

I would like to wish the A.I. DuPont High School Tiger Marching Band the best of luck in this exciting period of preparation for the upcoming Rose Parade. The hard work and dedication put forth by all of those involved is truly commendable and I can think of no band more capable of representing Delaware at the Rose Parade this January.

CREDIBILITY OF THE UNITED
NATIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, next week I will be traveling to New York City as a Congressional Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. It's no secret, Mr. Speaker, that I believe the United Nations has a lot to do in order to restore the trust of the American people.

Since its inception, one of the primary objectives of the United Nations has been to protect and advance fundamental human rights around the world. It's a noble cause. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, in my view, this goal has been tarnished by the problem of corruption, hypocrisy, and an unapologetic bias against the state of Israel. This kind of behavior is unacceptable and the United Nations must be held accountable.

We all know about the fraud, mismanagement, and abuse prevalent in the Oil-for-Food program. The program was established to bring humanitarian relief to the people of Iraq and it fell victim to despicable corruption by U.N. officials. Yet, since the scandal was first discovered and reports were issued, little has been done by the United Nations to ensure reform.

The Human Rights Council was established in 2006, to replace the U.N. Human Rights Commission which had become so discredited that Secretary-General Kofi Annan admitted, "the declining credibility [of the Commission] has cast a shadow on the reputation of the United Nations system as a whole . . ." The mission of the Commission—not to mention the United Nations as a whole—was questioned by the election of some of the world's worse human rights abusers to serve as members of the Commission. The record of the new Human Rights Council is dismally better; of the 47 members only 25 were considered "free" states.

This Council has also demonstrated a strong bias against Israel. In the first year of its operations, more than 70 percent of the country-specific resolutions were on Israel. This disproportionate focus on Israel and disregard for holding major human rights violators across the world accountable cannot be tolerated. It goes against the most basic, fundamental principles of the U.N.

I appreciate the mission of the United Nations, Mr. Speaker, but I'm concerned about the way it's being carried out. The U.N. has got to take reform seriously if they plan on gaining the support of the American people.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING THE FORTY
FORT MEETING HOUSE ON THE
OCCASION OF ITS 200TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Forty Fort Meeting House which is celebrating its 200th anniversary as a place for citizens to congregate for the purpose of worshipping God and serving their communities.

A national historic landmark, the Forty Fort Meeting House, located in the Wyoming Valley of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, is the oldest existing house of worship in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Two hundred years ago, the colonists viewed the discussion of religion and politics as fundamental to the success and prosperity of their community and they created an institution strictly for that purpose—the meeting house.

The origins of the Forty Fort Meeting House are rooted in colonial New England where members of the local community gathered inside plain wooden structures twice on Sunday to worship and during the midweek to discuss community affairs and elect local officials.

The Forty Fort Meeting House served as a place of worship until 1837 when the Presbyterians and Methodists built their own churches, leaving the Meeting House and adjoining cemetery to become neglected.

In 1860, the Forty Fort Cemetery Association was established and with it came a renewed sense of responsibility for stewardship of the Meeting House. William Swetland, the association's first president, replaced the roof, painted the exterior and repaired the fence. For the next 130 years, the structure received only cosmetic repairs to the exterior.

Today, efforts are underway to restore the structure through an endowment project that seeks to raise funds for the work and to continue preservation well into the future.

The Forty Fort Meeting House stands as a legacy to the spiritual fortitude, fierce determination and moral courage of the Connecticut Yankees who settled the Wyoming Valley.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Forty Fort Meeting House and in urging citizens from throughout the region to support the ongoing preservation project fund raiser to insure that a vital part of our Nation's past remains intact so future generations can appreciate how their ancestors laid the foundation for our present great society.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT AL LEWIS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Al Lewis on his retirement from the City of Newark, California, after serving over 29 years as a police officer and

sergeant and 31 years as a member of the Newark Police Department.

Sergeant Lewis began his career with the Newark Police Department as a reserve police officer in January 1976 and served in this capacity until his promotion to the rank of police officer in January 1978. He was selected as the department's first school resource officer in 1988 and was promoted to the rank of sergeant in February 1991.

Sergeant Lewis was most recently assigned to the Patrol Division, but has also served as a range instructor and supervised the K9 unit. His passion has been the police K9 program, which he is responsible for bringing back to the department.

He has also held numerous specialized assignments during his tenure including patrol officer, traffic officer, property detective, field training officer, weaponless defense instructor, police reserve officer program coordinator, substitute DARE instructor, member of the accident review board, SWAT member, SWAT leader, SWAT sniper, SWAT sergeant, liaison to the Newark communications volunteers, member of C.O.P.P.S. design team, and acting lieutenant for the detective division.

Sergeant Lewis has been a key member of the Citizen Police Academy teaching staff, covering many of the courses taught during the annual 10-week class. He has earned the Reserve Police Officer of the Year award in 1976 and the Police Officer of the Year award in 1982. In addition, he has also received numerous other department awards throughout his career.

I join the Newark Police Department in thanking Sergeant Al Lewis for his years of service and commitment to the City of Newark and the community.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce H.R. ____ which includes "new construction" as qualified restaurant property to take advantage of the reduction from 39½ years to 15 years for depreciation. H.R. ____ also makes permanent the already existing 15-year depreciation for improvements to restaurant property.

Madam Speaker, depreciation schedules for commercial real estate have not been significantly revised since they were established. Currently, commercial real estate generally has a 39½-year depreciable life for the original building and for any subsequent renovations or improvements to the building. Changes have been made in recent years to allow certain industries that directly compete with restaurants to benefit from shorter schedules. These schedules range from seven years for food outlets located in amusement parks to 15 years for those in gas stations and convenience stores. This favorable depreciation schedule has allowed convenience stores to expand and improve their foodservice options.

The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 established that restaurants could depreciate qualified restaurant building improvement costs over 15 years for property in place by