

Corridor, which will provide additional natural gas to Europe.

On a security front, Azerbaijan has been a key ally in a post 9/11 era, emerging as one of the first countries to offer strong support and assistance to the United States. Actively participating in joint operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has also extended important overflight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights and provided key supply routes to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities. The transit route through Azerbaijan accounts for some 40 percent of the Coalition supplies bound for Afghanistan.

As the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 96th anniversary of Republic Day and to recognize the valuable bilateral relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan. I also encourage my colleagues who are interested in supporting Azerbaijan to join me as a member of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, a bipartisan group of more than 60 Members of Congress working to help foster the growing partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan and to advance U.S. interests in this pivotal region.

RECOGNIZING THE TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Trinity Catholic High School Baseball Team's State Championship Title.

It is with great pride that I stand to honor this momentous accomplishment. On Wednesday, May 14, with great determination and skill, the Trinity Catholic Celtics rose to win Marion County's first baseball state championship. These young men, after dedicating countless hours, were rewarded with a well deserved victory. Moreover, this honor was received with true sportsmanship and class.

This distinguished accomplishment is indicative of the power of our nation's youth. The drive, as well as the athleticism displayed by Trinity Catholic High's Baseball Team should serve as a model for all those who dream of great feats. The people of Florida's 11th Congressional District are extremely proud and I invite you all to join me in extending our most sincere congratulations.

Therefore, I, RICHARD B. NUGENT, Member of Congress representing the Eleventh District of Florida, do hereby recognize the Trinity Catholic High School Baseball Team's State Championship Title.

USA FREEDOM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3361, the USA FREEDOM Act,

as amended. Although I was a cosponsor of the USA Freedom Act as originally written, the bill we voted on today was changed substantially before being brought to the floor. I am very concerned with the short time frame members had to consider this sweeping legislation, which was negotiated behind closed doors and would not do enough to protect Americans from government surveillance.

I support ending the bulk collection of Americans' communications, secret interpretations of law by the FISA Court, and "reverse targeting" of Americans by the intelligence agencies. Although H.R. 3361 is an improvement over current law, the House should negotiate a stronger bill in a transparent process through regular order that will do more to protect Americans' privacy.

I encourage the Senate to make much needed changes to this bill and send back a real reform package that does a better job of protecting privacy and is consistent with the expectations of our constituents.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 40 AND ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, BRANCH 120

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120, for their ongoing friendship with American Legion Post 40 in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

The camaraderie between these two posts began in 1978 when four members of the Canadian Legion in Georgetown, Ottawa, headed to Plymouth for a fishing trip. Before long, they found themselves chatting with members of the local American Legion Post. The following year, the Georgetown vets were invited to attend the annual Memorial Day parade in Plymouth—and so began 35 years of exchange. Each year, American Legion members attend the Warriors' Day parade in Ottawa and Canadian Legion members march with our Plymouth veterans on Memorial Day.

The relationship between these two veteran associations is emblematic of the affinity between our nations. Not only are we neighbors, allies, and friends, but we also share a border, a continent, and core democratic values. As such, I was touched when American Legion Post 40 Commander Phil Ryan told our office, "There's nothing we wouldn't do for them." This, Mr. Speaker, is true friendship.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120, and American Legion, Post 40, for 35 years of friendship, respect, and understanding between their posts. I look forward to watching this alliance continue to thrive.

RECOGNIZING SOUVENISE JEANNE BAZILE

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I use today to recognize Ms. Souvenise Jeanne Bazile, who passed away on May 11, 2014.

Ms. Bazile, who lived in Spring Valley, New York, was 107 at the time of her passing. Originally from Haiti, she moved to United States in 1978 to join her husband. Ms. Bazile was a loving mother who dedicated herself to her six children, fifteen grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Just a few months ago, Ms. Bazile fulfilled one of her dreams: becoming an American citizen. After living here for three decades, working hard and contributing to society, Ms. Bazile became one of the oldest immigrants ever to gain citizenship. She is truly an inspiration for all those who hope to one day achieve the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my constituent, Ms. Souvenise Jeanne Bazile. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her tremendous life.

RECOGNIZING BUNKERS IN BAGHDAD

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to speak about an outstanding organization headquartered in Buffalo, New York: Bunkers in Baghdad.

The organization was started by Joe Hanna in 2008 after learning that golf had become a favorite form of stress relief for soldiers serving in combat zones overseas. The purpose of Bunkers in Baghdad is simple—they collect new and used golf balls and golf clubs and then ship them overseas to soldiers stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The program also includes injured veterans who are currently recovering in Wounded Warriors programs and other military installations and VA hospitals across the United States.

The first official shipment of golf balls went out in November 2008 to reach Iraq in time for the holidays. The inaugural shipment was made even more special by the fact that it was coordinated and packaged by students from the Williamsville Central School District. In addition to raising money to ship each box directly through the United States Postal Service, the students packed each box with balls, holiday cards, and letters they wrote to the soldiers.

I would like to recognize and congratulate the organization on their accomplishments. In just 5 short years, Bunkers in Baghdad has collected and shipped 5 million golf balls and 150,000 golf clubs to our military service men and women and wounded warriors in all 50 states and 30 countries around the world. This initiative, focused on those who have given so much, is an example to us all as we continue to honor those who serve.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAPEVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the