

the volunteers from the 9th District: Gwenna Corvez, Michael Heydt, Lenore Johnsen, Bethany Tebbe and Sarah Wilson, who are serving in Uzbekistan, Dominican Republic, Ukraine, Togo, and Moldova. You bring honor to all of us.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL PEACE
CORPS WEEK FEBRUARY 28 TO
MARCH 6, 2004

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, the Peace Corps is celebrating its 44th anniversary on March 1st, and its work has never been more relevant than it is today. Since its inception in 1961, over 178,000 Peace Corps volunteers have served in 138 countries to promote the Peace Corps' mission of world peace and friendship.

There are over 7,700 volunteers now serving in 72 countries around the world—this is the highest number of volunteers in the field in 29 years. Our Peace Corps volunteers work as teachers, business advisors, information technology consultants, health, youth and agriculture workers. With the spread of HIV/AIDS ravaging many countries, more than 3,100 volunteers are working directly or indirectly on HIV/AIDS prevention and education activities throughout the world. In short, Peace Corps volunteers provide valuable knowledge and life-changing skills to people all over the world in all aspects of daily living, altering countless lives in a positive way.

We are a generous nation and pride ourselves in giving, not only monetarily, but of ourselves. As a nation, we recognize the importance of humanitarian service, and host countries are eager for our volunteers because we give with sincerity of cause and commitment to service. Our volunteers spread goodwill and embody America's strength and pride.

During National Peace Corps Week, I would like to salute and honor our men and women who serve abroad as Peace Corps volunteers. I would especially like to mention my constituents who are currently serving in countries ranging from Albania to Swaziland: Anna Gutierrez, Nicole M. Hendrix, Meldy Hernandez, Cliff Okada, Erica Smith and Samrong So.

Thank you for your service. And thanks to the Peace Corps for continuing to encourage and inspire Americans to give so willingly of themselves.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN MARCOS MAYOR
SUSAN NARVAIZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize all the efforts the San Marcos Mayor Susan Narvaiz has made to her community. Since she moved to San Marcos in 1995 she has worked for the strengthening of the community in a countless number of ways.

Susan Narvaiz has been very involved in the advancement of the workforce in San Marcos starting with her first major accomplishment to the community through her business Core Strategies, Inc. which provides employment and training to the people along Interstate 35. In 2000 she launched a similar business Sedona Staffing Industrial Development Center which offers free-of-charge training to citizens so they can find work. Both of these services helped a countless number of people receive the necessary training to successfully compete in the modern work force.

Mayor Narvaiz's presence extends far beyond the employment issues she has tackled; she is also an active participant in such organizations as the American Cancer Society and United Way of Hays County. It is also not out of the ordinary to find her supporting the San Marcos High School Basketball and Baseball Boosters Club at a high school function.

There is one role that San Marcos Mayor Susan Narvaiz plays in the community that trumps everything; she is married to Mr. Mike Narvaiz and the mother to six beautiful children. For all the ways she serves San Marcos, I would like to thank Mayor Narvaiz for committing her time and energy to the better of San Marcos.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DETENTION OF ENEMY COMBATANTS ACT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Detention of Enemy Combatants Act. This legislation authorizes the detention of "enemy combatants" in the war on terrorism while guaranteeing that they are granted timely access to legal counsel and judicial review.

Earlier this week, a federal judge in South Carolina ruled that the Administration lacks statutory and constitutional authority to indefinitely imprison without criminal charges a U.S. citizen designated as an "enemy combatant." Last month, another federal judge ruled that holding individuals indefinitely as "enemy combatants" unconstitutionally violates their right to due process and that some foreign terror suspects held in Guantanamo Bay can challenge their confinement in U.S. courts. That ruling came some eight months after the U.S. Supreme Court held in Hamdi that while the President has the authority to detain "enemy combatants" captured in the battlefield, detainees are entitled to lawyers and the chance to challenge their imprisonment.

The Court, however, left a host of unanswered questions that Congress should seek to resolve. Justice Scalia, in his dissent, called on Congress to act, noting: "I frankly do not know whether these tools are sufficient to meet the Government's security needs, including the need to obtain intelligence through interrogation. It is far beyond my competence, or the Court's competence, to determine that. But it is not beyond Congress's."

The Supreme Court also side-stepped the case of Jose Padilla and will likely be forced to speak again on these issues should a vacuum still exist due to congressional inaction.

Until then, enemy combatant law will continue to be written in a piecemeal fashion through a series of conflicting lower court decisions.

I believe that the federal government must have the authority to detain terrorists as "enemy combatants" to protect the public, gather intelligence and safeguard national security. But we must also ensure that the accused are afforded the due-process rights guaranteed under the Constitution. I am particularly concerned with the detention of U.S. citizens and lawful residents.

In the last Congress, I introduced the Detention of Enemy Combatants Act to authorize the government to detain suspected members or associates of al Qaeda, but requiring that U.S. citizen detainees be granted access to legal counsel and due-process hearings. The bill called for standards to be set for such detentions that distinguish these cases from other Americans held for trial on criminal charges.

While we must grant broad latitude to our armed forces when it comes to protecting national security, American citizens should not be held indefinitely upon the sole determination of one branch of government without access to counsel or proper judicial review of those determinations.

These same concerns have even been echoed by Michael Chertoff, the newly-confirmed Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and former head of the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice, who has suggested that policymakers now "may need to think more systematically and universally about the issue of combatants" and to "debate a long-term and sustainable architecture for the process of determining when, why, and for how long someone may be detained as an enemy combatant, and what judicial review should be available."

In addition, Viet Dinh, former head of the Justice Department's Office of Legal Policy has called "unsustainable" the government's current insistence on detentions without meaningful oversight or any sort of due process.

I am currently examining ways to heed this invitation for congressional action and hope to introduce a piece of legislation in the near future that establishes specific standards and procedures under which terrorism suspects may be detained as enemy combatants and provided due process.

In the interim, I am reintroducing this piece of legislation in the hope that Congress and the Administration will finally work together to create a workable framework to deal with these matters of significant constitutional import. In addition, I have renewed my call for congressional hearings to examine proposals for congressional action in this area. After the shameful internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, we must be vigilant to protect against the government's decision to detain, perhaps indefinitely, any American without adequate review of the basis of its decision.

TRIBUTE TO YOLANDA GARCIA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sympathy that I rise today to give a final farewell to an outstanding woman and a dear