

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AND COMMENDING THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR AGAIN RECOMMENDING THAT VIETNAM BE DESIGNATED A COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN IN THEIR RECENT ANNUAL REPORT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Vietnam Human Rights Day and to commend the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom for again recommending that Vietnam be designated a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) in their recent annual report.

The State Department removed this designation in November 2006, and since then, human rights conditions in Vietnam have steadily deteriorated. According to the Commission, "removing the CPC designation suspended the diplomatic framework that had led to a productive bilateral engagement on religious freedom and other human rights concerns and therefore removed the potential incentives and leverage needed to urge the Vietnamese government to continue to improve its human rights record."

Since the removal of CPC status and Vietnam's subsequent accession to the World Trade Organization, the Vietnamese Government has continued to detain and imprison those whose only crimes were speaking out against the government or exercising their freedom of religion. In addition to violating Article 69 of the Constitution of Vietnam, which guarantees the "freedom of opinion and speech, freedom of the press, the right to be informed and the right to assemble, form associations and hold demonstrations in accordance with the provisions of the law," these detentions are in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Commission has recommended CPC status for Vietnam every year since 2001. It is time for the State Department to heed this advice and redesignate Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN FLAGS SHOULD BE MADE IN THE USA RESOLUTION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about a resolution that I have just introduced that expresses the sense of the Congress that all American

flags flown over Federal Government buildings and on federal property should be made in the United States.

The U.S. Census bureau estimates that \$5.3 million worth of American flags were imported from other countries in 2006, mostly from China. Even though U.S. law requires every flag be labeled with its "country of origin," the figure of foreign-made American flags has steadily grown over the past few years. This is an absolute shame!

The American flag is much more than our national symbol. It embodies our courage, liberty, and justice. The flag reminds us each and every day of the blood that was shed so that we may enjoy our freedoms. So as we proudly fly the Stars and Stripes, we must be sure that they are homespun in the United States!

So as we approach the few months where we celebrate Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day, I invite my colleagues and fellow patriots to join with me in honoring our American flag every day! Please join me in supporting H. Res. 1182

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 1074

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and offer congratulations to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1074, located in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania for celebrating their 75th anniversary this year. They will be acknowledging this great milestone on May 10, 2008 at a banquet to be held at the Spring Mill Firehouse. The Post has a proud tradition of public service and volunteerism and represents all the great works that our Nation's VFWs perform each year.

I am sure each of us in the House of Representatives has had the privilege to meet with constituents who are members of local VFWs, or perhaps fortunate to visit a local Post. The VFW traces its roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American and the Philippine Insurrection founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Their work soon shifted to not only helping the brave men and women who served their country, but local neighbors and communities who also needed their help.

As their inspiring mission states: "Honor the dead by helping the living." VFWs support countless activities, through veterans' service, community service, national security and a strong national defense.

Today, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, with its Auxiliaries, includes 2.3 million members in approximately 8,400 Posts worldwide.

Post 1074 is led by Post Commander Andrew Duncan, and continues to make a dif-

ference in our community, including maintaining the beautiful War Memorial Statue located at Second Avenue and Fayette Street in Conshohocken, PA. The VFW proudly notes that its members and its auxiliary contribute more than 13 million hours of volunteerism in our area each year.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the honorable work, dedication and service of the men and women in VFW Post 1074. They continue to improve our local communities through their volunteer efforts, and show why members of the United States armed services are not only the best on the battlefield, but also when they return home.

TRIBUTE TO CARL MONTANTE, THE CANISIUS COLLEGE 2008 DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carl Montante on receiving the Canisius College 2008 Distinguished Citizen Award. Carl will be honored at the Canisius College Board of Regents Scholarship Ball on Saturday, May 10, 2008. Carl is a brilliant example of commitment and devotion to one's community and fellowman.

A devoted Western New York native, Carl and his four siblings were born and raised in Buffalo, NY where he continues to give back to his community. He attended Canisius College and, in 1967, he earned his law degree from the University of Buffalo Law School. After practicing law in Buffalo, Carl founded the Uniland Development Company in 1974. As President and Managing Director of Uniland, he oversees the company's operations and property developments in Buffalo-Rochester corridor.

Carl is involved in several organizations in his community including the Holy Angels Academy, The BISON Scholarship Fund, and the Foundation of the Diocese of Buffalo. He is former Chairman of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Annual Fund and National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and serves on the Boards of the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, and Catholic Health System.

Perhaps most notable is Carl's service and contribution to his alma mater, Canisius College. Carl has served in numerous leadership capacities including as chair of the Canisius College Board of Trustees from 1997-2001. Carl and his wife, Carol Ann, recently committed \$5.1 million to the college for the development of an interdisciplinary science center. The Montante family's donation is the largest in the Canisius' history. I applaud his desire to give back to his community and believe his contributions to education and science will

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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