

sisters, family, friends and a world full of fans. I will leave you all with a quote from Michael, "If you enter this world knowing you are loved and you leave this world knowing the same, then everything that happens in between can be dealt with."

HEARTBREAK ON CAPITOL HILL

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, just moments ago on this floor there was cheering and there was clapping over the passing of the crap-and-trade bill. And it is a little tough to get excited. From a political standpoint, I should be overjoyed because I really believe in my heart that when the American people find out, and this is just a part of it, when they find out what has been done to them, they are going to be livid. And they are going to throw some people out of this body. I just know that will happen. But I care more about America than I do politics.

I know that we will be facing the single moms that we heard from last summer that can't afford the gasoline bill. They can't afford the propane.

You didn't do a great thing. You hurt some really decent families struggling and trying to make it. And this is going to be their death knell. It breaks my heart.

CELEBRATING BLACK MUSIC MONTH

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. This is Black Music Month. And we had a resolution to introduce and pass celebrating the 30th anniversary of Black Music Month. Because of the scheduling, it didn't come up. That is why I wanted to address that fact today.

Black Music Month is important because it reminds people of the history of music in this country and the contributions of black Americans. Much of that happened in my city in Memphis, at Stax Soulsville, home of Isaac Hayes, Sam and Dave, Stax Soulsville Records, Al Green, Willy Mitchell and others, also Detroit and Motown and New Orleans and Fats Domino, Professor Long Hair, and many great musicians.

But back to Kansas City, and Charlie Parker, and Miles Davis and Max Roach and Dizzy Gillespie, not all from Kansas City, but that from that jazz era, and others. Michael Jackson, of course, passed. Many great musicians whose music needs to be remembered and young people need to learn that music is a great way to pass on our culture and preserve it and a great way to enjoy their own life and experience a better way. I'm pleased this is the 30th anniversary of Black Music Month. And we need to enjoy music and soothe the soul.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CELEBRATING THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Albanian diaspora of southeast Michigan and to raise the concern they have expressed to me.

Respect for people of diverse cultures is an American value and has made our Nation great. Our national heritage reflects the cultural contributions of a wide range of ethnic groups.

I am fortunate to represent the Ninth District of Michigan, a district rich in ethnic and religious diversity and one that includes many families from the Balkan region. In my time as a Congressman and resident of the Ninth District, I have developed a strong bond with the Albanian American community. This is a people that strongly value community service, family, and education. These are the values we can all admire and strive to instill in our children.

The Albanian American community of southeast Michigan is relatively new to our country. Most are first- or second-generation Americans. However, this community has established strong roots in southeast Michigan, establishing churches, community centers and small businesses. These places preserve and celebrate Albanian culture. They help enrich the lives of fellow Albanian Americans and the broader community alike.

Saint Paul's Albanian Church in Rochester Hills, Michigan, a city in my district, boasts nearly 5,000 members and is a shining example of how the Albanian diaspora has taken root in southeast Michigan. These roots are nourished by the community's focus on family, a value deeply embedded in Albanian culture, and one that I greatly respect.

As with many new immigrant communities, the entrepreneurial spirit runs deep among our Albanian Americans. Our Nation has provided many Albanian Americans with their first opportunity for business success. Members of the community have embraced these opportunities and worked tirelessly for the success of their endeavors, helping to grow our economy and create jobs in our region.

The community's affinity for entrepreneurship is coupled with a deep appreciation for education. Albanian Americans recognize the invaluable return on investment that educational achievement brings to the next generation.

I am particularly proud of the Albanian American community's patriotism, love for America and participation in the American democratic process.

Albanian Americans truly are full participants in the American democratic system. They understand that the essential element of a thriving democracy is active engagement.

Albanian Americans' unwavering dedication to democracy does not stop at our borders. The Albanian community is working tirelessly to bring attention to the needs of the emerging democracies in the Balkan region and to strengthen U.S.-Balkan relations.

I am proud of the relationship the city of Rochester Hills has formed with Tuz, Montenegro. For example, the Albanian American diaspora in Michigan and the city of Rochester Hills recently worked together to provide school supplies to the cities of Tuz, and I commend them for these efforts.

While many are aware of the efforts made by the Albanian American community to assist refugees during the Kosovo conflict, it is important to highlight important work still being performed by the Albanian American community.

The Albanian diaspora continues to seek further recognition for the Republic of Kosova and has been vital in helping former refugees rebuild their lives. The recent independence of the Republic of Kosova and the induction of Albania into NATO are a testament to the Albanian American community's progress.

The Albanian community in Michigan remains concerned with events and issues currently affecting their brethren and families overseas. Some particular concerns of my constituents I want to raise today relate to recent reports of inequities in the Montenegrin justice system. In particular, reputable human rights organizations like Amnesty International have reported that several Albanian American citizens convicted in connection with the Eagle's Flight case have been subject to torture and physical abuse. These incidents and reports have caused tremendous anxiety and uncertainty in the Albanian American community. It is my hope that the Montenegrin Government will work diligently to protect human rights and the rule of law in the exercise of justice in the future.

Whether fighting for justice, advancing democracy, supporting our schools, or working hard to strengthen our economy, Albanian Americans in my district and across America are helping to make our Nation even greater. It is an honor to represent a prominent Albanian American community here in the United States Congress.