

works of poetry and art throughout his term of imprisonment which inspired the Ukrainian people.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that a statue honoring a man who fully embraced the ideals of personal freedom and human dignity, cornerstones of our country, should stand in the United States. I congratulate the Ukrainian American community on celebrating the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the Taras Shevchenko monument.

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE INTERROGATION STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2004

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 25, 2004*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Promoting Responsible Interrogation Standards Enforcement Act of 2004" or "PRISE Act," legislation that reaffirms the United States' longstanding commitment to refrain from engaging in torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. I am joined by Representatives LOFGREN, MEEHAN, WATERS and SANCHEZ.

This nation's foreign and military policies have been substantially undermined as a result of the Iraqi prisoner and detainee abuse scandals. The PRISE Act is designed to prevent similar abuses from occurring. In doing so, the legislation takes several important steps.

First, it codifies the United States' legal and international treaty obligations with respect to the prohibition on the use of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Second, the bill directs the Secretary of Defense to issue guidelines to ensure compliance with this obligation. Third, in the unfortunate event that a member of the Armed Forces or Department of Defense contractor violates this prohibition, the bill requires the Defense Secretary to submit to Congress, in a manner that protects national security, a report highlighting the details of such violations. Finally, it closes a loophole created by the PATRIOT Act that may allow torture at U.S. military facilities overseas.

As we continue to define our values as a country, we must make it abundantly clear that we will not compromise our principles. The use of torture is not only wrong, but it is an ineffective interrogation tactic because it produces unreliable information. People who are being tortured will often lie to their interrogator in order to stop the pain.

I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF S. 2238, THE BUNNING-BEREUTER-BLUMENAUER FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 21, 2004*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2238, the Bunning-Bereuter-

Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004. This important piece of legislation not only reauthorizes the National Flood Insurance Program through September 30, 2008, but also makes much-needed reforms that will help the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) stem wasteful use of taxpayer funds on properties that flood over and over again.

By now most Members are well aware of the long road we have traveled in developing this legislation. After years' worth of discussions with floodplain managers, taxpayer groups, environmental groups, insurance professionals and the housing industry, the House Financial Services Committee passed H.R. 253 by a unanimous, bipartisan vote on July 23, 2003. The bill was subsequently passed in the House by an overwhelming margin on November 20, 2003. The National Flood Insurance Program is now set to expire on June 30, 2004; it is critical that we act on this bill today.

Thanks to the hard work of my colleagues, there should be no doubt that this legislation will receive a favorable vote once again. The Senate bill is, in most respects, identical to the one we passed here in the House. That bill, H.R. 253, authorized funds to address severe repetitive loss properties for both the existing Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program and authorized a new pilot program to address these properties. Under the House bill, this trial pilot program addressed the properties in a simple, straightforward manner: the owner of a severe repetitive loss property would be charged a rate closer to the actuarial, risk-based rates for their national flood insurance policy if certain conditions were met. Safeguards were built into the system to ensure that homeowners would be protected. Through our bill, the number of repetitive flood loss properties would be decreased because FEMA would have the money and the means to take care of them.

S. 2238 adds a title creating certain policyholder protections designed to ensure swift action for the payment of claims in the event of a flood. In addition, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be tasked with promulgating regulations outlining an appeals process for policyholders with respect to claims, proofs of loss, and loss estimates related to flood insurance policies. And at the request of FEMA, the Senate has made minor changes regarding implementation of the flood mitigation programs originally set forth in the House bill.

On a personal note, perhaps the most appropriate change made by the Senate was in naming this legislation for Congressman DOUG BEREUTER, my good friend who is retiring from the House this year. This legislation is a testament to his hard work and to the dedication he has shown throughout his career to further the interests of not only his constituents but also the Nation as a whole and to the ideal of good government. Congressman BEREUTER worked tirelessly to craft this bill with Senators BUNNING and SARBANES as well as Ranking Member FRANK and Representatives BLUMENAUER and BAKER. Mr. BAKER was also particularly helpful in crafting this legislation and in providing a voice for his constituents in Louisiana and other states particularly hard-hit by repetitive flood losses.

It is important to note once again that the National Flood Insurance Program has been

long overdue for change. The Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 addresses the problem of repetitive loss properties (buildings that flood regularly because of their location) and the threat such properties pose to the ability of the NFIP to meet obligations to policyholders without drawing on taxpayer funds. Repetitive loss properties are a problem in nearly every one of the fifty States and cost the NFIP approximately \$200 million each year, which is an unacceptable expense. One percent of all properties in the NFIP account for approximately 25 percent to 30 percent of all the NFIP losses. Repetitive loss properties have for too long exhausted the NFIP's funds and subverted the original intent of the program.

Despite the problems caused by repetitive flood loss properties, the NFIP is a program that provides important protections for homeowners who live on the Nation's floodplains. Though most of these homes have never flooded, the NFIP is a vital safeguard with a proven record of success. These much-needed reforms will enhance the program's effectiveness by requiring people living in flood prone areas to reduce their risk of flooding in a way that is not punitive and which saves the program and taxpayers money. This legislation should enjoy widespread bipartisan support in the Congress and will be welcomed by the people who work every day to control floods all across the country.

TRIBUTE TO DR. C. VINCENT BAKEMAN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 25, 2004*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and legacy Dr. C. Vincent Bakeman, a co-founder of the Human Resources Development Institute, Inc. (HRDI), who devoted himself to improving our alcohol and chemical dependency treatment systems.

We are all aware of the national problem that is especially acute in inner-city areas across this great Nation. The shortage of healthcare professionals has left many underserved communities without access to healthcare, placing low- and middle-income families at even greater risk of suffering from medical conditions and disorders that could be averted.

True to its mission, HRDI has charted innovative healthcare solutions that continue to stabilize and strengthen families, neighborhoods and entire communities from Chicago to Las Vegas to Indianola, Mississippi, and points in between.

Additionally, through his efforts to empower those without healthcare, he formed partnerships with area institutions of higher learning to assist residents in acquiring the necessary skills and training central to competing in this new age of information and technology.

Many of our colleagues here in Congress have espoused the notion of expanding healthcare coverage. Dr. Bakeman lived it.

It is through community efforts as demonstrated by Dr. Bakeman and HRDI that we may be able to achieve a reality of accessible and affordable healthcare for all.