

also failed to service the loan. Additionally, the Khmer Rouge killed or starved at least 20% of Cambodians, neglected infrastructure and factories, and reverted to ancient agricultural techniques, all of which decimated the Cambodian economy and any ability to repay debt. Cambodia now owes the U.S. \$450 million including interest as of December 31, 2009.

Cambodia has asked the U.S. to forgive its debt or use a portion of the payments towards U.S. assistance programs which include health care, economic competitiveness, civil society, and land mine removal, among others. However, the U.S. Departments of Treasury and State, across administrations, have shown remarkable inflexibility and lack of cooperation.

Nonetheless, I commend Ambassador Hem Heng for his continued efforts to encourage the United States to forgive the debt. In November 2004, the U.S. forgave \$4.1 billion of Iraqi debt accumulated under Saddam Hussein's leadership so as not to cripple the new government. Bosnia-Herzegovina's debt of \$24 million and Yugoslavia's \$538.4 million debt, both likely incurred under the dictator Josip Tito, were forgiven in 1999 and 2002 respectively.

I remain hopeful that one day the United States will come to understand the strategic importance of Cambodia and offer a hand up. Greater engagement with Cambodia would also help the United States achieve its foreign policy goals in the region.

It has been my pleasure to know Ambassador Hem Heng. With his support, I had the privilege of visiting Cambodia twice and, at the time, met with Prime Minister Hun Sen, Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong, Secretary of State Ouch Borith, and Minister of Commerce Cham Prasidh. All are committed to the goal of strengthening U.S.-Cambodia relations, and I commend Ambassador Hem Heng for the remarkable work he has done in representing Cambodia's interests in the United States.

Ambassador Hem Heng was born in Kampong Cham province and graduated from the Agricultural School of Prek Leap in Phnom Penh. His diplomatic service began in 1979, following the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge. He has worked as Bureau Chief in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Protocol Department, as Deputy Director of the Economic Cooperation Department, as Deputy Director General of the ASEAN Directorate, as Minister Counselor in the Cambodian Embassy in India, as Director of the Asia 2 Department, as Director of Information and Documentation, and as Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister.

He is married to the talented and lovely Madam Savine Ek, and they have three sons. I will long remember Ambassador Hem Heng and I will miss him very much. I extend to him and his family my highest and kindest regards.

IN RECOGNITION OF LILY RING
BALIAN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lily Ring Balian, an extraordinary American who has been active in business and civic affairs for more than 35 years. Today Lily Ring Balian will be honored by the Los Ange-

les Affiliate of the Armenian International Women's Association upon the occasion of her receipt of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Recipients of this prestigious award exemplify outstanding professional and personal accomplishments while also preserving the richness of their heritage. Ms. Balian justly deserves this award.

From 1981 to 1997, Lily was the Corporate Director of Civic Affairs and Public Affairs for Northrop Grumman Corporation. Northrop Grumman is a major employer in California, and Lily was an outstanding advocate on behalf of this important company and its thousands of employees.

In public life, she served as the Executive Assistant for District Attorney, later California Attorney General, Evelle J. Younger, from 1964 through 1979. In 1980, she was offered positions in the administration of President-elect Ronald Reagan, but Lily turned down these opportunities to return to her family in California. Recognizing a talented individual and realizing that she could make a contribution to our nation, President Reagan appointed Lily to the National Advisory Council on Adult Education, a position that allowed her to advise the administration and Congress from the vantage point of an employer that regularly needed outstanding employees to maintain its national operations.

Lily's superb talents were also recognized by others. For example, California Governor Pete Wilson appointed her to the California Commission on the Status of Women, where she served for six years, and was Chair from 1994 to 1996. The commission advises the Governor and Legislature on issues such as economic equity, education equity, health access, and violence against women. In 1995, she represented the commission in Beijing at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.

Lily is legendary for her energy and community involvement. She not only managed a challenging career in private industry, but she has led a decades-long effort supporting the Armenian community. She served as Chair of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America from 1985 to 2005, and she was elected to the Diocesan Council in 2006 and re-elected in 2008, serving as its Secretary. She was a member of the Cathedral Fund Raising Committee, a member of the Zorayan Museum Committee and of the Annual Christmas Ball Committee. As a longtime member of St. James Armenian Church of Los Angeles, she is a member of the St. James Ladies Society and currently serves as Chair of her Parish Council.

I am proud of my Armenian heritage, and proud that we have women like Lily to promote an understanding of America's cultural diversity, in part by supporting community-wide efforts encompassing Americans of all backgrounds. Lily has volunteered for the KCET Women's Council and is currently on the Board of Directors of this station. She has been a member of the Braille Institute Auxiliary Board from 2011 to the present. At the University of Southern California, she is currently President of the Friends of Armenian Music.

In recognition of her support of the church, Lily was awarded the Gontag and St. Nerses Shnorhali Medal from His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Ar-

menians, and received the Archbishop's Award from Archbishop Derderian in May 2006.

I am proud to call Lily a friend and have long appreciated her devotion to others, her selfless and daily endeavors to build America through mutual understanding and tolerance, and her sense of warmth, humor and generosity. The experience of America is that of an immigrant nation blending the cultures of hundreds of geographic origins into the land that we know as the United States of America. Lily, through her goodwill, her wisdom, and her always-present smile, is a superb example of why America thrives. We know that the future of this nation is bright when we have engaged the energies of millions of Americans in the common endeavor of bringing peace and prosperity to every new dawn across this land. Lily is one of those persons who rivals the sun in its energy, and she is therefore appropriately being recognized today for her extraordinary accomplishments that benefit every American.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Lily on her lifetime contributions to our great land.

HONORING THE HONG KONG
PROTESTORS STAND FOR DEMOCRACY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the brave protestors in Hong Kong who, starting in September of this year, engaged in, and continue to engage in, peaceful protests against Mainland China's recent moves to undermine the implementation of universal suffrage for Hong Kong's upcoming 2017 elections.

As Aristotle made plain in the Politics, "liberty and equality. . . will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost." It is the hope of realizing this foundational principle that has brought tens of thousands of protestors to the streets of Hong Kong.

As Americans, we champion Aristotle's view that liberty and equality are more fully achieved when the many, instead of the few, have a voice in how they are governed. We support this view with foundational principles such as freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and transparency in government. These are ideals that we must not turn away from even when, as is the case with China, we know we will have meaningful economic and foreign policy contact with countries that make it more difficult for people to fully realize these ideals. People around the world yearn for freedom, and where they do so peacefully and with bravery, like our friends in Hong Kong, we ought to stand with them in solidarity as they seek those democratic ideals that we champion at home and abroad.

I, along with many of my colleagues, have a long history of supporting human rights, democracy and the rule of law around the world. The protestors occupying the streets of Hong Kong have sustained repeated acts of violence in the face of their peaceful protests as they act to join us in the march toward a more