

HONORING THE PEACE CORPS
DURING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS
WEEK

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the important contributions of the Peace Corps during National Peace Corps Week.

President Kennedy's inspiring inaugural quote, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," sparked the establishment of the Peace Corps in 1961, and since then, almost 200,000 Americans have answered to this call to service.

For five decades, participants in the Peace Corps have made significant strides to advance the cause of peace and human progress in countries around the world. Just as important, these dedicated volunteers often continue making a difference in their local communities in the United States once they return home.

At the present time, almost 7,700 volunteers serve in 76 countries across the globe. They continue to work tirelessly to provide meaningful assistance to people in need, helping to improve the lives of our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world.

The Peace Corps remains a strong symbol of our nation's commitment to service and progress. This program epitomizes the human desire to make a difference and the American spirit, rooted in a willingness to help improve the lives of others. I encourage my colleagues to take this opportunity to recognize the important and meaningful work of the Peace Corps, and I hope they will join me in commending the Peace Corps' achievements and commitment to service.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, Tuesday, March 2, 2010, marked Texas Independence Day: 174 years ago, the Texas Declaration of Independence was ratified by the Convention of 1836 at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

This is an important day for Texas identity and patriotic Texans observe this occasion with great pride. If it were not for the Texas Primaries, I would have been on the floor, paying tribute to Texas Independence Day Tuesday.

In 1824, a military dictatorship took over in Mexico abolishing the Mexican constitution. The new military dictatorship refused to provide trial by jury, freedom of religion, public education for their citizens, and allowed the confiscation of firearms, this last one being the most intolerable, particularly among Texans.

The Texas Declaration of Independence states that Texas' government had been "forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism."

It stated that because of the injustice of Santa Anna's tyrannical government, Texans were severing their connection with the Mexican nation and declaring themselves "a free, sovereign, and independent republic . . . fully invested with all the rights and attributes" that belong to independent nations; and a declaration that they "fearlessly and confidently" committed their decision to "the Supreme Arbiter of the destinies of nations."

The Texas Declaration of Independence was fully justified because this military dictatorship had ceased to protect the lives, liberty, and property of the people of Texas.

Failure to provide these basic rights violated the sacred contract between a government and the people, and Texans did what we still do today—stand up for our rights by declaring our independence to the world.

In response, the Mexican army marched to Texas waging war on the land and the people, enforcing the decrees of a military dictatorship through brute force and without any democratic legitimacy.

As delegates signed the Texas Declaration of Independence at Washington-on-the-Brazos, General Santa Anna's army besieged independence forces at the Alamo in San Antonio.

Four days after the signing, the Alamo fell with her commander Lt. Colonel William Barrett Travis, Tennessee Congressman David Crockett, and approximately 200 other Texan defenders.

All these men were killed in action, a heroic sacrifice for Texan freedom. If this tragedy were not enough, later Santa Anna's army massacred over 300 unarmed Texans at Goliad on March 27.

In a dramatic turnaround, Texans achieved their independence several weeks later on April 21, 1836. Roughly 900 members of the Texan army overpowered a much larger Mexican army in a surprise attack at the Battle of San Jacinto.

That battle is memorialized along the San Jacinto River with the San Jacinto Monument in Texas in our district. The monument is larger than the Washington Monument here in DC.

Today we give thanks to the many Texans that sacrificed for the freedom we now enjoy. God bless Texas and God bless America.

PREVENTING HARMFUL RE-
STRAINT AND SECLUSION IN
SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Keeping All Students Safe Act, a commonsense measure to provide guidance for teachers and schools on the use of seclusion and restraints.

Last year, the Government Accountability Office found hundreds of cases of alleged abuse of seclusion and restraints, including cases that resulted in death. And while federal law provides minimum safety standards for the use of these interventions in hospitals and other facilities supported by federal dollars, there are no federal rules for public or private schools.

Today's bill sets basic standards and gives states 2 years to implement their own policies, procedures, monitoring, and enforcement systems to meet them. It provides grants to help train school staff and implement positive behavior support programs. And it increases transparency and oversight by requiring states, for the first time, to collect and report data annually to the Secretary of Education.

With these measures, we can ensure the safe learning environment that all our students deserve. I encourage my colleagues to join me and support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on March 3, 2010, I inadvertently failed to vote on rollcall No. 78. Had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING LAS VEGAS CHAPTER
74 OF THE NATIONAL ASSO-
CIATION OF WOMEN IN CON-
STRUCTION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the National Association of Women in Construction, NAWIC, Las Vegas Chapter 74 for their representation of women in the construction industry.

Las Vegas Chapter 74 has been representing women in construction for 48 years.

The NAWIC Las Vegas Chapter 74 has benefited Southern Nevada through numerous educational and development programs.

The Las Vegas Chapter 74 has unceasingly promoted the employment and advancement of women in the construction industry.

The construction community, represented by the Las Vegas Chapter 74, has been a driving force in fostering community development through renovation and beautification projects, promotion of skilled trade careers, and a positive vision of the future.

They have sought to achieve successful results for Las Vegas and surrounding areas in a cooperative spirit with other organizations.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the Las Vegas Chapter 74 and their many dedicated volunteers for their steadfast work to support women in construction. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding organization.

HONORING JACK WALKER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jack