

the North Korean regime are more widely known than they are now.

The first step toward that is to listen to experts who have presented testimony on the horrific situation in North Korea, where political prisoners serve as virtual slaves, where starvation is used as a political weapon, and where religious believers—Christians in particular—are imprisoned, tortured and killed with such ferocity that some say it amounts to genocide.

Unfortunately, however, today the world's attention is distracted by manifold crises which seem almost to overwhelm us. To enumerate just a few, there is the: breathtaking collapse-in-progress of the Maliki regime in Iraq, which we had supported at the cost of so much American blood and treasure; various humanitarian catastrophes in Africa, most notably in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, but also the presence of violent Islamist movements such as Boko Haram and al-Shabaab in the major nations of Nigeria and Kenya; the ongoing tensions in Ukraine, as a restive Russia seeks to reassert its imperial hegemony over neighboring states; and clashes in the South China Sea as an increasingly-belligerent China makes a gambit to become a maritime power and fill a perceived vacuum.

We have always lived in a wounded world, but today the tourniquets required to stop all the bleeding the world over would tax even the most compassionate of souls.

Yet it is precisely this exhaustion of compassion that we must fight against, and we must summon the necessary conviction to address the sufferings of the people of North Korea.

At last week's hearing, we had an eyewitness to the barbarity of North Korea's cruel regime—a defector from North Korea who was born in a "total-control zone" political prison camp in the North, and who gave us an unsettling first-hand account of what he experienced. The torture he endured—and not simply physical torture, as horrific as that was—was a psychological barbarity of such ruthlessness that once you have heard what he underwent, your imaginations will forever be affected.

We heard stories of starvation by design—how the denial of food is used as an instrument of wide scale torture.

We also heard about a North Korean nuclear program that goes beyond the headlines. Yes, we do know that North Korea, in its quest for nuclear weapons, threatens to destabilize the world, but what many of us did not know, is the extent to which the North Korean nuclear program is built upon the cadavers of its own people. The United Nations Commission of Inquiry report, as important as it was, never explored the full extent to which workers in uranium mines are exposed to high levels of radiation, and how even the most basic concern for the safety needs of workers are routinely ignored.

Finally, I want to call attention to H.R. 1771, the North Korea Sanctions Enforcement Act. It is my hope that Congress—both the House and Senate—will take to heart the testimony that was presented, and, with a renewed focus on North Korea's human rights record, pass this important legislation, which takes a step toward holding this rouge regime accountable for the sins committed against its own people.

TRIBUTE TO THE ILLINOIS NATIONAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the Illinois National Baptist State Convention (INBSC) on the occasion of the celebration of their 100th year Centennial Anniversary.

The state affiliate of the National Baptist Convention of America, International, INBSC has been formally structured and rooted in the Baptist Doctrine since its inception. INBSC has a longstanding commitment to the advancement of the Kingdom of God on earth through the teachings of Jesus the Christ. Their dedication to Christian education, evangelism, and home and foreign missions has been the strength of their ministry.

We are encouraged and uplifted by their efforts to help grow and develop church ministries and are reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in his Ephesian writing: "and he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Mr. Speaker, the Illinois National Baptist State Convention has been a strong beacon of light in the State of Illinois and indeed the nation. I salute their State President, the Reverend Dr. Joel D. Taylor, the Convention officers, Member churches and Pastors and pray that they remain steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that their labor is not in vain in the Lord. I am honored to pay tribute to their historic 100th anniversary celebration and am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

ROD DOWNEY CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rod Downey, a mail carrier from Pueblo, Colorado. Mr. Downey has been awarded the United States Postal Services' inaugural Postal Hero Award for going above and beyond in his service to his county and its citizens.

On January 10, Mr. Downey was delivering mail when he heard the cries of Louise Grebenc. Ms. Grebenc, who was 81 at the time of the incident, had fallen on her porch the day before and could not get up. She called for help throughout the night as the temperature dropped below freezing. She had given up until Mr. Downey arrived. He quickly assessed the situation and called 911, staying with Ms. Grebenc until an ambulance came. Mr. Downey's actions saved her life.

Mr. Speaker, Rod Downey's exemplary performance and dedication are an example to us all. I stand with the residents of Pueblo County

and the United States Postal Service in thanking Mr. Downey for his service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 350 regarding the "Palone of New Jersey Part B Amendment No. 1" (H.R. 3301). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

DOMESTIC PROSPERITY AND GLOBAL FREEDOM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries, and for other purposes:

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 6, legislation calling for expedited approval of the exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization (WTO) countries.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I believe passage of this legislation is critical to strengthening the United States' presence in Asia, and encourages the growth of the American economy.

Several weeks ago, my Subcommittee held a hearing to examine the implications of increasing exports of U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the Asia-Pacific region. The Subcommittee specifically examined the impact that doing so would have on our strategic interests in the region, as well as on the U.S. economy.

It is very evident that increasing exports of LNG would be immensely beneficial to both the U.S. and our strategic partners in the region, and I commend my colleagues for moving this important legislation forward.

The energy landscape is changing drastically in Asia. Asian economies are expected to be the largest consumers of energy in the world by 2035. Current models predict that China will account for nearly 25 percent of the total world energy demand alone. Japan is paying a premium for access to LNG, as a result of a near total shutdown of its nuclear reactors in response to the Fukushima disaster. And as India's economy advances, so too does its demand for energy and the price of natural gas. Vietnam, Taiwan, and others are also expressing strong interest in purchasing U.S. LNG.

The U.S. has the opportunity to promote a more free market in the region, by selling natural gas that is less expensive than the gas supplied by other providers in the region who link their gas prices to the price of oil.

And consequently, shipping U.S. LNG to Asia may free up Malaysian and Qatari natural gas resources which, alternatively, could be