

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## GATEWAY SOLIDARITY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 18, 2022*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7002, the Gateway Solidarity Act, which would authorize the illumination of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, by blue and yellow lights for a certain period of time to show support and solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

It has been five months since Russia invaded Ukraine, and the relentless pain caused to the Ukrainian people has not subsided.

Families are being separated by war, adults and children are being ruthlessly killed, and a rogue Russia is violently crushing political speech from its own citizens who oppose the war.

The threat and aggression by Russia has persisted despite global resistance.

This act of aggression on the part of Russia creates instability in the region and places at risk the over 70 years of global peace that followed World War II.

The lives of all Ukrainians matter at this moment, and we must do what we can while we can to stop Russia's assault on the people of Ukraine and its democratically elected government.

As President Biden so aptly stated, "We either back the Ukrainian people as they defend their country or stand by as Russia continues its atrocities and aggression."

The United States must continue to support Ukraine during their time of war.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 7002, the Gateway Solidarity Act.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Ukrainian people during their darkest hour.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REILLY ALBERT RIDGELL

**HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 22, 2022*

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Reilly Albert Ridgell. Reilly was an esteemed author, devoted educator, and inspiring leader whose scholarship and stories have and continue to impact our island, region, and nation. Our community will fondly remember him as a passionate advocate and ally whose contributions meaningfully cultivated new spaces for Pacific peoples to rise.

After graduating from Pacific Palisades High School, Reilly earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles. By 1970, he obtained a master's degree in the field from the University of California, Santa Barbara and soon after,

answered the call of the Peace Corps in the Western Islands of Chuuk, Micronesia. Working to advance the organization's mission to realize greater inclusion and global equity, Reilly served as a teacher in the island state for a total of four years. He further expanded his contributions and involvement across the region to include opportunities in Guam as a private school teacher, progressive rock disc jockey, and as an assistant professor and Dean of Trades and Professional Services at the Guam Community College (GCC).

Upon identifying an evident void in teaching materials about the Pacific Islands, Reilly took it upon himself to begin the important work of closing a persisting gap in knowledge. Following extensive research, countless hours of writing, and meaningful collaborations, he published two textbooks, an anthology of Peace Corps stories, and two novels entitled *Pacific Nations and Territories*, *Pacific Neighbors*, *Bending to the Trade Winds*, *Green Pearl Odyssey*, and *Isla Vista Crucible*, respectively. Since 1983, thousands of copies of his works, their subsequent editions, and numerous derivatives have been sold and continue to be used extensively across the Pacific. Moreover, his works have gained several regional and national accolades including Regional Lit Category honorable mention and *Compilations/Anthology Category* 1st place at the 2015 Pacific Rim Book Festival, top honors at the 2014 Southern California Book Festival, and honorable mention at the Eric Hoffer Book Awards.

Reilly Albert Ridgell was an innovative writer and changemaker who continues to inspire many throughout our island and region. His dedication to amplifying the voices, stories, and histories of our Pacific people has materially elevated our presence in classrooms far beyond our borders, actively shaped our community consciousness, and empowered our people with greater sociopolitical agency. My family and I wish to extend our hearts and prayers for Reilly, his wife, Bloria; their children, Clynton and Joel; and the rest of their family and friends, and I join the people of Guam in remembering and celebrating his life and legacy of directing one's personal gifts and passions toward uplifting others. He will be dearly missed, and his love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of the people of Guam.

## RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 19, 2022*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in strong support of H.R. 8404, the "Respect for Marriage Act."

This Act would enshrine in federal law marriage equality for same sex and interracial couples.

I would also repeal the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) of 1996 that problematically defined marriage as between one man and one woman.

The Supreme Court's backwards ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that was used to justify overturning the right to abortion could be weaponized in the future to strip away other fundamental rights, including the right to marriage equality.

In his concurring opinion in *Dobbs*, Justice Clarence Thomas explicitly called on the Supreme Court to reconsider its decisions protecting other fundamental rights, including the right to same-sex marriage recognized in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

Although Justice Thomas conveniently chose not to mention the right to interracial marriage—a right he currently enjoys—that right relies on the same constitutional doctrines as the right to same-sex marriage, and therefore, could also be on the chopping block.

The Supreme Court's rulings in *Loving v. Virginia*, and *Obergefell v. Hodges* were founded on the promise of unenumerated rights and due process for all American people as guaranteed in the 9th and 14th Amendments of our Nation's Constitution.

The 9th Amendment states that the Federal Government does not retain final authority over rights not listed in the Constitution—including the right to marry someone regardless of their sex or race.

No, that very personal and intimate right, remains retained by the people.

Additionally, the 14th Amendment ensures that no right afforded to the American people can be taken away without due process of law, while also guaranteeing to all Americans that they shall have equal protection under the law.

Equal protection under the law.

The same law that applies to a Black man wishing to marry a Hispanic woman must be applied equally to an Indigenous woman wishing to marry a White woman, a nonbinary individual wishing to marry a man, and so on.

That is the constitutional promise in the United States.

Marriage equality is not a right that can be stripped away by a conservative faction of the United States Supreme Court, nor by extremist Republican legislators.

It is a fundamental aspect of our democracy.

The assurances of the 14th Amendment became part of our national governing documents as a protection against those who would use their power to wipe away the freedoms of others without restraint or consent of the governed.

It is unfortunate that we must rely on its strength again today.

The night before the *Dobbs* ruling, LGBTQI+ couples and people in interracial relationships went to sleep confident in the legality of their marriages.

They had no reason to believe that the next morning five individuals would pass a ruling

• 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.

that would strip women of their right to abortion and threaten the legality of their marriage unions.

On June 24th, amidst the horror of the Court's ruling against abortion rights, innocent LGBTQI+, Black, and Brown people had to also grapple with the possibility that the legality of their marriages might be violently stripped away.

We cannot and will not allow Republican lawmakers and conservative Justices to toy with the rights of the American people.

That is why I strongly support the Respect for Marriage Act.

This act would ensure that an individual be considered married as long as the marriage was valid in the State where it was performed.

This ensures that same-sex and interracial couples would continue to enjoy equal treatment under Federal law—as the Constitution requires.

This bill would go further by officially repealing the Defense of Marriage Act.

While the Supreme Court effectively rendered DOMA inert with its decision in Obergefell, this unconstitutional and discriminatory law, however, still officially remains on the books.

Therefore, H.R. 8404 would repeal DOMA once and for all.

The Respect for Marriage Act would also prohibit any person acting under color of state law from denying full faith and credit to an out-of-state marriage based on the sex, race, ethnicity or national origin of the individuals in the marriage.

It would also authorize the U.S. Attorney General to enforce these protections and would create recourses of action for any individual harmed by a violation of this provision.

If conservative lawmakers and Justices want to wage war against human and civil rights, we are ready to meet them toe for toe.

We will meet them with the full strength of the United States Bill of Rights to defend the American people against discrimination and injustice.

We will not back down for marriage equality.

We will not back down for racial justice.

We will ensure equal rights for all American people.

I strongly put my full support behind H.R. 8404, the Respect for Marriage Act, and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

mit, fund, or support gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, and for other purposes.

This legislation provides procedures on how to identify human rights violators including:

A concrete framework of requirements for an international entity to apply for and receive a conservation grant.

Creating a Social Safeguards Plan that will implement appropriate human rights standards and prevent gross violations of internationally recognized human rights in connections with activities funded under the award.

Reporting requirement for grant recipients who stand accused of violating international human rights.

Generating a formal review process that would include an investigation and may require the grant recipient to address the alleged violation.

I applaud the efforts of my colleague, Congressman GRIJALVA and his office for uplifting this issue.

Through this effort, we are reminding the American people that the fight against environmental degradation must go hand in hand with Congress' commitment to uphold human rights across the globe.

I know firsthand the importance of environmental conservation efforts both at home and abroad.

In my home state of Texas, about 1,300 species of plants and animals are currently on the endangered list, diminishing our biodiversity.

Several economic sectors including agriculture depend on natural resources so we need to make sure that we are facing the effects of the climate crisis head-on.

These grants from the Fish and Wildlife Service will equip us with the tools to ensure clean air, land and water will be accessible to our children.

When enacted, H.R. 7025 will lay out a formal procedure to curtail those seeking financial assistance from the U.S. but clearly do not have a respect for human rights.

This legislation sends a clear message that recipients of conservation grants funded by the American taxpayer must respect American values.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 7025 to confront those who continue to violate human rights around the world and uplift the democratic values we work to protect.

for the sovereign decision of Finland and Sweden to apply to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as well as calling on all members of NATO to ratify the protocols of accession swiftly.

The resolution expresses support for Finland and Sweden's historic decision to apply to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and opposes any attempt by the Russian government to obstruct Finland and Sweden's decision to apply to join NATO.

The bill also calls on the member states of NATO to formally support the accession of Finland and Sweden into the transatlantic alliance.

Finland and Sweden have worked with the NATO alliance for nearly thirty years, and they are widely regarded as capable security partners.

They joined NATO's Partnership for Peace in 1994 and both contributed personnel to NATO-led operations in Afghanistan, the Balkans, and Iraq.

In 2014, they became two of just six Enhanced Opportunity Partners and have since worked to increase their militaries' ability to operate with NATO forces.

Sweden recently hosted more than a dozen NATO allies and Finland in BALTOPS 22, a major maritime exercise in the Baltic Sea.

Both nations are EU members and solid democracies with sophisticated economies, secure borders, and highly advanced militaries.

There is no question that Finland and Sweden are well-equipped to join NATO.

There is also no question that Russia's aggression will not diminish.

With a reported death toll of over 10,000 soldiers and civilians, there is no guarantee that nearby nations are safe from mass destruction.

Russia has a long history of invading and annexing bordering countries, which is all the more reason for fortifying the NATO alliance.

We must do everything in our power to put an end to the violence continually caused by Russia and bring back peace to the region.

Finnish and Swedish membership in NATO will stretch NATO's borders and bolster our collective defenses in northern Europe.

Finland shares an 830 mile border with Russia, which would more than double Russia's border with NATO.

Sweden's defense budget for 2022 is estimated to total \$8.6 billion, while Finland's is \$6.3 billion, according to the Global Firepower Index.

Both Sweden and Finland have announced plans to dramatically boost their military spending in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

I urge all my colleagues to support H. Res. 1130: Expressing support for the sovereign decision of Finland and Sweden to apply to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as well as calling on all members of NATO to ratify the protocols of accession swiftly.

#### ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS-CENTERED INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION ACT OF 2022

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 18, 2022*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7025, the "Advancing Human Rights-Centered International Conservation Act of 2022."

H.R. 7025 is a bipartisan effort instructing the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service from funding entities that com-

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE SOVEREIGN DECISION OF FINLAND AND SWEDEN TO APPLY TO JOIN THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) AS WELL AS CALLING ON ALL MEMBERS OF NATO TO RATIFY THE PROTOCOLS OF ACCESSION SWIFTLY

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 18, 2022*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1130: Expressing support