

north and south Sudan? How will the precious values of honesty and integrity, tolerance and respect, compassion for the weak and poor, be upheld and guaranteed? How will good governance and the rule of law be assured? How will the dignity of the human person and the common good be respected and protected?

THE REFERENDUM

The process

The CPA provides that the people of southern Sudan should exercise their right to self-determination through a referendum to determine their future status in accordance with the provisions of the Interim National Constitution of 2005 and the Southern Sudan Referendum Act of 2009.

We remain deeply concerned that the time remaining before the due date of 9th January 2011 is painfully short and inadequate, and there is a fear that the CPA signatories have not prioritised this and that transparency and inclusiveness are lacking.

The following have not been done or are behind schedule:

The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission has barely begun its work;

Demarcation of the north-south borders is not complete;

Regulations and procedures for the referendum have not been provided;

Establishment of High Referendum Committees in states is not completed;

Formation of sub-committees in counties and referendum centres is not completed;

Voter eligibility has not yet been clarified; Registration has not even begun;

Registers and other referendum materials have not been provided; and

Voter awareness and education has barely begun, and indeed cannot proceed without clarification of some of the above issues.

Secession can be chosen by a simple majority of 50% plus one of votes cast. However there is also a requirement that 60% of registered voters must cast their vote in order for secession to take place. If fewer than 60% cast their votes, the status quo (unity) continues. We fear that this voter turnout condition may lead to confusion and manipulation. The registration of voters residing outside southern Sudan presents real problems in establishing voter eligibility and monitoring the legitimacy of the process.

The transitional areas

The people of Abyei also have a referendum to choose to remain in Southern Kordofan or to become part of Warrap State in Greater Bahr el Ghazal. Borders and voter eligibility have officially been agreed, but there remain currents of dissatisfaction amongst other groups in the area which could derail the process. The Abyei Referendum Commission has not yet been formed. Abyei has already experienced outbreaks of violence and we fear further violence. The people of the Nuba Mountains (in Southern Kordofan State) and Blue Nile State do not have the right of self-determination, despite the fact that many feel culturally and ethnically connected to the south and fought alongside southerners in the liberation struggle. They have a form of popular consultation which has still not been clearly understood, and which appears to give the decision to legislators and the Presidency rather than directly to the people. The popular consultation mechanisms are already behind schedule in the Nuba Mountains (Southern Kordofan). We fear that popular consultation, even if free and fair, does not meet the aspirations of a large section of the population of these two areas, as they have no choice but to remain under northern governance.

We fear that dissatisfaction in all three of these transitional areas may lead to violence which could derail any peaceful future for the whole of Sudan.

Post-referendum arrangements

We are encouraged to note that the two CPA signatories have created structures to negotiate post-referendum arrangements, which are crucial to a peaceful future, whatever the outcome of the referendum. However we are concerned at the late establishment of these structures, and the absence of Church, civil society and other actors, which could lead to a lack of transparency and inclusiveness.

CALL TO ACTION

We call upon our brothers and sisters and all people of good will to pray earnestly for a peaceful and fruitful referendum. May the God of Justice and Truth guide us all at this momentous time. We urge our leaders in both north and south to ensure that the referenda for southern Sudan and Abyei should take place on time, in a free and fair manner, and that the outcomes are recognised and respected. The referendum process must be conducted peacefully and transparently.

We urge those who are leading the referendum process to redouble their efforts to ensure that all outstanding measures are implemented in good time.

We call upon the international community to assist in the technical, logistical and operational stages of the referendum, to monitor and observe the process from start to finish, to guarantee implementation of the results and to mediate in case of any disagreement. We place our trust in those who have accompanied the peace process so far, particularly IGAD and friends of IGAD, (USA, UK, Italy and Norway), AU, UN, Arab league, to continue to encourage the signatories to implement the referendum, and to act in the interests of the people of Sudan as impartial and honest brokers.

We call upon all citizens who register, to ensure that they actually cast their vote. We urge international and domestic monitors to pay close attention to the registration process from the beginning, and particularly to the registration of those living outside southern Sudan. Our hearts are pained by reports of intimidation and threats causing fear among southerners living and working in northern Sudan as we approach the time of the referendum. We urge all parties to guarantee the safety and freedom of all people of Sudan in the run up to the referendum and beyond, regardless of the outcome.

In the event that unity of Sudan is the legitimate outcome of the process, we call for a change of heart among those in power, to bring about a unity embracing all, in a just, free and open society, where the human dignity of every citizen is safeguarded and respected. In the event that the people of southern Sudan choose secession, we call upon those in power to ensure good neighbourly relations and a smooth and peaceful transition. In particular we encourage the parties to reach amicable solutions to practical questions such as oil, citizenship and border issues—solutions which benefit all.

We urge the authorities in northern Sudan to respect the freedom and human rights, including freedom of religion, of all inhabitants. Given the fears which exist in the hearts of southerners in the north, it is important to create a climate of human security and well-being, and respect of basic human rights, in accordance with Sudan's obligations under the Universal Declaration

of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

We urge the authorities in southern Sudan to respect the rights of northerners in the south. We call for good governance, with zero tolerance for corruption and nepotism, and an increased delivery of basic services. We call on all parties, factions and ethnic groups to end violence and to unite for the common good.

We also call for ways to be found to meet the legitimate aspirations of the people of Nuba mountains (in Southern Kordofan state) and Blue Nile state.

COMMITMENT

We commit ourselves and our Church to the work of peace-building and reconciliation on a daily and practical basis, in collaboration with others and in line with Catholic Social Teaching. We pledge ourselves to journey together with our people towards a just and lasting peace.

CONCLUSION

"I call heaven and earth today to witness against you; I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live . . ." (Deuteronomy 30:19)

We have come a long way to reach this point. Our journey has not been easy and we have met with great difficulties. But we have faced these challenges as best we could with the help of God.

Our hope is not dimmed, and we look to the future with confidence in God's loving care for us all.

We therefore encourage all those who are entitled to vote in the referenda in Southern Sudan and in Abyei to choose what kind of future they, their children and generations to come will enjoy. We encourage them to choose what kind of life they and their offspring will have, a life of freedom with justice and equal rights for all. As the Shepherds of the Church in Sudan we place our hope in God and look forward to a just and peaceful society where each person's rights and dignity are upheld.

We encourage them to choose life.

"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

HONORING LAUREN BROWN

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent Lauren Brown. Mr. Brown has travelled from San Luis Obispo, CA, to Washington, DC, by bike this summer to raise funds for students to attend school in India.

His journey has taken him from the West coast through the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains, across the Great Lakes and through much of the East Coast. Along the way, he has met with countless Americans to spread his message of peace and the importance of quality education.

I commend him and his family today, and honor the end of this momentous journey. It's an honor to represent an individual who cares so much about not only his local community, but the world at large.

Thank you.

COMMEMORATING RAMADAN

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commencement of Ramadan, which begins tonight at dusk.

Most Americans are not familiar with Ramadan. In New Jersey, with our diverse, cosmopolitan population, we understand well the significance this month has for America's millions of Muslims and for Muslims around the globe. Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar, a time of fasting, prayer, spiritual renewal, and contemplation. The observance of Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam, and it is a time when adherents to the faith give generously to charities both locally and around the world. Ramadan is a time to strengthen ties to family and community in the form of meals shared among friends and neighbors at sunset, when the fast is broken. During Ramadan, our American-Muslim neighbors in the 12th District volunteer their time at area soup kitchens in places like Trenton and New Brunswick.

It has been my privilege to represent the American-Muslim population in Central Jersey, a vibrant, thriving community of doctors, engineers, lawyers, teachers, small business owners, entrepreneurs, U.S. servicemen and women, and working class Americans. Their concerns are the same as those of many Americans—maintaining high standards of education to ensure that their children can compete globally, sustaining their small businesses, rebuilding our economy, and seeking new energy sources to reduce waste.

There is no greater testament to the American way of life than the fact that Muslims, Christians, Jews, Hindus—people of all faiths—live and work side-by-side in our local communities across the nation. The vast majority of our Muslim neighbors reject the extremist ideologies that have taken root on the fringes of Islam, tarnishing the name of that religion. As I visit with my friends in the American-Muslim community of Central New Jersey, I see clearly that the relationship between American democratic values and a moderate Islam has been, and will continue to be, mutually beneficial.

I look forward to participating in Ramadan iftaars in the 12th District and to continuing to serve American-Muslims and members of all the faith communities in Central New Jersey.

HONORING MS. PATRICIA H.
MURRAY

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, Thirty one years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Internal Revenue Service in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, Ms. Patricia H. Murray began her career with the I.R.S. as a Tax Auditor in 1979 and today retires as a Team Manager over the Taxpayer Advocate Service Team, ; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents, giving the citizens of our District a friend to help those in need, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to insure that the system works for everyone; and

Whereas, Ms. Patricia H. Murray is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Patricia H. Murray on her retirement from the Internal Revenue Service and to wish her well in her new endeavors;

Now therefore, I, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 14, 2010 as Ms. Patricia H. Murray Day, in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 14th day of July, 2010.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING R.J.
JACOBS' VICTORY AT THE AMERICAN
QUARTER HORSE YOUTH
ASSOCIATION WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
SHOW

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the American Quarter Horse Youth Association held its World Championship Show July 30 through August 7 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,

Whereas, the show is the world's largest single-breed show for youth,

Whereas, R.J. Jacobs, who is 12, was among the 858 exhibitors,

Whereas, R.J. showed a 2-year-old gelding, Happy Hour,

Whereas, R.J.'s sister, Molli, also won a world championship at the event,

Whereas, the event's organizers said it was so unusual for two siblings to win world championships in the same year that they were unsure if it had ever happened before,

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th congressional district, I commend R.J. Jacobs on winning a world championship at the American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Championship Show, and for the hard work and dedication that led to this unique accomplishment.

HONORING TAYLOR HOSPITAL OF
RIDLEY, PENNSYLVANIA ON 100
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the tradition of dedicated care upheld by Taylor Hospital of the Crozer-Keystone Health System and located in Ridley, Pennsylvania. This year, Taylor Hospital celebrates a significant milestone of 100 years of service to the residents of the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. On February 10, 1910, Horace Furness Taylor, M.D. and his wife, Kath-

erine Manly Taylor, R.N., opened their Ridley Park home as a 10-bed hospital for local residents. On May 21st, the couple received a charter for their newly founded, medical institution "for medical and surgical treatment of the sick and injured . . ." Over the past 100 years, Taylor Hospital has continued to offer personal care to each patient, while remaining at the forefront of medical advancement. Its intimate size and the unwavering spirit of devotion embodied by the doctors, nurses, and hospital staff allow Taylor the unique ability to give each patient a highly individualized experience. Taylor employees develop relationships of trust with patients and have created a true partnership with local communities. Residents of this region do not have to travel beyond their own neighborhood to receive the finest healthcare. Directed at its founding by Dr. Horace Furness Taylor, and now by current president, Diane Miller, Taylor Hospital remains committed to excellence.

Today, Taylor continues to improve and expand upon its medical practice, and currently offers a variety of inpatient and outpatient services some of which include cardiovascular care, medical imaging, and orthopedic care. This institution has various specialty services including a Joint Commission Certified Primary Stroke Center, and the oldest nationally accredited sleep center in the Greater Delaware Valley of Pennsylvania. Additionally, 30 years ago, Taylor opened one of the region's first inpatient Rehabilitation Units. Taylor Hospital proves to be a leader in medical services in this region of Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we recognize and show our strong appreciation for a truly historic and trusted institution of outstanding and comprehensive medical care to the communities of the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, Taylor Hospital.

CONGRATULATING DELORES
HASTINGS ON HER 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing a happy 75th birthday to Ms. Delores Hastings.

Throughout her life, Ms. Hastings has worked tirelessly as a leader in her community. Most recently, she donated her time volunteering for a program that provides mothers and their children in rehabilitation centers with Thanksgiving Day food baskets. Additionally, Ms. Hastings was a staunch supporter of President Barack Obama during his 2008 campaign, registering over 200 individuals to vote.

In February of this year, she solicited medical donations to send to the victims of the earthquake that devastated Haiti on January 12, 2010, a cause very near to my heart. Ms. Hastings has also volunteered her time teaching inmates with children important parental skills before they are released. As a result of her work, these inmates are allowed visitation with their children prior to their release and have a smoother transition back into civilian life.

Ms. Hastings has always emphasized the importance of receiving an education. She has