EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORABLE FRANK R. WOLF EGYPT TRIP REPORT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a copy of my Egypt trip report.

PURPOSE

On June 26–28 I visited Egypt to meet with U.S. and host government officials and key civil society actors, specifically to address human rights and religious freedom concerns, especially during this critical time of transition.

MEETINGS

I met with U.S. Ambassador Margaret Scobey and received a modified country team brief from embassy staff. I spoke with U.S./Western print correspondents and saw Tahrir Square—site of recent pro-democracy protests.

I met with nearly a dozen Christian, Muslim, Baha'i, and youth activists, including a leading evangelical minister, Coptic youth leader and prominent Baha'i blogger.

I also discussed the country's transition with political activists, including 2005 presidential candidate and former political prisoner Ayman Nour, who is again seeking the presidency.

I discussed interfaith dialogue with Sheikh Al-Azhar Ahmed Al-Tayyeb, the leading scholar in Sunni Islam, and met with Muslim Brotherhood official Essam El-Errian to caution the group to respect religious freedom.

I worshiped in a Coptic Orthodox Church and visited St. Mary's Church in Imbaba (a Cairo suburb) which had been destroyed by radical Islamists on May 7. I also met with a woman who runs an orphanage and social services organization for the Christian ''zabaleen'' (trash collectors) in Cairo.

I met with Deputy Foreign Minister Wafaa Bassim and other representatives of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and raised concerns about human rights and the prospects of a transition to a true democracy.

In my meetings with Egyptian government officials, I mentioned that this year I had introduced bipartisan legislation, H.R. 440, (which now has 75 cosponsors) that would create a Special Envoy position at the State Department to focus specifically on the challenges faced by religious minorities in key countries in the Middle East, including Egypt. The legislation was introduced in January, prior to the political unrest in Egypt, but has arguably never been more needed. Ancient religious minority communities, among them Coptic Christians, are important moderating influences and are critical to the future of a democratic and pluralistic Egypt.

I met with representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and International Republican Institute (IRI).

HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Coptic Orthodox and other Christians told me that they feared sectarian violence in the current political vacuum, and were concerned about continued discrimination in government hiring and building churches. They said that they welcomed the Government of Egypt's announced intention to draft a Unified Places of Worship Law, but cautioned that the few details that had emerged thus far indicate that the draft needs much work before it genuinely puts mosques and churches on equal footing.

In my meetings with Baha'i leaders we discussed the community's continued difficulties in securing government documents like birth and marriage certificates. I intend to pursue this matter further with the Egyptian Government, pressing them to rescind the 1960 decree that closed Baha'i assemblies and seized their assets.

In my meetings with Christian and secular Muslim democracy activists, I was informed that Islamist elements in Egypt seek an Iran-like theocratic state. Some interlocutors worried that the Egyptian Army favors Muslim Brothers and Salafists. Many agreed that if Islamists were to win in the upcoming elections they would allow ''one man, one vote, one time,'' thereby making their electoral victory irreversible.

While meeting with senior representatives of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) I sought to press them on their intentions. I raised concerned about the application of shariah law, especially as it relates to the rights of minorities, and made it clear that my concerns were shared by many in Washington. Freedom-loving people the world over should be very concerned if the MB comes to power in Egypt. We must not close our eyes to their stated plans.

DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

Some Egyptian activists and most religious freedom advocates were pessimistic about the transition to date and prospects for a free, tolerant, and democratic government after elections.

Several of these activists stressed that the best way to counter Islamists in the short run is to first draft a constitution and delay elections until democratic parties have formed and become operational. One activist went so far as to say that he was 80 percent sure Egypt would become an Islamist state akin to Iran unless the current transition process and timeline is altered.

Activists also said that secular, pro-democracy parties need to take additional steps to get organized and build support across the sectarian divide. One human rights activist underscored the long-term importance of secular education and more interaction between Christian and Muslim youth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the meetings I had and the insights I gained, I came away with a number of broad-based policy recommendations:

The U.S. Government should encourage the Egyptian Government to temporarily delay parliamentary elections, currently scheduled for September. Under the Mubarak regime free speech and freedom of assembly were curtailed, sectarian divisions were stoked and the press was restricted—some of these issues remain under the current transitional government and are not conducive to a healthy electoral process. In fact, at present, the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) and remnants of the former ruling party are best positioned for victory, in part because they are better organized and funded. We must recognize that elections are but a component of a true democracy and guard against the impulse to move too swiftly in a direction that would likely guarantee an MB victory.

When the elections are held, independent international election monitors must be present and must be granted unfettered access to polling stations, etc. In my meetings with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs I stressed that the credibility of any future election, whenever it takes place, would hinge on the involvement and presence of international observers. The importance of independent monitors and observers was underscored during my meetings with NDI and IRI. Their insight and election expertise is invaluable.

The United States must seriously consider conditioning U.S. foreign assistance, specifically military assistance, to Egypt. Since the Camp David Peace Accords, Egypt has received over $60 billion in U.S. foreign assistance—the second largest overall recipient of such funding. Given the Mubarak regime's human rights and religious freedom abuses, I have long believed this assistance should be conditioned on improvements in these areas. I understand that Egypt is a proud country with a rich history. However, at this time of historic transition in Egypt and tight budgetary times at home, U.S. taxpayer dollars ought not be given to a government that will persecute its own people. Aid to Egypt should be conditioned upon the government respecting and upholding universally recognized human rights norms. This is especially important as Egypt moves toward crafting a new constitution. It is imperative that this constitution is fully secular and include, among other things, religious freedom protections. Ultimately, foreign assistance, especially of this magnitude, is a key leverage point and should be used accordingly, particularly with the Supreme Council of the Egyptian Armed Forces (SCAF).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the U.S. embassy personnel, outgoing Ambassador Margaret Scobey, Peter Shea, my control officer, and Liz Colton for their assistance in making this trip possible and for their dedicated service to their country.

I would also like to acknowledge the good work of the press in Egypt, some of whom I had the opportunity to meet. At a time of such monumental and rapid change they clearly had a read on the national pulse and their reporting of events in real time is critical.

I would also like to thank the many civil society representatives I met, but for security reasons have opted not to mention by name, who gave a candid and courageous assessment of the challenges facing their country.

CONCLUSION

The Egyptian people have endured much over the years. The State Department's annual human rights report released in April found the following:

The government limited citizens' right to change their government and extended a state of emergency that has been in place almost continuously since 1967. Security forces used unwarranted lethal force and tortured and abused prisoners and detainees, in most cases with impunity. Prison and detention center conditions were poor. Security forces arbitrarily arrested and detained individuals, in some cases for political purposes,

and kept them in prolonged pretrial detention. The executive branch exercised control over and pressured the judiciary. The government partially restricted freedom of expression. The government's respect for freedoms of assembly, association, and religion was poor, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) continued to face restrictions.

In the face of decades of human rights and religious freedom abuses under the Mubarak regime, successive U.S. administrations, including the Obama administration, failed to advocate for those whose voices were being silenced. Many pro-democracy activists and religious minorities that I spoke with while in Egypt felt abandoned by the West.

At this historic time of transition, we must not make that mistake again. While there is a palpable sense of anticipation and even hope about what the future might hold for the Egyptian people, the outcome is far from guaranteed.

There are reliable reports of human rights abuses and political repression following Mubarak's resignation. For example, a recently released Congressional Research Service report indicated that:

The SCAF has warned news organizations that it is illegal to criticize the military in the press. A military court sentenced a blogger (Maikel Nabil) to three years in prison for insulting the military. Others have criticized the SCAF over press reports that female detainees in military custody were subject to ''virginity tests'' by doctors.

Given the nature and extent of U.S. assistance to Egypt over the years, the U.S. military has developed good relations with the Egyptian military and we should leverage those ties as Egypt looks to transition from military to civilian rule. It will be critical for Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, among others, to engage with the SCAF.

Ultimately, I believe that the majority of Egyptians of all faiths want democracy. The question is will it be taken away from them after a single election?

Their yearning for true freedom and democracy must not be underestimated. We have a responsibility to stand with them and help them realize their aspirations.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN GARRARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding citizen of South Alabama who has dedicated his life to the service of his community and his fellow man. I am proud to inform this House that John Garrard of Atmore, Alabama, was recently honored with the Atmore Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award.

A resident of Atmore for over 60 years, Mr. Garrard has a long and distinguished record of public service. A World War II veteran of the U.S. Navy, Mr. Garrard graduated from Millsaps College with a degree in economics and business administration and a minor in secondary education. He soon put his education to good use back in his community.

He began his career as a teacher at Escambia County High School. Afterwards, he joined the First National Bank of Atmore, where he rose to the position of president and where he continues to serve on the board of directors.

Mr. Garrard has also served on the Atmore Public Library Board for 48 years, was a member of the Atmore Rotary Club for 30 years, and was a part of Fountain Prison Ministry for 15 years. Mr. Garrard was also named Atmore's Citizen of the Year in 1981.

Today, even in retirement, Mr. Garrard continues to serve his community as a member of the Atmore City Council. The extent of Mr. Garrard's commitments is considerable. It is because of the work of people like John Garrard that small towns throughout south Alabama, and around the country, are able to thrive and maintain a vibrant sense of community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Escambia County and South Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. John Garrard for his service, and applauding the example of civic engagement that he has set. His presence is surely felt throughout his community which has benefitted from his many contributions of time and talent. Through his life of service and dedication, he has definitely earned this award, and I am proud to join his many friends and family in saluting him for this most deserving honor.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud co-sponsor and strong supporter of H. Res. 268, which reaffirms our national commitment to a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Madam Speaker, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has persisted for generations. It has claimed thousands of lives and has contributed to instability in the world's most volatile region. Few things would do more to advance the cause of world peace than the achievement of the two-state solution which recognizes Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state with secure borders and the right of the Palestinians to govern themselves in an autonomous state with the resources and factor endowments to enable the Palestinian people to live in dignity.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a strong and vocal advocate for direct negotiations, has already accepted a two-state solution, only to be continually rebuffed by the Palestinians at every turn.

Madam Speaker, attempts by Palestinian leadership to circumvent direct negotiations with Israel and instead seek direct recognition from the United Nations and foreign governments is counter-productive and undermines the work that has been done over the last several decades to come to a peaceful and mutually beneficial resolution.

The unilateral declaration of statehood by the Palestinian Authority shows a disregard for and violation of the underlying principles of Middle East peace agreements, including the Oslo Accords, the Road Map, and most recently the Annapolis Conference.

Madam Speaker, a two-state solution is the only feasible resolution to this long-standing conflict. Therefore I strongly applaud the Administration for opposing international recognition of a Palestinian state that is not reached in direct negotiation with Israel.

I urge the President to direct the United States Ambassador to the U.N. to exercise our veto with respect to any resolution of the United Nations Security Council to the contrary and call upon Palestinian leaders to return to the negotiation table in a good faith effort to reach a mutually acceptable agreement to bring about the two-state solution, which is one and sure path to the just and lasting peace we all seek.

For these reasons, I strongly support H. Res. 268 and urge my colleagues to join me.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 500 on July 6, 2011, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no.''

CONGRATULATING PHIL JOHNSON, ATMORE'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a distinguished citizen of South Alabama for his exemplary service to our region and his community. I am pleased to note that Phil Johnson was recently named Atmore, Alabama's 2010 Citizen of the Year.

If a leader is someone who is willing to give of himself in order to benefit society, then Phil Johnson certainly fits the definition of a leader. His stamp on Atmore and surrounding Escambia County is his legacy of developing local arts programs and inspiring a passion for the arts among our young people.

Ten years ago, Mr. Johnson played a leading role in founding the Greater Escambia Council for the Arts (GECA) and has been instrumental in raising awareness for the arts throughout his community.

Mr. Johnson has also performed in, directed, and produced an exceptional number of performances, and helped secure a theater in downtown Atmore.

Thanks to Mr. Johnson's vision and dedication, the residents of Atmore and Escambia County have enormous opportunities in the arts. From actors to playgoers to the young people who have become involved in the arts for the first time, many have benefited from Mr. Johnson's work and achievements.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the arts serve a vital role in our communities, and they can have an especially large impact in small towns like Atmore.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Johnson for his remarkable service, and to join the people of Atmore in recognizing the great difference he has made in that community.

HONORING GILBERT TREVIÑO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Gilbert Treviño, a soldier and researcher who dedicated nearly 30 years of his life to the United States Marines both on the field and in the lab.

A Laredo native, Mr. Treviño moved to College Station in 1942 to attend Texas A&M University. His scholarly pursuits were placed on hold when the United States plunged into World War II. He joined the United States Marine Corps in 1944 and witnessed the perils of war at the Battle of Iwo Jima, a battle, on which he wrote in his 2006 memoir. After serving our country, Mr. Treviño returned to school in 1947 to complete a professional veterinary degree and later received a Master's at Texas A&M University and Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

Mr. Treviño met Chris, who would eventually become his wife, while he was working in Washington, DC. The couple was together just under a year when he received word he was to be stationed in Japan. The pair planned their wedding in just eight days and moved to Japan, where their two children were born.

Mr. Treviño served in Michigan, Maryland, and Kentucky as an advisor to the Surgeon General for the Department of Agriculture before returning to College Station to teach at his alma mater. He spent his career in classrooms and military research labs, where his scientific investigations contributed to a vaccine for rabies. Mr. Treviño's devotion to education provided a source of inspiration for the younger generations of his family; his children, Elisa and Steven, as well as his nieces and nephews, all took note of his accomplishments and many pursued postsecondary education as a result.

Mr. & Mrs. Treviño moved back to Laredo after he retired from the university in 1981 where he remained active in the Laredo veterans' community. He raised funds and accompanied the city's Gold Star mothers to Washington, DC to visit the Vietnam Memorial after its completion in 1982. When the Laredo Animal Clinic veterinarian was unavailable, Mr. Treviño happily performed examinations and conducted surgeries in his absence. He was a man of integrity and determination, and did whatever he could to help others.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to recognize the late Gilbert Treviño. He is no longer with us, but his contributions to his country, profession, and community will live on. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JOSE WEEKS, RECIPIENT OF THE 2010 GRUBER AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant 1st Class Jose Weeks of the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division for earning the 2010 Gruber Award as the best field artilleryman in the United States Army.

The Gruber Award was established in 2002 to recognize the outstanding individuals who represent excellence among field artillerymen.

Sergeant Jose Weeks dedicates himself to strengthening his unit by training them to be prepared for any situation. On July 14, 2010, when his convoy came under attack, an improvised explosive device struck the lead vehicle in his patrol. One of the soldiers in the patrol was severely injured by shrapnel. By the time the medic arrived, the soldiers inside the damaged vehicle had already begun emergency care and had applied a tourniquet to the wounded soldier's leg—a practice in which Weeks had repeatedly drilled his crew. Their rapid response saved the soldier's life and demonstrated Weeks's effectiveness as a trainer. Saving the life of another soldier through effective emergency training merits Weeks receiving the Gruber award.

Weeks's Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Terrence Braley, confirmed, "Sergeant First Class Weeks is an adaptable, flexible leader and a master artilleryman. . . . He can move from doing his core competencies to firing battery platoon sergeant . . . to conducting crew drills [to] IED patrol without skipping a beat."

Jose Weeks is an exemplary soldier who is highly deserving of this award. It is an honor to recognize him for his leadership and commitment to serving in the United States Army.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in congratulating Sergeant 1st Class Jose Weeks on receiving the Gruber Award as the best field artilleryman in the United States Army.

IN HONOR OF H.E. FATHER MIGUEL D'ESCOTO BROCKMANN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th anniversary of H.E. Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann's ordination to the priesthood. Father d'Escoto has dedicated his life and ministry to peace, social justice, and solidarity.

Father d'Escoto was born in 1933 in Los Angeles, California, but spent a majority of his childhood in Nicaragua. After returning to the United States, he began studying at the Catholic seminary at Maryknoll in 1953. In 1961, Father d'Escoto Brockmann was ordained a priest of the Maryknoll Missionaries. Father d'Escoto earned his Master's of Science from Columbia University's School of Journalism in 1962.

Father d'Escoto has focused his ministry on helping the poor and disadvantaged populations of the world. In 1963, Father d'Escoto founded the National Institute of Research and Population Action in Chile. Through this organization, he sought to empower impoverished populations living in slum neighborhoods through community action in defense of labor rights. In 1970, while serving as Maryknoll's Social Communications Department, Father d'Escoto founded Orbis Books, the publishing arm of Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. Orbis quickly became a leader in religious publishing, offering works on spirituality, theology, and current affairs, often from a Third World perspective. In the aftermath of a 1972 earthquake that devastated the capital city of Managua, Nicaragua, Father Brockmann mobilized assistance for the victims and established the Nicaraguan Foundation for Integral Community Development.

As a veteran statesman and political leader, Father d'Escoto served as the Republic of Nicaragua's Minister for Foreign Affairs from July 1979 until April 1990. During his tenure, he played a key role in the Contadora and Esquipulas peace processes to end internal armed conflicts in Central America in the 1980s. He was later elected as President of the 63rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and served in this role from September 2008 to September 2009. Father d'Escoto is currently a member of the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of H.E. Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann's ordination to the priesthood and his significant contributions to the global community.

RECOGNITION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of the founding of the town of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, including the village of Housatonic. The town was incorporated by the colonial Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Sir Francis Bernard, on June 30, 1761. Nestled in the Berkshire Hills, Great Barrington features natural resources such as Monument Mountain, Lake Mansfield, and the scenic Housatonic River. It is the town that saw the first open resistance to British rule in 1774, Henry Knox's cannon caravan passing through to Fort Ticonderoga in 1776, and provided a distinguished roster of military personnel to every major conflict in which America has participated.

Great Barrington has also been the home of poet and journalist William Cullen Bryant, inventor William Stanley—who first lit the streets of Great Barrington—and inventor Marcus Rogers. Elizabeth Freeman, who successfully sued for her freedom from slavery in 1781, Laura Ingersoll Secord, the Canadian heroine of the War of 1812, Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas and James Weldon Johnson, the co-writer of the Negro National Anthem all resided in Great Barrington. W.E.B. Dubois, distinguished writer, editor, sociologist and activist, graduated from Searles High School in Great Barrington as valedictorian before embarking upon a lifetime of achievement that included the founding of the Niagara Movement, the precursor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons. The citizens of Great Barrington stand as an example of what hard work and resolve can accomplish.

The town of Great Barrington is also the center of many historical, commercial and cultural resources, including the Mason Library in Great Barrington and Ramsdell Library in Housatonic, the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, the Captain Truman Wheeler House, the Dwight-Henderson House, and the famed Newsboy Statue. With its scenic natural resources, Great Barrington has become the summer vacation destination of thousands and continues to be a vibrant and charming community.

On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the town of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, I congratulate its citizens and praise their dedication and perseverance throughout the town's history. I look forward with enthusiastic support as we continue to work together for a prosperous future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 499 on July 6, 2011, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no.''

ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL METRO DETROIT YOUTH DAY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise today to recognize the organizers, supporters and participants of the twenty-ninth annual Metro Detroit Youth Day.

While Metro Detroit Youth Day has many leaders, organizers, participants and supporters which make it possible, one man, Mr. Ed Deeb, stands at the foundation of this great youth empowering event. When asked by the Mayor of Detroit to rise to the challenge of overcoming divisions to create a stronger community, Ed answered, rallying the business community to work with Detroit youth to overcome the divide between business and youth. From this work, Youth Day was born as an event which calmed tensions through dialogue between Detroit business owners and the youth. Under Ed's leadership as chairman and coordinator of Youth Day, it has continued to grow and evolve into an event focused on nurturing the great potential of our youth in the City of Detroit.

Part of Youth Days' evolution included expanding its impact on participants, supporters and volunteers. As part of this expansion, Youth Day began to focus on providing youth with guidance, mentoring, substance abuse prevention and motivational activities designed to allow them to channel their creativity and ideas into positive outcomes. As part of this empowerment, Youth Day began awarding participants with scholarships for youth that displayed outstanding citizenship, leadership and service. With over seven hundred scholarships awarded since 1991, Youth Day has undoubtedly provided many Metro Detroit young adults with the opportunity to pursue higher education and more fully realize their potential.

The success of Ed's vision speaks for itself, with Youth Day having become a tradition for the Metro Detroit community. Since its inception so many years ago, Youth Day has grown from twelve hundred participants to over thirty-seven thousand annually, with more than seven hundred thousand youth participants throughout its history. Of equal importance are the more than fifteen hundred annual volunteers who come from over six hundred community organizations and businesses who supervise sports clinics, games, contests and many other activities that are a part of this daylong event. For its impact, Youth Day has been awarded numerous accolades including a Point of Light award from President George H.W. Bush and the Michigan Governor's award for Physical Fitness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the twenty-ninth annual Metro Detroit Youth Day and recognizing the organizers, supporters, volunteers and participants for working together to build a stronger future for Michigan youth in Metro Detroit.

IN HONOR OF ANNE FEENEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Anne Feeney on the occasion of her 60th birthday. Anne is an exceptional person and a longtime political activist and musician. She has been called a ''union maid and hell raiser'' and has actively fought for social justice over the past four decades.

Anne was born in Charleroi, Pennsylvania on July 1, 1951. From an early age Anne's two great passions were politics and music. She was greatly influenced by the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, and her grandfather, William P. Feeney, a mineworkers' organizer and violinist.

Anne graduated from Fontbonne Academy in 1968. She spent the next year saving money until she had enough to purchase a Martin D-28 guitar in 1969. Anne played this guitar for over forty years at political rallies and festivals around the world until she recently retired it from use.

By 1972 Anne had co-founded the Pittsburgh Action Against Rape, which still provides services to rape victims in the Pittsburgh area. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1974 and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 1978. She worked as a trial attorney for twelve years and served as president of the Pittsburgh Musicians' Union from 1997–1998. To date, Anne is the only woman elected to this prestigious position. Her political activism continues to this day. Currently, Anne is a member of the Industrial Workers of the World and the American Federation of Musicians.

Since 1991, Anne has toured around the world playing her music and participating in labor and political rallies. She has released several albums and her music has been covered by the band Peter, Paul, and Mary. Anne is a proud mother of two, a gifted musician, and a renowned political activist.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in extending warm wishes to Anne Feeney on her 60th birthday.

DEPARTMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chair, I urge Members to support an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2012 Department of Defense Appropriations Act (H.R. 2219) to restore funding for the Gulf War Illness Research Program (GWIRP) of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP).

The FY2012 Defense Appropriations bill, as passed by the Committee, cut many CDMRP programs by 20%. The amendment offered would restore $3.6 million to the GWIRP, bringing funding for the program back to FY2008 levels.

This program has made dramatic progress during the past year and deserves additional funding.

In a landmark Gulf War and Health report, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) has recognized that the chronic multi-symptom illness affecting 250,000 Gulf War veterans is a serious disease—not caused by psychiatric illness—that also affects other U.S. military forces, and called for a major national research effort to identify treatments. The scientific community has responded with a dramatic increase in the quality and quantity of proposals submitted to GWIRP. Most encouraging, GWIRP-funded researchers have completed the first successful pilot study of a medication to treat one of the major symptoms of Gulf War illness.

This effective small program demonstrably merits continuation and expansion, even in a time of fiscal austerity. As stated by the Institute of Medicine Chair, Dr. Stephen Hauser, it is ''vital to the health and effectiveness of current and future military forces, in addition to Gulf War veterans.''

The GWIRP is the only national program studying this issue. It is a competitive peer-reviewed program open to any doctor or scientist on a competitive basis. By contrast, Veterans Affairs (VA) research programs are only open to VA doctors, few of whom have expertise in chronic multi-symptom illness. To effectively address a difficult and specialized problem like this, it is necessary to enlist the entire medical scientific community.

Most importantly, it is working. GWIRP-funded researchers at the University of California, San Diego, will reported in June on the first successful medication treatment study in the history of Gulf War illness research. The study showed that the supplement CoQ10 produced significant improvement in one of the most serious symptoms of Gulf War illness, fatigue with exertion. It is not a cure, and the study needs to be replicated in a larger group, but the result is extremely encouraging.

At long last, the scientific community has recognized the severity and scope of this problem and is engaged in its solution. Congress has created this superb program, which is succeeding where others have failed. Congress must provide the necessary resources to continue this progress.

Additional funding would be used for pilot studies of promising treatments, for clinical trials of treatments shown effective in earlier pilot studies, and for the execution of collaborative research plans developed by consortiums of scientists funded in prior years.

As you know, our nation owes a sacred debt to the men and women who willingly serve and sacrifice while wearing our country's uniform. At this critical time in researching and understanding Gulf War illness, it is vital that bipartisan leadership points out the accomplishments of this small program to our colleagues, to ensure that it survives the current legislative session and its benefits are not lost to veterans of the Gulf War and future wars.

I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment to ensure the continuation of the Gulf War Illness Research Program.

BIRTHDAY OF IRV PICKLER

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the life of Irv Pickler, and wish him the best in his 90th year of life. Irv has demonstrated an exceptional dedication to public service in the community, and has made a lasting effect on all the people he has touched.

After graduating from California State University, Los Angeles, with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Irv joined the United States Army and later transferred to the United States Air Force. In England, he flew 35 missions into France and Germany as a bombardier-navigator. After 4 years of service, he returned to Los Angeles to be with his wife and young children.

Eventually settling in Southern California, Irv opened his own printing company, ''Printing Dimensions,'' in Orange County. Today, nearly 55 years later, Irv works to bring people together to accomplish client objectives with his company, ''Pickler and Associates.'' Irv has demonstrated a firm commitment to community involvement. As a member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Anaheim, he was twice named ''Kiwanian of the Year.'' In 1993, he was elected as a Distinguished Lieutenant Governor of the club. Irv has also served 25 years on the Cypress College Foundation Board of Directors.

In the 1970s, Irv was appointed to the Cemetery Commission in Anaheim, and to the Orange County Planning Commission, on which he served one term as a chairman. In 1982, Irv was elected to the Anaheim City Council, serving a total of 12 years, including 3 times as Mayor pro-tem. He consolidated half a dozen Orange County transportation agencies into the Orange County Transportation Authority, which produced gains in efficiency, and increased accountability. When California introduced its first cellular solar-powered callbox system, Irv was behind it. He negotiated the agreement with the California Department of Transportation and the California Private Transportation Corporation to construct the nation's first fully-automated, congestion priced toll road, State Route 91. Irv laid the groundwork for the purchase of right-of-way and widening of Interstate 5, which resulted in the largest public works project in Orange County in over a generation. He also helped pass Measure M, the successful sales tax program that invested in voter-approved transportation projects. It's no question that he demonstrated exceptional leadership during his tenure as Vice President of the Orange County Transportation Authority.

Irv currently serves as a member of the Orange County Water District Board of Directors. He has previously served as Water Issues Committee Chairman and on the Administration/Finance Committee, Investment Committee, External Communications Task Team, and Santa Ana Water Project Authority. During his tenure on the Water District Board of Directors, Irv played a key role in the development of the revolutionary Groundwater Replenishment System, a project that has been recognized with numerous national and international awards.

Irv has served as chairman of the Orange County Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Advisory Committee; president of Orange County Division of the League of California Cities, and member the Anaheim Union High School District Board of Trustees, Anaheim's Parks and Recreation Commission, the Anaheim Public Library Board, the Transportation Corridor Agencies, Southern California Regional Rail Authority, and the Southern California Air Quality Management District Inter-Agency Implementation Company.

Other goverment agencies with which Irv has worked include the Los Angeles/San Diego Rail Corridor Committee, Orange County Cities Airport Authority, Southern California Association of Governments, Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency, and Metrolink Joint Committee, and he also supports Acacia Adult Day Care, Alzheimer's Foundation, the Anaheim Family YMCA, the Anaheim Boys and Girls Clubs, and Anaheim Arts Council.

It is clear that Irv Pickler has maintained a firm devotion to public service throughout his life. As he embarks upon his 90th year, I would like to recognize his achievements and thank him for his dedication.

HONORING MR. J.D. LINDSEY

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Mr. J.D. Lindsey of Tift County, GA. Mr. Lindsey is a U.S. Marine and a decorated World War II Veteran. He received the Purple Heart for wounds suffered while serving our Nation on active duty. Since his discharge from the Marine Corps, he has worked tirelessly for veterans' causes and issues. He was responsible for obtaining the DAV van that is used to transport veterans to their medical appointments at the VAMC facility in Dublin, GA each week. He uses his personal funds to see that the van continues to run each week without interruption. When necessary, he has also used his personal vehicle to ensure that every veteran in need makes it to his or her appointments. He has unselfishly given of his time and money to not only serve our Nation while on active duty, but has remained committed to caring for his fellow veterans and their families all over the Tift area. Any number of citizens of Tifton have benefited greatly from his kindness and benevolence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in honoring Mr. J.D. Lindsey for his unwavering commitment and service to our country and our community.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H. Res. 268, reaffirming America's support for direct Palestinian-Israeli negotiations as the best means to settle the conflict and the only path to statehood for the Palestinians.

A Palestinian state created in the middle of this conflict would be a state created to make war.

Nothing would be more dangerous or more unworkable than for the Palestinians to gain the status of statehood without at the same time taking on the duties of a responsible state—namely, a commitment to peace with its neighbors and basic rights for all of its citizens.

The United Nations—a body established as a place of peace—should not create a state that is committed to destroying its neighbor. And, until the Palestinians agree to recognize Israel's right to exist and disarm the terrorists, there is no chance that a Palestinian state would be committed to peaceful co-existence with its neighbor.

This resolution is a simple, basic, commonsense restatement of the clear fact that the dispute between the Palestinians and the Israelis cannot be resolved unilaterally; it cannot be resolved by UN fiat; it cannot be resolved by outside forces; it cannot be resolved if the Palestinians refuse to recognize Israel as a Jewish state; it cannot be resolved if Palestinians refuse to forswear terrorism against Israel and take actions to dismantle their terrorist infrastructure; it cannot be resolved if the Palestinians continue to set preconditions for coming to the bargaining table; and, it cannot be resolved unless all members of the Palestinian unity government agree to abide by previous agreements with the United States and Israel.

This conflict can only be resolved by both parties sitting down at a table and hammering out an agreement on the basic issues that divide them.

The Palestinians must understand that they will only have a state once they make peace with Israel.

I hope the United States would make clear its intention to veto any unilateral declaration of statehood at the United Nations and to penalize the Palestinians if they are foolhardy

enough to pursue a path that will only lead to more conflict and bloodshed.

That's why I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H. Res. 268 and in opposing the Palestinians' dangerous and desperate effort to obtain an empty declaration of statehood without peace at the United Nations.

HONORING REVEREND GEORGE LEE JOHNSON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Mr. NUNES and Mr. COSTA, to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved leader in the Fresno Community, Reverend George Lee Johnson, and to recognize his tireless work as the Senior Pastor of Peoples Church. Ministering to thousands, Reverend Johnson earned the respect of fellow clergy and civic leaders alike.

The son of a Baptist minister, George Lee Johnson, or G.L. as he came to be known, grew up in Houston. He moved to Fresno in 1961 to work as the Associate General Director of the Latin American Orphanage. That same year, Reverend Johnson and his wife, Jackie, joined the then small Peoples Church. In 1963, Reverend Johnson became the Pastor of Peoples Church at the age 37.

Reverend Johnson's commitment to his faith and the congregation of Peoples Church resulted in significant growth of the organization. His uplifting messages of hope and faith appealed to many worshipers. In 1978, Peoples Church moved to a sanctuary with capacity of more than 2,000 people, allowing over 5,000 people to attend numerous different services on Sunday. With an ever-increasing following, Peoples Church attracted a mix of civic leaders. Moreover, Reverend Johnson's hard work and service were influential in the community of Fresno. He organized the Pastor's Prayer Summit in Oakhurst, where over 45 clergy members met to pray for guidance for civic leaders in combating Fresno's crime rate and resolving socioeconomic problems. The success of this event inspired Reverend Johnson to organize a weekly Citywide Pastors Prayer Meeting which began in 1993 and still takes place today. In 2001, the Reverend was instrumental in bringing the Central Valley Billy Graham Crusade to Bulldog Stadium, an event which united more than 200,000 people.

Reverend G.L. Johnson retired from Peoples Church in 2008 after 45 years of service as the Senior Pastor. However, his retirement from the church did not mark the end of his ministry. Reverend Johnson continued to support the church and lend his wisdom and knowledge to the many Fresno residents who looked to him for guidance. He also traveled throughout the world, teaching at various religious conferences. After a brave battle with cancer, Reverend George Lee Johnson passed away surrounded by his loving family at the age of 83.

Mr. Speaker, please join Mr. NUNES, Mr. COSTA, and I in honoring Reverend George Lee Johnson for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions as Pastor of Peoples Church. The life of Reverend George Lee Johnson serves as an example of excellence to those in our community, and his legacy will not be soon forgotten.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 498 on July 6, 2011, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

INTRODUCING THE AMERICAN TRAVELER DIGNITY ACT OF 2011

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation to protect Americans from physical and emotional abuse by Federal Transportation Security Administration employees conducting screenings at the nation's airports. Year after year the TSA seems more belligerent toward Americans simply seeking to travel within their own country—a most basic of our fundamental rights—and sadly Americans are just expected to shut up and take it. We should not have to shut up and take it.

Many Americans continue to fool themselves into accepting TSA abuses by saying "I don't mind giving up my freedoms for security." In fact, they are giving up their liberties and not receiving security in return. Time and time again we see the revolting pictures of Federal screeners with their hands down the pants of children while parents watch helplessly in agony. We see elderly or disabled Americans being forced to endure all manner of indignity. At the same time, we repeatedly hear of passengers who seem to check all the boxes marked "suspicious activity" slipping through unencumbered. Just recently we read of a Nigerian immigrant breezing through TSA security checks to board a flight from New York to LA—with a stolen, expired boarding pass and an out-of-date student ID as his sole identification. We should not be surprised to find government ineptitude and indifference at the TSA, however.

What we ultimately need is real privatization of security, but not phony privatization with the same TSA screeners in private security firm uniforms still operating under the "guidance" of the Federal Government. Real security will be achieved when the airlines are once again in charge of protecting their property and their passengers.

To move us in that direction, I am today introducing the American Traveler Dignity Act, which establishes that any Federal employee or agency or any individual or entity that receives Federal funds is not immune from any U.S. law regarding physical contact with another person, making images of another person, or causing physical harm through the use of radiation-emitting machinery on another person. It means they are not above laws the rest of us must obey. As we continue to see more and more outrageous stories of TSA abuses and failures, I hope that my colleagues in the House will listen to their constituents and join with me to support this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 24, I was delayed in leaving the Medal of Honor Recognition Ceremony for Staff Sergeant Salvatore Guinta and was unable to reach the floor to cast my vote before the vote was closed. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

ANOTHER UNFOLDING TRAGEDY IN SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit an article which recently ran in the BBC regarding the unfolding tragedy in Sudan.

On the eve of the birth of a new nation in South Sudan, Khartoum is once again perpetrating acts of violence against its own people—this time in Southern Kordofan.

First-hand accounts emerging from the region are chilling . . . door to door executions, reportedly based on ethnicity and political affiliation; Antonov bombers leaving a trail of devastation in their wake, mass displacement.

The world says, "never again," and yet in the face of mounting atrocities, where is the outrage?

[From BBC News, June 23, 2011]

SUDAN'S SOUTH KORDOFAN: ''BOMBINGS, BLOOD AND TERROR''

More than 70,000 people are said to have fled violence in Sudan's South Kordofan state, where the government says it is disarming rebels. The region borders South Sudan, a largely Christian and animist region, which is due to gain independence from the mostly Arabic-speaking, Muslim north on 9 July.

There is concern about the humanitarian crisis and the alleged atrocities being committed. The area has effectively been cut off by the military and not much has been heard from people in the area. One aid worker who has just left the region told the BBC's Will Ross about his experiences:

It is terrifying. The civilians try to hide but generally they run in panic and hence, sadly, there are many casualties who die because of shrapnel. There are bombings and shellings every day in different areas.

There is a plane called an Antonov which circles high in the sky and keeps coming over. Then there is the whistle of the bombs as they fall. You have a few seconds to run but you do not know if it is going to fall on you or not. The sounds of the explosions are huge and sometimes the craters they leave are five or six metres across.

Burning hot pieces of jagged metal, the shrapnel, go flying across the air and if you are not below the surface in a hole or a dugout you are at huge risk.

BLOOD AND FLIES

Then there are the MiGs [planes] which come in very, very fast and low. These fire

rockets and they are terrifying because they are on top of you before you know it. You have no warning.

They are very loud and so the terror that this incites in people, even if you survive these attacks, is enormous.

They can continue for hours on end. You can imagine how awful that is for women and children and men, rural farmers who have no military background whatsoever. And when they sense that this is not an enemy from outside that is attacking, this is their own government, they just do not understand why this is happening.

There are so many poignant, heartbreaking stories.

A local farmer was lying on the floor of a hospital in enormous pain, with a large piece of shrapnel that had gone through his leg, with blood and flies over him. Again and again he was asking the same desperate questions: ''Why is our president doing this to us? Why is he bombing us?''

He kept saying: ''This is wrong''.

Then there was a young man who had fled a village that was attacked and when the SAF [northern] troops withdrew, he found to his horror that his wife and children had been abducted by the army.

With anguish in his voice he said he would rather have been killed than his wife and child taken.

''I don't know what they will do to them, I don't think I will see them again,'' he said.

No less than 75,000 people have been displaced, and because the bombing and shelling is continuing, that number is probably going up every day.

This is not a war of north versus south—this is about a people within north Sudan who want a peaceful existence in the north just with social and economic opportunities and access to justice.

The Nuba, a large percentage of whom are Muslims, feel their future is with north Sudan.

The people of South Kordofan, both the Nuba and people from the nomadic Arab tribes, feel marginalised by Khartoum. They feel they are not granted basic human rights.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE EXECUTIONS

The area offers a remarkable alternative vision of how Christian and Muslims and animists can live together. I have witnessed after Eid, the Christians bringing breakfast for their Muslim brothers and sisters, and at Christmas and Easter all the people from the mosque coming to say ''congratulations''.

But people there feel the government in the last few weeks has revealed it has no interest in allowing a political solution that gives rights to an alternative voice in the north, where there is religious tolerance and Christians and Muslims living together.

There is so much anguish. People say they don't want war but they say until the policies of Khartoum change, they see no alternative.

They are asking for help from all northern Sudanese to come back from this madness and have a look at how to build a peaceful, tolerant society in the north.

We are getting very strong reports that house-to-house executions are going on by internal security forces where summary executions are taking place based on ethnicity, political affiliation and even how black you are. These are civilians, intellectuals, teachers, community leaders, Muslims and Christians, and often they are killed by their throats being slit.

This may be only the beginning and it could well continue for many months and intensify. There is a complete lack of access—we learnt that the only airstrip that was left had been bombed and we have heard the government of Sudan will shoot down UN flights operating in South Kordofan so humanitarian flights are no longer an option.

We know that there is no access from the north by road so we are looking at a population that is now effectively besieged—without access to services or humanitarian aid and who are under fire.

I fear the government has started these military operations to try to ensure that opposition voice is completely squashed before the 9 July, so that no thought of help of any sort could come from the south, knowing that the emerging republic of South Sudan would be very unwilling to get involved as it would endanger their independence.

The great majority of Nuba people that I have spoken to are very worried the Egyptian forces that make up a large percentage of the UN peacekeepers are not seen as sufficiently neutral. Their cultural and religious background and their behaviour and attitude towards black Nuba people are unhelpful.

HONORING THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, 76 years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the National Labor Relations Act, which continues to protect the rights of employees and employers, encourages fair bargaining, and blocks harmful practices that hurt our Nation's workers, businesses and the economy.

This important piece of legislation in our Nation's history has allowed working Americans to enjoy their rights to assemble and organize into labor unions. Unions have been instrumental in strengthening the middle class. Leaders like AFL–CIO President Dennis Hughes, DC 37 Executive Director Lillian Roberts, Teamsters Local 237 President Gregory Floyd. SEIU Local 1199 President George Gresham and SEIU 32BJ President Mike Fishman, and AFT and UFT Presidents Randi Weingarten and Michael Mulgrew have all marched in the spirit of A. Philip Randolph and Thomas Van Arsdale to protect the civil rights of all Americans in the workplace and I stand by my fellow soldiers in our continued struggle to preserve the Labor Movement and all the victories fought and won.

With the recent change of rules enacted by the National Labor Relations Board, working Americans will be able to quickly unionize and cut the time businesses have to mount anti-union campaigns. There is still more to do for our workers. That is why I co-sponsored the Employee Non-Discrimination Act which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender in the workforce. I will keep on supporting other bills that ensure labor rights and will work hand in hand with union leaders to create an equal partnership in revitalizing our economy.''

IN RECOGNITION OF TEMPLE EMANU-EL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Temple Emanu-El of Edison, New Jersey, as its members gather to celebrate its 50th Anniversary. Under the leadership of Rabbi Emeritus Alfred Landsberg and Rabbi Deborah Bravo, Temple Emanu-El is a respected educational and religious institution for many families whose members remain committed to various community service activities. Their hard work and dedication are worthy of this body's recognition.

Since its founding in 1961, Temple Emanu-El's membership remains open to persons of any race, sex, ethnic background, physical capability, sexual orientation, national origin or marital status. The synagogue is a sanctuary for interfaith families, gay and lesbian groups as well as numerous organizations and religious communities interested in pursuing the Jewish faith. Its rich diversity ensures the organization's ability to provide various religious programs for all ages. The synagogue is proud to be the first religious school within the region to offer special education programs to its members. Pre-school students have the opportunity to celebrate Shabbat through song and craft programs. Teens also get together at Temple Emanu-El to study Judaism with their friends while community members remain engaged in the sacred work of 'tikkun olam', the repair of the world, through various social action programs.

The worshipers of Temple Emanu-El are committed to participating in various community programs and service endeavors. Food and monetary funds are collected by the worshipers and delivered to the members of the community. The members also partake in the weekend meals-on-wheels delivery program as they continue to reach out to members of their community in need.

The synagogue also maintains a commitment to provide various educational opportunities. Temple Emanu-El provides programs for the children to learn Hebrew and various Jewish traditions while adults are given the opportunity to study with Scholars-in-Resident and participate in Bar/Bat Mitzvah programs. Many congregants also join together on a weekly basis to study Torah. In addition to the plethora of activities offered at Temple Emanu-El, the synagogue remains a serene house of worship for its members to congregate and reflect.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Temple Emanu-El on its 50th Anniversary and thanking the members for their continued contribution to the Jewish community.

AFGHANISTAN DRAWDOWN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, in October, our troops will have been in Afghanistan for ten years. It is the longest war in our country's history. I am concerned that the mission has become more ambitious and our exit strategy has become increasingly vague.

This year is on pace to become the deadliest of this war. Over 1,600 Americans have been killed and 11,000 wounded in Operation Enduring Freedom. A 2008 study by RAND Corp. estimates that over 26 percent of troops may return from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with mental health issues. In terms of financial costs, California taxpayers alone have

spent over $50 billion on the war in Afghanistan. According to the Congressional Budget Office, ending the wars could save $1.4 trillion.

The President's announcement that he will begin removing surge troops does not reflect a significant policy change in Afghanistan. Removing the 30,000 surge troops from Afghanistan over the next year and a half only means that by the end of next year, we will be exactly where we were before the surge in December of 2009. Roughly 100,000 American soldiers will remain in Afghanistan to fight a war that I have serious reservations about.

I urge President Obama to reconsider his Afghanistan policy and commit to a meaningful drawdown of our troops.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE McCOLLUM AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentlelady from Minnesota, Ms. MCCOLLUM.

The amendment would prohibit the Department of Defense from advancing their recruitment and retention goals through various athletic sponsorships.

At a time when our forces are undertaking operations in multiple theaters, I think it is wise that this body not end the very successful platform used by the Department of Defense to recruit men and women into their ranks.

Contrary to popular belief, sponsorships also go far beyond driver appearances, commercials and decals on race cars. In fact, the National Guard's Sponsorship of the Panther Racing IndyCar team has not only been successful in recruitment efforts, but it also has been successful in technology sharing.

J.R. Hildebrand, who drives the National Guard Indy car, wears ear sensors that measure the G-forces he experiences during a crash. That information is very useful for neurosurgeons who treat soldiers suffering from Traumatic Brain Injury, often the result of roadside bomb attacks.

Understanding the nature and effects of Traumatic Brain Injury advances the ways in which we protect and treat our fighting men and women, and those same sensors worn by J.R. Hildebrand will soon be deployed to our soldiers downrange.

These athletic sponsorships are great recruitment and marketing tools, and they also help improve the lives and care of our service men and women. I urge my colleagues to oppose the McCollum Amendment.

HONORING TERRY DRESSLER

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Terry Dressler, recently retired after 33 years of public service devoted to protecting the air quality along the Central Coast of California.

Terry has had a distinguished career in his field, beginning his work with air pollution control in Ventura in 1978. He then worked in San Luis Obispo for almost eight years before coming to serve the Santa Barbara community for more than twenty three years, most recently serving for the last seven years as the Air Pollution Control Officer for the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD).

As a result of the work of Terry and his team, the County of Santa Barbara has improved its air quality through attainment of federal standards and has made major progress towards meeting state standards. Terry has effectively instituted and enforced programs that reduce stationary, marine shipping, and mobile source emissions while raising community awareness of air quality issues. Additionally, he was instrumental in the creation of the District Community Advisory Council and has worked with its members on state and federal clean air strategy. These initiatives have enhanced the agency's reputation for excellence in local and statewide communities.

My staff and I have worked closely with Terry in his efforts to lead the district towards its clean air mission and I have seen firsthand the great progress and improved air quality standards instituted by Terry and the APCD. His strong leadership and knowledge have directly, and positively, influenced the health of the residents of the County of Santa Barbara.

Terry is recognized as a dedicated public servant who has devoted his career to protecting the health and safety of the citizens of the County of Santa Barbara and the State of California. Terry's accomplishments in the field of air quality and his charismatic presence have left a lasting impact on his colleagues, staff, and community members, and we can all breathe a little easier as a result of his outstanding efforts. I am pleased to commend Terry for his commitment to excellence in the field of air quality, and I wish him a happy retirement surfing the Central Coast.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LINDA S. MULLER

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and salute Linda S. Muller, who is marking her 20th Anniversary as President and Chief Executive Officer of The Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center. Under Linda's diligent and tireless leadership, The Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center has grown from a small facility located in the basement of St. Luke's Hospital serving 4,000 patients each year to a greatly expanded and modern health center providing comprehensive primary and preventive health care to more than 18,000 patients annually in the City of Newburgh and the surrounding towns in eastern Orange County. As a result of Linda's tremendous commitment and passion for universal health care, many thousands of medically underserved families and individuals in our region receive the highest quality of care from the dedicated physicians and staff at The Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center.

In addition to overseeing the historic expansion of the health center's physical facilities, including the recent construction of a state-of-the-art new facility in the City of Newburgh, Linda has devoted a great deal of energy to increasing the services offered to our local community. The obstetrical health program developed by Linda in 2005 has now assisted more than 3,000 women in delivering healthy babies, many of whom now continue to receive health care at the health center. Linda also has responded to the urgent medical needs of our local community. This included creating programs to improve chronic health care management for diabetics and those with cardiovascular disease and initiating a model treatment program for people in our community living with HIV. Similarly, when it appeared that urgently needed treatment for people with substance abuse and chemical dependency problems might be lost to the City of Newburgh, Linda stepped in and created The Center for Recovery, which has now supported more than 800 patients in making a transition into healthy lifestyles free from drugs and alcohol.

Linda has led The Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center through her strong dedication to the premise that health care is a right and not a privilege. She has imparted to every one of the more than 200 employees who work at the health center the importance of fulfilling the center's mission to provide high-quality, affordable, and easily accessible health care to everyone in our community, regardless of their status or ability to pay for care. Linda and her husband Charles will also celebrate another anniversary this summer, celebrating 40 years of marriage. They have three wonderful children, Jonathan, Christopher, and Jessica and three beautiful grandchildren, each brought into this world by one of the health center's extraordinary obstetricians.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGIA CARAWAY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a very special constituent of the 26th District of Texas, Georgia Caraway. After 13 years of service as the Executive Director of the Denton County Museums, Mrs. Caraway will retire later this month.

As Executive Director, Mrs. Caraway's professionalism and dedication has greatly impacted her community; she has spent her career striving to preserve Denton County's history through projects such as the Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum and the establishment of Denton County's Historical Park. Mrs. Caraway believes her greatest accomplishment

was the founding of the Denton County African American Museum. Through her astute leadership and cooperative fundraising efforts, she enabled the restoration of the county's museums and saved taxpayers thousands of dollars. In addition to her work with the museums, she has also helped complete a series of historical photography books that commemorate Denton County, and she hopes these achievements will encourage others to remember the county's origins and history.

Mrs. Caraway has left a lasting legacy in Denton County through her work. I thank Mrs. Caraway for her service and am proud to represent her in Congress.

HONORING MS. JEANNE KUCEY

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jeanne Kucey on her recent election to the Board of Directors at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, NAFCU.

Ms. Kucey has served as President and CEO of JetStream Federal Credit Union since 2009. Responsible for operations in both Miami Dade County and Puerto Rico, her extensive experience in the financial services arena, including her time with credit unions in Atlanta, Georgia and San Diego, California, will be a tremendous asset to the NAFCU board.

Not only does Ms. Kucey bring a wealth of financial management knowledge to the table, she exemplifies the community based nature of credit unions through her work with the "Marlene Ericca Empowering Workshops" which provides life skills and mentoring to local disadvantaged women. Ms. Kucey is also an active member of the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Kucey is a welcomed addition to the NAFCU board and will have the opportunity to make an immediate impact in her new role as recent regulatory reforms have created a particularly challenging time in the credit union community.

It is because of the hard work and dedication of Jeanne and others like her that the credit union community has been able to continue to serve its members during the tough economic times our country continues to experience.

I wish Ms. Kucey the best of luck in her new role as a member of the NAFCU Board of Directors. I look forward to working with her in this capacity and ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Jeanne on this achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 497 on July 6, 2011, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

BELARUS DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 515, the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2011, which will support human rights in Belarus by encouraging the free expression of ideas among pro-democracy activists.

I would like to commend Mr. SMITH, the gentleman from New Jersey, for sponsoring this legislation and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. BERMAN, for their efforts in bringing this legislation to the floor.

Madam Speaker, Belarusians have the same right to self-government and free speech as their neighbors and through the reauthorization of assistance to their civil society, H.R. 515 will help them regain rights which have been repressed by the ruling regime.

Since he was elected as his country's first president in 1994, Aleksandr Lukashenko has steadily consolidated his power, reversing promising reforms put in place following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The CIA World Factbook describes Belarus as "a republic in name, although in fact a dictatorship." Former Secretary of State Condolezza Rice called it "the last true remaining dictatorship in the heart of Europe."

Belarus has been criticized for its dismal human rights record by the U.N. Security Council, the U.S. State Department, the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Council, the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

As a result of its human rights violations and a steady record of state-sponsored political repression, Belarus is subject to numerous sanctions from both the United States and the European Union. In 2004, Congress unanimously passed the Belarus Democracy Act, which authorizes assistance for political parties, non-governmental organizations, and independent media toward democratic and humanitarian reforms.

This legislation affirms that it remains in the interest of our country that Belarus returns to its rightful place among its fellow European democracies. Unfortunately, recent events validate its current designation as a rogue state. The White House released the following statement regarding its last Presidential election which saw widespread violence and voting irregularities:

> The flawed December 2010 Presidential election in Belarus and its aftermath—the harsh violence against peaceful demonstrators; the continuing detention, prosecution, and imprisonment of opposition Presidential candidates and others; and the continuing repression of independent media and civil society activists—all show that the Government of Belams has taken steps backward in the development of democratic governance and respect for human rights.

Madam Speaker, the focus of H.R. 515 is on the Government of Belarus, not its people.

Many of my constituents and their families came to this country fleeing repression from totalitarian regimes. Hearing their stories, I am constantly reminded that a government which respects human rights, free speech, independent courts, and transparent elections is essential to personal liberty. As we pursue sanctions against the government of Belarus, we must provide support to the pro-democracy movement.

With H.R. 515, we will send a message that governing through fear, censorship, and the threat of violence has no place in a legitimate republic. As we mark the 235th birthday of the United States and the rights we enjoy, let us encourage those who wish to apply our principles to their own governments.

With this legislation, we support the political activists, the independent journalists, and the civil society leaders who risk so much for the good of Belarus.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 515.

CONGRATULATING CORPORAL BURT RICHARDS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Corporal Burt Richards for being awarded the American Red Cross Community Courage Award for his work in educating the youth of today about the service of veterans.

Corporal Richards and the local chapter of the Jewish War Veterans spearheaded the campaign to close Palm Beach County schools in remembrance of Veteran's Day. While they were not successful in their efforts to close schools, they were successful in creating a new lecture series called "The Veteran Speaks," which has ensured that students in Palm Beach County are educated about our American war veterans.

I would like to congratulate Corporal Richards and the American Red Cross for the Palm Beach-Treasure Coast region for their great work on behalf of veterans and for the award. It is an honor having Corporal Richards as a constituent, and I look forward to a continued partnership in educating south Florida's youth about our veterans.

HONORING EULESS CITY SECRETARY SUSAN CRIM FOR MORE THAN 21 YEARS AS A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it my distinct pleasure to rise today to recognize Mrs. Susan Crim, a dedicated public servant who is retiring after serving more than 21 years as City Secretary for the City of Euless, TX.

Mrs. Crim was born in Woodward, OK, and is a graduate of Northwestern State University in Alva, OK, where she obtained an associates degree in applied science. She is also a graduate of the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification program, where she attained her Texas

Registered Municipal Clerks Certification in January 1991. In 1996 and 2001, she served as a trustee for the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program. Mrs. Crim is also a member of the North Texas Municipal Clerks Association, where she served as president from 1996–1997.

Mrs. Crim has a distinguished work history within the public and private sectors. In 1979, Susan was part owner and operator of Circle C Drilling Company. Following her time at Circle C, she took a position as executive assistant at Dresser Atlas. Mrs. Crim then served as office manager at Pecan Grove Baptist Church and School from 1983–1987. In June 1987, Mrs. Crim began her career as City Secretary with the city of Rosenberg, TX, where she served from 1987–1990.

In 1990, Mrs. Crim was hired as City Secretary of Euless. As City Secretary, Mrs. Crim recorded and maintained the minutes at city council meetings, managed the official Euless City public records, organized local elections and held the responsibility as keeper of the "Seal of the City." As a fundamental part of the Euless city government, Mrs. Crim has tirelessly served multiple mayors, council members and various city departments in Euless.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mrs. Crim for her service to the city of Euless. Her experience and expertise will be sorely missed. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Susan Crim on a tremendous career as well as wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

CHICKASAW WARRIOR STATUE DEDICATION

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an important milestone for a prestigious institution of higher learning in eastern Oklahoma. Bacone College, the oldest college or university in Oklahoma, recently dedicated the statue "Chickasaw Warrior" at its Founders' Day ceremony. This statue is a gift from its artist, Enoch Kelly Haney, and the Chickasaw Nation. Its dedication is a very special moment for this institution. Standing proudly at the center of campus, this tall, imposing statue depicts a battle-ready Native American man clenching arrows gazing into the distance.

In the six months this statue has been on campus, it has become symbolic of the common spirit found everywhere at Bacone. Founded in 1880 by Professor Almon C. Bacone in Muskogee, Oklahoma, Bacone College has been educating students of all backgrounds for the past 131 years. With more than two dozen Native American tribes represented in Bacone College's diverse student body, Bacone is known for preparing its students for success and preserving their cultural heritage. This statue aptly represents Bacone's long-standing relationship with the Native American community.

This impressive statue was sculpted by Enoch Kelly Haney. A 1962 graduate of Bacone College, Haney has become an internationally renowned artist and sculptor. His work spans four decades and his statue, The Guardian, stands proudly atop the Oklahoma State Capitol. In addition to his contributions to the field of art, Haney served in the Oklahoma legislature and in 2005 was elected Principal Chief of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. I would like to honor him for his time and effort in creating this generous gift to Bacone College and for his continuing service to the citizens of the state of Oklahoma.

Finally, I want to commend the Chickasaw Nation for donating this impressive statue to the college. Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby described this occasion perfectly when he said this statue reflects the "unconquerable" nature of the Chickasaw people and their unwavering determination to persevere. Now this statue will stand as a testament to their spirit, and there is no doubt this extraordinary gift will serve as an icon for Bacone College's future.

In these times of limited federal funding for higher education, it is important for the United States Congress to remember the local and regional universities that educate so many of our citizens, thereby empowering them to improve the future of their families and communities. Bacone College is a tremendous asset to eastern Oklahoma, and I recognize the Chickasaw Nation for their contribution to this important institution of higher learning.

H.R. 2112, AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. KRISTI L. NOEM

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2112, the Agriculture Appropriations bill. While agriculture, along with every other industry must take some reductions to get our spending under control, it should not be in a disproportionate manner. This bill would take a nearly 14 percent cut in discretionary funding compared to last year while other appropriations bills thus far have seen cuts less than 3 percent. I could not vote in favor of this bill because I did not feel that it recognized the importance that agriculture plays in our nation's economy or take into account the impact this would have on farmers. While it is important to reduce the deficit, we should do it in a responsible manner and not disproportionately on the backs of the farmers who are supplying our nation's, and much of the world's, food supply.

There were many provisions in the bill that I supported, but I felt the bill sent the wrong overall message about the importance of agriculture policy. As South Dakota's lone Representative, I could not in good conscience vote for a bill that unfairly singled out South Dakota's number one industry.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GREG COOPER

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2011, Greg Cooper lost his battle with cancer at his home in Tustin, Orange County, California.

Born on June 23, 1945, Greg Cooper proudly served as a United States Marine Corps Sergeant from 1963 to 1967. His commendable service included a tour of duty near the city of DaNang, in the Republic of Vietnam.

Upon his departure with the Marines, Greg worked with the Santa Ana Police Department where he held several high-profile management and tactical unit positions. Among these positions, Greg was the SWAT Commander for 10 years and was active in the original development and transition from traditional to community oriented policing (COP). This COP policing model has been successfully duplicated across the United States for decades.

While serving as a police officer with the Santa Ana Police Department, Greg earned a Police Science Degree from Santa Ana College, a Bachelors degree from California State University-Fullerton and a Masters degree from the University of Southern California.

Leaving the Santa Ana Police Department in 1992, Greg was appointed Chief of Police in Sanger, California. In 1996 he relocated to Washington, DC after accepting a position with the Department of Justice (DOJ) "COPS" Program. At the DOJ, Greg would be the Assistant Director, responsible for monitoring operations for more than 30,000 Federal grants to more than 13,000 State and local law enforcement agencies.

In 2002, Greg joined the newly formed Department of Homeland Security as FEMA's Director of Security/Chief Security Officer. He would later retire from this position in 2008. At FEMA, Greg had oversight for all FEMA facilities, disaster operations, information security, personnel security and all national security clearances.

Since retiring from government service, Greg, a highly regarded and well-known expert in several specialty fields, continued to serve as a consultant to numerous law enforcement agencies across the nation.

A grateful nation mourns the loss of a loyal friend, a respected leader and a dedicated public servant.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote number 496 on July 6, 2011, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, it is time to tell the story of all of the American people. Earlier this week we celebrated of our nation's 235th birthday. Here in Washington hundreds of thousands of people visited the National Mall, watched fireworks, took pictures of the monuments, and toured our national museums. The

story of our country's founding to our current status as the world's beacon of democracy and freedom, were on display.

But the full story of who we are as a nation and the many, vibrant ethnicities that make up the fabric of the American experience, remains incomplete. The story about the making of the American people—of all of the people—is missing and it needs to be told in the heart of our nation's capital.

That's why I am introducing a bipartisan resolution that calls for a Presidential Commission to study the establishment of the National Museum of the American People. A commission is the first critical step in the path toward the creation of a national museum that will highlight the diversity and richness of the cultures from which our ancestors came and will foster a sense of belonging to the nation by the waves of people who made us the leading economic, military, scientific, and cultural force in the world. The Museum's central theme takes its inspiration from our original national motto: "E Pluribus Unum"—From Many We Are One.

The Museum will be America's only national institution devoted exclusively to telling the full story of how the world's pioneers interwove their diverse races, religions, and ethnicities into the strongest societal fabric ever known to modern mankind. Both Canada and Mexico have major national museums in their capitals telling the story of their peoples and they are the most visited museums in those nations. People from every ethnic and minority group will come to see their own story and learn how they joined together with "the others" in pursuit of a more noble national purpose. Foreign visitors will come to learn how natives of their countries helped create our nation.

I fully understand the current fiscal realities of the day. This proposal will involve no authorization of federal funds and will not require the need for any taxpayer money. It does, however, already enjoy broad support having been endorsed by more than 130 organizations representing virtually every major ethnic and nationality group in the nation.

For the different groups who became Americans, the Museum will tell who, where, when, why and how transformed our nation. Today's technology makes all of this possible.

The Museum of the American People will be like walking though a dramatic documentary delving into these grand movements of peoples. It will follow in the tradition of some of today's most successful story-telling museums such as the Holocaust Memorial Museum. The goal will be to tell our peoples' compelling story with force and clarity.

While there should always be room for other national museums in our nation's capital devoted to all manner of art, cultural and scientific accomplishments, this Museum, covering accurately and adequately each group's story in the context of every group's story should help stem the trend of groups having their own individual, specific museums such as the National Museum of the American Indian, the National Museum of the African American History and Culture, and the National Museum of the American Latino. All of their stories should be told, but the list is nearly infinite while the space, money and political will is not. In telling everyone's story, the National Museum of the American People would recognize the important differences that set us apart while celebrating the common purpose that has brought us together—E Pluribus Unum.

I encourage my colleagues to support this measure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 6, 2011, I was unavoidably delayed and unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 495 through 501. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on No. 495, "yes" on No. 496, "no" on No. 497, "no" on No. 498, "no" on No. 499, "yes" on No. 500, and "yes" on No. 501.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, on July 6, 2011, for rollcall Nos. 495 to 501, I was unavoidably absent and unable to vote due to travel delays. Had I been present, I would have voted, "no" on 495, "aye" on 496, "no" on 497, "no" on 498, "no" on 499, "aye" on 500, and "aye" on 501.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. TIMOTHY WARREN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Memphis Police Officer Timothy Warren, a courageous and deeply generous man who bettered the Memphis community through his service as a police officer and through his charitable work for the homeless. Lamentably, on Sunday, July 3, Officer Warren laid down his life while responding to a rogue gunman in a Memphis hotel.

Public safety is an inherent power of government and every day across our nation police officers put their lives on the line to protect our citizens. Officer Warren, like his fellow Memphis police officers, responded when the need arose, without hesitation and with great courage. His actions on July 3rd may very well have saved the lives of others.

Born in 1971, Officer Warren grew up in Cleveland, Mississippi and received a bachelor's degree from Delta State University, where he also earned a spot on the Mississippi All State Football Team. Despite his successes during college, he briefly ended up homeless and was forced to sleep in abandoned houses in the dead of winter. The empathy Officer Warren developed for the homeless community would last a lifetime.

After moving to Memphis, Officer Warren served as a Deputy Jailer for the Shelby County Sheriffs office from 2000 until joining the Memphis Police Department in 2003. He served as a Patrolman in the South Main district, choosing to work a night shift in order to see his 8-year-old son, James, off to school in the mornings and to watch his 4-year-old daughter, Jewel, during the day.

Officer Warren and his wife, Betsy Gray, were active in the community helping to feed the homeless. While on patrol, Officer Warren would pass out bottles of cold water to the homeless sweltering in the heat and humidity of Memphis. While off duty with his family, they would take their grill to Overton Park to feed the homeless. At one point, Officer Warren considered leaving law enforcement to start a church. However his good friend and ordained minister, Jeff Gray, remembers him saying "Well, police work is all I know. I enjoy it. It also gives me the chance to minister to people because I'm right there."

Officer Timothy Warren was a man of exceptional courage with a big heart. His was a life too short, but today I honor him as a public servant and a hero. The city of Memphis is better because of his calling to serve and protect and because of his love for Memphis and its citizens. Officer Warren is survived by his wife Betsy, two children, James and Jewel, his father Jimmy Warren and his Sister Dondi Warren.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DANCE DAY ON SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2011

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a resolution designating the last Saturday in July as National Dance Day to combat obesity and overweight through dance of all kinds. This year, each community throughout the country is encouraged to celebrate National Dance Day on Saturday, July 30. In the nation's capital, National Dance Day will be celebrated at the Sylvan Theatre on the National Mall.

Our country has a notorious adult and child overweight and obesity epidemic. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, childhood obesity in the United States has more than tripled in the past 30 years. In the United States, almost one-third of children and teenagers ages 2 to 19 and 68 percent of adults ages 20 and older are obese or overweight. We can promote physical activity among children and adults while having fun dancing, an exercise that most enjoy.

On the National Mall, "So You Think You Can Dance" producer and celebrity judge Nigel Lythgoe, the Dizzy Feet Foundation, and the Larry King Cardiac Foundation will host a variety of dance groups that will perform the dances that keep them fit. A Flash Mob will also have everybody dancing for fun and physical fitness on July 30.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the resolution and to encourage dancing for physical exercise on National Dance Day and throughout the year.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF RALPH CALCATERRA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, on June 18, 2011, surrounded by his family, my friend Ralph Calcaterra of Atherton, California, passed away. He leaves his wife Ferne, two children, Melissa Freeman and Richard Calcaterra, and three grandchildren.

For almost forty years, my family was blessed with the friendship of Ralph Calcaterra.

He made us laugh across the decades and generations.

He rode his bike to our house on Saturdays for almost twenty years—smiling and calling out, "anybody home?" and "what's going on?"

We learned more about Iron Mountain, Michigan, and Las Vegas, than anybody else in Atherton.

We saw how much a man can love his wife, his children, and his grandchildren.

We learned the latest prices of real estate in Atherton—including who had bought what, and at what price.

Most of all, we saw close up and personal, what loyal friendship was. Ralph embodied it.

Today, heaven is a better place. Saints and sinners alike are laughing and learning as we did because Ralph is there.

Thank you Ralph, for being our loving, smiling and loyal friend.

You enriched our lives just by being wonderful you, and we are already missing you.

Happy bike riding across heaven, and know we will love you across eternity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in offering our condolences to the family of Ralph Calcaterra, a proud citizen and a true patriot of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 495 on July 6, 2011, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

THE AVIATION HALL OF FAME

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, the Aviation Hall of Fame was established in Dayton, Ohio, on October 5, 1961, with five Daytonians as its founding fathers.

The founders of the Hall of Fame were tasked with preserving the history of aviation heroes, fostering a better appreciation of the origins and growth of aviation and cataloging the role aviation has played in changing the economic, social and scientific trajectory of our nation.

Through the tireless efforts of its founders in establishing the Hall of Fame, aviation pioneers and achievers have been suitably honored for the last half-century.

Located within the NMUSAF with over 200 inductees, the Hall will induct 4 new honorees this month.

From pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright of Ohio, to astronauts, such as Neil Armstrong, pilots, such as Charles Lindberg and Amelia Earhart, inventors, such as Alexander Graham Bell, and entrepreneurs, such as William Boeing, among countless others whose contributions to aviation have made the U.S. aerospace industry the most advanced in the world.

Since 1981 the Hall of Fame has annually bestowed its prestigious "Spirit of Flight" Award upon a group or organization in recognition of its achievement in advancing aviation. The 2011 Milton Caniff "Spirit of Flight" Award recipient will be the U.S. Navy Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team, in recognition of the group's 65–year history of serving as positive role models and goodwill ambassadors for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. More than 460 million fans have witnessed the teams' spectacularly choreographed aerial performances since the group was formed in 1946.

The Hall of Fame Learning Center exhibit hall features interactive exhibits and displays serving nearly one million learners of all ages a year. Visitors can experience landing an aircraft on a Navy carrier, controlling the movement of a helicopter, docking in space with the Hubble Space Telescope, and taking the controls of an historic aircraft on one of four flight simulators.

On behalf of all the Americans who have been inspired by the history of flight and the accomplishments of our aviation pioneers, I congratulate the Aviation Hall of Fame, its board of trustees, and dedicated staff on their many accomplishments.

This month marks the Hall of Fame's fiftieth enshrinement ceremony, celebrating an historic milestone in the integral role it has served in honoring pioneers of aviation.

I join Ohioans and fans of aviation everywhere to recognize those founders and the National Aviation Hall of Fame: James W. Jacobs, Gregory C. Karas, John A. Lombard, Larry E. O'Neil, and Gerald E. Weller.

Their vision, leadership, and dedication have helped to preserve the rich history of aviation for all Americans over the past fifty years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 25, I was delayed in leaving the Medal of Honor Recognition Ceremony for Staff Sergeant Salvatore Guinta and was unable to reach the floor to cast my vote before the vote was closed.

Had I been present, I would have voted, "yes".

HONORING THEOLA MARIE STARKS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, Theola Marie Starks was born on June 2nd, 1928 in Grant, Oklahoma, the fourth of ten children of Reverend John B. and Marie C. Dawson. She and her husband, Burnes O. (Chief) Starks, Sr., moved to Phoenix in 1949 and started a family with the first of their ten children, Burnes O. (Burney) Starks, Jr. Mr. Starks was a chemist and soil tester for Arizona Testing Laboratories, and both Mr. and Mrs. Starks supplemented their income by picking cotton across the state.

The family moved to Tucson in 1966 and continued to raise their ten children on the south side of town in the Western Hills and Las Vistas neighborhoods. Mrs. Starks was very involved in community service, working as a teacher's aide and volunteering at a number of schools including Utterback, Cavett and Townsend. She always made friends easily and turned them into family. She believed in the Village raising children—she felt strongly that "your kids are mine and mine are yours."

Mrs. Starks also frequently volunteered with respected neighborhood matriarch Mrs. Tommie Thomas. Even though she only had a tenth grade education, she made sure her children understood the value and importance of education, integrity and hard work. All ten children—Burnes O., Gary E., Daryl D., Terry L., Charles G., Donna R., Harry J., Jacqueline B., Larry D., and Timothy B.—finished high school and entered college. Seven of the ten children earned college degrees.

Dr. Kevin Leman, noted psychologist and birth order doctor, has often commented on this woman and the remarkable way she raised ten children. Beyond her immediate family, nearly 100 children knew her as "mom" or "grandma."

Theola Starks' life was defined by miracles, as those who know her can testify, but the greatest miracle was her—the ability to smile, touch, befriend, forgive, mother and love anyone who came into her life. She was the ultimate prayer warrior. Today, we mark her passing and commend her as a role model and a wonderful person.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I will vote yes on this resolution because I oppose a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood in the U.N.

We all know the status quo in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank is unsustainable. It's bad for Israelis, it's bad for Palestinians, and it's bad for the United States.

I believe that a negotiated agreement between both the Israelis and Palestinians is the

only way to reach a just and lasting peace in the region. But peace will never be achieved with senseless terrorism or soaring speeches or military might. Only through direct, honest, and earnest negotiations will the dream of peace be realized.

That is why I believe that both sides must put aside their preconditions and come to the table immediately.

As former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert recently wrote, peace will only be achieved "with the courage to take decisions that will change a reality which is increasingly creating a substantive threat on the State of Israel's stature, on the international support it receives, and on its future as a Jewish democratic state."

Yet, I'm concerned this resolution—instead of rising to Olmert's noble challenge—is yet another missed opportunity for the U.S. to advance peace in the region.

Just last December this House passed unanimously a substantially similar resolution opposing the unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood. What are we accomplishing by restating our opposition?

Mr. Speaker, I worry that we have become too engrossed in the rhetorical debate of peace and are neglecting to fully pursue it. We could easily fill this Chamber with the words spoken over the years debating this conflict, but the room filled with actions taken to end it would sadly be much, much smaller.

This is a pivotal moment—a moment that demands bold, courageous leadership from Prime Minister Netanyahu, from President Abbas, and from President Obama. It is a moment that requires everyone—Israeli and Palestinian, friend and foe—to come together and resolve this crisis once and for all.

Congress can and should play a constructive role in this debate. But I'm concerned that repeatedly criticizing the Palestinians—and only the Palestinians—risks pushing Israelis and Palestinians further apart rather than bringing them closer together. Unfortunately, both Israelis and Palestinians are engaged in activities that are undermining peace efforts, and we must not ignore this mutual responsibility for the conflict.

And I'm also concerned that this resolution further isolates the United States and Israel and undermines our credibility as a serious broker for peace. There is no denying that both Israel and the United States are growing increasingly isolated in the international community. As President Obama said, "the international community is tired of an endless process that never procures an outcome." This resolution does nothing to change that.

Rather than spending our time reiterating the already established position against a unilateral declaration of statehood, we should be focusing on concrete measures that advance peace.

We should be looking for ways to help Israel adapt to the new realities of the Arab Spring rather than simply reinforcing the status quo.

And we should be encouraging both the Palestinians and Israelis to negotiate rather than just criticizing the Palestinians for not doing so.

At this critical juncture, with so much uncertainty and unrest throughout the Middle East, the U.S. needs to engage in constructive dialogue with all parties and help them bring this tragic conflict to an end. The U.S. cannot make peace in the region, only the parties can. But the U.S. has always been an indispensable agent in brokering peace.

That is why it is imperative that we reclaim that constructive role and foster a negotiated settlement that ensures the security of Israel, recognizes the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people, and promotes U.S. national security interests.

IN SUPPORT OF HOLDING THE 2016 DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IN NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to propose that the 2016 Democratic Convention be held in Northern New Jersey. With easy access to a wide variety of transportation options, many local tourist attractions, and a proven record of successfully hosting large-scale events, Northern New Jersey is an ideal location and I urge my Democratic colleagues to join me in support of our bid to host the 2016 Convention.

Northern New Jersey has everything that a large-scale, high-profile event requires in order to go off without a hitch. Multiple airports provide access for visitors arriving from all across the country, while those traveling along the Eastern Seaboard have the option of taking Amtrak or one of several bus lines—all of which are particularly convenient to visitors from Washington, DC. Whether hosted in my district at the New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, at the Prudential Center in Newark, or both: our convention facilities are brand new, state-of-the-art, and well-equipped to host large events. Northern New Jersey boasts many hotels and tourist attractions for visitors, as well as proximity to other exciting locations; convention-goers would be just across the river from New York City and just up the Jersey shore from Atlantic City. Even as our national economy struggles to bounce back, tourism in Northern New Jersey has continued to flourish over the past few years, due in no small part to the infrastructure and facilities that our region has to offer visitors from across the Nation.

Most recently, the city of Newark hosted the 2011 NCAA East Regional Championship at the Prudential Center. Visitors, players, and league administrators alike were impressed and pleased with their newly chosen host city, with top NCAA officials noting that they are definitely on board with a future hosting bid. Looking toward the future, Super Bowl XLVII will be held at the New Meadowlands Stadium in 2014, and over 100,000 visitors from across the country are expected to travel to Northern New Jersey for this historic game. Both of these important events of national importance were brought to Northern New Jersey because of everything we have to offer, and I am confident that delegates and Convention participants alike would be pleased with the choice to hold our party's most important meeting here as well. A highly diverse region, Northern New Jersey is emblematic of the many cultures, ideas, and priorities that make up our great Nation, and I believe this is a fitting backdrop for the selection of our party's nominee for the 2016 Presidential race.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to consider Northern New Jersey as the site for the 2016 Democratic Convention. I know that we would host a memorable and well-executed Convention and I urge the Democratic Party to explore this option for 2016.

INTRODUCTION ON RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with many of my colleagues to introduce a resolution to grant the Montford Point Marines a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor that can be bestowed for an outstanding deed or act of service to the security, prosperity, and national interest of the United States.

On June 25, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802 establishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission and opening the doors for the very first African Americans to enlist in the United States Marine Corps.

These African Americans, from all states, were not sent to the traditional boot camps of Parris Island, South Carolina, and San Diego, California. Instead, African American Marines were segregated—experiencing basic training at Camp Montford Point near the New River in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Approximately 20,000 African American Marines received basic training at Montford Point between 1942 and 1949.

On August 26, 1942, Howard P. Perry of Charlotte, North Carolina, was the first Black private to set foot on Montford Point.

During April 1943 the first African American Marine Drill Instructors took over as the senior Drill Instructors of the eight platoons then in training; the 16th Platoon (Edgar R. Huff), 17th (Thomas Brokaw), 18th (Charles E. Allen), 19th (Gilbert H. Johnson), 20th (Arnold R. Bostic), 21st (Mortimer A. Cox), 22nd (Edgar R. Davis, Jr.), and 23rd (George A. Jackson).

The initial intent was to discharge these African American Marines after the War, returning them to civilian life. Attitudes changed as the war progressed. Once given the chance to prove themselves, it became impossible to deny the fact that African American Marines were just as capable as all other Marines regardless of race, color, creed or National origin.

Black Marines of the 8th Ammunition Company and the 36th Depot Company landed on the island of Iwo Jima on D-day, February 19, 1945. The largest number of Black Marines to serve in combat during World War II took part in the seizure of Okinawa in the Ryuku Islands with some 2,000 Black Marines seeing action during the campaign. Overall 19,168 Blacks served in the Marine Corps in World War II.

On November 10, 1945, Frederick C. Branch was the first African American Marine to be commissioned as a second lieutenant, at the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia.

In July of 1948 President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981 ending segregation in the military. In September of 1949, Montford Marine Camp was deactivated—ending seven years of segregation.

I am honored to offer this resolution to recognize their service and sacrifice and acknowledge today's United States Marine Corps as an excellent opportunity for advancement of persons of all races due to the service and example of the original Montford Point Marines.

SUPREME COURT RECUSAL PROCESS IN NEED OF TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern that justices of the Supreme Court are not required to explain their decisions to recuse—or not recuse themselves in a particular case before the Court, and that those decisions are final and unreviewable. Recusal decisions, left to each individual justice to make on his or her own and with no opportunity for review, require that each justice be a judge in their own case.

Questions of impartiality erode the integrity of the Court and threaten to undermine public trust in our judicial system. The recusal process for Supreme Court justices must be reformed to provide an open and reviewable process.

A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE'S RECUSAL DECISIONS SHOULD BE TRANSPARENT AND REVIEWABLE

(By the Alliance for Justice)

The recusal process for Supreme Court justices needs transparency and accountability. Although there is a statute governing recusal—28 U.S.C. §4551—that applies to Supreme Court justices, the statute does not require individual justices to explain their recusal decisions, and those decisions are final and unreviewable. This system violates the basic maxim that no one should be a judge in his own case. It also ignores the fact that the standard to be applied in recusal cases is the appearance of bias, which by necessity depends on the views of others, and not the justice's own views of his or her impartiality. Exacerbating this lack of accountability is a lack of transparency, as justices are not required to issue a written opinion explaining a recusal decision.

That's why over 100 law professors recently sent a letter calling on Congress to hold hearings and implement legislation to increase the transparency and accountability of recusal decisions.

A recent Supreme Court case, Caperton v. A.T. Massey Coal, Inc. provides an object lesson in the hazards of a self-policing judiciary, in which individual judges determine whether or not their impartiality can reasonably be questioned. In Caperton, West Virginia Justice Brent D. Benjamin received substantial campaign contributions made directly or indirectly from the president of a company with an outstanding $50 million judgment against it on appeal before the judge. Justice Benjamin denied three motions to recuse himself, and then voted in the 3–2 majority to reverse the judgment against the company. A public opinion poll indicated that 67% of West Virginians doubted Justice Benjamin would be fair and impartial.

The Supreme Court reversed Justice Benjamin's decisions not to recuse himself on the basis that the risk of actual bias was so high that it violated petitioners' constitutional due process rights. It did not matter what Justice Benjamin thought of his own potential for bias, the key was whether the appearance of impartiality was compromised, the Court held. The Court emphasized the need for an objective test to evaluate whether an interest rises to such a degree that the average judge might become biased, rather than relying on a judge's self-evaluation of actual bias. ''The difficulties of inquiring into actual bias and the fact that the inquiry is often a private one, simply underscore the need for objective rules,'' the Court added. The Court held that the need for an independent inquiry is particularly important ''where, as here, there is no procedure for judicial factfinding and the sole trier of fact is the one accused of bias.''

The opacity and lack of accountability of the recusal process erodes public confidence in the integrity of the Court and the sense that justice is being administered fairly. For example:

In 2003, a prominent legal ethicist argued that Justice Breyer should have recused from Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America v. Walsh, in which an association of drug manufacturers, including three in which Justice Breyer held stock, brought suit challenging the constitutionality of state regulations aimed at keeping drug costs down for consumers. Justice Breyer chose not to recuse himself, despite his potential financial conflict of interest.

In 2004, just weeks after the Supreme Court granted certiorari in a public records case brought by the Sierra Club against then-Vice President Dick Cheney, Justice Scalia went duck hunting with Cheney and accepted a free ride on the Vice President's plane. Despite widespread public criticism questioning his appearance of bias in the case, Justice Scalia refused to recuse himself. In a memorandum opinion denying the Sierra Club's motion to recuse, Justice Scalia wrote that he ''would have been pleased to demonstrate [his] integrity'' by disqualifying himself from the case, but nonetheless decided there was no basis for recusal. He then cast his vote in support of Vice President Cheney's position.

This year, the advocacy organization Common Cause filed a petition with the Department of Justice, requesting that it file a Rule 60(b) motion seeking the invalidation of last year's Citizens United v. FEC ruling on the basis that Justices Scalia and Thomas should have recused themselves. The petition alleged the impartiality of both justices could reasonably be questioned under 18 U.S.C. §455(a) due to their alleged attendance at a closed-door retreat hosted by Koch Industries, a politically active corporation that supported and has benefited from Citizen United's dismantling of campaign finance laws. Common Cause also alleges that Justice Thomas had an obligation to recuse himself under 18 U.S.C. §455(b), due to a financial conflict of interest created by his wife's employment at a conservative political organization that stood to benefit from unrestricted corporate donations made possible by Citizens United.

Also this year, Representative Anthony Weiner (D–NY) and 73 other members of the House of Representatives have asked Justice Thomas to recuse himself from any upcoming review of the Affordable Care Act due to his wife's ties to organizations lobbying to repeal the Act. Rep. Weiner asserts that IRS records show that between 2003 and 2007, Virginia (''Ginni'') Thomas was paid $686,589 by the conservative Heritage Foundation, which at the time opposed health care reform. He adds that in 2009, Ms. Thomas became the CEO of a nonprofit, Liberty Central, which also opposed health care reform, and that earlier this year, Ms. Thomas announced that she had formed a lobbying firm, ''Liberty Consulting,'' to advance various Tea Party legislative initiatives, including the repeal or nullification of the Affordable Care Act. Rep. Weiner alleges that these connections give rise to an appearance of partiality, and a potential financial conflict of interest that require Justice Thomas to recuse himself, if the Affordable Care Act reaches the Court. While a judge's spouse is not prohibited from engaging in political activities, Judicial Conference Advisory Opinions interpreting the Code of Conduct make clear that a spouse's political activities may increase the likelihood that a judge must recuse from a particular case.

These examples highlight the need for transparency and review of recusal issues that arise for Supreme Court justices. The impartiality of specific justices, and thereby the integrity of the Court, has come under question because the recusal statute fails to provide an open and reviewable process. This needs to change, either through Congressional legislation, or by the Court itself adopting new recusal policies.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, the effort to establish a lasting peace in the Middle East does not lend itself to a simple up or down vote on a resolution in Congress, and so I rise to offer my thoughts on the resolution before us today.

While I voted in favor of H. Res. 268, because it reinforces the importance of direct talks for a two-state solution, I was disappointed with the resolution regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that was brought to the floor today. The fact is that this resolution was made possible because of the absence of a viable peace process.

I am disappointed with the resolution not so much because of the general contents of the resolution, but because this resolution does not treat the issue with the serious and careful consideration that it deserves. It is simply one in a series of votes in the House that fail to address the entirety of the conflict and take instead political shots at one side of the conflict.

Israel is and has always been a close friend and ally of the United States, and rightfully so. We share many goals and values, including a strong commitment to a vibrant democracy and diverse economy. Too often, however, Congress uses resolutions regarding the Middle East as referenda on whether or not a particular Member supports or does not support Israel, even though such support is not in question. That is unfortunate and does a disservice to the effort to establish peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Obama Administration, like its predecessors, has been working to keep the two parties at the table and to try to ensure that they can make the necessary compromises to ensure that type of lasting peace. Here in Congress, we should be supporting these important efforts, rather than playing political games, given the real-life consequences that this conflict is having on millions of people's lives and on our own country's security interests.

I am glad to see that today's resolution encouraged the formation of a two-state solution through the process of direct negotiations. I am also glad to see that it acknowledges the work that President Obama has done to try and ward off unilateral attempts to break out of the negotiating process. This resolution also importantly notes the violent and harmful actions of Hamas.

Yet I am disappointed that the resolution specifically criticizes the Palestinians for their actions but does not acknowledge that the Israeli government has also not always moved productively toward peace—in particular, through the ongoing construction of new settlements in the West Bank.

Furthermore, the truth of the matter is that the failure of the peace talks has provided the opening for an alliance between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas and, in their view, a reason for them to go before the United Nations, rather than continue direct talks. I support the continuation of direct talks and do not believe this issue should be resolved before the U.N. But make no mistake that the failure to achieve sufficient progress in talks has provided momentum to this latest effort to seek the U.N.'s involvement. That is all the more reason why Congress should prioritize real progress over political games.

I am further disappointed that the resolution misstates U.S. law, incorrectly claiming that current law precludes the United States from providing aid to the Palestinian Authority if it agrees to share power with Hamas. Current law rightfully provides an exception to the prohibition in order to enhance border security and the peace process.

In addition, I do not believe it would be beneficial to cut off aid to the Palestinian Authority. This aid provides Fatah with negotiating leverage among their fellow Palestinians against Hamas. Security experts, including Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak and others, have warned against such a cutoff, since it could destabilize the security situation on the West Bank. Fortunately, the language of the resolution only asks that the Administration consider withholding such aid, yet this is still unwise.

Congress could—and Congress should—take the peace process in the Middle East more seriously than it has with this resolution and similar resolutions before it.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is $14,343,021,848,987.23.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was $10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by $3,704,596,102,693.43 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA LETTER CARRIERS LEAD NATION IN COLLECTION OF FOOD

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the third time in five years, the men and women of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 1477 of St. Petersburg, Florida, led the Nation in food collection as part of the national "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive.

Their chapter alone collected an astounding 1,770,814 pounds of food that has been distributed to Pinellas County food banks, pantries and shelters, many of which are affiliated with Feeding America. St. Petersburg Branch 1477, combined with another local branch, Tampa 599, collected 3,500,196 pounds, more food than in any other geographic area in the Nation. In fact, these two chapters accounted for two of the top five branch totals nationally.

Having spent time with many members of Branch 1477, I know of the great pride they have in serving our community. They acknowledge that the "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive is an outstanding partnership between the National Association of Letter Carriers, the United States Postal Services, the American Postal Workers Union, the National Rural Letter Carrier's Association, Campbell's Soup Company, United Way Worldwide, AFL–CIO, and local businesses including Uncle Bob's Self Storage and Valpak, a major sponsor in my area. Most importantly though, the level of success of this annual drive is due to the compassion and support of the residents of our local communities who place bag after bag of food out at their mail box on this one day of the year to lend a helping hand to their neighbors in need.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the National Association of Letter Carriers for taking the initiative to sponsor the "Stamp Out Hunger" program for these past 19 years and in congratulating the letter carriers of Branch 1477 who serve from Dunedin through Largo, Pinellas Park, St. Petersburg and south to Punta Gorda, Florida, for once again topping the Nation in the collection of food. This program is in the finest American tradition of neighbor helping neighbor.

HONORING LOUIS AND SUSANNA HAGER AS CO-CHAIRS OF THE OTSEGO COUNTY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Louis and Susanna Busch Hager, co-chairs of the Otsego County Conservation Association, serving as long-time stewards of Otsego Lake. The Hagers are dedicated to the preservation of our most precious natural resources, particularly Otsego Lake in Cooperstown, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Hager have played a vital role in supporting community education regarding the challenging present issues surrounding development and maintenance of healthy lakes. They have also generously supported numerous environmental campaigns and programs, most notably the Otsego Lake Challenge Campaign.

It is with great honor that I rise today to commend the Hagers for their tremendously positive impact on our community and its future. They are being honored tonight for working tirelessly and devoting countless volunteer hours to the Otsego County Conservation Association and other community organizations. Through their significant philanthropic contributions, future generations can have hope for a clean and healthy living environment.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Louis and Susanna Busch Hager for their invaluable contribution to this community, our environment and our future. The positive results of their contribution will be noted for generations to come.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concern that H. Res. 268 threatens Palestinians with sanctions if they attempt to get UN membership this fall. This resolution, which addresses the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, unfairly demands more of the Palestinians than it does of Israel. The United States cannot be a force for peace by unfairly singling out one party and ignoring the faults of another. While the United States concerns about Hamas's inclusion in the Palestinian unity government are valid, we should not prematurely pull the rug underneath the feet of the Palestinian unity government.

In an effort to achieve peace, the United States must hold both Israeli and Palestinian decision-makers accountable for upholding past agreements and negotiating a new one. I urge my colleagues to support more balanced policies and actions that seek a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

As our country continues to help move the peace process forward, I remain committed to preserving the peace negotiations between all parties. I will continue to work with the Administration in honoring our commitment to a peaceful resolution in the Middle East.