

In closing, I want to again commend the March-Westin Company, the St. James Catholic Church, and the Wheeling-Charleston Catholic Diocese for their commitment to workplace health and safety and ask my colleagues here in Congress to join me in recognizing their efforts.

**FREEDOM FOR JOSÉ ENRIQUE
SANTANA CARREIRA**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about José Enrique Santana Carreira, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Santana Carreira is the national coordinator of the Democratic Party November 30 and a member of the pro-democracy opposition. Unfortunately, those who believe in truth are targeted by the tyrant's machinery of repression. According to an article for the Information Bridge Cuba Miami, on February 28, 2002, Mr. Santana Carreira was arrested for simply participating in a civic activity at the Catholic Church of the Passionists. More than 2 years later, in a sham trial, Mr. Santana Carreira was sentenced to 4 years in the totalitarian gulag.

In a letter to his mother that was translated and published at punteinfocubamiami.org, Mr. Santana Carreira describes the horrible conditions in the gulag to his mother:

For my mother:

With lots of love is that I write you this missive which I know is going to hurt you, but it is hurting me already, since they have beaten me and I could not get up . . . they have beaten me with no Humanity whatsoever. . . .

My dearest mother, I am resolved to take this until the maximum consequences if they already have beaten me, this will not stop, the only thing that I want is for all to know of the abuses that we are being subjected to and to receive the necessary support from all the people so that all these abuses end and all the World learns about the cruelties committed against those who fight peacefully with their reason and their right. . . .

Take care my viejita, I am very ill, suffering with all this, but I am willing to die for the reason that assists me in this our pacific fight.

I love you a lot. José Enrique Santana Carreiras

Mr. Santana Carreras represents the very best of the Cuban people: No matter how intense the beatings, no matter how remorseless the repression, no matter how inhumane the conditions, he will never relent in his belief that the men and women of Cuba should be and will be free.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, in the 21st century and only 90 miles from our shore, brave men and women are locked in grotesque dungeons because they believe that all people have basic human rights. It is a profound embarrassment for mankind that the world stands by in silence and acquiescence while political prisoners are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of

José Enrique Santana Carreira and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

**CONGRATULATING CJ'S STUDIO OF
PERFORMING ARTS**

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Darion Albert, Ms. Brittany Carey, Ms. Christian Hargers, Ms. Brittanica Jones, and Ms. De'Ona Stafford of CJ's Studio of Performing Arts, located in my district, for their opportunity to dance in the Moscow Ballet's presentation of The Nutcracker in Dallas.

The Moscow Ballet is a classical ballet company that brings the grand tradition of a century of Russian ballet to audiences throughout the world, and it is considered a great honor to be part of the troop. Moscow Ballet's The Great Russian Nutcracker combines the family favorite with a special prayer for peace. Unlike many American adaptations, The Great Russian Nutcracker ends not in the "Land of the Sweets," but in the "Land of Peace and Harmony." The Russian Nutcracker has charmed us for more than a century because it takes its audience to a world of enchantment and peace where dreams are made real, language is no barrier, and it is always the season of love and giving.

The five young ladies of CJ's Studio of Dance were selected this year to perform in this timeless tradition and performance. Ms. Albert, Ms. Carey, Ms. Hargers, Ms. Jones, and Ms. Stafford have all attended CJ's for a number of years, under the direction of Ursula Gibbs. Ms. Gibbs serves as the studio's artistic director and dance instructor and is to be congratulated for her skillful dance instruction.

I extend my sincere congratulations to these young ladies for this distinguished opportunity. I wish them the best of luck in their dedicated pursuit of dance and the performing arts.

HONORING AMERICA'S VETERANS

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, every year on November 11, the American people honor the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our Nation as members of the armed forces. The sacrifices of our veterans and their families are the foundation of our Nation's freedom. All Americans owe them a debt of gratitude for their service.

Veterans Day is a national holiday for remembrance and appreciation. Whether a veteran served during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, or have recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan, they have earned our respect. As a member of Congress, I feel strongly about honoring our veterans and their families. With over 25 million veterans in America, Congress must keep its promise to those veterans who have served, as well as those who will be returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. Providing the necessary

healthcare, education, and disability benefits to meet the needs of our veterans is both a responsibility and a moral obligation.

This Veterans Day, let us thank our family, friends and neighbors who have served our Nation in uniform. Their courage is to be celebrated. Their commitment to our Nation must be matched by a commitment from Congress to truly honor their service by guaranteeing the benefits they deserve.

**RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY, H. RES.
505 REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT
TRANSMIT TO THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, DOCUMENTS
PERTAINING TO THE WHITE
HOUSE IRAQ GROUP**

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, earlier today the House International Relations Committee convened to consider an important resolution of inquiry, H. Res. 505.

The resolution would have required the President and Secretary of State to turn over to the House of Representatives all white papers, minutes, notes, e-mails or other communications relating to the White House Iraq Group (WHIG).

Unfortunately, the committee voted to report the resolution unfavorably, so we won't be getting those important documents.

It was also unfortunate that the committee called for a vote before all Democrats wishing to speak could be heard. Because the chairman acted in this manner, further debate was closed.

Due to this, I feel it necessary to have my statement from the International Relations Committee included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I hope that in the future, when our committee meets on important legislation with serious international and national security implications, all members will be allowed to address their concerns vocally and publicly.

My statement for the committee record appears below.

Here we are again, asking for the answers to the same questions we've been asking for over two and a half years.

I commend my colleagues for introducing H. Res. 505, a resolution that would require the President and Secretary of State to turn over to the House of Representatives all white papers, minutes, notes, e-mails or other communications relating to the White House Iraq Group (WHIG).

It seems many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have forgotten that Congress has an obligation to the American people to oversee the activities of the Executive Branch.

Because of that duty, we owe it to the American public to investigate the actions of the WHIG if we are to determine what the Bush Administration was peddling less than the actual truth of the Iraqi threat prior to going to war.

Over the past several years, Congress has continually failed to investigate the Administration's faulty intelligence claims with regard to Iraq.

Now we know that Andrew Card formed the WHIG in 2002, with the goal of marketing an