PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, had I been present on May 27, 2020, I would have voted Yea on S. 3744, the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020. Communist China's oppression of millions of its minority Uyghurs population is a gross violation of human rights. In passing this bill, Congress is showing that the United States will not turn a blind eye to the suffering of those oppressed by the Communist Chinese regime.

H.R. 7010, PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2020 AND H.R. 6782, THE TRUTH ACT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, today the House of Representatives is voting on two pieces of legislation designed to improve upon the Paycheck Protection Program—the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020, and the TRUTH Act.

Although I am a cosponsor of both pieces of legislation and will vote in favor of them, I remain concerned that these bills fall short of the Paycheck Protection Program fixes which were already included in the HEROES Act—legislation that the House has passed and which is pending action by the Senate.

For example—I am glad that the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020 includes provisions to modify the use of PPP loans, providing businesses with 24 weeks (instead of just 8 weeks) to use the loan. This bill also makes more flexible the requirement imposed by the Small Business Administration that 75 percent of the loan be used for payroll, and instead only requires 60 percent of the loan to be used for payroll in order to receive the full amount of forgiveness.

Unfortunately, this bill fails to include many of the provisions from the HEROES Act that are urgently needed to assist in our nation's economic recovery. For example, the HEROES Act extended eligibility for PPP loans to nonprofits of all sizes and would carve out funds specifically for the smallest businesses—those with 10 or fewer employees—ensuring that they are not left behind. By expanding PPP to all nonprofits, the HEROES Act would allow chambers of commerce and other nonprofit entities that are not classified as a 501(c)(3) to take advantage of this important assistance. Additionally, the HEROES Act removes the size restrictions for nonprofits, allowing nonprofits with more than 500 employees to still maintain payroll during this time of economic hardship, while their services are needed more than ever.

The HEROES Act—section 20235—also clarifies that expenses paid or incurred with proceeds from PPP loans (or EIDL grants) would not result in the denial of any federal tax deduction. Small businesses need as much support as possible at this time, and tax provisions such as this in the HEROES Act would provide a much-needed boost to our economy. Unfortunately, the two PPP bills we are voting on in the House today fail to include the full gamut of improvements from the HEROES Act, including this additional tax assistance for small businesses.

I will be voting in support of these bills but believe that it is essential that we not stop here—Congress must improve the PPP and small business assistance beyond what these bills would provide. The HEROES Act provides a strong model for what these changes should entail, and I urge my colleagues to continue improving these programs, even after these PPP bills pass the House.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS ''TOM'' TROMPETER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Thomas ''Tom'' Trompeter, President and CEO of HealthPoint in Washington State, on his retirement.

Tom Trompeter's career spans over 30 years in the non-profit, healthcare, and social services sectors. Tom began his career as Executive Director for Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA) and the Association of Community and Migrant Health Centers in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Tom left NWRPCA as CEO before moving on to work at Community Health Centers of King County, now known as HealthPoint. In 1998 Tom transitioned into the roles of President and CEO at HealthPoint and has dedicated 20 years of his career in those roles.

Tom's three prominent areas of impact at HealthPoint were public policy to support the expansion and financial health of community health centers, developing vital partnerships and networks to strengthen the work being done by HealthPoint, and good stewardship as a passionate and dependable leader.

Tom led with the belief that when we make even one person healthier, we help not only that one person, but also that person's whole community. And that's both a privilege and a gift. It is clear Tom has led with that belief from the beginning. Tom has guided HealthPoint's growth to its current state of over 17 comprehensive primary care centers that provide innovative, integrated care beyond traditional healthcare models.

Tom's influence can be seen in the 100,000 plus patients served annually, 900 current employees, and the students who have had the opportunity to learn under Tom's leadership and go on to pursue a career in community health.

Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize and congratulate Tom Trompeter on his retirement and the legacy he will leave in the healthcare community in Washington State.

AMERICAN HERO SAM JOHNSON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, my wife Roxanne and I will always cherish the inspiring opportunity to serve in Congress with Congressman Sam Johnson who died yesterday. He and his late wife Shirley were always encouraging and the embodiment of American Patriots. I include in the RECORD a worthy tribute published today in The Washington Times written by Will Weissert.

[From the Associated Press, May 27, 2020]

SAM JOHNSON, EX-TEXAS GOP CONGRESSMAN AND VIETNAM POW, DIES

(By Will Weissert)

Former Texas Rep. Sam Johnson, a military pilot who spent years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam before serving more than two decades in Congress, died Wednesday at age 89.

The conservative Republican, who lived in the northern Dallas suburb of Plano, died at a Plano hospital of natural causes unrelated to the coronavirus outbreak, said his former spokesman, Ray Sullivan.

Johnson flew nearly 100 combat missions in Korea and Vietnam. He was flying a bombing mission in 1966 when he was shot down and wounded. He was imprisoned in the infamous ''Hanoi Hilton'' for nearly seven years, mostly in solitary confinement. He retired from the Air Force as a colonel in 1979, after a 29-year career.

The ardent conservative and anti-communist was elected to Congress in 1991 after six years in the Texas House of Representatives. He vowed to stay a maximum of 12 years, though he served more than double that.

Johnson had been a POW with U.S. Sen. John McCain, and although they clashed in Congress, Johnson defended McCain in 2015, when then-presidential candidate Donald Trump suggested he wasn't a hero because he'd been captured. Johnson announced in January 2017 that he would retire at the end of his term. When Johnson stepped down in 2019, at age 88, he was the oldest member of the U.S. House.

''Scripture tells us 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven,''' Johnson wrote in a January 2017 letter to constituents, telling them he would retire at the end of his term. ''For me, the Lord has made clear that the season of my life in Congress is coming to an end.''

Another former Texas congressman, Ralph Hall, was the oldest-ever member of the U.S. House when he left office at age 91 in 2014. Hall, a Republican and World War II pilot, was 95 when he died in March 2019.

Samuel Robert Johnson was born on Oct. 11, 1930, in San Antonio. He grew up in Dallas, married Shirley Lee Melton in 1950 and graduated the following year from his hometown's Southern Methodist University with a degree in business administration.

Johnson enlisted in the military at age 20 and served during the Korean and Vietnam wars. He was 35 on April 16,1966, and flying a night mission carrying loads of napalm, when his aircraft came under heavy enemy fire over Vietnam.

The gun of Johnson's F–4 Phantom II jammed and the plane was hit. Its right engine caught fire, forcing Johnson and co-pilot Larry Chesley to eject, and the future congressman broke his arm and back and dislocated his shoulder.