

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

2006 NATIONAL OSTEOPOROSIS
AWARENESS AND PREVENTION
MONTH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize that the 2006 National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month will be observed this May.

There are currently 44 million Americans, age 50 or older, who have osteoporosis. In addition, an estimated 1.5 million fractures are attributed to this disease every year. Although this disease has commonly been associated with women, it is prevalent in men as well. Nearly two million men currently live with osteoporosis, millions of others are at risk and one in eight men older than 50 years will have an osteoporotic fracture.

Furthermore, the risk for osteoporosis does increase with age. However, it is important to adopt good diet with calcium and vitamin D during childhood and adolescence to prevent a person from being diagnosed with low bone mass later on.

As we observe the National Osteoporosis Awareness Month, I would like to urge providers and individuals to discuss osteoporosis and carry out bone mineral density diagnostic tests when necessary.

In addition, I would like to commend the National Osteoporosis Foundation for bringing awareness to this debilitating disease, providing educational material on this issue, and supporting a search for a cure since 1984. They have entitled this year's campaign "Osteoporosis . . . it matters" and will be hosting events throughout the nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to promote the National Osteoporosis Awareness Month and honor the National Osteoporosis Foundation staff for all of their hard work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain how I would have voted on May 22, 2006 during rollcall votes #177 and #178 during the second session of the 109th Congress. The first vote was for S. 1235, the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2005. The second vote was for H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2005.

If present, I would have voted "yes" on these rollcall votes.

PALESTINIAN-ANTI TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, as someone with a great interest in Israel, Middle Eastern affairs, and world peace, I believe that we should remain cognizant of the importance of open communication, peaceful dialogue, and positive debate. I have a sincere affection and respect for both people and I pray for a peaceful resolution of deep seeded differences. We are living in historic times, and we have an opportunity to play a significant part in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

This legislation rightly calls upon Hamas to renounce terrorism, and recognize Israel as an independent, sovereign, Jewish and democratic state. I too recognize the need for a secure Israel and the need for a peaceful resolution for the Israel and Palestinian people. For many, peace is a long awaited dream and I am certain that with time, they will eventually realize this dream. I also advocate for cessation of aid to a Hamas led government of Palestinian Authority since they have refused to renounce violence and terrorism as part of their military tactics. I am certain a government that refuses to curtail their terrorist ideals can run the gamut on outrageous and purposefully unrealistic demands.

I am concerned that some of the provisions of H.R. 4681 directly undermine the goal of securing peace.

I question the prudence in ostracizing Hamas from the international community and forbidding contact with the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Legislative Council when some of its members do not belong to Hamas or any foreign terrorist organization. Many of these members have in fact renounced terrorism, recognized Israel and negotiated the prior agreements. I am concerned that these tactics will only hurt relationships with moderate Palestinian leaders whose support and cooperation are vital to ensuring peace.

I am not resigned to the notion that impoverishing a country and hence a people falls within the scope of our duties in ensuring a peaceful resolution. These people are already suffering tremendous poverty and unemployment increases.

We must find a way to punish the evil doers without victimizing their innocent neighbors. I am certain that this legislation surpasses the formation of a militaristic strategy and enters the venue of instilling punitive economic and diplomatic sanctions against the Palestinian people. We cannot restrict U.S. humanitarian aid and potentially eliminate entire U.S. aid projects, such as vital infrastructure and small business development. We cannot threaten to withhold a portion of U.S. dues to the United

Nations because it allows bodies to advocate for Palestinian human rights. I am concerned about the innocent people who will suffer the consequences in denouncing the provisions of the U.S. free trade agreement with the West Bank and Gaza.

I know that refusing visas to members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, including those who belong to political parties that the United States does not classify as "foreign terrorist organizations," will deter ensuring a peaceful resolution. I am concerned that negating visas to members of the PLO diplomats at the United Nations and threatening to close the PLO's office in Washington will close the channels of communication.

Madam Speaker, I have long been an advocate for peace and I pray for a peaceful resolution of the Arab and Israeli people. It is in that spirit, and with that faith, that I will continue to work with the administration to ensure the United States remains firm in its commitment to the security of Israel and to those principles necessary to guarantee the success of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The wording of this Resolution changed to include much of the negative language after I signed on as a co-sponsor.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOACHIM
MATTHEW CHAVEZ

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Joachim Matthew Chavez, a life-long teacher and strong advocate of public education.

Mr. Chavez will retire this year from a 30 year career as a public school educator. Originally from Yuma, Arizona, he graduated from Yuma High School, home of the Criminals and later attended Arizona Western College and Northern Arizona University. He started his career teaching History and English in Parker, Arizona and later moved to Somerton, Arizona where he spent most of his professional career. He created and developed the district's first Bilingual Program where students learned to use their native language skills as a base for English instruction. He later served as the District Director of the Bilingual Programs. He was named Somerton's Teacher of the Year in 1988 and again in 1990.

His dedication did not stop at the school gate but he also committed himself to teaching Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) courses in the evenings and weekends to farmworkers in the Yuma Valley. An active member of the religious community, he taught religious education for over 25 years. As an involved parent, he was a Little League Baseball and Youth Soccer Coach, Ballet Folkloric sponsor, a parent Band Booster, and a supporter of the Cibola Thespian Group.

He and his wife Annette have become role models and mentors to many young teaching

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.