of economic distress, and serves as an intergenerational stepping stone to prosperity. It is wealth that families often rely on to provide a critical means of support for higher education, downpayments for home purchases, capital for starting a business, or direct wealth transfers to heirs via cash inheritances. So while income is vital for meeting daily needs, wealth moves families beyond survival mode and opens up critical doors of opportunity that are necessary to thrive economically over the long haul.

Historically, discriminatory practices have played a significant hand in manifesting wealth differentials within Black and White communities. Everything from housing policies and practices that made it more difficult for communities of color and particularly African Americans to gain access to homeownership as early as their White peers, to tax policy which overwhelmingly favor affluent households, much of the gap in wealth acquisition that we've witnessed over the long haul is not reflective of a natural order of responsible and irresponsible money management, but instead, is the result of centuries of policy actions that have advantaged some, while simultaneously

disadvantaging others. The fallout from these practices remain, providing perpetual advantages and disadvantages relating to wealth acquisition, transfer, and growth.

In recent years, however, the Great Recession took a heavy toll on most. But while few families escaped the sting of wealth loss following this world-wide economic disruption, even fewer were more strikingly impacted than African Americans. In fact, according to the Pew Research Center, over half of the wealth amassed among African Americans was lost in just four years as a direct result of this historic recession. After which, the already tremendous racial wealth gap actually widened. In fact, as it stands today, for every dollar in wealth held by Whites, Blacks hold a shockingly meager 5 cents.

Recent research has examined the reasons behind the widening of the racial wealth gap. After tracing the same households over 25 years, including the most recent period in which we've witnessed the widening of this gap, it was determined that primarily five factors are at play: (1) Years of homeownership; (2) Household Income; (3) Exposure to Unemployment; (4) Higher Education Acquisition; and (5) Inheritances or other sources of financial support from family or friends.

In briefly examining each of these issues we know that historical residential segregation starkly limited opportunity for home equity acquisition among African Americans. We know too, that Whites are more likely than Blacks to receive inheritances or receive large financial gifts from family members that can then be used for home downpayments, and thus, create a situation where Whites are perpetually better positioned to transition into homeownership. And finally, we know that Blacks were disproportionately impacted by subprime mortgage vehicles during the run up to the housing crisis, thus increasing their risk of foreclosure, and limiting their equity acquisition potential.

Further Blacks have historically and continue to suffer wage gaps as compared to Whites across both genders and every level of education. Blacks are also more likely to experience unemployment at some time during their working lives and when unemployed, are more likely to experience longer bouts of joblessness than their White counterparts. As a result, Blacks are more apt to tap into any available wealth reserves they may have at their disposal in order to meet survival needs during disruptions in their income stream.

While home ownership, income and unemployment greatly influenced the wealth differentials, so too did access to higher education. As we all know, post-secondary education provides a pathway to higher income, and ultimately more substantial wealth portfolios. According to this research, just as impactful as higher education is access to inheritance. Together, these five factors alone accounted for fully $\frac{2}{3}$ of the wealth gap increase we've seen between these two populations in recent years.

In correcting this unfortunate trend, it then becomes clear, that strong policy action is needed in order to address the wide and growing wealth gap that continues to disadvantage the Black community. Moving forward, there must be a concerted emphasis on expanding access to homeownership within the Black community. While the nation and the world was rocked by the mortgage crisis that intricately interconnected with the Great Re-

cession, few were impacted more profoundly than the Black community. Moving forward we know that home ownership is still a key conduit to wealth acquisition for most Americans. As such, special efforts need to be put in place to ensure more Black families have access to this key wealth building tool.

Additionally, policies which expand employment opportunities for jobs that pay good wages are especially important to the Black community. Such a focus can help to alleviate both the persistent wage disadvantage experienced by this community as well as the lingering problem of elevated unemployment rates. Finally, making college affordable and improving elementary and secondary education so that Black children are both prepared for college and can afford to stay there through degree completion is key for providing a foundation for success that could later result in greater access to wealth building vehicles.

Beyond these measures, protecting and strengthening Social Security remains a key need for the Black community as this program is especially important to a population that is disadvantaged when it comes to access to employer provided retirement plans and is less likely than Whites to hold other assets from which they can draw upon to meet their needs in their retirement years.

In sum, Mr. Speaker, the persistent economic wealth disadvantage that continues to plague the Black community did not come about as mere accident of circumstance or broad scale pathologies as it relates to financial mismanagement. Instead, these differences came about from centuries of policy action that served in the interest of some and to the disadvantage of others. Despite this nation's bold attempt to correct this injustice decades before, the lingering effects of these policies remain. Moving forward, it is our responsibility to fulfill the promise of the historic Acts, including the 1964 Civil Rights Act, put in place fifty years prior by taking bold and substantive action today to finally make real the promise of an America that truly provides equal opportunity for all.

HONORING JUDY CREMER'S 50 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Judy Cremer, Livingston County Circuit Clerk, and to recognize her many years of devoted service to the citizens of Livingston County and the State of Illinois.

Mrs. Cremer has worked in Livingston County government for 50 years. Judy started her service in the State Attorney's office in 1964 and later moved over to the Circuit Clerk's office where she has been a dutiful employee since 1980. She has been a constant presence in Livingston County and helped make countless improvements in the Circuit Clerk's office throughout her years of service.

I would like to thank Judy for all she has done for the residents of Livingston County. She has been a leader and an integral part of Livingston County government these past 50

years. I know that the people of Livingston County are thankful for her service and efforts to improve the lives of those in the area.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our deepest thanks to Judy Cremer for her commendable service and dedication to the people of Livingston County and the State of Illinois for the past 50 years.

**EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY:
TIER RANKINGS AND THE TIP
REPORT**

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I held a hearing on the power of holding countries accountable in the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, including its tier rankings, for government successes or failures in the fight against human trafficking.

Experts have observed that there are more slaves in the world today than at any previous point of human history. With the Trafficking in Persons Report and tier rankings, the United States is also ensuring more accountability and progress than ever before in the fight to rid the world of slavery.

Many of those who attended the hearing have been in this fight for more than a decade from the year 2000 when a law I authored—the Trafficking Victims' Protection Act (TPVA)—created a comprehensive policy that not only established the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the Department of State, but also the annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

The success of the TIP Report and rankings is beyond anything we could have hoped for at the time. From presidential suites to the halls of parliaments to law enforcement assets and police stations in remote corners of the world, this report focuses anti-trafficking work in 187 countries on the pivotal goals of prevention, prosecution, and protection.

Much of the praise for the success of the TIP Report is due to the incredibly effective Ambassadors-at-Large who have led the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP) and their highly dedicated staff. Ambassador Mark Lagon is one of them and he testified at our hearing this week.

Each year, the trafficking office evaluates whether the government of a country is fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking, or, if not, whether the government is making significant efforts to do so.

The record is laid bare for the world to see and summarized in a tier ranking narrative. Tier 1 countries fully meet the minimum standards. Tier 2 countries do not meet the minimum standards but are making significant effort to do so. Tier 3 countries do not meet the standards and are not making significant effort to do so. Along with the embarrassment of being listed on Tier 3, such countries are open to sanction by the U.S. government.

Over the last 14 years, more than 120 countries have enacted anti-trafficking laws and many countries have taken other steps required to significantly raise their tier rankings.

Some countries openly credit the TIP report as a key factor in their increased and effective anti-trafficking response.

We created the Tier 2 Watch List in the 2003 TVPA reauthorization. This list was intended to encourage good-faith anti-trafficking progress in a country that may have taken positive anti-trafficking steps late in the evaluation year.

Unfortunately, some countries made a habit of last minute efforts and failed to follow through year after year—effectively gaming the system. To protect the integrity of the tier system and ensure it worked properly to inspire real progress in the fight against human trafficking, Congress in 2008 created an “automatic downgrade” for any country that had been on the Tier 2 Watch List for two years but had not taken significant enough anti-trafficking measures to move up a tier.

The President can waive this automatic downgrade for two additional years if he certifies “credible evidence” that the country has a written and sufficiently resourced plan, which if implemented, would constitute significant effort to meet the minimum standards.

Last year was the first test of the new system—and it worked. China, Russia, and Uzbekistan ran out of waivers and moved to Tier 3, which accurately reflected their records. In the hearing, we evaluated whether these countries have made any significant progress over the last year.

I am particularly concerned that China's trafficking crisis continues unabated. The recent U.N. Commission of Inquiry Report on North Korea provides horrifying evidence of the trafficking of North Korean women to China for sex, brides, or labor. An estimated 90 percent of North Korean women seeking asylum in China are trafficked for these reasons. Thousands of women a year leave desperate situations in North Korea only to end up in a brothel or forced marriage—a tragic and astonishing fact.

China's response has not been to provide protection for victims or to prosecute traffickers; it is to hunt down and repatriate North Koreans, sending them back—to hard labor, long imprisonments, and possible execution.

North Korean women are not the only victims. By 2020, more than 40 million Chinese men will be unable to find wives in China because of China's short-sighted and abusive one-child policy, which, coupled with modern abortion technology, has triggered the mass abortion of tens of millions of baby girls. A human rights abuse in and of itself, sex-selective abortions have also created a huge trafficking magnet, pulling victims into forced marriages and brothels from countries in proximity to China and beyond.

China's extremely modest and overly hyped suggestion that it might relax the draconian one-child policy for some couples is unlikely to mitigate the disaster and may be further counteracted by the spread of abortion sex selection technology to more of rural China. Whether the birth limitation is one-child or two-child in special cases, birth limitation policies constitute abuse, cruelty, and exploitation without precedent or parallel for baby girls and society.

The Government of China is failing not only to address its own trafficking problems but is creating an incentive for human trafficking problems in the whole region. Although she could not join us in person at the hearing, re-

nowned author Mara Hvistandahl, author of *Unnatural Selection, Choosing Boys over Girls and the Consequences of a World Full of Men*, submitted testimony for the record specifically on the effect of the sex ratio imbalance as a cause of human trafficking and the proliferation of “marriage agencies” in China, which traffic women from poorer countries into China and sell them into marriage.

During the hearing, we also looked at a second set of countries that, this year, must be automatically downgraded unless they have made significant efforts to fight human trafficking. These countries include Thailand, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Chad, Barbados, and Maldives. Burma may receive a Presidential waiver in order to avoid downgrade to Tier 3 but the facts on the ground don't justify that course of action.

Cutting across Burma, Thailand, and Malaysia is the tragic plight of the Rohingya minority. Rohingya are leaving Burma by the thousands to escape religious persecution. However, according to a report put out by Reuters, Thai authorities are selling Rohingya to human traffickers, where they are held in “tropical gulags” until relatives pay ransom. Those who cannot pay the ransom are sold into sex slavery or hard labor and many die from abuse or disease. Thai authorities have done little to stop this practice, their efforts at prevention and prosecution are said to be “losing steam.”

Rohingya are often trafficked to Malaysia where they are exploited for labor. The sad fact is that many Rohingya, a persecuted Sunni Muslim minority in Burma, hope to find refuge in Malaysia, a majority Muslim country.

Burma is the source of Rohingya trafficking in the region. Policies of discrimination, child limitation, forced birth control, and violence push the Rohingya minority to leave Burma and leave them vulnerable refugees. The Burmese government is culpable in Rohingya trafficking and the regional problems their policies create.

The Burmese Government also has done little to stop trafficking of Rohingya within Burma. Reports indicate that authorities profit from the sale of Rohingya to traffickers, Rohingya women are held at military bases as sex slaves, and Rohingya men are used for forced labor. Though these practices have gone on for many years, they are under-reported in the State Department's TIP Report.

Displaced by war with the Burmese military, women and children from the Kachin tribe in Burma are also subject to trafficking. Roi Ja, an 18-year-old woman living in IDP camp in northern Burma, was lured to China with a promise of a restaurant job. Once in China she was bused to a rural village and locked in a room. According to her testimony, she cried for three days and begged those around to let her go. She was told to just “give up” and was sold as a bride for \$5,312.

We hear constantly about Burma's success democratic reforms, but peel away the layers of good news, and many of the same human rights problems and human atrocities remain. I understand that the administration has started a “Human Trafficking Dialogue” with Burma. Diplomatic engagement is important, but not enough to warrant an upgrade in Burma's status. For that we have to see concrete results, not Rohingya trafficked for sex and labor.

The importance of accurate Tier rankings and TIP Report country profiles cannot be

overstated. Again and again, we have seen countries turn 180 degrees and begin the hard work of reaching the minimum standards after the TIP Report accurately exposed—with a Tier 3 ranking and truthful country report—each country's failure to take significant action

against human trafficking. By the same token, a premature boost to Tier 2 may not only undermine progress, but fail to inspire it among countries actually doing the hard work.

I won't deny that there are at times diplomatic costs to accurate tier rankings—but it is

the price of freedom for the men, women, and children caught in human trafficking. They remind us that each of their lives is priceless and must be protected.