

The military refuses to recognize the will of the Burmese people—made exceedingly clear in past elections, and most recently in the demonstrations we all saw this Fall. The people plead for human rights and an end to the junta's power. Instead, these thugs have cracked down even harder with their customary persecution and bloodshed.

The Congressional Medal of Honor was originally awarded to military leaders for achievement in battle. Ms. Suu Kyi and the Burmese people are currently waging their own battle—a peaceful one—based on democratic ideals that all Americans share with them. Let's honor Ms. Suu Kyi for this peaceful struggle, and send a message to her brutal captors and to the world, that we stand with her and her people.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHERITH NORMAN

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep appreciation for Cherith Norman's service to our country as senior congressional adviser in the Bureau of Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. I have had the privilege of getting to know Cherith during her time as senior congressional adviser in the State Department's Bureau of Legislative Affairs on budget and appropriations issues. She is one of the best congressional liaisons from the State Department that I have worked with during my entire time in office. I have been deeply impressed by her work ethic and commitment to serving the United States government. She is conscientious, dedicated, and quick-thinking, and has been a tremendous asset to both me and my staff.

Cherith worked for Senator JIM DEMINT for 6 years while he was a U.S. Representative and also during his congressional campaign. She worked at the State Department for 4 years, serving as a political appointee since 2003 in the Bureau of Legislative Affairs. During her time at the State Department, Cherith has served as interlocutor between the appropriators and the department on critical spending issues; planned countless congressional member and staff trips overseas; coordinated with the White House, National Security Council, the Office of Management and Budget and other Executive Branch agencies to present the President's international affairs budget to Congress each year; advised senior State Department officials on policy and funding strategy for international programs and State Department operations, and, in a courteous, conscientious and efficient manner, facilitated clear communication between Congress and the State Department.

Cherith is moving to New York to serve on the staff of Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad in the U.S. mission to the United Nations. Cherith's strong work ethic and selfless attitude have been the hallmarks of her service to our government and to the department, and I believe that she will serve the State Department very well in this new capacity. I know I am joined by many of my colleagues in the House of Representatives in expressing our appreciation for her work here in Washington, our sadness at her departure, and our best

wishes for her future endeavors in our mission to the United Nations.

#### INTRODUCING THE BROADCAST LICENSING IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST ACT

### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker. I think there is a lack of quality civic dialog taking place in our country today. Our news has become homogenized and formulaic and there is a persistent dumbing down of national issues. The corporatization of media and the massive consolidation of our media outlets have made broadcasters less responsive to their local audiences. This has eroded public discourse in our country, and this has an impact on the health of our democracy.

Last month Congress held a joint session to hear French President Nicolas Sarkozy. In his remarks he celebrated the life of the great French political philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville. In his seminal work *Democracy in America*, de Tocqueville marveled at the diversity and number of newspapers and journals in America. He believed that there was a symbiotic relationship between a democracy and the media when he said that there "is a necessary connection between public associations and newspapers: Newspapers make associations, and associations make newspapers." A healthy democracy, according to de Tocqueville, needs a strong diverse media. The diversity that de Tocqueville extolled has been in precipitous decline, a fact that has not been lost on the 70 percent of Americans that believe that media consolidation has gone too far.

Two major conglomerates control two-thirds of the national radio market. Increasingly, "local broadcasts" are voice tracked or recorded remotely and passed off as live local broadcasts. Four out of ten commercial TV stations surveyed in 2003 aired no local public affairs programs; 92 percent of the election coverage aired by the national networks in the 2 weeks before Election Day 2004 was devoted to the Presidential contest, leaving only 8 percent for local elections and referendums. Slightly less than 2 percent of stories were devoted to the U.S. House or Senate races, and an additional 2 percent examined ballot initiatives or referenda. These are but a few startling facts that demonstrate the crisis.

The perils of media consolidation are not just theoretical—they've manifested in a failure of broadcasters to serve in the public interest. At 2 a.m. on January 18, 2002, there was a train derailment in Minot, ND. All six commercial radio stations in Minot were owned by the same broadcaster, yet when emergency responders tried to reach somebody at the stations to air emergency warnings and instructions, nobody responded. Clear Channel was voice tracking its broadcast in Minot. Over 240,000 gallons of a hazardous material—ammonia—were leaked. One person was killed. 110 were immediately treated, and more than 1,000 people needed medical care in the months that followed.

The consolidation we've witnessed has coincided with the erosion of public interest stand-

ards imposed on broadcasters. The idea that broadcasters are public fiduciaries has been lost. I believe relaxed ownership rules and rubber-stamped postcard license renewals have contributed to this degradation. The public interest standard was created out of a compromise between civic groups and broadcasters. Broadcasters wanted editorial control, while civic groups in the 1920s wanted broadcasters to be regulated as common carriers. As a compromise, broadcasters were given editorial control but were also required to serve the "public interest, convenience and necessity." When a broadcaster receives a license they are investing in public responsibility and service. This responsibility should not be reduced to a postcard. Broadcasters must demonstrate that they are meeting the needs of their community. We need to reinvigorate the public interest requirement on broadcasters.

I'm introducing legislation today entitled the Broadcast Licensing in the Public Interest Act. This legislation attempts to put new life in the public interest standard. First, the bill reduces a broadcast license term from 8 years to 3. The 3-year term will bring greater oversight and scrutiny to license renewals. Second, the bill requires broadcast licensees to demonstrate that they have made a dedication to the civic affairs of its community and to local news gathering. The bill also mandates that broadcasters air locally produced programming and make a commitment to provide a public presentation of the views of candidates and issues related to local, statewide or national elections. Finally, the bill obligates that broadcasters provide quality educational programming for children. If enacted, this legislation would strengthen the public interest standard and force greater scrutiny on license renewals.

I urge members of this House to cosponsor this legislation and revive the public interest standards on broadcasters.

#### SUDAN ACCOUNTABILITY AND DIVESTMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

### HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 18, 2007*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, and urge its immediate passage. We are voting on language very similar to legislation that passed the House 418-1 at the end of July, which supports the decision of state and local legislators and fund managers to divest from companies doing business in Sudan. However, the bill before us today does not require the government to create or be the source of a "black list" of such companies. For that reason, the Senate version is much more acceptable to the Administration.

Some have said that today's legislation is too little, too late. This certainly may not be the case for more than a million innocent men, women, and children who have somehow survived the genocide and slaughter. We can't rewrite history or save lives already lost in Darfur. However, we can and must resolve to do better going forward. This legislation has the potential to give hundreds of thousands of

peaceful and unarmed men, women, and children in Darfur an increased chance of surviving the genocide.

Economic and financial considerations have been used to both block and water down our Sudan capital markets legislation in the past. Economic and financial considerations are important, but in a loving nation can never be used as justification for turning a blind eye to genocide. Closing our financial markets to those who participate directly or indirectly in the slaughter of innocent human beings is well within our ability and ought to be a bedrock principle. America is a loving nation, and allowing our financial markets to be utilized by an evil regime which conducts religious and racial genocide is inconsistent with our values and principles.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will help put strong pressure on a government that has consistently engaged in genocidal actions, both directly and as an enabler of paramilitary factions that are harassing and killing people in the Darfur region and elsewhere in Sudan.

It is vital to keep the pressure on the Khar-toum government, both because of the "bait-and-switch" game it has been playing with the rest of the world for years, pretending to make strides to end the genocide and then going back on its word when the world's outrage is temporarily spent. The latest outrage involves refusing to allow the deployment of non-African United Nations peacekeeping troops, due in two weeks, which it previously had agreed to accept.

The objective of this legislation is one that I wholeheartedly embrace, and that I have sought to achieve in legislative proposals of my own in previous Congresses. Passage will be a strong expression of Congress's outrage over the continued genocide in Darfur. I urge its immediate passage.

I want to thank the staff that worked on this important effort. From Chairman FRANK's staff, Jim Segel, Scott Morris, Daniel McGlinchey and Nancy Alexander; from Representative BARBARA LEE's staff, Chris Isentas; from Representative DONALD PAYNE's staff, Noelle Lusane; from Representative ILEANA ROS—LEHTINEN's staff, Gene Gurevida and Yleen Poblette; from Representative FRANK WOLF's staff, Molly Miller; from Representative CHRISTOPHER SMITH's staff, Sherry Rickert; and Joe Pinder, Kevin Edgar, and Anthony Cimino from my own staff.

CONGRATULATING CARROLL  
COLLEGE FIGHTING SAINTS

**HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, I don't know if you've had a chance to see this week's Sports Illustrated Magazine. On the cover is a picture of Brandon Day, a football player for the Carroll College Fighting Saints—who on December 15 won their fifth National Title in six years. Carroll College plays in Helena, Montana as a part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. This year, they had a perfect 11 and 0 record in the regular season and survived the playoffs to defeat the Sioux Falls Cougars by a score of 17

to 9 to win the Championship. They say that defense wins championships—the Saints' defense allowed only 5.1 points per game, the fewest points allowed in all of college football. They shut out opponents five times during the year including once during the playoffs. But it wasn't just a powerful defense that earned this Championship—a well-balanced offense scored an average of 26.4 points per game. I would like to congratulate Coach Mike Van Diest, his team, his school and their fans on a truly remarkable season. Next year, the Saints will be building on the longest win streak in college football at fifteen games. I ask that the team roster be added to the record with my comments.

Team Roster: John Camino, Brian Sloan, John McKenna, Zack Gill, Justin Smith, Chase Gill, Travis Browne, Zach Richardson, Cody Zimmerman, Wilson Bowly, Shane Van Diest, Marcus Miller, Andrew Lopez, Bryce Picard, Jon Von Eschen. Zach Schaal, John Barnett, Will Barnett, Gary Wagner, Brian Murphy, Stevie Sloan, Jeren Starr, Thomas Dolan, Cody Lamb, Kody Swartz, Gabe Le, Zach Thiry, Jeff Deal, Nick Milodragovich, Christian Prosperie, Mike Waldenberg, Tyson Bogumill, Jake Whetzel, Body Whetzel, Pat Regan, James Byrd, Kurt Stoll, T.J. Lehman, Tucker Vezina, Corey Peterson, Shawn Holland, Greg Bosick, Jake Orrino, Chanler Buck, Colton Sherley Sean Herrin, Brandon Day, Kyle Ferebee, Travis Schmidt, Ellis Beckwith, Ryan Egan, Matt Tummel, Thomas Robinson, Mac Gordon, Tyler Espinosa, Scotty Rice, Bubba Bartlett, Greg Thompson, Marshall McEwen, Tyler Pasha, Nick Gilchrist, Phil Lenoue, Ted Morigeau, Andy Fjeseth, Owen Koeppen, Trever Hass, Spencer Savage, Rick Young, Garret Garels, Nick Petrusa, Ron Baze, Doug Adams, Alex Pfannanstiel, Bryson Pelc, Ben Wahl, Conrad Addison, Kolten Knatterud, Dan Layton, Kerry Cicero, Chad McMillan, Conor Fox, Justin Howe, Brent Williams, Mike Pafthausen, Mike Vickhammer, Ryan Gilmore, Adam Brockway, Scott Holbrook, Donald Phipps, Leonard Thurmond, Bryan Camino, David Whitmoyer, Kipp Curtis, Lat Wiplinger, Tyler Sanders, Mac Kirk, Dan Lovin, Roman Morris, Isiah Linnell, Luke DenHerder, Kyle Moore, Kris Drumheller, Zach Zosal, Casey Sternhagen, Cole Whitmoyer, A.J. Allen, Garret Thompson, Ryan DeKruyf, Mike Ogrin, Mason Siddick, Will Hamilton.

President: Dr. Thomas Trebon; Athletic Director: Bruce M. Parker; Sports Information Director: Brandon Veltri; Head Football Coach: Mike Van Diest; Assistant Coaches: Nick Howlett, Jim Hogan, Jarrod Wirt, Gary Cooper, Tyler Emmert, Nick Hammond, Mark Lenhardt, Tim LeRoy, Jed Thomas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, December 18, 2007, I was absent for two votes due to an important meeting regarding a significant economic development need in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Nos. 1179 and 1180.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT-ELECT LEE MYUNG-BAK

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today America's great ally, the Republic of Korea, elected a new President. To provide congratulations and in recognition of the achievement of President-Elect Lee Myung-bak, I wish to submit the following article from the Associated Press regarding today's presidential election in South Korea.

LEE CLAIMS WIN IN SOUTH KOREA ELECTION

(By Burt Herman)

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA (AP)—Former Hyundai CEO Lee Myung-bak claimed victory Wednesday in South Korea's presidential election, as voters overlooked fraud allegations in hopes he will revive the economy.

Lee's two main rivals both conceded defeat after returns and exit polls showed him winning nearly double the votes of his closest competitor.

"Today, the people gave me absolute support. I'm well aware of the people's wishes," said Lee, of the conservative Grand National Party. "I will serve the people in a very humble way. According to the people's wishes, I will save the nation's economy that faces a crisis."

The National Election Commission said Lee had 48.6 percent of the vote with 98 percent of ballots counted. Liberal Chung Dong-young was a distant second with 26.2 percent. The victory margin was by far the largest in any South Korean presidential election.

Lee, a former Seoul mayor who turned 66 on election day, has led the race for months. His victory ends a decade of liberal rule in the South, during which the country embarked on unprecedented reconciliation with rival North Korea that has led to restored trade and travel across the heavily armed frontier dividing the peninsula.

"I humbly accept the people's choice," Chung told reporters late Wednesday. "I hope (president)-elect Lee Myung-bak will do a good job for the country."

Candidate Lee Hoi-chang, who was trailing in third with 15.7 percent of the vote, congratulated Lee Myung-bak on his win.

"I hope he would uphold the people's yearning for a change in government and correct what the outgoing government has done wrong in the past," he told reporters.

The office of liberal President Roh Moo-hyun congratulated Lee.

"We respect the people's choice shown in this election," presidential spokesman Cheon Ho-seon said in a statement.

Hundreds of supporters watching results on a giant TV in front of the Grand National Party's headquarters burst into song Wednesday evening as returns showed Lee winning.

Lee has pledged to take a more critical view of Seoul's engagement with North Korea and seek closer U.S. ties. Efforts to end North Korea's nuclear weapons ambitions stand at a critical juncture, with the communist country set to disclose all its programs for eventual dismantlement by a year-end deadline.

State Department spokesman Tom Casey congratulated Lee on his victory.

"We have a long history of cooperation and friendship with South Korea and fully expect that'll continue with this new government," he said. "Certainly, we've got a number of important issues on our bilateral agenda including our mutual cooperation in the six-party talks."