

decade's wars as they and their families heal from wounds both seen and unseen. His attention to our most critically wounded has been a testament to his willingness to ensure our wounded Service Members and their families receive the best care and support the Nation has to offer. I have no doubt his commitment to these Americans, who have given so much, will indeed endure far beyond his days in uniform.

The United States Navy, the Department of Defense and the Nation will dearly miss one of its most respected and valued leaders as Admiral Mike Mullen leaves active duty and this Congressman and my wife Beverly will deeply miss his counsel on many important issues and most important his personal friendship. We will miss his humility, his selflessness, his candor and his integrity. When history looks back at this leader and his legacy it will be clear that his leadership produced the best military the world has ever known.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work closely with Admiral Mike Mullen over the last several years of his long and decorated career. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Admiral Mike Mullen for a lifetime of service to his country. For all he and his family have given and continue to give to our country; we are in their debt. We wish him, his wife Deborah, and his two sons, John and Michael, all the best in his retirement.

JUSTICE FOR IRANIAN PEOPLE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, thousands of Iranian-Americans from 41 states across America attended a rally outside the Department of State on August 26, 2011, calling on the Secretary to remove the principal Iranian opposition movement, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) from the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO).

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, which acts as Iran's Parliament-in-exile, addressed the rally via satellite from Paris. Excerpts of her remarks follow:

Honorable and brave Iranians, I salute your protest and gathering, which symbolizes an uprising for the freedom of the Iranian people and in defense of the persecuted and besieged Ashraf; an uprising against a discredited label against the Iranian Resistance. Today, your calls echo the calls for justice emanating from an enchained nation, which rejects the velayat-e faqih (absolute clerical rule) dictatorship. Ashraf is proud to have such admirable representatives and defenders like you; And the Iranian people are proud to have stored in your being the most prized possession required for the attainment of freedom and democracy.

Dear Compatriots, It has been more a year since the ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, which ordered the State Department to review the terrorist listing of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK). The Iranian people and the Iranian Resistance have paid the price for this unjustified delay with the blood of their

most courageous children. Political prisoners in Iran, like Ali Saremi, were hanged by Khamenei's henchmen. And, the 36 heroes of freedom in Ashraf, who were martyred on the orders of the velayat-e faqih regime, were all part of this bloody price. The terror listing in the U.S. is openly used as a justification to legitimize such bloodletting, both by the cruel mullahs in Tehran as well as their proxy government in Iraq. Therefore, the Iranian people are asking the United States, "Why are you not annulling the license to kill our children?"

The decision of the appeals court in Washington stated that the State Department violated due process rights during the listing process. And, 20 judgments by European courts against the terrorism charge leave absolutely no doubt that this label is completely discredited. Thousands of parliamentarians and human rights advocates in the Arab world and in Europe, joined by a large number of members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, forming a great global voice in defense of the freedom-loving Iranian Resistance. This constitutes an exceptional consensus in the face of 14 years of injustices committed against the PMOI and the Iranian Resistance. Dozens of the most honorable former senior officials serving in the country's administrations over the last two decades have taken a clear stance in the course of their multiple international conferences in Washington, Brussels, Paris, Berlin, London and Rome, leaving absolutely no credibility for this listing. Hail to their sense of justice and clear-sightedness through which the great historical symbols of America like Jefferson and Lincoln are resurrected.

We have seen how the mullahs' regime and the insignificant factions directed by Tehran utilize cruelty and insolence to attack and avenge these dignified personalities. But, these officials have shown extraordinary courage by placing their credibility and political reputation in support of this Resistance. We recognize the United States in the image of these noble human beings and not those who have succumbed to religious fascism. They represent an America that recognizes democracy and human rights in Iran as the precondition for global peace and security and guarantor of the American people's genuine interests. This is the United States that is standing by the Iranian people. For the past 170 days, your courageous and resilient friends have staged a sit-in across from the State Department. They echo the Iranian nation's call for the upholding of justice for the protection of Ashraf and removal of the PMOI from the terror list night and day, both under the summer heat and the winter chill.

Letters from more than 800 religious leaders and 2,000 priests across the U.S. in support of this Resistance. Thirteen hearing sessions in the U.S. House and Senate to pursue the issue of protecting Ashraf and annulling the discredited terror label against the PMOI. Passing of multiple resolutions in Congress, and especially the amendment passed by the House Foreign Affairs Committee last month about the imperative to prevent the displacement of Ashraf residents inside Iraq. And thousands of political, parliamentary, media and social initiatives, all of which have inspired the admiration of everyone. The evil forces that have laid a siege on your sisters and brothers in Camp Ashraf seek to destroy and annihilate Ashraf and its freedom-seeking residents. But, you have spread the flames of Ashraf in your society and hoisted its flag. Hold onto this flag more powerfully, because this is the banner of freedom and democracy in Iran.

Clearly, the U.S. bears special responsibility for ensuring the protection of these residents on the basis of its agreements with every single one of the residents in Camp Ashraf. We urge the U.S. to listen to Congress and the resolution passed by the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and abandon the idea of displacing Ashraf residents within Iraq. We call on the U.S. to support the European solution instead of this dangerous idea which will have no results other than a humanitarian catastrophe. Similarly, we want the United Nations to rise up to its irrevocable obligations in ensuring the protection of Ashraf. . . .

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HOLIDAY ISLES ELKS LODGE 1912 IN MADEIRA BEACH, FLORIDA

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding group of individuals that I have the privilege to represent in Madeira Beach, Florida, which has dedicated years of generous care and hospitality for our Nation's veterans. Over the years, in cooperation with the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital, the Holiday Isles Elks Lodge 1912 has proved that their commitment to our troops is unwavering.

Every day, members of Lodge 1912 can be found at the local Bay Pines Veterans Hospital demonstrating their commitment to those who have already sacrificed so much. For example, member Betty Ryan takes the initiative on a regular basis to find out what exactly it is our hospitalized veterans need. And within the lodge, Betty has set up a box for donations which she routinely presents to veterans at Bay Pines.

The Elks community also offers and supports many individual programs designed to help and enhance the lives of our veterans. One of these supported programs is the Wounded Warrior Project which, in 2009, the Elks National Veterans Service Commission made available \$50,000 to launch the Elks/Wounded Warrior Project. Just as the Wounded Warrior Project assists injured veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Elks offers a program known as the Army of Hope which assists the families of those who have been called to duty during these very difficult times of conflict.

These constituents of mine provide an outstanding service to our veterans; however, this commitment does not end with Lodge 1912. There are 2000 lodges nationwide and you will find their members hard at work in each of the 172 VA Medical centers around the country living up to their pledge: "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

Mr. Speaker, Holiday Isles Elks Lodge 1912 not only shines in their display of compassion and patriotism, but also reminds us of the characteristics of great people that make up a great nation. Thank you to all the members for their excellent service in the past and for your continued assistance to the community and our veterans in the future.