

Alumnae Chapter in the United States House of Representatives on this day.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF STATE SENATOR KEN
ARMBRISTER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Texas State Senator Ken Armbrister, of my Congressional District.

Ken Armbrister began his public service career in law enforcement. After graduating from Sam Houston State University, he attended the FBI National Academy. He served as a police officer for 14 years, and rose to the rank of Captain and Director of the Victoria Regional Police Academy. He was honored with the Defender of the Peace award by the Sam Houston State University College of Criminal Justice, and was twice named a Top Ten Crime Fighter by the Greater Dallas Crime Commission.

Mr. Armbrister was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1983, and to the Texas Senate in 1987. He served as President Pro Tempore, as acting governor, and was honored as one of the Best Legislators in Texas. He currently serves on the Senate Committees on Business and Commerce, Government Organization, and State Affairs, and is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. He continues to work at the forefront of critical legislation, and authored the landmark legislation that established the Edwards Aquifer Authority that provided for the water needs of a 26 county area of South Texas.

Ken Armbrister repaid the trust of the people of Texas with a lifetime of dedicated and effective public service. He is an inspiration to the people of the community, of what and show's man's commitment and energy can accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize State Senator Ken Armbrister.

RECOGNIZING NEW JERSEY LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSO-
CIATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Jersey State Law Enforcement Officers Association. Since 1938, the New Jersey Law Enforcement Officers Association and its members have worked to keep New Jersey safe from criminals and have sought to recognize those officers who go above and beyond the call of duty.

Our law enforcement officers risk their lives daily by placing the safety of others before themselves. We must never forget the sacrifice of our fallen officers who have given all to protect our families and communities.

Our local law enforcement officers are now a part of the front line in the battle to keep America safe from terrorist threats and on a daily basis confront the specter of further attacks. We must recognize the crucial role our local law enforcement plays in the War on Terror and provide them the support they need to keep us safe.

The New Jersey State Law Enforcement Officers Association, in recognition of the importance of coordinating law enforcement, numbers Federal, State, County and Municipal Law Enforcement agents in its membership. By working together professionally and with the association, our law enforcement officers can easily share information about criminal threats.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our law enforcement officers and with their families. We owe a great debt to those who work to keep us safe and it is only fitting that Congress recognize the work of these guardians of peace.

LEGISLATION CONDEMNING RELI-
GIOUS PERSECUTION AND INTOL-
ERANCE IN INDIA

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce this Resolution to condemn the alleged statements and actions of complacency by the government authorities in Gujarat, led by Chief Minister Narendra Modi, in the face of the religious persecution of the Gujarati people.

In February of 2002, India experienced its greatest human rights crisis in a decade: orchestrated violence against Muslims in the state of Gujarat that claimed at least 2,000 lives in a matter of days. Three years after that horrific incident, Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister of Gujarat has been indicted by various Indian and International human rights organizations for lending his hand to the violence.

Mr. Modi himself has not been shy about proudly professing his anti-Christian, anti-Muslim, and anti-tribal stances. He has repeatedly dehumanized the Muslim population of his state by accusing them of treachery; he has actively sought to interfere in the practice of the Christian faith in Gujarat, and he has caused wide-scale displacement of indigenous populations in the State in the face of stiff popular resistance. I find Mr. Modi's actions to be of the most reprehensible sort.

In an article in the Hindu Times on March 2, 2005, former Indian President K.R. Narayanan stated that "there was a 'conspiracy' between the BJP governments at the Centre and the state behind the 2002 Gujarat riots . . .". Further, a number of Indian human rights organizations, international human rights organizations, and a former Supreme Court Justice all recognize Chief Minister Modi's complicity in the violence.

He has attacked Muslims and Christians with vile venom, and according to both India's highest court and many international human rights groups, has condoned terrible, violent religious hate crimes, all the while, shielding those said to have committed them. In fact, in

a scathing indictment of Mr. Modi, the Supreme Court of India referred to the Chief Minister and his government as "the modern day Neros". Moreover, in a recent unprecedented order, the Supreme Court of India ordered the reopening of all the criminal cases that Mr. Modi has closed, regarding over 2,000 police cases in which the non-Hindu victims filed reports of rapes, killings, and destruction of their property.

Such actions by high ranking government officials of any religion are unacceptable and must not be tolerated.

I urge my colleagues to join me in condemning religious intolerance and promoting religious freedom, so that others may see what our great democracy stands for.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE
CARLOS URESTI

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker rise to recognize State Representative Carlos I. Uresti for a lifetime of distinguished public service.

Representative Uresti is a native of San Antonio, and a graduate of McCollum High School. He continued his education by earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Teacher's Certificate from Saint Mary's University. After graduation he served four years in the United States Marine Corps, where he was awarded the Naval Achievement Medal. When his service to the Marines was over he returned to San Antonio and enrolled at Saint Mary's school of Law, where he received his law degree in 1992. He is currently is a partner at the Law Offices of Gonzales Hoblit & Ferguson.

In June 1997 Carlos Uresti was elected to the Texas House of Representatives. He honorably serves as Chairman of the Committee of Human Services, and as a member on the Committee on Elections and Select Committee on Healthcare Expenditures. As a former Marine, he is proud to serve as a member of the Texas House Veterans Coalition and the United States Marine Corps League.

During his time in office, Representative Carlos Uresti fought to prevent child abuse and neglect. He was instrumental in the creation of Bexar County's Blue Ribbon Task Force, a coalition that brings community members together to fight the cause against child abuse, and is a member of numerous organizations that help educate our youth.

Mr. Speaker, Representative Carlos I. Uresti is a credit to his community and I am honored to have had this opportunity to recognize the many achievements of this great public servant.

THANKING MARY D. WATTS FOR
HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement in April 2005, we rise to thank