

territorial sea and contiguous zone of the Xisha islands (Vietnam's Hoang Sa) and that on-going operation is conducted on a usual basis at a location administered by China without any dispute"; and that China would not accept Vietnam's request of negotiation over Hoang Sa.

3. The fact that China disregards Vietnam's communication requesting the withdrawal of the drilling rig and oil service vessels out of Block No. 143 is obviously an act on purpose and an intentional and serious violation of Vietnam's sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction over Hoang Sa, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf; serious violation of the accords reached between two countries' leaders, the spirit and content of the DOC, related principles the international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. The Chinese activities have tremendously affected the political trust between the two countries, adversely impacted the bilateral negotiations over sea issues, and damaged the sentiments and feelings of the peoples of Vietnam and China.

4. The Government of Vietnam respectfully asks all Governments in the world to voice condemnation of those wrongful acts by China; demand China to recall its drilling rig HD-981 out of Vietnam's waters and respect the rights and interests and coastal nations in accordance with the 1982 UNCLOS, fully and seriously observe the spirit of the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), ensure the security and safety in the East Sea (Bien Dong); and call upon China to soon settle disputes with Vietnam through peaceful negotiations, thereby contributing to peace and stability in the region.

[As of May 7, 2014]

FACT SHEET NO. 2 ON CHINA'S LATEST ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN VIETNAM'S EEZ

1. China's provocative behavior:

To date, the number of China's supporting ships moving toward the drilling platform has increased to more than 80, including 7 military ships, 33 marine patrol boats and surveillance ships, and many other vessels.

2. China's use of force:

Videos and pictures show Chinese ships, backed by helicopters, aggressively obstructing Vietnamese ships.

The Chinese ships also sprayed water cannons, damaging Vietnamese vessels and injuring their crew members.

At around 8:10 a.m. on May 3, a Chinese ship struck the right side of a Vietnamese Marine Police vessel at high speed, smashing the windows of the Vietnamese vessel that was attempting to take evasive maneuvers.

A total of eight Vietnamese ships were rammed, hit, or sprayed with high pressure hoses.

At one point, five Chinese ships surrounded a single Vietnamese vessel.

3. China's impingement on freedom of navigation:

The Maritime Safety Administration of China (MSAC) announced on its website on Saturday that all vessels should keep one mile (1.6 km) away from the rig, called the Haiyang Shiyu 981.

Despite Vietnam's objections, MSAC on Monday expanded the prohibited area around the rig to a three-mile (4.8 km) radius.

On the ground, China uses force to drive away Vietnamese ships.

The location is right on vital international sea lanes. Consequently, China's acts are threatening maritime security and safety in the region.

HONORING PAUL MARKOWSKI

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Paul Markowski. Paul is a Behavior Detection Officer with the Transportation Security Administration based at LaGuardia Airport in Queens, NY. While off-duty, Paul assisted a man in distress, saving his life.

On the afternoon of April 13, after finishing their shifts while walking to their cars, Paul and his colleague, Michael Dougherty, spotted a man who was signaling for help. They quickly approached and found the man struggling to breathe while waving a nonfunctioning inhaler. As the man began to have a seizure, Paul and Michael caught him before he fell, and then gently laid him on the ground. Other officers noticed the situation and subsequently called for an ambulance. The man was successfully transported to a nearby hospital.

Paul's actions were nothing short of heroic. Speed, teamwork, and willingness to act all played a role in helping save the man's life. I was honored to speak with Paul on Friday afternoon to thank him for his exemplary service. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in recognition of the decisive actions displayed by Mr. Markowski.

TRIBUTE TO FELIX GAITER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to pay tribute to a longtime friend and one of the finest men I have ever known.

Felix Gaiter recently passed away at the age of 91. He was a well-known businessman in my District and owner of the Gaiter Construction Company, which was the largest African American-owned construction company in East Tennessee.

I had the privilege to be the lawyer for the Gaiter Construction Company for just about the entire time I practiced law. Mr. Gaiter was one of the kindest, hardest working, and most honest people with whom I have ever dealt.

Mr. Gaiter was also a veteran of World War II, and he easily earned his place among the "Greatest Generation" with his service and honorable life.

A member of Rogers Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville, he always lived his life by the Golden Rule.

Mr. Gaiter is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 66 years, Mrs. Margaret Gaiter, who has always been very kind to me. Mrs. Gaiter treats everyone with love and respect. She is a very bright fixture in the Knoxville community and active in countless organizations.

My wife, Lynn, and I send our condolences to Mrs. Gaiter, her three children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Felix Gaiter was a wonderful husband, father, and citizen. I call his life and accomplishments to the attention of my Col-

leagues and other readers of the RECORD. This Nation would be a much better place if we had more people like him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during rollcall vote No. 203 on May 7, 2014. I would like the record to reflect I would have voted "yes".

HONORING AMERICA'S PUBLIC SERVANTS

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to direct the House's attention to Public Service Recognition Week, a time in which we honor the more than 20 million men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county, and local government employees.

These people are our friends and neighbors, and they perform critical work every day that is vital to our nation's welfare. They keep us safe from terrorist threats and food-borne illness, develop new treatments for diseases, protect our environment, educate our children, provide care to veterans, deliver our mail, and the list goes on. Despite the popular notion of the isolated "Washington bureaucrat", the overwhelming majority of government employees serve in our own communities in all fifty states—including 85 percent of federal employees. Yet, we often overlook or simply take for granted America's public servants.

Of course, the government's ability to effectively perform essential functions depends on a well-trained and highly-engaged workforce. According to the Government Accountability Office, nearly 30 percent of federal employees on board at the end of fiscal year 2011 will be eligible to retire by 2016, including one-third of the government's top scientists, engineers, physicians, mathematicians, economists, and other highly specialized professionals. We must redouble our efforts to identify and recruit the next generation of talented public servants to ensure government can continue to tackle our nation's toughest challenges.

At its best, government is an instrument of our common purpose. It is a powerful tool to defend the vulnerable, expand opportunity, and help our country reach its full potential. In a representational democracy, government is not an abstract idea but a living institution that is powered by men and women dedicated to promoting and protecting the common good. To all of those who have stepped up to the plate and devoted their lives to this noble calling, I thank you.

As we mark the passage of Public Service Recognition Week, I urge all my colleagues to join me in commemorating the hard work and sacrifice made by our nation's federal, state, and local government employees.

MESSAGE OF PRIME MINISTER
ERDOĞAN ON THE EVENTS OF 1915

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of my colleagues to a statement made by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in which he noted the importance of April 24th to Armenian communities around the world, and expressed his condolences to the descendants of those Armenians who died in the violence nearly a century ago. The Prime Minister renewed Turkey's offer to participate in a joint historical commission, where Turkish, Armenian, and international scholars would come together to document those terrible events.

In his weekly parliamentary address to his party's legislators on April 23rd, Prime Minister Erdoğan stated Turkey's willingness to "confront" the historical events, and again called upon Armenia and the Armenian diaspora to join this effort.

I believe a process in which both parties are active participants will enable Turkey and Armenia to resolve many of the issues of conflict between them, and will allow them to move deeper into the 21st Century while building a constructive relationship, as neighbors should.

I hope my colleagues will join me in encouraging all parties to engage in the process.

The statement issued by Prime Minister Erdoğan follows:

THE MESSAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, RECEP TAYYIP ERDOĞAN ON THE EVENTS OF 1915.

The 24th of April carries a particular significance for our Armenian citizens and for all Armenians around the world, and provides a valuable opportunity to share opinions freely on a historical matter.

It is indisputable that the last years of the Ottoman Empire were a difficult period, full of suffering for Turkish, Kurdish, Arab, Armenian and millions of other Ottoman citizens, regardless of their religion or ethnic origin.

Any conscientious, fair and humanistic approach to these issues requires an understanding of all the sufferings endured in this period, without discriminating as to religion or ethnicity.

Certainly, neither constructing hierarchies of pain nor comparing and contrasting suffering carries any meaning for those who experienced this pain themselves.

As a Turkish proverb goes, "fire burns the place where it falls."

It is a duty of humanity to acknowledge that Armenians remember the suffering experienced in that period, just like every other citizen of the Ottoman Empire.

In Turkey, expressing different opinions and thoughts freely on the events of 1915 is the requirement of a pluralistic perspective as well as of a culture of democracy and modernity.

Some may perceive this climate of freedom in Turkey as an opportunity to express accusatory, offensive and even provocative assertions and allegations.

Even so, if this will enable us to better understand historical issues with their legal aspects and to transform resentment to friendship again, it is natural to approach different discourses with empathy and tolerance and expect a similar attitude from all sides.

The Republic of Turkey will continue to approach every idea with dignity in line with the universal values of law.

Nevertheless, using the events of 1915 as an excuse for hostility against Turkey and turning this issue into a matter of political conflict is inadmissible.

The incidents of the First World War are our shared pain. To evaluate this painful period of history through a perspective of just memory is a humane and scholarly responsibility.

Millions of people of all religions and ethnicities lost their lives in the First World War. Having experienced events which had inhumane consequences—such as relocation—during the First World War, should not prevent Turks and Armenians from establishing compassion and mutually humane attitudes among towards one another.

In today's world, deriving enmity from history and creating new antagonisms are neither acceptable nor useful for building a common future.

The spirit of the age necessitates dialogue despite differences, understanding by hearing others, evaluating means for compromise, denouncing hatred, and praising respect and tolerance.

With this understanding, we, as the Turkish Republic, have called for the establishment of a joint historical commission in order to study the events of 1915 in a scholarly manner. This call remains valid. Scholarly research to be carried out by Turkish, Armenian and international historians would play a significant role in shedding light on the events of 1915 and an accurate understanding of history.

It is with this understanding that we have opened our archives to all researchers. Today, hundreds of thousands of documents in our archives are at the service of historians.

Looking to the future with confidence, Turkey has always supported scholarly and comprehensive studies for an accurate understanding of history. The people of Anatolia, who lived together for centuries regardless of their different ethnic and religious origins, have established common values in every field from art to diplomacy, from state administration to commerce. Today they continue to have the same ability to create a new future.

It is our hope and belief that the peoples of an ancient and unique geography, who share similar customs and manners will be able to talk to each other about the past with maturity and to remember together their losses in a decent manner. And it is with this hope and belief that we wish that the Armenians who lost their lives in the context of the early twentieth century rest in peace, and we convey our condolences to their grandchildren.

Regardless of their ethnic or religious origins, we pay tribute, with compassion and respect, to all Ottoman citizens who lost their lives in the same period and under similar conditions.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS ACT (H.R. 4487)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, due to a prior commitment in my district, I had to miss votes on May 1, 2014. On April 9, 2014, I joined my colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee in approving the Fiscal Year 2015 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill. Had I been present for the vote before the Full House, I would have voted for the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act (H.R. 4487).

This appropriation bill supports the functions of the United States House of Representatives and those agencies that we rely on to best serve our constituents. Today's bill maintains level funding for Members' offices and Committee staff. While not ideal, it does not impose further reductions that would harm the ability of Congressional offices to respond to the needs of our constituents and our district. The bill also provides funding for the Library of Congress, Capitol Police, Botanical Garden, Architect of the Capitol, and Government Printing Office, which support for work of Congress and the American public. It is important that Congress ensure these agencies have the resources and funding they need to best serve our constituents and offices.

On Mr. NUGENT's amendment, I would have voted "no".

On Mr. GOSAR's amendment, I would have voted "no".

On Mr. BROWN's amendment, I would have voted "no".

On Mr. HOLT's amendment, I would have voted "yes".

THE KIDNAPPING OF GIRLS AND
YOUNG WOMEN FROM A SCHOOL
IN NIGERIA

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand in solidarity with the families of the approximately 300 young women kidnapped by a radical Nigerian Islamist group. I lend my voice to the chorus of outrage and condemnation directed at this extremist group, which has forcefully separated young women from their families and devastated an entire community. There is no place in our world community for a group that displays such disregard for the tenets of Islam, human dignity, and international law.

All people and governments of good will should do all that is appropriate to assist Nigerian authorities in the safe recovery of these young women. I am heartened that Secretary Kerry has announced that a U.S. security team will be sent to Nigeria to assist in the efforts to bring these young women home to their families.

As a Member of Congress, I will continue to monitor this situation and speak out against such atrocious acts. The outcry against this gross human rights violation must not fade before these young women are recovered and all guilty parties are brought to justice.

HONORING BOB HAMMERSCHMIDT

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bob Hammerschmidt of Springfield, Missouri on receiving the 2014 Distinguished Citizen Award from the Ozarks Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Distinguished Citizen Award was created by the Boy Scouts of America in order to