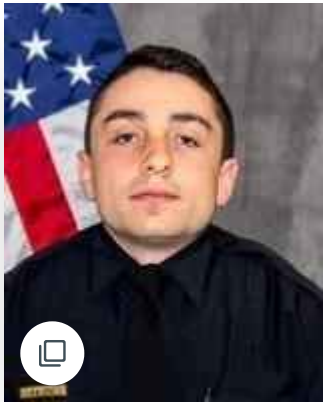


🔍 Search by Name

Anthony Hussein "Tony" Dia

1994 - 2020



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BORN 1994

DIED 2020

ABOUT [Owens Community College](#)

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ANTHONY DIA OBITUARY

Anthony "Tony" Hussein Dia

Anthony "Tony" Hussein Dia was born on January 6, 1994, in Toledo, Ohio, to Younes "Tony" Dia and Gina Long. He married his wife, Jayme, on April 29, 2012 and together they have two sons, Younes and Maytham Dia. Anthony graduated from Owens Community College and started his career in law enforcement with Mercy Police. On July 27, 2018, he was appointed to the Toledo Police Department.

One word that many use to describe Anthony is loyal. He was also known for his kind heart and passion in everything that he did. No matter what he was doing, he gave his all. Anthony was passionate about Jiu Jitsu and was a member of the Toledo Jiu Jitsu Center. He also coached his sons in wrestling. Everyone who knew him understood he loved animals, especially pit bulls.

His life revolved around his family and he was a true family man. His last words over the air were, "Tell my family I love them." In his last moments, he solidified his devotion to his family. Anthony was also a proud Muslim and devoted to his Islamic and Arabic heritage. Everyday Anthony expressed how much he loved being a police officer and wanted to make the world a better place. He left an imprint on everyone's heart and will always be remembered as a hero.

He is survived by his wife, Jayme; sons, Younes and Maytham; mother, Gina Long (Frank Hoover); father, Younes "Tony" Dia (Jehan Dia); sister, Layla Dia; brother, Ali Haidar; step-siblings, Jesse, Zane (Chelsie) and Mercedes Hoover; aunts, Susie and Nada Dia; uncle, Ahmed and numerous cousins. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Ed Long and grandmother, Zeinab Dia.









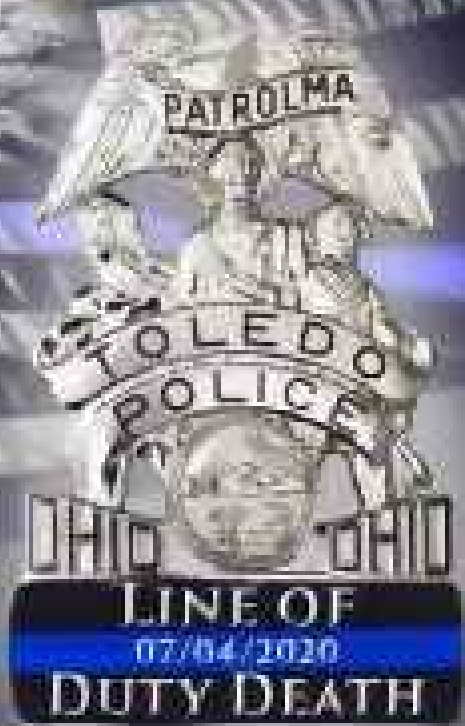






Toledo Police OFFICER

ANTHONY DIA



TOLEDO POLICE
ANTHONY

CITY OF TOLEDO



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OPERATIONS

NEWS RELEASE

July 4th, 2020

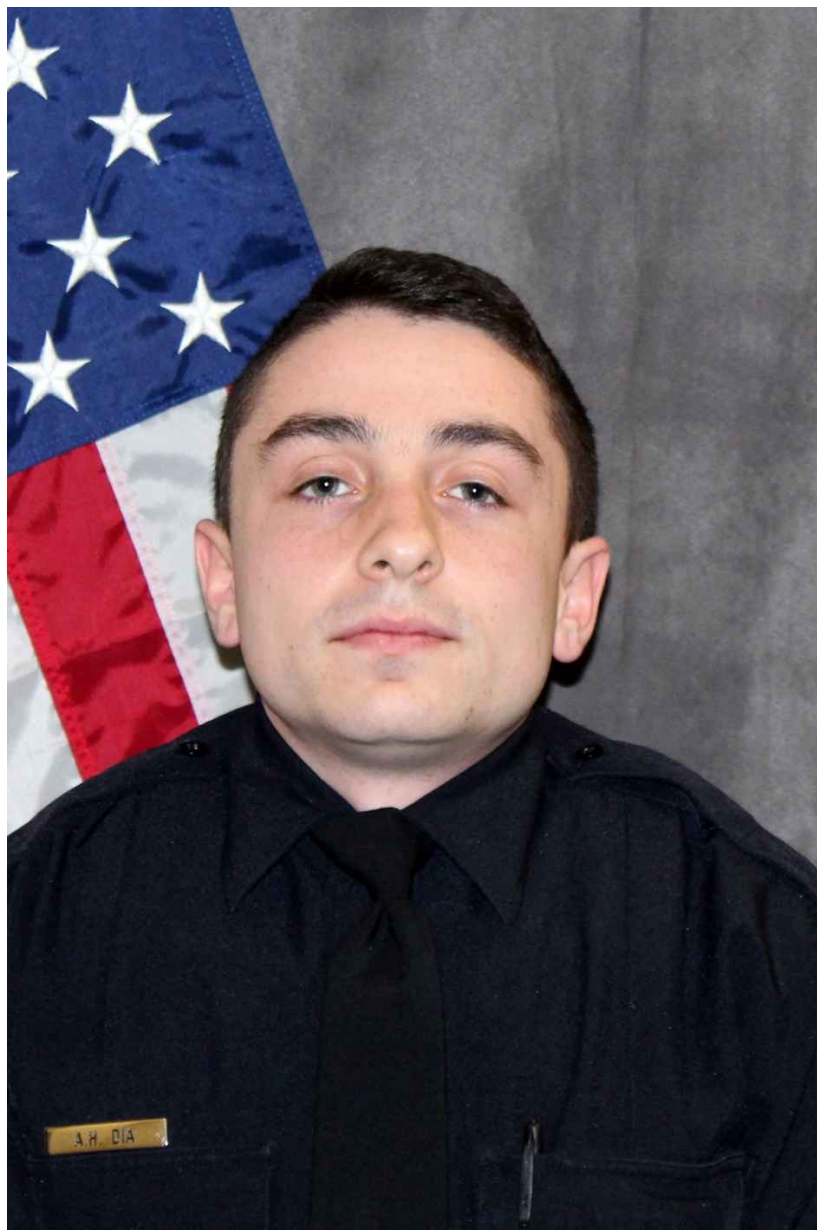
Contact:

Lt. Kellie Lenhardt-PIO

419-245-3217 (Office)

Kellie.Lenhardt@toledo.oh.gov

Toledo Police Officer Anthony Dia Shot and Killed in the Line of Duty



Toledo, OH (July 4th, 2020): A Toledo Police Officer was shot and killed shortly after midnight on July 4th, 2020.

Officer Anthony Dia responded to a call regarding an intoxicated male walking around the parking lot of The Home Depot at 1035 W. Alexis Rd. Once on scene, Ofc. Dia approached the male to check his safety. Witnesses stated that they observed the male turn around and fire a round from a handgun, striking Ofc. Dia. Responding officers arrived on scene and transported Ofc. Dia to a local hospital where he died as a result of his injuries. Officer Dia was wearing his department issued body armor.

Additional officers arrived at the scene of the shooting and set up a perimeter looking for the suspect. Witnesses stated that they had observed the suspect flee into a wooded area. A drone and a K-9 unit provided assistance with the search. During the course of the investigation, officers heard a gunshot coming from the wooded area. At approximately 3:15 a.m., officers located a 57 year-old male, deceased from an apparent gunshot wound to the head. Through witnesses, it was confirmed that the deceased male was the one who had shot Ofc. Dia.

Toledo Police Chief George Kral stated “Today is a sad day for the City of Toledo, it’s a sad day for the Toledo Police Department, and most importantly it’s a sad day for the family, friends, loved ones, and fellow officers of Ofc. Anthony Dia, who paid the ultimate sacrifice in protecting his city tonight.”

Officer Dia joined the Toledo Police Department July 27, 2018. He was 26 years-old. He is the 31st Toledo Police Officer to be killed in the line of duty. Detective Keith Dressel was shot and killed in 2007.

More information will be released at a news conference scheduled for Monday, July 6th. Exact time and location is being determined.

###

TOLEDO BLADE

Contact Alexandra Mester at: amester@theblade.com, 419-724-6066, or on Twitter @AlexMesterBlade.

First Published July 5, 2020, 5:00am Residents and northwest Ohio's law enforcement community are mourning the death of a Toledo police officer shot and killed in the line of duty early Saturday near the Home Depot at Alexis Road and Lewis Avenue.

Officer Anthony Dia, 26, was responding to a call about 12:11 a.m. regarding an intoxicated man, 57-year-old Edward Henry, in the parking lot of the store. Witnesses told police that Henry was walking away from the officer when he turned and fired one round from a handgun.

The officer's wife, Jayme Dia, had just talked to her husband at 12:03 a.m.

So when she heard he had been shot in the chest just minutes later, she thought there had been a mistake.

Ms. Dia called his phone, but he didn't answer.

She went to ProMedica Toledo Hospital.

"He bled out, pretty much. They did what they could with lifesaving measures, but there was nothing they could do," Ms. Dia, 29, said hours later near the site of the shooting, where she gathered with family and friends Saturday evening to mourn him.

By then, the Home Depot parking lot had become a makeshift memorial, growing as more people visited.

The couple had been married eight years. She and others who met out there on Saturday formed a circle as Mr. Dia's cousin-in-law, Taylor Long-Hurst, lead the group in prayer.

Mrs. Dia wants her husband to be remembered for how dedicated he was to his family, especially his sons Younes, 8, and Maytham, 6.

"The last thing he said over the radio was, 'Tell my family I love them,'" Mrs. Dia said. "He lived for his family, and he loved, just loved, being a police officer."

Two groups of people were gathered in the store's parking lot Friday night into Saturday morning, witnesses told The Blade.

The location serves as sort of a hangout spot where informal car shows are held.

Witnesses said Henry was drinking and arguing with some of those gathered when police received a 911 call and dispatched an officer to the area.

"Officer Dia was the first crew to arrive that morning on a check the safety [call]," Toledo Police Chief George Kral said during an early Saturday press conference. "He was checking to make sure that this man was OK."

Struck in chest

Witnesses told police that Henry, who had bench warrants out for his arrest on misdemeanor offenses, fired at Officer Dia.

He was struck in the chest, Chief Kral said.

Police issued a statement later in the day in which they confirmed Henry was the shooter.

Within seconds after Officer Dia was shot, other officers at the scene put him into a cruiser and sped off to ProMedica Toledo Hospital, but it was too late for doctors to save him.

After the shooting, Henry went into a nearby wooded area. Police used a drone and a police dog to search the area, and officers reported hearing a single gunshot from the woods.

Officers found Henry about 3:15 a.m., dead of a single gunshot wound to the head.

An autopsy performed on Officer Dia's body on Saturday afternoon confirmed he died of a single gunshot wound to the chest, according to the Lucas County Coroner's Office, which expects to perform Henry's autopsy on Monday. It confirmed Henry's body was the one brought to the morgue.

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz spoke during Saturday's news conference in a halting voice, describing the scene he found when he arrived at Toledo Hospital at 2 a.m.

"I arrived, and it was a horrific and heartbreaking moment," he said. "And to my dying day, I will never forget the sight of Officer Dia being wheeled out of the hospital on a gurney, his body wrapped in an American flag, flanked by about 30 Toledo police officers saluting and weeping."

The mayor paused during his comments, waiting as the sound of sirens from a passing ambulance subsided. Officers over the radio maintained their professionalism and continued responding to emergencies coming in throughout the morning, including a report of a shooting in the 2000 block of Walnut Street.

Sacrifices made

The mayor spoke about Officer Dia's death coming on July 4, a day to reflect on the nation's sacrifices. He said Officer Dia was also Muslim and contributed other perspectives to the department.

"He was not only therefore one of Toledo's bravest and best police officers, he's also someone who contributes to the diversity that makes our country and our city so great," Mr. Kapszukiewicz said.

Officer Dia graduated from Bedford High School. He later joined the Toledo Police Department in July, 2018, after serving with Mercy Health police for two years.

"He had such a passion for it, and he cared. He really cared. With him being Muslim, he experienced some tough times, but he loved all. It did not matter what race, what anything. He just loved all and loved everyone," said longtime family friend Barbie Rudess.

He was also a dedicated family man.

Besides his wife and their two sons, he was devoted to his mother, sister, father, stepfather, and other family members, Ms. Rudess said. He was particularly good at working with children and animals.

Officer Dia was a smaller-framed man but practiced self-defense techniques, such as jiu-jitsu. He also enjoyed teaching his sons how to wrestle, Ms. Rudess told The Blade.

"They were so proud of him. They were so proud of him becoming a Toledo police officer, at the same time they were scared for him," Ms. Rudess said of the Dia family.

Family across the world mourned also the officer's death.

A cousin, Houssein Dia, who lives in Lebanon, posted pictures of Officer Dia with the saying, "May God have mercy on your soul my love."

Officer Dia was born in the United States, and his cousin never got the opportunity to meet him in person, but they stayed connected through social media.

"I am so sorry. I am so upset because we didn't see him in this life," Houssein Dia told The Blade.

Officer Dia's father, Tony Dia, frequently posted content supporting officers around the country, and he even attended a pro-police rally in downtown Toledo just days ago.

"I'm down here in front of the Safety [building]!! Look forward to seeing you all down here," Tony Dia wrote, including four blue hearts on his Thursday post.

"We just all need to love each other, forgive each other. To me, love always beats hate," Younes 'Tony' Dia said in an interview with The Blade's media partner WTVG-TV Channel 13. "They're [police] human, give them another chance if you had a bad run-in with them. In my opinion you could have a perfect police department, a perfect police academy, a perfect everything, but we can't control individuals. There are bad apples in everything."

For his birthday in January, 2019, Officer Dia asked for donations to help Concerns of Police Survivors, an organization that helps the family and co-workers of officers involved in line-of-duty deaths. The organization provides resources to help rebuild their lives.

At the time of the post, Officer Dia wrote that the organization's mission meant a lot to him. He raised \$142 for his \$100 goal.

A Go Fund Me account has been set up for the Dia family. As of 2:30 p.m. Saturday, more than \$50,000 had been raised.

A Dia Family Support page was also set up on Facebook on Saturday.

Mrs. Dia said the family is planning a funeral for Tuesday, which will be a blend of Islamic tradition and police funeral customs.

Toledo Fire Chief Brian Byrd broke news of the death to the wider first-responder community through an announcement over the emergency radio network, as is customary.

"This is a special announcement from Chief 111. It is with deep regret that we announce the loss of Toledo police Officer Anthony Dia, who was shot and killed in the line of duty at approximately 12:30 tonight," Chief Byrd said in his message.

Chief Byrd told The Blade that Officer Dia had already been taken to the hospital by other officers by the time fire crews arrived on scene.

The fire department later posted on social media, thanking Officer Dia for his sacrifice.

"Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the family, and brothers and sisters in blue of Toledo Police Officer Anthony Dia who was killed in the line of duty early this morning. Officer Dia was doing what so many take for granted, protecting citizens of the City of Toledo." the post read.

Gov. Mike DeWine issued a statement Saturday morning regarding the officer's death.

"Fran and I were deeply saddened to learn of the death last night of Toledo Police Officer Anthony Dia in the line of duty. We extend our sympathy to his wife and ... child, his other family members, and his colleagues in the Toledo Police

Department. To honor the life and service of Officer Dia, I have ordered that the flags in Lucas County and at the statehouse be lowered to half staff beginning tomorrow and through his funeral service," according to a media release.

Police presence

A large police presence was visible in the parking lots around the Home Depot store at about 3:30 a.m., with roughly 10 cruisers on scene, some blocking access to the area.

A witness to the shooting, Toledo resident Shalene Houke, fought back sobs as she described to The Blade the events she witnessed.

Ms. Houke said she and a group of friends were gathered in the Home Depot's parking lot, when a man who was not associated with them started making trouble. The man, who appeared to be highly intoxicated and had a dog with him, was bothering another group of people nearby, Ms. Houke said.

When Officer Dia arrived at the parking lot he tried to speak to the man, but the man began walking away. The officer told the man to stop, but he kept walking.

Eventually the man with the dog walked behind racks of plants outside the store's garden center, Ms. Houke said. That's when the shooting started.

Ms. Houke said the suspect fired first. The officer then returned fire before he went down. Ms. Houke and a friend approached the officer, and heard him asking for help and saying he'd been shot before he slipped into unconsciousness.

"He was young, and he was scared," she said.

More police quickly arrived on scene. They tried to shake the officer awake, and then stripped him of his gear while trying to determine where he was shot, Ms. Houke said.

A witness' video from the scene, which was provided to The Blade and is circulating on social media, shows Officer Dia walking after the suspect, calling out to get the man's attention.

"Hey sir! Sir!" the officer can be heard yelling.

About a dozen gunshots come soon after, followed by people screaming. Vehicles pull away as police cruisers with lights and sirens race toward the location. Someone can be heard saying "officer down" in the background while bystanders react in shock.

Chief Byrd said he and Assistant Fire Chief John Kaminski headed into the 911 Center after hearing the news to be with the on-duty emergency dispatchers.

"They're having a tough time with this too," he said.

The Lucas County Commissioners also issued a statement on Officer Dia's service and ultimate sacrifice.

"We ask all of Lucas County to pray for his family and for his fellow Toledo Police Department brothers and sisters. This is a tragic and heartbreaking reminder of the risks that our brave law enforcement officers face every day. This is an unimaginable loss for our community," according to a statement from the county.

Saturday's death on the July 4 holiday marks the first TPD officer killed in the line of duty since Detective Keith Dressel was shot and killed in 2007. Officer Dia is the 31st Toledo police officer to be killed in the line-of-duty.

The mayor asked citizens on this Independence Day to remember not only the sacrifices made by the members of the armed forces, but also those made by law enforcement who place their lives on the line, “every day, every night, with very little fanfare, often vilified, always underappreciated.”

“It is our nation’s birthday,” Mayor Kapszukiewicz said. “And our nation’s motto is, ‘E pluribus unum.’ From many, come one. We live in divided times. We must come together as one. We are one human family, one American family, and one Toledo family. And today our family is in mourning due to the loss of one of our family members.”

Henry, whose last address listed in court records was in the 700 block of Main Street in Morenci, Mich., had three pending bench warrants out of Toledo Municipal Court for misdemeanor offenses of disorderly conduct for public intoxication, public indecency, and menacing from an Aug. 5, 2019, incident.

Police had responded to the 1400 block Eleanor Avenue after a woman said Henry stopped in her yard, exposed himself, and urinated against a tree in her yard, according to Toledo Municipal Court records.

The woman told the man to leave, but Henry told her if she called the cops, he knew where she lived.

Henry later told police he said threatened her in order to stop her from calling police, court records say. On the same day police responded to Sabra Road and Westway Street in North Toledo after Henry was passed out on the ground, according to court records.

Officers witnessed him to be uneasy on his feet and he smelled of intoxicants. He also had bloodshot eyes, according to records filed in Toledo Municipal Court. Henry was arrested and booked in the Lucas County jail, where he was later released on his own recognizance.

However a bench warrant was issued in Aug. 20, but later withdrawn.

Another bench warrant was issued on Jan. 3 and Henry had not appeared in court since.

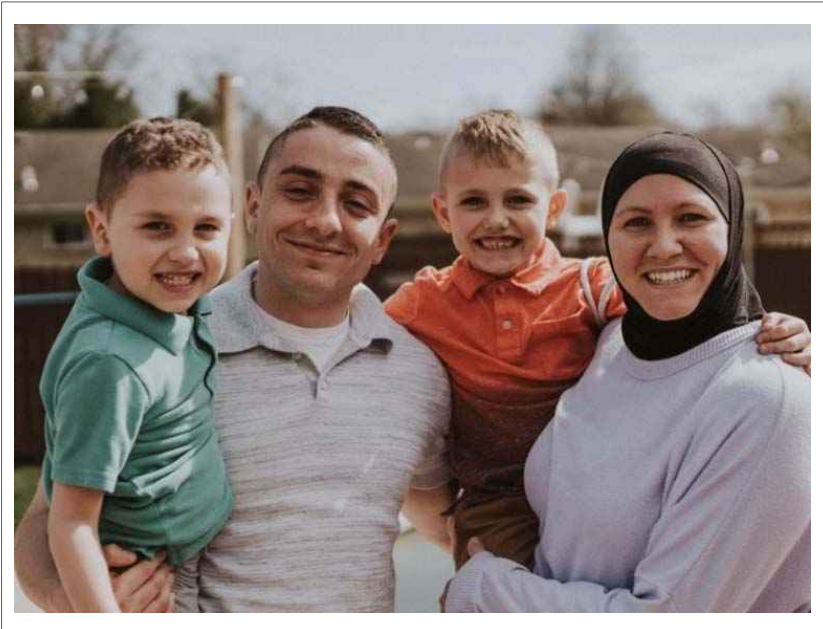
He also faced felony offenses in 2004 of possession of drugs and two counts of felonious assault. Both felonious assault charges were dismissed and Judge Amy Berling placed Henry on active probation for nine months, with drug screens occurring twice per week, according to court records.

Henry had several traffic violations from the 1980s, up until 2019, when he was cited for failing to use a turn signal.

In between those years, Henry racked up a record in Lenawee County’s District Court in Michigan. In September, 2011, Henry pleaded guilty to assault/resisting/obstructing, and he was placed on 80 months of probation. He was ordered to continue counseling, attend a victim’s rights panel, and a driver’s intervention program. He also faced various charges of driving while under the influence and several traffic violations, according to court records.

The Lucas County Canine Care & Control responded to the scene and took custody of the dog witnesses said was with Henry. Director Kelly Sears said the dog is uninjured and healthy, and shelter staff will attempt to get in touch with the man’s family.

Toledo police are expected to release additional information on Monday.



Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near.
So loved, so missed,
So very dear.



**OFFICER
ANTHONY DIA**

APPOINTED: JULY 27, 2018
END OF WATCH: JULY 4, 2020

Anthony “Tony” Hussein Dia

Anthony “Tony” Hussein Dia was born on January 6, 1994 in Toledo, Ohio to Younes “Tony” Dia and Gina Long. He married his wife Jayme on April 29, 2012 and together they have two sons, Younes and Maytham Dia. Anthony graduated from Owens Community College and started his career in law enforcement with Mercy Police. On July 27, 2018 he was appointed to the Toledo Police Department.

One word that many use to describe Anthony is loyal. He was also known for his kind heart and passion in everything that he did. No matter what he was doing, he gave his all. Anthony was passionate about Jiu Jitsu and was a member of the Toledo Jiu Jitsu Center. He also coached his sons in wrestling. Everyone who knew him understood he loved animals, especially pit bulls.

His life revolved around his family and he was a true family man. His last words over the air were, “Tell my family I love them.” In his last moments, he solidified his devotion to his family. Anthony was also a proud Muslim and devoted to his Islamic and Arabic heritage. Everyday Anthony expressed how much he loved being a police officer and wanted to make the world a better place. He left an imprint on everyone's heart and will always be remembered as a hero.

He is survived by his wife Jayme, sons Younes and Maytham, mother Gina Long (Frank Hoover), father Younes “Tony” Dia (Jehan Dia), sister Layla Dia, brother Ali Haidar, step-siblings Jesse, Zane (Chelsie) and Mercedes Hoover, aunts Susie and Nada Dia, uncle Ahmed and numerous cousins. He is preceded in death by his grandfather Ed Long and grandmother Zeinab Dia.

ORDER OF SERVICE

July 7, 2020

John F. Savage Arena

2025 N. Douglas Rd., Toledo, OH 43606

Welcome and Introduction: Lieutenant Kellie Lenhardt

Reading of Poem: Detective Andre Cowell

Reading of Letter: Moustafa Rahal

Message and Sharing: Sayed Al Qazwini

Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz

Chief George Kral

Final Radio Call

Final Prayer

Procession to: **Toledo Memorial Park**

6382 Monroe St. Sylvania, OH 43560

Words by Sayed Al Qazwini

Rifle Salute

Taps

Flag Folding Ceremony

Riderless Horse

Lay to Rest

contributions that immigrants make across our country.

For her 20 years of distinguished experience in the nonprofit sector, Ms. Horak was named an honoree for the 2017 Women of Distinction Awards by the YWCA of Darien and Norwalk. This year, she was appointed to the Board of Directors of Amicare's Free Clinics.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me, along with a grateful Fourth Congressional District, in congratulating Ms. Catalina Horak for her extensive public service and in wishing her success in all her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LEFLORE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable group of leaders, the Leflore County Board of Supervisors.

On Monday, June 22, 2020 the Leflore County Board of Supervisors voted to remove the Confederate monument located on the Leflore County Courthouse lawn. This Confederate monument has long been a divisive symbol for the citizens in the city of Greenwood, MS and Leflore County.

Unveiled on October 9, 1913 on the courthouse lawn, this monument has intimidated and invoked fear for over 100 years in citizens that have come to the courthouse to conduct county business. As a symbol of treason and slavery, this monument had no right to be in a public place.

After legal advisement from Board Attorney Joyce Chiles, Supervisor Reginald Moore made a motion to have the Confederate monument removed from the courthouse lawn. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Eric Mitchell. Supervisors Robert Collins and Anjuan Brown joined in support and the motion was carried 4–0, with one member, Sam Abraham, absent from the meeting. This is a historic achievement for Leflore County as Mississippians move to create a more inclusive climate throughout the state.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Leflore County Board of Supervisors for their dedication and bravery to promote racial equality.

RECOGNITION OF MR. KENT D.
FARMER'S RETIREMENT FROM
RAPPAHANNOCK ELECTRIC CO-
OPERATIVE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Kent D. Farmer's retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Rappahannock Electric Cooperative. Mr. Farmer will retire on August 1, 2020.

Mr. Farmer has served as president and CEO of Rappahannock Electric Cooperative

since 2004 and has been with REC for a total of 41 years. The Rappahannock Electric Cooperative serves a wide range of Virginia, from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Farmer is leaving a positive legacy with the Rappahannock Electric Cooperative that will not be forgotten. His strong leadership and genuine care and concern for local citizens has contributed to many successes during his time with the Rappahannock Electric Cooperative.

I am proud of Mr. Farmer's work with the REC, and I know he will be greatly missed. I have worked closely with Mr. Farmer and the REC, and I am honored to serve them in the First District of Virginia. Mr. Farmer has laid a strong foundation that will serve the REC in years to come.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in recognition of Mr. Kent D. Farmer's contributions to the Rappahannock Electric Cooperative and the First District of Virginia. I wish Mr. Farmer the best of luck in his next chapter, and I look forward to continuing to serve Mr. Farmer and the First District of Virginia.

HONORING OFFICER ANTHONY DIA

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today. In my district and my hometown city of Toledo, Ohio, our community is putting to rest a young Toledo Police Officer killed in the line of duty in the early hours of July 4th.

Officer Anthony Dia, 26 years old, was known throughout our community as a dedicated husband, father, son, valiant public servant, and revered member of the Muslim community. In the words of his wife, Jayme Dia, he worked every day of his life to provide for his family, including their two sons, Younes and Maytham. He lived and breathed family. In Officer Dia's final words, which he radioed to the department after being fatally wounded were: "Tell my family I love them."

Officer Dia's death serves as a telling reminder of the constant dangers law enforcement officers face every single day in service to our communities. Officer Dia died a hero—Toledo will never forget his service and the ultimate sacrifice he made for the safety and security of our city and our families.

I join in spirit with our community in Toledo to pay respects at Officer Dia's memorial service today. My sincerest condolences and prayers are with Officer Dia's family, the Toledo Police Department, and the entire Toledo community during this in extraordinarily difficult time. Our hearts are broken.

In his memory, today in Washington D.C., an American flag is being hoisted above the U.S. Capitol in his memory to be presented in lasting gratitude for his laying down of his life for those he was sworn to protect and serve.

May the memory of Officer Anthony Dia live on in our hearts and in our community forever.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL
KEILHOLZ

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Keilholz on his years of devotion to the Vocational Agriculture program and its students. Mr. Keilholz retired from Pleasant Hill High School after 31 years of teaching agriculture.

Michael Keilholz grew up in the small Catholic community of Frankenstein, Missouri. He attended the University of Missouri and graduated in 1989. He had several different jobs before he began teaching at Pleasant Hill High School, where he remained for 26 years. Over the years he oversaw 77 American FFA Degrees, 113 State FFA Degrees, 7 State Stars in either FFA Star Agribusiness, Star Placement or Star Farmer with 1 State Winner in Agribusiness, 1 State FFA 1st Vice President, 85 State Qualifying Teams in Vo-Ag/FFA, 110 State Qualifying Proficiency Awards based upon FFA Leadership and SAE's (4 State Winning Proficiency awards), 14 State Talent, 2 National Talent, 1 National Band, 3 State Band, 25 State Chorus, 7 Student Teachers, 264 District Vo-Ag/FFA Teams, Countless Scrapbook and Record Books displayed at state. In addition, he worked as an instructor for 28 years.

Throughout the years he has been recognized for his efforts by being awarded Top 6 Nationally—NAAE (State and Region IV Winner); Two time State Ideas Unlimited Winner, One time Regional Winner, two time National Presenter; 30-Year Service Award, Missouri Ag Teachers; Honorary American FFA Degree, National FFA Organization, 2011; Distinguished Service Award, Missouri Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association; Honorary State FFA Degree, Missouri FFA, 1999; Supervised Agricultural Experience Best Practices, National FFA, 1998; Region IV (U.S.) New Vocational Teacher of the Year, American Vocational Association, 1993; New Vocational Teacher, Missouri Vocational Association, 1993; Outstanding Young Member, MVATA, 1993; Outstanding Young Professional, University of Missouri College of Education Alumni Award, 1993; Teaching Ideas—District Winner, 1996; Instructional Materials Lab, Sold Copyright-Crop & Weed Plant ID, 1993.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of all is the number of lives Mr. Keilholz has impacted over the years. Thousands of young people have been blessed by his tutelage as they have learned invaluable life lessons taught through agriculture, the leadership opportunities provided through FFA, and the work ethic instilled through student SAE projects. Mr. Keilholz's interest in every student, his encouragement, and personal example of character and commitment will leave a legacy of amazing future leaders in agriculture who will impact our nation and our world.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Michael Keilholz for his hard work and dedication, and I thank him for his years of selfless devotion to agriculture.