that he would look into ''the problems created by the behavior of certain travelers and Roma,'' with a view toward the closing down Romani camps and driving out Roma. Government statements have indicated these measures would focus on finding and expelling Romani citizens from Bulgaria and Romania—two European Union countries. Despite the fact that the Romani man in the July 16 incident was actually a French citizen—Mr. Sarzkozy later spoke of stripping citizenship from nationalized French citizens convicted of serious offenses.

Not surprisingly, human rights groups have condemned the President's remarks with one voice. Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner Thomas Hammarberg rejected the notion of holding Romani people collectively responsible if one among them commits a crime. Good for you, Mr. Hammarberg. (It is a shame that the European Union has been so utterly silent and paralyzed in the face of this downward spiral.)

Many of the reports and analyses of these events, such as last Friday's editorial in the New York Times, rightly placed these developments in the context of French politics and President Sarkozy's political imperatives. Understanding the current political dynamic in France, particularly the ongoing debate over ''national identity'' and the situation of Muslim and African-origin minorities in France, is extremely helpful in understanding the President's expansion into anti-Roma mudslinging. But there is a wider, broader European context for his remarks that I think must be addressed.

French Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux has stated that the new measures targeting Romani camps are not aimed at ''stigmatizing a community'' but rather at stopping illegal activity. This sounds remarkably like the rhetoric of Hungary's far right wing party, Jobbik, which claims it is not against ''Gypsies,'' just ''Gypsy crimes.''

In fact, rhetoric linking Roma to criminal activity or broadly portraying Roma as criminals—traffickers, prostitutes, thieves, and so forth—is pervasive throughout Europe. In early July, in the wake of a mass expulsion of Roma from Copenhagen, Danish Minister of Justice reportedly made remarks tying Romani culture to criminal behavior. Romania's foreign minister remarked in February about ''the natural physiology of Roma criminality.'' For two years now, Italy has been gripped by anti-Roma policies, included targeting Roma for fingerprinting, that are built on a perception of the Roma as criminals.

The idea of Romani people as inherently criminal is not new. In fact, it was at the very center of Nazi racial theories regarding Roma. According to these theories, Roma—as descendents of an Aryan people—we're just fine on their own. But Nazi racial hygienists concluded that, as a result of intermarriage between Roma and non-Roma, Roma had been left with mixed, ''degenerate'' blood and were genetically predisposed to criminality. Moreover, Roma were ''unadaptable''—that is, this condition could never be changed. These Nazi racial theories provided the rationale for the sterilization, persecution, and eventual extermination of Roma.

Unfortunately, as Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, has observed, ''Even after the . . . Nazi killing of at least half a million Roma, probably 700,000 or more, there was no genuine change of attitude among the majority population towards the Roma.'' In other words, Nazi racial theories regarding Roma remain remarkably entrenched and are regularly given voice in the rhetoric about ''Romani crime.''

Madam Speaker, last year Senator CARDIN and I, as Chairman and Cochairman of the Helsinki Commission, wrote to Secretary Clinton regarding the situation of Roma in Europe. In particular, we noted that ''racist rhetoric directed against Roma today often uses terminology or images that have been in continuous use since the Nazi era,'' and we argued that teaching about Romani experiences during the Holocaust is essential to successfully combat prejudice against Roma today. Perhaps this could start in France.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD A. GRIGGS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Donald A. Griggs, a 29-year veteran of the Daly City Police Department.

Officer Griggs graduated from the Basic Police Academy at the College of the Redwoods in 1980 after earning an Associate Degree in Administration of Justice from the College of San Mateo. He was appointed as a Police Officer on March 10, 1980. He was a mentor to many recruits through his role as a Field Training Officer. In 1999 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He served bravely for many years as a member of the Daly City Police Tactical Response Team. He also served on the board of directors for the Daly City Police Athletic League. He is a dedicated police officer who forged many friendships during his career.

Sergeant Griggs received numerous department commendations during his career. Of special note, in 2003 he rushed into a burning building and evacuated the residents. He suffered smoke inhalation and was rushed to the hospital for treatment. He risked his life to save people in need. In another instance he was recognized for his professionalism by the victim of a particularly brutal sexual assault case. His professional and compassionate efforts helped restore the woman's dignity. His actions serve as a source of pride for the entire police department.

Madam Speaker, on September 10, 2010, members of the Daly City Police Benevolent Association will honor Sergeant Donald Griggs at a special dinner and, as such, I ask that this body extends its thanks for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS GRAMS

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great leader in humanitarian aid, Dr. Thomas Grams. Dr. Grams was tragically killed last week in Afghanistan by the Taliban. Dr. Grams was in a remote region of Afghanistan fulfilling a medical aid mission with a group of nine other volunteers from the International Assistance Mission.

Dr. Grams practiced dentistry in Durango, Colorado for many years. Several years ago, he retired from private practice so that he could dedicate his life fulltime to the assistance of residents in developing countries. Dr. Grams took countless trips to India, Nepal, and Afghanistan to provide care for the indigent residents of these countries.

In particular, he was able to provide essential dental care for thousands of children in these countries. To the children he was known as ''Dr. Tom.'' Many of the children he treated had suffered for years with untreated dental problems. After their treatment when he returned to the villages and towns in future years, he would be able to see the lasting smiles on the children's faces.

The focus of Dr. Grams' life was to provide service to others and his mission was to provide access to dental and health care in some of the most remote corners of the world. His enthusiasm and devotion to the places he visited enabled him to cultivate great trust within these communities. He leaves behind him a legacy of countless people, especially children, whose lives were made better by his service. Dr. Grams represented western Colorado and his entire nation with honor. He exemplified that which is best in our country, a strong sense of compassion paired with the will and ability to help those in need.

Dr. Grams' passion for service will be sincerely missed in both Durango and around the world by those he helped. Our nation and our world have lost a strong voice for compassion and healing. We will remember Dr. Grams as a shining example of that which is best in humanity. My condolences and prayers go out to his family and friends during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JERRY W. POTTS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the life of retired Pensacola Police Chief Jerry W. Potts. Chief Potts passed away on August 6, 2010, after courageously battling cancer. He was a respected leader who spent his life serving his community and his country, and I am proud to honor his lifetime of dedication and service.

Even as a young man, Chief Potts recognized the importance of serving his country. At the age of 17, he joined the United States Army 82nd Airborne Division and served honorably for 3 years. During his time with the 82nd Airborne, he earned the Combat Infantry Badge for his active engagement in ground combat.

Shortly after serving in the Army, in 1973 Chief Potts joined the Pensacola Police Department. His commitment to excellence as an officer through his various assignments in Dispatch, Uniform Patrol, Investigations, and Traffic did not go unnoticed, and in 1995 Chief Potts was selected to serve as Assistant Chief. He continued to rise through the ranks