

having regard to the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) signed between the US and Iraqi Governments in November 2008,

having regard to its resolutions of 12 July 2007 and of 4 September 2008 including references to Camp Ashraf residents having legal status as Protected Persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention,

having regard to Rule 115 of its Rules of Procedure, A. whereas Camp Ashraf in Northern Iraq was established during the 1980s for members of the Iranian opposition group People's Mujahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI), 8. whereas in 2003 US forces in Iraq disarmed Camp Ashraf's residents and provided them with protection, having been designated 'protected persons' under the Geneva Conventions, C. whereas the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in a letter dated 15 October 2008 urged the Iraqi Government to protect Ashraf residents from forcible deportation, expulsion or repatriation in violation of the non-refoulement principle, and to refrain from any action that would endanger their life or security, D. whereas after the US/Iraqi Status of Forces Agreement Camp Ashraf has been returned to the control of Iraqi security forces as of 1 January 2009, E. whereas according to recent statements reportedly made by the Iraqi National Security Advisor the authorities intend gradually to make the continued presence of the Camp Ashraf residents 'intolerable' and whereas he reportedly also referred to their expulsion/extradition and/or their forcible displacement inside Iraq, 1. Urges the Iraqi Prime Minister to ensure that no action is taken by the Iraqi authorities which violates the human rights of the Camp Ashraf residents and to clarify the government's intentions towards them; calls on the Iraqi authorities to protect the lives, and the physical and moral integrity of the Camp Ashraf residents and to treat them in accordance with the obligations under the Geneva Conventions, notably not to forcibly displace, deport, expel or repatriate them in violation of the principle of non-refoulement; 2. Respecting the individual wishes of anyone living in Camp Ashraf as regards to their future; considers that those living in Camp Ashraf and other Iranian nationals who currently reside in Iraq having left Iran for political reasons could be at risk of serious human rights violations if they were to be returned involuntarily to Iran, and insists that no person should be returned, either directly or via a third country, to a situation where they would be at risk of torture or other serious human rights abuses; 3. Calls on the Iraqi government to end its blockade of the camp and respect the legal status of the Camp Ashraf residents as 'protected persons' under the Geneva Conventions, and to refrain from any action that would endanger their life or security, namely full access to food, water, medical care and supplies, fuel, family members and international humanitarian organizations; 4. Calls on the Council, the Commission and the Member States together with the Iraqi and US Governments and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee for the Red Cross to work towards finding a satisfactory long-term legal status for Camp Ashraf residents; 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee for the Red Cross, the Government of the United States and the Governments and Parliaments of Iraq.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT HABHAB

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the storied career and public service of Albert Habhab from Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Albert began his career of public service as a soldier during World War II. Albert rarely speaks of his time at war, but he occasionally shares some of his experiences including rescuing a badly injured soldier while in the Army in Europe.

He later became the mayor of Fort Dodge in 1959, and served for a record setting 14 years. While mayor, the city expanded by over eleven miles. In 1975, after serving as mayor, Albert was appointed to the bench in the 2nd Judicial District. In 1987 he was appointed to the Iowa Court of Appeals where he was elected chief judge.

Now at the age of 83, Albert continues to show his selflessness and gives credit to many other people in his life who he believes helped him during his career.

I commend Albert Habhab for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation and his community. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in thanking Albert Habhab for his life of public service. It is an immense honor to represent Albert in Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, May 13, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 427, H. Con. Res. 84 and H.R. 2162.

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 246, on agreeing to the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 247, on suspending the Rules and passing H. Con. Res. 84, Supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 248, on suspending the Rules and passing H.R. 2162, the Herbert A. Littleton Postal Station, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING HENRY "HANK" NORDHOFF ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM GEN-PROBE

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the service of Henry "Hank" Nordhoff to both the biotechnology and life sciences communities of San Diego, as well as to Gen-

Probe, from which he is retiring after serving fifteen years as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Hank is nearly peerless when it comes to the contributions he has made to the life sciences community of San Diego and I wish him well in his retirement.

The state of California is far and away the leader when it comes to the life sciences industry. With over 2,000 companies employing 271,000 people and generating \$20.3 billion in salaries and wages, California is the gold standard for science and biotechnology that the rest of the country tries to emulate. San Diego is the crown jewel in the California crown with 36,600 employees in the life science community in San Diego County at more than 500 companies, including traditional biotech, medical device, diagnostic and technology companies. Atop that mountain stands Gen-Probe, led by Mr. Hank Nordhoff.

Hank joined Gen-Probe Incorporated in July 1994 as president and CEO. Following the spin-off from Chugai Pharmaceuticals in September 2002, he was also appointed chairman of Gen-Probe's board of directors. Hank contributed greatly to the innovation that defines Gen-Probe, and that is embodied in more than 480 patents the company has been issued around the world. Gen-Probe's business is devoted to nucleic acid testing (NAT). NAT is the science of identifying diseases accurately and rapidly by detecting genetic fingerprints that are unique to an infectious microorganism or a cancerous tumor. Gen-Probe's pioneering and innovative role in NAT has been broadly recognized—culminating in the company receiving the 2004 National Medal of Technology, America's highest honor for technological innovation, for developing molecular tests that protect America's supply of donated blood from HIV, hepatitis and West Nile virus.

On a personal note, I have had the privilege of working closely with Hank on a number of life sciences issues since coming back to Congress in June 2006. Hank has been a trusted advisor as part of my science and technology advisory group and I have come to rely on his wise counsel on everything from patent reform to personalized medicine. It is no surprise to me to know that he has been named as one of San Diego's most admired CEOs. Hank is a true visionary and his work will continue to shape the landscape of San Diego's biotechnology community long into the future.

In short, Hank is a successful business executive, employer, statesman and philanthropist, and I wish him well in his future retirement endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT BLACKSTOCK

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Scott Blackstock, one of my constituents from Thomaston, Ga. This has been a fine spring for Scott. First, he won the Small Business Administration's Georgia Small Business Person of the Year award based on the success of his chain of car washes. Second, there was a lot of pollen. Only car wash owners, I'd think, anxiously anticipate the season when a thick yellow film coats our vehicles.

Blackstock had owned a tire and auto shop in Thomaston for 20 years before he decided to add on a traditional self-serve and drive-thru car wash facility. From here his entrepreneurial ideas bubbled up like soapy suds. Before he acted, he did his research on the latest type of car wash technology, the "express wash." In 2003, S.S. Blackstock Inc.'s Tidal Wave Express Wash was on its way, as Scott opened a state-of-the-art conveyor-style car wash in Riverdale, GA, that was faster, more efficient and less expensive than any system used before.

His business shined and waxed at a rapid rate. Tidal Wave Express Wash started with two part-time employees in 2003 and one outlet; today, it employs almost 100 full- and part-time employees at 12 locations spread over three states but centered primarily in metro Atlanta. Sales have increased from \$271,000 in 2004 to more than \$6.5 million in 2007, while profits have gone from \$22,435 to more than \$2.7 million.

Scott's business model allows customers to tidy up their rides guilt-free, with a wash that's friendly to the environment and to the wallet. Tidal Wave invests \$70,000 at each new location for a system that treats and recycles the water for reuse and purifies used water before returning it to the sewage system.

Notice of Scott's splash of success isn't limited to Georgia. He's answered the call to give presentations to his peers in the industry and trade publications have featured him.

But Scott isn't just special to his community for his entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen. His company provides much more than a buff and shine. Scott and wife Hope have a child with cerebral palsy and they hold a place in their hearts for people with special needs. S.S. Blackstock Inc. has donated more than \$150,000 to causes that support children and adults with special needs, including a program where teachers from around the South can come for training to assist the wheelchair-bound in gaining physical independence.

I'm tremendously proud of Scott's contributions to Georgia's business community and to our fellow Georgians in need of a helping hand. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Scott Blackstock, the 2009 Small Business Administration Small Business Person honoree.

TRIBUTE TO ELAINE KLINE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Elaine Kline, former owner and operator of Elaine's Hair Design in Boone, Iowa.

Elaine has been a hair dresser for 50 years and a permanent makeup artist for over 20. She recently decided to hang up her shears and retire from owning Elaine's Hair Design after 36 years of business. Although she is retiring from the beauty shop, she will continue to do makeup as an independent contractor. Now that Elaine has more time on her hands, she plans to spend more time with her grandchildren and on her artwork, which she hopes to donate much of to her church and Iowa Right to Life.

Elaine has left a permanent mark on the city of Boone as several generations have passed

through her salon. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Elaine for her service to her community. I consider it an honor to represent Elaine Kline in Congress, and I wish her a long, happy and healthy future.

HONORING KYLE JOSEPH NIX

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Joseph Nix a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle Joseph Nix for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

NO WELFARE FOR TERRORISTS ACT OF 2009

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "No Welfare for Terrorists Act of 2009." This legislation would proactively prohibit detainees currently at Guantanamo Bay from ever receiving government benefits at the federal, state and local levels.

Today at Guantanamo Bay there are around 240 hardened terrorists who have killed and/or plotted to kill Americans. These terrorists are among the most dangerous people in the world, and the Obama administration wants to bring them here to the United States. Earlier today in the House Committee on Appropriations, Congressional Democrats, in a party-line vote, agreed to support the administration's policy to bring terrorists currently detained at Guantanamo Bay to our soil. Homeland Security personnel are working hard to keep terrorists from entering our country and now the president wants to make special arrangements to bring these proven terrorists here.

The Obama administration has already authorized the release of 30 detainees from Guantanamo Bay. Dennis Blair, the Director of National Intelligence, has said that these terrorists should receive welfare benefits: "If we are to release them in the United States, we need some sort of assistance for them to start a new life. You can't just put them on the street."

We must not fool ourselves—those held at Guantanamo Bay are unrepentant terrorists determined to pursue their long held violent goals. Of the detainees already released from Guantanamo Bay, we know that over 60 have returned to a life of terrorism.

Maulvi Abdul Ghaffar was captured in early 2002 and held at Guantanamo Bay for eight months. After his release, Ghaffar became the Taliban's regional commander in Uruzgan and Helmand provinces, carrying out attacks on U.S. and Afghan forces.

In September, Saeed Shihri was responsible for an attack on the U.S. embassy in Yemen that killed nearly a dozen people. This was barely a year after he was released from Guantanamo Bay.

Abdallah Salih al-Ajmi, a Kuwaiti, was repatriated from Guantanamo in 2005, and transferred into Kuwaiti custody. After he was acquitted of terrorism charges in Kuwait, he committed a successful suicide attack in Mosul, Iraq on March 25, 2008.

Ibrahim Shafir Sen was transferred from Guantanamo Bay to Turkey in November 2003. In January 2008, Sen was arrested in Van, Turkey, and charged as the leader of an active al-Qaida cell.

These are just a few examples of the activities of the terrorists who have been released, thus far. The ones remaining at Guantanamo Bay are arguably even more dangerous.

The administration must be honest with the American people that they want to bring terrorists to the United States. By bringing these terrorists to America, the Obama administration will provide them with legal status. This would then qualify them for food stamps, cash assistance and health care—paid for by you and me, the very people they desire to kill. The American people have spent billions trying to protect this country from terrorists before they can kill innocent Americans, and now the administration is laying out the welcome mat for terrorists to roam our streets.

The "No Welfare for Terrorists Act" will prohibit any government benefits from being granted to any terrorists brought to the United States from Guantanamo Bay. The American people have already paid—with blood and lives. We're done. The American people, under no circumstance, should be required to pay welfare benefits to terrorists.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in bringing sanity to this debate and prevent our constituents' hard earned money from going to put terrorists on welfare rolls.

RYAN ANDREW ROBERTS MAKES HIS MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Allen and Melissa Gregory Roberts on the birth of their child, Ryan Andrew Roberts. Ryan was born on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 10:30 am, weighed 8 pounds and 10 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long. My wife Faye joins me in wishing Richard and Melissa, and grandparents Joseph C. and Janice L. Gregory, Neil Richard Roberts, and Betty W. Marino great happiness upon this new addition to their family.

As the father of three, I know the joy and pride that Richard and Melissa feel at this special time. Children remind us of the incredible miracle of life, and they keep us young-at-heart. Every day they show us a new way to