

On July 7, 1779, as you left Southport Harbor and looked over your port beam (or larboard beam as Commodore Barry would have known it), you would see the smoke from the British punitive raid on Fairfield. On September 11, 2001, as you left Southport Harbor and looked over your starboard beam, you would see the smoke from the burning towers of the World Trade Center. Here we are in the Southport section of Fairfield, a crossroads of history and yet even here in Fairfield we failed to give due deference to history. The Fairfield School system willfully fails to observe Veterans Day, for example, as a holiday.

We are at war, but have we learned from history? It is all too easy to put the present war aside and go about our business. Let someone else address the problem. Perhaps another John Barry will turn up, or perhaps it doesn't matter.

We need more John Barrys, men of bravery and determination, we can never have enough.

Barry knew there were things worse than war and his life was determined by that knowledge. He knew there were things far worse than war. Do we? He acknowledged that there were objectives that war could accomplish, do we?

HONORING JOEL B. ROSEN

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Honorable Joel B. Rosen, United States Magistrate Judge of the New Jersey District, for his exceptional service to his community. I consider Joel a close friend, and commend him for his continuing commitment to the practice of law.

After graduating from Rutgers School of Law at Camden, with honors, Judge Rosen served as an Assistant United States Attorney. For a time, he was the attorney-in-charge of the United States Attorney's Office in Camden where he received several commendations from the Department of Justice for prosecuting organized crime and political corruption. He also served as the Chief of the Special Prosecutions Section as a Deputy Attorney General in the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice. In 1987, Judge Rosen was sworn in as a United States Magistrate Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Judge Rosen was awarded the Rutgers School of Law Honorable Joseph M. Nardi Jr. Distinguished Service award in 2004. In 1999, he received the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. "Champions for Social Justice and Equality Award" from the Black Law Students Association at Rutgers School of Law. He was the recipient of the Special Achievement Award from the Department of Justice in 1976 and received Special Commendation of Outstanding Service in the District of New Jersey, Department of Justice in 1975. Judge Rosen is a Former Member of the Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction and the Federal Judicial Center, Magistrate Judge Education Committee. He was also the Former President of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association.

I have known Joel both personally and professionally for over a decade and have found him to be a man of outstanding moral char-

acter. His compassion and integrity are only matched by his keen mind and superior knowledge of the law. I am proud to call Joel a friend.

GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 20, 2006*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say, that as world leaders meet in New York this week to determine next steps on the Darfur crisis, we here in the U.S. Congress must commit to finding ways to break the current deadlock and lead new international action to stop the ongoing genocide.

We need to begin an all-out diplomatic offensive on Darfur in order to prepare the way for a peacekeeping force that can ensure protection for the people of Darfur.

The Coalition for International Justice estimated that 450,000 people in Darfur have died since the deadly genocide began some three years ago.

International attention to the Darfur conflict largely began with reports by the advocacy organizations, Amnesty International, in July 2003, and the International Crisis Group in December 2003.

Since then, countless organizations have put in untold hours trying to stop the carnage and human suffering. Groups like: International Committee of the Red Cross, Doctors without Borders, World Vision, SAVE DARFUR—an alliance of more than 100 faith-based, humanitarian, and human rights organizations, including: Amnesty International USA, International Crisis Group, American Jewish World Service, NAACP, American Society for Muslim Advancement, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Church World Service.

In all, dozens upon dozens of groups and organizations have prioritized stopping the killing in Darfur before there is no one left to be killed. It is high time that we, the U.S. Congress, join our name to that list.

We've done it before.

When the U.S. Congress decided in 1986 that South Africa's ways of Apartheid could no longer be ignored, the 99th Congress jumped in and passed of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act was won over a presidential veto. The bill imposed sweeping economic sanctions against South Africa, divesting capital from the government, and authorized several measures to assist the victims of apartheid.

Virtually every member of Congress felt pressure from their home districts to do something about apartheid and cities and colleges in their districts were divesting, and the bipartisan vote led the way ending an oppressive regime.

We are at the point with Darfur.

I continue to hope and pray that the Bush Administration makes this a top priority in New York this week, and to pressure Sudan and its allies, particularly Russia and China, to accept the will of the international community for an international force to protect civilians in Darfur.

In the meantime, I hope that we all gather in support of Congresswoman LEE's Darfur

Accountability and Divestment Act, DADA, of 2006. Divestment worked to end Apartheid and it can work in this instance.

We can make a difference. We can save lives. We can stop the genocide.

FREEDOM FOR OSCAR ELIAS  
BISCET

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, a Cuban hero who is a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Dr. Biscet is a leading pro-democracy activist in totalitarian Cuba and one of the leaders of the democratic Cuba of tomorrow. Dr. Biscet is a medical doctor and the founder of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights. He has dedicated his life to freedom and democracy and is a follower of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Biscet is a man who has constantly opposed the tyranny in Cuba, and who has paid a tremendous price for his belief in freedom.

In 1998, he was sentenced to 3 years in the gulag because he flew the Cuban flag upside down to protest the subhuman treatment of the Cuban people at the hands of the Castro tyranny. When he was "released" in October of 2002, he was out of prison only a few weeks when he was rounded up again and sentenced this time for "association with enemies of the State," and he was sentenced, along with over 75 other peaceful pro-democracy leaders and independent journalists, to 25 years in the Cuban gulag.

For the vast majority of the last 8 years, Dr. Biscet has lived in a gulag that can only be described as a living hell. Dr. Biscet has been placed in what is called "the tomb." He is underground in solitary confinement, in a punishment cell. And so that he fully understood the dimension of his punishment, a serial killer was placed along with him in "the tomb."

Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet recently spoke by telephone with Mr. Amado Gil, a journalist in Miami, FL. The Coalition of Cuban-American Women transcribed, edited and translated this interview from Spanish to English.

PRISON CONDITIONS

The government of Cuba has tortured me during eight years; they have done so trying to drive me insane, though, thank God, I have been able to preserve my sanity . . . in reality, they continue torturing me because I live in a box with no windows or natural light, no water . . . with a mattress that feels as if one were sleeping on a plank, a stone . . . unfit for a human being . . . surrounded by criminals and under the threat, as it has happened on previous occasions, of being attacked by the government who instigates these dangerous prisoners . . .

I believe that what the government is doing is torturing me to humiliate me so that I abandon the struggle on behalf of the freedom of my country but, thank God, I have been able to keep up my stance and will continue doing so with God's help . . .

SYMBOLIC FAST AS OF JULY 13, 2006

I began this fast (in prison) because I believe we should pray to God and demand our rights before the government, the right to be free which belongs to every person just for

being a citizen. Our country has lived so long without any rights, under a dictatorship . . . I believe that we must demand rights that belong to us and, in everyone's interest, these liberties must be observed . . . In order to live a full life, it is essential to live in freedom and the Cuban people are denied these rights . . . that is why I'm initiating a fast along with other brothers (in prison) to demand that the government sign the international covenants of civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights—the Cuban regime must sign them and abide by them so that the Cuban people may live in freedom at last. . . .

MESSAGE TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE

The Cuban people must do their utmost in their struggle to win their freedom and succeed in obtaining the international support of all free and democratic countries. I trust that the Cuban people will prove their dignity as they have done so on other occasions, so that we may enjoy FREEDOM. . . .

My colleagues, despite the hell that has been described, Dr. Biscet is unrelenting in his resolve for freedom for the people of Cuba. Dr. Biscet is a great patriot, a man of peace, and an apostle of freedom for Cuba. Dr. Biscet is a hero in the tradition of the great figures of Cuba's long struggle for liberty. Quintin Banderas, Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, Ignacio Agramonte, Antonio Maceo, and thousands of other Cuban heroes established a tradition of heroism that today is being continued by countless men and women who have given their best years and often their lives for the freedom of Cuba. Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet is a hero in that same admirable tradition.

Mr. Speaker, it is completely unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, Dr. Biscet languishes in the gulag because of his belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We cannot permit the brutal treatment by a demented and murderous tyrant of a man of peace like Dr. Biscet for simply supporting freedom for his people. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Oscar Elias Biscet and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

COMMEMORATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 15th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia. Today, we congratulate and pay tribute to the citizens of Armenia, as well as people of Armenian descent in the United States and around the globe on this important anniversary of their independence from the former Soviet Union.

Since its independence in 1991, the Republic of Armenia has been a trusted and valuable friend of the United States in the strategically important South Caucasus region. During that time, the United States and Armenia have developed a strong relationship based on shared democratic values.

Throughout their history, the Armenian people have persevered over unspeakable tragedy and hardship. Despite oppression, occu-

pation and the genocide committed against the Armenian people, the unique Armenian culture, heritage and values have flourished.

However, Armenia still faces significant obstacles. It is surrounded by hostile neighbors who have erected blockades to prevent the flow of key resources into Armenia, hindering its ability to develop economically. Despite these difficulties, Armenia's economy has continued to grow at an impressive pace. The United States must continue to provide economic and military assistance and do everything in its power to end these blockades so that Armenia's economy can continue to grow and its young democracy can thrive.

I join my colleagues in the House of Representatives today in commemorating Armenia's independence. I look forward to the bonds of friendship between the United States and Armenia becoming even stronger in the coming years and I wish all Armenian people well on this day.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARS INCORPORATED PLANT IN WACO, TEXAS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Mars Incorporated manufacturing facility in Waco, Texas—an important institution in our community since its opening on September 23, 1976.

For decades, this facility has produced the Snickers® Bar and other Snickers® varieties for American consumers, and it is now the only facility in the country that produces Skittles® Bite Size Candy and Starburst® Fruit Chews. Roughly 700 people are employed at the Waco facility, many of whom have worked at this facility their entire careers. The loyalty of its associates is a testament to Mars' commitment to providing associates with an environment in which it is a pleasure to work.

I have been proud to have a Mars facility in my district all these years. Approximately \$30 million worth of Texas-grown peanuts are used in the Waco facility to produce Mars' popular snackfood products. In addition to the hundreds of jobs that this facility brings to our economy, Mars has also embraced its role in our community through numerous charitable contributions and community sponsorships.

Mars has also been a pioneer in its industry for the installation of water-saving treatment facilities at some of its plants, and it has incorporated a Wetlands Wastewater Treatment Facility in its Waco facility which saves 3 to 5 million gallons of water each year. In Texas, where we've experienced severe drought in recent years, water conservation is increasingly important. I commend Mars for being a leader on this and other sustainability issues, and I encourage similar facilities in Texas to use the Mars model as an example of environmentally conscious production.

Again, I congratulate Mars for reaching this 30-year milestone and hope that this facility will continue to be a member of our community for many more decades to come.

ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF WISE COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Wise County, a Texas county that is part of the 12th Congressional District which I have the honor to represent in Congress.

The area that today is known as Wise County, located northwest of the Fort Worth/Dallas area, initially was home to Native American Indians. The Coronado Expeditions in 1540 found the Wichita Indians roaming the region. By the mid-1800s, Texas was being settled to the north and west of the Gulf Coast. The first settlers, lead by Sam Woody and his family, came to the Wise County region in 1854 attracted by an abundance of land, game and other natural resources. The Woody family and other pioneers who came from other southern states found their new home ideal for farming and ranching.

On January 23, 1856, the Texas Legislature officially created a new county from the larger Cook County and named it for Henry A. Wise, a U.S. Senator from Virginia who had supported the annexation of Texas into the United States a decade earlier. By a popular vote, the community of Taylorville, named for President Taylor, was selected to the county seat where the first of four county courthouses was constructed. Later, the town's name was changed to Decatur in honor of U.S. Naval hero Stephen Decatur at the urging of Col. Absolam Bishop, recognized as the founder of Decatur. The present courthouse on the Decatur town square is the fourth, a majestic pink granite structure constructed in 1895 and remodeled several times since.

By 1860, Wise County had more than 3,000 residents. Although Wise County was one of the Texas counties that voted against secession from the United States, it did recruit five Confederate military companies from among its male residents who fought in the Civil War. Following the Civil War, agriculture continued to be the prime focus of the Wise County economy. Over time, dairy farming, brick and limestone production and oil and gas production became important segments of the county's economic base. At the turn of the century, 99 percent of Wise County's 27,116 residents still lived in unincorporated areas.

Wise County has the distinction of being the birthplace of the first established junior college when Decatur Baptist Junior College was created in 1892 to serve as a "feeder school" to Baylor University in Waco. In 1965, the junior college took a step forward by moving to Dallas and becoming Dallas Baptist University.

Throughout its history, the many men and women of Wise County have served proudly in the U.S. military with distinction and honor. In recognition of some of its sons and daughters who fought during World War II and who were members of the famed "Lost Battalion," Allied soldiers who became Japan prisoners of war, the Wise County Heritage Museum has dedicated a room to members of the Lost Battalion.

Since World War II, Wise County has continued to flourish. Today, the county has a