

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HONORABLE
BLANCHE KRUPANSKY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Judge Blanche Krupansky, a pioneer for women in the judicial system, and to honor a life spent in service to her country and her community.

Judge Krupansky, a lifelong resident of the Cleveland area, has a multifaceted and rich history of public service. Her story serves as an inspiration for women everywhere and she paved the way for women to succeed in becoming lawyers and judges.

Honorable Krupansky was born in Cleveland, Ohio, where she attended West High School and Flora Stone College of Western Reserve University. A testament to her pioneering spirit, when she began law school at Case Western Reserve University in 1946, she was the only woman in her class.

After earning her law degree, she remained in Ohio where she served as assistant attorney general as well as an assistant chief counsel for the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation. In 1961, Judge Krupansky was elected to the Cleveland Municipal Court. She later moved to the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court in 1969, where she would serve for almost 10 years.

Honorable Krupansky made history twice during her long career of public service as a judge in Ohio. She became the first woman to serve on the 8th Ohio District Court of Appeals in 1977, where she would serve for over 30 years.

In 1981, she became the second woman appointed to serve on the Ohio Supreme Court in its long 185-year history. Throughout her career, she encouraged women to pursue careers as lawyers and judges, as well as to run for political office. In 1994, she told a reporter at the Cleveland Plain Dealer, "If I can do it, you can do it," in the hopes that she could inspire young women.

In 1980, she was recognized for her groundbreaking career when she was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame. She also received the Women of Achievement award from the Women's City Club of Cleveland, the Distinguished Service Award from Woman Space, the Nettie Cronise Lutes Award for an Outstanding Woman Lawyer, the distinguished Alumna Award from Case Western Reserve University, and she once served as chair of the Society of Benchers of Case.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of Judge Blanche Krupansky, whose career in public service is a shining example for women everywhere. May her pioneering character and exemplary life serve as an example for all of us to follow.

THE RIGHT TO VOTE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it's voting season. Presidential primaries are being held all across the country, giving U.S. citizens the opportunity to vote, a right guaranteed by the 15th Amendment of the Constitution. This year, record numbers of citizens of all ages are turning out in droves, standing in lines to exercise that right, they are even participating in caucuses. As wonderful as it is to see more people participating in the election process, turnout is still not as high as it should be.

We live in the greatest country in the world, and enjoy more rights than any other country in the world. When you take into consideration that many in this country struggled, fought, and even died for the right to vote, every able bodied American should proudly vote whenever there is an election. We must never become so complacent, busy, or apathetic that we take for granted this most important right.

I was privileged to travel to Iraq, on January 30, 2005, to observe its first historic election. Having been in Baghdad and Fallujah and other parts of northern Iraq, I went to polling places, and when dawn came, the whole country was shut down to vehicular traffic. Slowly, surely and defiantly, the Iraqi people, young and old, men and women walked to the polls, taking their families, relatives, and neighbors. They voted for the very first time and attained the opportunity to make a free choice. The atmosphere of democracy unfolding was almost carnival in nature, a celebration of their new rights.

In spite of intimidation, threats, and actual violence, the Iraqi people boldly spoke out against the past oppression of Saddam Hussein and his dynasty of tyrants and spoke loudly for democracy.

Almost 300 individuals were wounded because they decided to vote for their own rulers, and they wanted to vote for freedom. Many died on election day going to or from the polls, yet 60 percent of these proud Iraqis walked to 30,000 polling stations. They took a great risk, but even after they voted, they stayed around the polling places to watch history unfold. When they left the polling booths, they walked down the street with their ink-stained right forefinger, signifying that they voted, held high in the air, defiant to terrorists, who swore they would murder those who voted or attempted to vote. The Iraqi people took the risk because freedom was more important to them, they were proud to be voters in the first free and fair election, the hope of democracy.

Freedom is not free. It always comes at a cost. Freedom fighters and civil rights activists throughout countless generations in this country paid a tremendous price to deliver equality and freedom for their brothers and sisters and the posterity of others. Thankfully, no one in

this country risks being shot, or murdered for voting, so there is no excuse for able bodied Americans to stay home and remain silent. We should be proud to be part of free elections guaranteed by democracy.

A vote is a voice. It ensures that our democracy is of the people, by the people and for the people. Celebrate our hard-earned rights, remember those who fought, struggled, and lost their lives so that we could reap the benefits. Show our gratitude to those who made your freedom and rights possible by showing up at the polls, and proving that their sacrifices were not in vain. In this great country, each time there is an election, voter turnout should be so high that everything is forced to shut down because everyone is at the polls. Americans should show the world that this is what democracy is all about, and let those who yearn for democracy know that it is definitely worth fighting for!

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO THE SAN MATEO
COUNTY BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION
TRADES COUNCIL

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the San Mateo County Building & Construction Trades Council and its contributions to San Mateo County with my friend Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER.

On April 10, 1908, the San Mateo County Building & Construction Trades Council received its first charter from the California State Building Trades Council. Today it is comprised of 24 local construction unions and has a membership of over 16,000 of the highest skilled crafts women and men in the construction industry. They are plumbers, pipefitters, electricians, carpenters, roofers, ironworkers, cement masons, elevator constructors, heavy equipment operators (Operating Engineers), painters, truck drivers (Teamsters), lathers, sheet metal workers, plasterers, brick and tile layers, boilermakers, pile drivers, glaziers, carpet and soft tile layers, fire sprinklerfitters, insulation and asbestos workers, laborers, hod carriers, sign painters, millwright workers, laborers, cabinetmakers, steamfitters, and hardwood floor layers. While their jobs may be different, what links them together is their dedication to perform with high skill and great pride.

In 1908, San Mateo County was young and growing, and through the hard work of another generation, the county was shaped into what it is today. The single biggest accomplishment was the construction of San Francisco International Airport and more recently, a new terminal at the airport.

The mission of the San Mateo County Building & Construction Trades Council has always

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

been to improve the quality of life for all construction workers, promote the value of highly skilled union crafts women and men, and to increase the union market share in the construction industry.

The San Mateo County Building & Construction Trades Council has also understood the importance of not only developing a strong foundation of skilled crafts persons through apprenticeship programs, but also the need to reach out to developers, public agencies, and elected officials to explain why it makes good business sense to use union contractors and union workers. The San Mateo County Building & Construction Trades Council's active approach in voicing the need for construction workers to be paid decent wages with pension and health benefits so they and their families can afford to live in the community illustrates its commitment to every single worker.

Madam Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in honoring the San Mateo County Building & Construction Trades Council as it celebrates a century of building and serving San Mateo County. We salute Bill Nack, the council's business manager and every single member of the council. The work of generations has shaped and built San Mateo County as we know it today, and contributed to the building of our country as well.

May the next century be marked by the excellence and achievements of the first 100 years of the Building and Construction Trades Council of San Mateo County.

HONORING THE MOREHOUSE
COLLEGE GLEE CLUB

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Morehouse College Glee Club, as they visit Saints Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Fresno, California.

Established in 1945 by the late Rev. A.W. White, and currently led by Pastor Shane B. Scott, the Saints Rest Missionary Baptist Church is an esteemed member of the local religious community. Their hosting the Morehouse College Glee Club is certainly an exciting occasion worthy of special recognition.

The Morehouse College Glee Club boasts a 90-year tradition of excellence in musical achievements. Then current director, Dr. David Murrow has been a member of the music faculty at Morehouse College since 1981. In 1994, the glee club performed the National Anthem with Natalie Cole for Super Bowl XXVIII in Atlanta, Georgia. They also participated with Stevie Wonder, Gloria Estefan and Trisha Yearwood in the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games held in Atlanta. Furthermore, the glee club has toured cities in Russia as well as Poland. Along with international tours and local concerts, the glee club presents an annual spring tour which averages 10 to 15 cities in 2 to 3 weeks.

The history of this institution demonstrates that it is only by embracing the importance of cooperation and vision that great success can be achieved. I am honored to congratulate Morehouse College Glee Club as they visit Fresno, California.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on May 6, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall No. 253 and No. 255.

Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 253—"yes"—Honoring the memory of Dith Pran by remembering his life's work and continuing to acknowledge and remember the victims of genocides that have taken place around the globe; rollcall No. 255—"no"—On Motion to Adjourn.

TRIBUTE TO MARINE SGT. GLEN
MARTINEZ

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Marine Sgt. Glen Martinez, a great American who gave his life in service to our Nation. Born in Alamosa, Colorado, and raised in Monte Vista, Colorado, Sergeant Martinez was a born leader who inspired everyone he met throughout his life. His family describes him as a strong and highly driven individual. His desire to work hard, ability to see the best in others and motivate them allowed him to excel at school, sports and as a marine.

Sergeant Martinez was very involved in his school and community. After his passing, many people have contacted the family thanking them and sharing memories. His family remembers him always trying to get everyone involved, especially his most quiet and reserved peers. He also dedicated himself to his studies. His father, Ron Martinez, remembers his son studying early in the morning while listening to Bach and Beethoven.

Sports and school activities were also a major part of his life. In high school he took part in the State Marching Band, earning the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award. During his junior year he helped lead his football team to the semi-finals. Over the 4 years that he competed on the wrestling team, he held a record of 111 wins and 29 losses. He realized these accomplishments while earning an academic honorable mention. When preparing for college, Sergeant Martinez was offered scholarships for football, wrestling and baseball.

Sergeant Martinez accepted a scholarship to play baseball while earning a degree in surveying from Westwood College and later a master's degree in hydro engineering at the University of Colorado. His advanced degrees would have exempted him from having to go through basic training. Out of respect for his fellow marines, Sergeant Martinez chose to attend basic training even though he was not required to. He refused to ask people to do what he had not done himself.

When asked why he would give up his lifestyle to join the Marines he responded, "I am tired of people cutting down my country." Of 700 recruits, Sergeant Martinez was one of seven honored upon graduation. "His drill ser-

geant singled him out as one of the best he'd ever had," said his father.

On Friday, May 2, 2008 at 11:10 p.m., while on his second tour in Iraq, Sergeant Martinez gave his life in service to our Nation. He was 31 years old when a roadside bomb took his life along with that of three fellow marines.

I send my deepest condolences to the family of Sergeant Martinez. My thoughts go out to them in this difficult time. I hope they may find comfort in the knowledge that Sergeant Martinez gave his life to defend an ideal he believed in. Sergeant Martinez joins 57 other heroes from Colorado who have given their lives while serving their country.

DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE
REGIONAL STRATEGY IN CHAD
AND DARFUR

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1011, which calls on the United States and the international community to develop, fund, and implement a regional strategy which addresses the security and humanitarian crisis in Chad, the Darfur region of the Sudan, and the northern region of the Central African Republic.

This timely and important legislation, of which I am proud to be a cosponsor, not only calls on the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic to fulfill their obligations under international law to protect civilians, but also calls upon the President of the United States to continue humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons in the region.

Chad has been plagued by intermittent conflict, both internally and with its neighbors, since it gained independence in 1960. The current President of Chad, Idriss Déby, took power after launching a coup across the border in neighboring Darfur, Sudan. He has since faced at least five coup attempts including one just this past February. Violence spurred by the Sudanese Government has also continued to destabilize Chad and the State Department's most recent Country Report on Human Rights Practices that, "the [Chadian] government's poor human rights record deteriorated further" this past year.

The refugee situation in Chad and the surrounding region continues to worsen. In the past three years, as fighting between the Government and rebels increased and 180,000 Chadians have been displaced, adding to the inflow of 290,000 refugees from the Central African Republic, CAR, and Sudan's Darfur region. The United Nations estimates that Chad is now home to 240,000 refugees from Darfur, 52,000 refugees from the Central African Republic, and more than 180,000 internally displaced people. In February 2008 alone over 12,000 new refugees from Darfur entered the country. We must develop a comprehensive plan to address the refugee crisis as well as the security problems that plague the region.

I visited Darfur and have seen the situation on the ground. Now high-tech GPS satellites and mass media allow everyone to bear witness to the tragedies in Chad, Sudan, and the