IN HONOR OF THE GRADUATES OF TEANECK'S 21ST CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the exemplary community policing program conducted by the Township of Teaneck and to congratulate the 41 citizens who will graduate next month from Teaneck's 21st Citizen Police Academy.

The program gives citizens the opportunity to experience first-hand the work and techniques of the Teaneck Police Department. For eleven weeks, citizens participate in classroom activities, field trips to a prison and a medical examiner's office, and hands-on exercises. Students can gain a strong understanding and appreciation for the work that the police do every day to keep our communities safe. Students can also gain the skills necessary to help be eyes and ears in our communities, helping the police keep those neighborhoods safe.

I commend the Police Department for taking the initiative to organize this program. Particularly in our post-9/11 world, we know that an active and alert citizenry is one of our best defenses against terrorist and criminal behavior.

I also commend the 41 citizens who have taken time from their busy personal and professional lives to participate in this program: Sal Aliano, Kimberly Anderson, Shonita Badger, Alan Barsamian, James Bennett, Jon-Michael Bernal, Tiffany Blandford, Michael Bonanno, Giuseppe Casalinuovo, Angela Cespedes, Alba Coello, Mario Coello, Marva Coleman, Nancy Elsayed, David Fisher, Kevin Frederick, John Hohnadel, Tiara Jonson, Cynthia Johnson, Beverly Joseph, Chris Kowalczyk, Gladis Lizardi, Tara Lizardi, Gina Lampley, Celia Maldonado, Usman Malik, Jahmilah Mansfield, Tara McVey, Mireilly Meiss, Travara Morton, Sharde Mott, Avani Patel, Yoselin Perez, Flor Ramirez, Alba Ramos, Omer Savasci, Michael Schmitt, Andre Sousa, Jenene Taylor, Stacey Ann Wilson, and Leslie Srolovits.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET NICHOLAS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Margaret Nicholas, a member of the Hungarian Reformed Federation of America, Branch #227 in Warren, OH. Mrs. Nicholas was named a Fraternal Most Valuable Participant for the week of October 2, 2006. These Fraternal MVP's embody a spirit of generosity, dedicating their time to the betterment of their communities through their charitable endeavors.

The HRFA was founded 110 years ago, with the mission to preserve, promote, and support the cultural, religious, and linguistic traditions of Hungarians in America. Mrs. Nicholas has long been active in the Warren branch of the HRFA, currently serving as the Branch Manager.

Over the years, Mrs. Nicholas has been involved in many charitable activities, among them assembling care packages for troops serving overseas, which she has done since the days of the Vietnam War. Over the past two years, she has helped deliver over 4,000 cookies to the VA hospital in Brecksville, OH for the annual Join Hands Day. She is deeply involved in her church, helping to cook sausages to raise money for missions, organizing a vacation bible school, as well as serving as both a deacon and an elder.

I would like to commend Mrs. Nicholas on her outstanding devotion the improvement of the lives of people, not only in her community but across the country and around the world.

FREEDOM FOR LÁZARO RODRIGUEZ CAPOTE

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Lázaro Miguel Rodriguez Capote, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Rodríguez Capote is a member of the Cuban Pro Human Rights Party and a peaceful pro-democracy activist in totalitarian Cuba. As an opponent of the tyrannical regime in Havana, he has worked for basic human rights for the people of Cuba despite constant harassment and repression because he believes the Cuban people are entitled to basic human rights and democracy; in other words, freedom from tyranny.

On February 24, 1996, three U.S. citizens and a resident of Florida were assassinated when two civilian Brothers to the Rescue aircraft, on a humanitarian mission, were destroyed in international airspace by Cuban MiGs on the direct order of the Cuban dictator. The downing of the Brothers to the Rescue airplanes over international waters by the tyranny left an indelible impression on the consciences of Cuban pro-democracy activists and in countless millions throughout the world.

Mr. Rodríguez Capote was one of the many human rights activists in totalitarian Cuba who sought to commemorate the tragic deaths of these men but who was prohibited from demonstrating by the tyranny. Although Mr. Rodríguez Capote was threatened by state security thugs prior to his participation in peaceful demonstrations, he refused to allow his voice to be silenced. Consequently, he was wrongfully arrested on February 22, 2002 on trumped-up charges of "espionage and enemy propaganda".

Mr. Rodríguez Capote was summarily incarcerated and to this day languishes in grotesque subhuman conditions without having even been tried for a single crime. He is being held indefinitely in a totalitarian dungeon, suffering abhorrent conditions because he refuses to accept the reality inflicted upon Cuba by the tyranny. Since his incarceration he has held several hunger strikes to attract attention to the plight of Cuban political prisoners,

Mr. Rodríguez Capote is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. These men and women are symbols of freedom and democracy, who will always be remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba.

Madam Speaker, let me be very clear, the brutal repression practiced by the tyranny in Havana is incompatible with the democratic values and the international law of our hemisphere. Mr. Rodríguez Capote is suffering in a dungeon because he believes in freedom, democracy and human rights. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Lázaro Miguel Rodríguez Capote and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

COMMEMORATING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 71, legislation that I introduced, which commemorates the 85th Anniversary of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association.

As a co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I have had a close working relationship with AHEPA.

The Nation's largest and oldest association of American citizens of Greek heritage and Philhellenes, AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922, in Atlanta, Georgia, by eight visionary Greek immigrants to combat bigotry and discrimination and help Greek immigrants assimilate into American society.

Today, its mission is to promote the ancient Greek ideals of education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism.

Over its history, AHEPA has achieved remarkable accomplishments. It has fostered American patriotism, sheltered the elderly, educated our youth, promoted Hellenic heritage, and advanced rapproachment in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Additionally, AHEPA's members exemplify the American Dream. With their strong work ethic, Greek-Americans have risen to become leaders in their respective professions, from government to business to the arts.

Currently headed by Supreme President Gus James, II, AHEPA has been a vehicle through which this advancement has occurred in our society.

I want to thank Chairman WAXMAN and Ranking Member DAVIS for their support of this bill and for moving it through the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. I also want to acknowledge my fellow Caucus Co-Chair, Representative BILIRAKIS, for joining me in introducing this bill.