

a Coordinator for Stabilization and Reconstruction to incorporate "lessons learned" from previous stabilization operations so that future U.S. engagements will save lives—both U.S. and indigenous and use U.S. resources judiciously so that failed states don't deteriorate.

In December 2005, the Defense Department issued a directive, 3000.05, that places Stability Operations on par with Combat Operations. These are significant first steps and I commend the Administration, however, much more needs to be done. The first improvement I would recommend is that the State Department not Defense Department be the lead agency for planning and implementing the overall strategy for rebuilding a failed state.

I commend my colleagues on the Subcommittee who have done the best they can with an allocation this year that is \$2.4 billion lower than the President's request. Those budget constraints prohibited them from funding the Conflict Response Fund, which would allow State Department reconstruction officials to immediately draw down such resources as necessary to rapidly initiate programs like democratic and electoral reform economic and infrastructure development so that the indigenous population sees tangible improvements.

The second improvement I would recommend is stronger support from the State and Defense Departments for the Master's degree in Stabilization and Reconstruction, being offered by the Naval Postgraduate School in my district. This is the only school in the country where U.S. military and foreign officers are being educated with U.S. civilian agency personnel and the NGO community so they can better understand their respective roles in the classroom rather than the battlefield.

I am glad we are gaining a better understanding of the threat of failed states, so that we can confront the challenges of these threats to U.S. national security.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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### HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I was present and voting during the series of rolled votes that included rollcall No. 233, for passage of a bill introduced by my colleague Representative LATOURETTE. The bill, I believe reasonably addressed the impasse in labor contract negotiations between our Nation's air traffic controllers and the Federal Aviation Administration by creating procedural fairness and encouraging good faith bargaining for both parties. While I attempted to vote "yea" on the bill, the electronic voting system did not record the vote I intended to cast. I ask that the record reflect that had my vote been recorded, it would have been "yea" on rollcall No. 233.

### RECOGNIZING QUAKERTOWN HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY, STATION 17 IN CELEBRATING THEIR 130TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the men and women of Quakertown Fire Company No. 1 which celebrates its one hundred and thirtieth anniversary this year.

Since its humble beginnings in 1876 as the Quakertown Hook and Ladder Company, station 17 has protected the residents of the Quakertown area with distinction and pride.

One hundred and thirty years ago, Quakertown Pennsylvania, which is located in the northern portion of my district, was a small and quiet farming community. And in its early years, I doubt the fire company needed to answer many calls. However, the Quakertown of today is a vibrant suburban area and station 17 has seen an increase of nearly 400 calls a year in the past 40 years. The need to expand and recruit on such a large scale would likely hinder the performance of the department, but the fire company has continued to grow and enlist generation after generation of fire fighters.

Firefighters have always been an integral part of American history. The safety of the citizens of Bucks County has been the top priority of the Quakertown Fire Company, and they have at all times served selflessly to that end.

Mr. Speaker, volunteerism is an American institution. Station 17 has always operated with volunteer firefighters, and I wish to congratulate and thank the current 50 volunteer members, who do an exceptional job. It is a special group of people that would voluntarily dedicate so much of their own time and effort towards the common good, and Quakertown is fortunate to have such a large and committed team of volunteers working for them.

How many people, Mr. Speaker, would jump out of bed in the middle of night at the sound of their alarm with no questions asked and go to a complete stranger's house only to battle a blazing inferno for hours upon hours, and still go to work the next morning? Well I am proud to say that Quakertown has at least 50 of these extraordinary men and women, and we thank them all.

To these heroic men and women of station 17; thank you for your work, your time, your dedication, and your sacrifice.

### RESOLUTION HONORING THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LAREDO, TEXAS

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, the Ursulines, an order founded in Italy by Saint Angela Merici in 1535, were the

first religious women to come to the New World. The sisters, who had been in New Orleans since 1727, were the first order to volunteer for service in the new State of Texas, establishing a long-held presence in the communities of Galveston, San Antonio, Dallas, Pecos, and Laredo.

Whereas, Mother Saint Joseph Aubert, one of the esteemed Ursuline sisters, at the request of Bishop Claude Dubuis, went to Laredo in the State of Texas with Sister Teresa Pereida to establish a convent and a school for the education of the young women in the City of Laredo in May 15th, 1868.

Whereas, the convent for the Ursuline Sisters was built on January 15th 1869, and the Sisters began to educate girls of every age and condition. This was the beginning of their contribution to the education of the youth of the City of Laredo, Texas, for over a hundred and thirty-eight years.

Whereas, the Ursuline Sisters established St. Peter's Memorial School in 1989, Ursuline Academy in 1940, and were a part of the faculty at Our Lady of Guadalupe Elementary School, and Blessed Sacrament School.

Whereas, the new era of Ursuline education was begun through Ursuline Academy, which became a well-recognized center of education, serving as a college preparatory high school. Many graduates of Ursuline Academy went onto higher education, obtaining advanced degrees due to their excellent education provided them by the Ursuline Sisters.

Whereas, loyal to their Ursuline calling and tradition, despite all the difficulties and challenges of their journey, the Ursulines remained committed to their ministerial call in the City of Laredo in providing education to the youth of the City of Laredo until their departure from the City of Laredo this spring.

Whereas, at the end of their service in the City of Laredo for a hundred and forty years, the Ursuline Sisters of Laredo will be forever remembered for their educational commitment to the youth of Laredo, and their religious service to the City of Laredo. In the Spirit of Saint Angela, their founder, they will continue to be women of peace and reconciliation in our world today, living and working for peace through justice in all their relationships toward all peoples and cultures, and towards the earth and all creation.

*Be it hereby resolved,* That Congressman Henry Cuellar commends the Ursuline Sisters for their religious service to the community of Laredo, and their remarkable history of providing quality education for the youth of Laredo, Texas.

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### TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS. EDGAR AND MAGALI FERNANDEZ: 36 YEARS ENSURING EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. and Mrs. Edgar and Magali Fernandez. For nearly four decades, they