

GI Forum. The organization raises money for scholarships for veterans and future military, but Mr. Alvarez and another member had the idea of starting a scholarship for teachers to help augment the money they pay out of pocket for classroom costs.

"He was a district attorney, but he was real down to earth," said Fred Garcia, an American GI Forum vice commander. "He never was assuming. He could deal with people from all walks of life, from homeless people to dignitaries."

Mr. Alvarez is survived by his wife, Sandra; daughter, Tanya; brothers Carlos, Alex and Luis; and sister, Sylvia, as well as nine nieces and nephews.

Please join me in honoring the life of Frank Alvarez and his dedication to our nation and community. He will be missed by all of us as we look to comfort his family during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT MA
AND THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, on May 20, 2012 the Honorable Ma Ying-jeou will be sworn in for a second term as President of the Republic of Taiwan. President Ma has already served four years as president and his tireless dedication to public service has been rewarded by the people of Taiwan with a well-deserved reelection this January.

During President Ma's first term, Taiwan has been accepted as an Observer in the World Health Organization, reduced tensions with the People's Republic of China, and crafted 16 trade agreements. I rise to congratulate President Ma on his election and the people of Taiwan for their decades of dedication to democracy and freedom.

As demonstrated over the decades, the United States of America and Taiwan enjoy a close and strong relationship based on shared democratic values and free market economies. Today, Taiwan remains a major trading partner and friend.

Our strong economic and cultural ties go back nearly a hundred years. I know this strong bond will continue for another 100 years, and, under President Ma's leadership, thrive in the immediate future.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Taiwan, I offer my sincere congratulations to President Ma and the people of Taiwan and look forward to our continued cooperation.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, Iran's failure to comply with U.N. Security Council resolutions

regarding its nuclear program, or its responsibilities as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, are deeply troubling.

A nuclear-armed Iran would represent a grave threat to the interests of the United States, Israel, and our other allies in the Middle East. This body has forcefully and repeatedly emphasized the singular importance of contributing to Israel's defense and well-being, most recently only last week when we overwhelmingly passed H.R. 4133, affirming the strategic relationship between Israel and the United States.

Sadly, the resolution before us does not contribute in any appreciable way either to Israel's security or to the goal of compelling Iran's cooperation on their nuclear program. The ambiguous language of H. Res. 568 effectively redefines the circumstances that could be used to justify a military strike against Iran. This could make it harder to reach an agreement through negotiations, since it could be argued that Iran—and indeed any country with a civilian nuclear program—already possesses "nuclear weapons capability." The consensus in the U.S. and Israeli intelligence community remains that Iran has not made the decision to move ahead with the development of a nuclear weapon.

Furthermore, the resolution declares that, of all possible responses should Iran make that decision, our government cannot consider containment. By combining these two provisions, even in a non-binding resolution, the Congress risks accelerating a drive to war.

Since President Obama took office, the United States has carefully built a comprehensive regime of multi-lateral sanctions in response to Iran's intransigence. After extensive diplomatic efforts by this administration, Iran agreed to reengage with the international community, and the second major negotiations session will take place in Baghdad on May 23.

The United States and our partners enter the dialogue with Iran from a position of strength and unity, while reports indicate Iran's leadership is divided and weak. With the P5+1 negotiations, we have a unique opportunity to demonstrate our resolve to achieve the goal of full compliance by Iran with IAEA expectations, while reversing the clock on Iran's nuclear efforts and building toward a permanent agreement that ensures Iran will never develop a nuclear weapon.

The United States built a global alliance against Iran with the support of close, like-minded allies Britain, Germany and France. But our efforts also rely heavily on Russia and China, partners that have at times seen this issue very differently. It is critical that we maintain a consistent and reasoned approach towards Iran that will help us maintain this network of partners.

As we wind down two wars in the region, it is urgent that we make the most of our extensive diplomatic efforts and the platform of stringent sanctions the world community has imposed on Iran. We must capitalize on the opportunity presented by the Baghdad talks. This resolution is inconsistent with that aim.

HONORING RIMA PATEL

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great Nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Rima Patel is a junior at Dawson High School in Brazoria County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

The government is a colossal term which is defined in a variety of ways by different people in different places. Government means a multitude of things depending on country, region, and geography. Many people are shut out in the darkness by their government and have to struggle to learn even the basics truths of life because their government is so secretive. Living in a democratic country, I believe that since the idea of democracy was conceived in the western hemisphere, the ultimate goals of the government should be: to serve as a guardian, to be a force that leads people, and to always highlight the people before itself. I also believe that government's responsibility comes directly from the people because they are the ones who vote and put trust into the people who will be leading them. However it seems in this day and age that people often times do not make decisions based on issues that they believe in but more so on the public image the candidates display. Slowly it seems as if the democratic ideals of our nation are shattering, the public who should be the true force behind the government, is fading away into the distant background. I believe it is the government's job to not let their power grow unchecked and restore the people with the power that belongs to them. We've often heard the term that those who serve in the government are public servants meaning they are there to uphold the people and assist them with their needs. Therefore the government needs to aid people in obtaining a secure life and perhaps giving people a path to go down. The people in the government are the leaders that people look up to so that means they need to be uncorrupt, trustworthy, and above all dedicated to the people. It is this that people look for in the government someone who fosters development and expands the nation in the most positive way. The government should not barge into people's life and try to control people who have different ideas but should instead spark enthusiasm for the people to be ideal citizens. Its seems that in a decade where TVs and computers are so prominent, that the government has simply forgotten to keep the public educated at every step. It is not the job of the government to protect people from the truth but instead it is their job to help guide the people through the truth. The government should not conform the masses of people but instead take into account the different beliefs, and create a unity. It is my vision, hope, and belief that one day the government shall be the upmost example of