

hands. I have enclosed the article for your reference along with Mr. Fisher's documentation from the Foreign Agent Registration Unit which I accessed on the Department of Justice (DOJ) Web site.

I write today seeking immediate clarification on what appears to be an indefensible situation. According to this news report and information available on DOJ's Web site, Mr. Fisher is providing legal counsel to the government of Sudan and intends to make "representations (including petitions) . . . to U.S. government agencies regarding sanctions against the Republic of the Sudan." Was he granted a license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) at the Treasury Department to do so? If not, is his representation in violation of the law? If so, why would the administration allow this to move forward?

Sudan's president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, is an internationally indicted war criminal. He is accused by the International Criminal Court of five counts of crimes against humanity (murder, rape, torture, extermination, and forceful transfer of civilian population) and two counts of war crimes (for directing attacks against the civilian population and pillaging). In June 2004 I led the first congressional delegation with Senator Sam Brownback to Darfur, soon after the world began hearing about the atrocities being committed against the people of that region. I witnessed the unfolding nightmare with my own eyes. I saw the scorched villages and teeming camps of displaced people. I heard the stories of murder and rape.

But Bashir's assault on his own people is not simply a thing of the past. My office has received regular reliable reports from individuals on the ground in the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states of aerial bombardments, extrajudicial killings, illegal detention, disappearances, and indiscriminate attacks against civilians.

Furthermore, evidence gathered through satellite imagery by the Satellite Sentinel Project have found at least eight mass graves in and around Kadugli, the capital of Southern Kordofan.

Thousands have fled the violence. More than 20,000 are living in Yida refugee camp just over the border in South Sudan. But it turns out they aren't safe there either. Yida was hit by air strikes in November. A November 16 APP story reported that, ". . . an Antonov aircraft flew in from the north and dropped five bombs in and around Yida." This cross-border assault by the government of Sudan has put humanitarian assistance to this vulnerable population in jeopardy. Bear in mind that it appears that this aerial assault on innocent civilians happened just days after the Mr. Fisher signed a contract with the government of Sudan.

Mr. Fisher's client has a notorious history of brutalizing its own people. No amount of "representation" can erase the images seared into the minds of many of charred bodies, brutalized women and mass graves.

I look forward to a prompt and detailed response from the administration about this important matter.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF
SERGEANT AARON BENNETT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Sergeant Aaron Bennett, a highly decorated U.S. Army sergeant.

Sgt. Bennett was born in Mississippi and raised in Hawaii and Ohio. He attended Valley Forge High School in Parma Heights, where he was a member of the swim team. He graduated in 2003.

Sgt. Bennett joined the U.S. Army in 2007 and served as an infantryman with the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. He completed a yearlong tour in Iraq in June of 2011. Additionally, Sgt. Bennett was a member of the Presidential Honor Guard and was recently selected to participate in Scouts and Ranger Sniper School.

Because of his bravery and service to the country, Sgt. Bennett was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, an Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal and the Iraqi Campaign Medal. Sgt. Bennett was also the recipient of the Army Achievement Medal which he earned by saving the lives of two soldiers injured in a mortar attack.

I offer my condolences to his wife, Michelle; parents, David and Sally; and sister, Rachel.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of one of our country's heroes, Sergeant Aaron Bennett.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE "G.W."
GRIFFIN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late George "G.W." Griffin, a successful businessman in the food industry and admired leader in his community of London, Kentucky.

George began his career in 1950, at Laurel Grocery, a local wholesaler based in London, KY, where he served as President for 34 years up until his retirement in 1997. Using honesty and wisdom as the secret to his business success, George taught his co-workers to be forthright in following through with their commitments and careful in not committing to something they could not accomplish.

George's other grocery industry activities included chairing the Food Marketing Education Council, as well as sitting on the boards of the National-American Wholesale Grocers Association, and the Kentucky Grocers Association, of which he was elected president in 1979. A passionate and highly regarded businessman, Griffin was named the "Grocer of the Year" in 1986 and in 2005 he was honored as the first inductee into the Kentucky Grocers Hall of Fame.

Outside of his professional commitments, George served proudly in the United States Navy during World War II, and was very active in civic events and in service to his community. An avid golfer and thoroughbred horse

owner/racing enthusiast, George traveled throughout the world to pursue his passions. As a graduate from University of Kentucky and a member of the board of trustees for 16 years, George was a diehard Kentucky fan, and never missed a home football game until he became too ill to attend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in memory of George "G.W." Griffin for his dedication and service to the leaders and families of Eastern Kentucky. His enthusiasm and zeal will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE UNITING OF
TWO MARINE FAMILIES

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the uniting of two Marine families. On January 14, 2012, Lance Corporal Ronnie Porta met the parents—Chuck and Teri—of Corporal Charles Palmer II of Manteca, California.

LCpl. Porta and Cpl. Palmer served together in Iraq, braving daily dangers in order to protect our freedoms and liberty. Tragically, in March of 2007, Palmer and Porta's vehicle hit an improvised explosive device, severely injuring LCpl. Porta and taking the life of Cpl. Palmer, the first casualty of the war from the City of Manteca.

Palmer, who grew up in Manteca before joining the Marine Corps in 1992, received the Global War on Terrorism Service Award and Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal for his service.

Since the event in 2007, LCpl. Porta has undergone more than 120 surgeries over 4½ years at a medical facility in Texas. His ability to endure and succeed through the years is indicative of his good will and tremendous spirit. LCpl. Porta traveled from Texas to California to meet Chuck and Teri for the very first time.

At the January 14 event, members from all corners of the community rallied together in support of both families and to express their gratitude to those who serve. The City of Manteca, the Patriot Guard Riders, Marines, veterans' organizations, families, business leaders, and other members of the community worked as one to make this event possible.

As a nation, we are truly blessed to be represented by the brave men and women wearing the U.S. uniform.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this tremendous occasion and in honor of the sacrifices of Cpl. Palmer and LCpl. Porta.

IN MEMORY OF MR. ROBERT M.
SEELIE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Mr. Robert M. Seelie, a former councilmember and council president for the City of Lakewood.

Mr. Seelie was born and raised in Lakewood, Ohio by his father, a police officer for