

HONORING THE LIFE OF UTE TRIBAL ELDER, THOMAS HOUSE, SENIOR

HON. LAUREN BOEBERT

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2021

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Speaker, last month Colorado said farewell to Ute Tribal Elder, Thomas House, Senior. Mr. House was the remaining son of Chief Jack House, the last traditional chief of the Ute Mountain Ute tribe in Southwestern Colorado.

Mr. House served as a tribal elder in the Ute Mountain Ute tribe who lived his life with honor and dedicated his life to representing his community and preserving traditional Ute values.

A man of many roles and responsibilities, Mr. House served as a natural resources director, rancher, respected spiritual leader, and even organized horse races at the Ute Mountain rodeo grounds. His exceptional, lifelong dedication to his community and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe will live on through those he served and the remarkable family he left behind.

People don't have to look farther than his home to see Mr. House's love for his community. Mr. House and his wife were known for taking in foster children who had no place to go.

Thomas House never hesitated when called upon to serve, and many of his children and grandchildren have taken on leadership positions themselves, continuing his legacy and replicating his commitment to traditional Ute values.

He will surely be missed as a valued and respected tribal member, father, grandfather, and leader.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF
BAHRAIN'S PEACEFUL PROTESTS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2021

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, last month marked the tenth anniversary of peaceful protests that spurred great hope for change in Bahrain, only to have those hopes dashed.

On February 14, 2011, thousands of Bahrainis took to the streets in peaceful protests throughout the country to call for democratization and social and economic reform.

Bahraini security forces attacked the peaceful protesters, first with pepper spray and flash-bangs, then with rubber bullets and finally with shotguns.

The protesters remained peaceful, and in the days that followed, the protests grew.

The Pearl Roundabout in the capital city, Manama, became the hub with hundreds camping there and sharing food.

Then came "Bahrain Bloody Thursday."

At about 4:00 a.m. on February 17, 2011, while protesters including women and children were sleeping, security forces stormed the area with tear gas. They threw stun grenades and fired shotguns at the terrified people.

Bahraini and international media were attacked.

Paramedics and ambulance drivers who responded were also reportedly attacked and did not to help injured protesters.

Four protesters were killed and as many as 300 were injured.

Hundreds were detained, including medical personnel, and the police pursued others to nearby villages to arrest them as well.

Following "Bahrain Bloody Thursday," Nicholas Kristof wrote in the New York Times, "When a king opens fire on his people, he no longer deserves to be ruler."

As leaders from around the world condemned the violence, it seemed at first that the door to reform had been opened. The King's acceptance of the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry kept hope alive for quite some time.

But ten years later little has changed for the Bahraini people.

I welcomed the release of Nabeel Rajab in June 2020, who spent nearly eight of the past nine years imprisoned for peaceful protest and criticizing government policies.

But many prisoners of conscience remain behind bars, and it is well past time to release everyone else imprisoned for exercising their fundamental rights. These include human rights defenders Dr. Abduljalil Al-Singace, Abdulhadi Alkhwaja, Ahmed Humaidan, and Naji Fateel, and Sheikh Ali Salman.

Brave human rights and opposition leaders continue to call for the release of prisoners, accountability for grave human rights violations, and political reform.

Madam Speaker, the people of Bahrain have been waiting ten long years for a sign that the arc of justice is bending toward them.

I am tremendously heartened by statements made by Biden Administration officials confirming that the U.S. commitment to human rights will be reflected in our foreign policy. We cannot serve as a beacon of hope while turning a blind eye to human rights violations.

What should that mean when it comes to Bahrain? Here are some ideas.

The U.S. should pause arms sales to Bahrain.

The Department of Defense should develop a contingency plan for relocating the U.S. 5th Fleet out of Bahrain.

The Administration should make full use of Global Magnitsky authorities to sanction Bahraini officials who are known to have committed terrible human rights abuses and have suffered no consequences for their actions. Accountability must return to the bilateral agenda.

The State Department should work for the release of all prisoners of conscience. And the State Department should put reforms back on the bilateral agenda. What reforms are we talking about?

To start with, the Bahraini government should: end the prohibition on political societies, decriminalize all speech, allow national and international press to operate without state intervention, stop rendering its citizens stateless, strip the National Security Agency of its power to arrest, bring its anti-terrorism legislation into line with international human rights standards, integrate its security forces, and end discrimination against the majority Shi'a population everywhere it exists.

Taking these steps would not transform Bahrain into a democracy. But they would go some way toward improving the country's domestic human rights situation.

I look forward to working with the Biden Administration on these and other ideas to make sure that U.S. policy toward Bahrain truly protects the human rights of the Bahraini people—and therefore truly contributes to America's security.

RECOGNIZING THE FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE WORKERS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize, celebrate, and honor the frontline healthcare workers of the great state of South Dakota.

Some of these South Dakota heroes are: Denise Thingelstad, Tiffany Ann Thiry, Hailey Jo Thompson, Alexius Rose Thorpe, Kristi Karen Timm, Arien Lea Tingle, Amanda Kay Tinker, Patricia Titze, Christine Ann Torborg, Rosalind Torres, Sydney Lee Tschetter, Cindy Tullis, Belinda K Twite, Dawn Andrea Tysdal, Jennifer Marie Utne, Courtney Renna Van Aarde, Karla Marie Van Court, Tamera Elizabeth Merie Van Scoy, Antoinette Lynn Vandenberg, Carlene VanEgdom, Stacey VanGenderen, Kristen Lynn VanMaanen, Heather Marie Vanoverschelde, Jessie VanWyk, Angela Vaughn, Penny Sue Vaughn, Patricia Kay Veatch, Janine Carol Verschoor, Shari Viereck, Ann Marie Voorhees, Stacie Jeanne Waagmeester, Tammy Lee Waddell, Chelsea Lynn Wagaman, Alisha Selina Wager, Katie Lynn Wagner, Susan Waldman, Maria Estrella Walk Valenzuela, Elissa Walz, Jesse James Walz Jr, Valerie E. Wantoch, Laura Anine Warnock, Rita Marie Watkins, Brittany LeAnn Webb, Kerry Ann Weeldreyer, Evangeline Weingartz, Susan Weir, Kimberly Welch, Dawn Wells, LeAnn Wenger, Jennifer Jeanne Wesley, Kelly Ann West, Kathleen Weyen, Kayla Dawn Weyh, Katherine Weyh-Jurgens, Mary Catherine Wheaton, Emily Ruth Whitcomb, Bobbi Jo White, Tara Wiest, Erin Elizabeth Williams, Caitlan Louise Williams, Ja'kale Diane Williams, Candace L Wilson, Lori Wipf, Stephanie Marie Wodzinski, Gala Woitte, Elizabeth S. Wright, Yolene Marie Wullstein, Bethany Nichelle Yeaton, Amy Zobel, Michael Aanderud, Benjamin Curtiss Abbey, Julia Agnes Abraham, Bradley E. Adams, Amanda Lynn Adams, Jaime Aguilar, Lisa Marie Alban, Melissa M. Alexander, Brian Richard Alexander, Tyson David Allen, Nicholas Rene Alonzo, Trisha Marie Anderson, Danielle Rae Anderson, Seth Joel Anderson, Corey Lee Anderson, Amy Anderson, Sommer Anstine, Ashley Marie Anziano, Megan Lynn Arens, Cassandra Rae Arens, Sarah Jane Arens, Carol Lynn Arne, Lee Arnold, Mary Colette Aschenbrener, Steven Atkinson, Ashley Louise Attig, Kaitlin Marie Atwater, James Awuah, David D. Axtman, Brittany Rachel Ayers, Timothy James Aylward, Karmela Lynn Bachman, Alexandra Leora Bachman-Williams, Ryan Don Bailey, Stephen Baker, Laura Amelia Bakke, Amy Louise Bakker, Karen Banken, Eric Andrew Bannwarth, John P. Barnett, Christopher Paul Barrozo, Jacqueline Bartlett, Brett A. Bastian, Danette Rae Baumann, Billie Jo Baxa, Allison Marie Becker, Jason Michael Becker, Teresa Behl, Chase