

TRIBUTE TO IRENE NELSON

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Irene Norman Nelson on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Irene Nelson is one of the most extraordinary people I have ever met. She has been a longtime and treasured friend to my family and me. She is a woman of impeccable class, grace and integrity. She has a love and appreciation of life that is inspiring. And she has a wonderful sense of humor.

I cherish my memories of being with Irene at family events, vacations and trips to the theater. I enjoy our conversations. I admire her commitment to the arts and all things beautiful.

Madam Speaker, as a U.S. Congressman, I am privileged to meet many fascinating and incredible people. Irene, without a doubt, is at the top of that list.

I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing Irene Nelson a happy and healthy birthday.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 5170, H.R. 5983, H.R. 5531, H.R. 2490, H.R. 6193, H.R. 4806, H.R. 3815, and H.R. 6098

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of these Homeland Security bipartisan measures. I would like to commend Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member KING for their efforts to bring these bills to the floor today. I would also like to congratulate the authors of these bills Congresswoman HARMAN and Congressmen CARNEY, LANGEVIN, KING, BILIRAKIS, REICHERT, and PERLMUTTER.

Individually, the bills presented today improve operations within the Department of Homeland Security, including issues related to privacy, information sharing and enhanced security. Collectively, they improve on the provisions of H.R. 1, the Implementing 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act.

Protecting the privacy of our citizens is an important but very difficult issue to balance in our Nation's war against terrorism. Under H.R. 1570, the presence of a full-time Component Privacy Officer would ensure that privacy considerations remain at the forefront and are integrated into the decisionmaking process at all of the DHS Components.

Through our oversight work, it is clear that DHS's information systems have been penetrated and remain vulnerable to cyber attacks. H.R. 5983, the Homeland Security Network Defense and Accountability Act of 2008, represents a critical step toward improving the cybersecurity network at DHS by ensuring a robust defense of its information systems, and holding individuals at all levels accountable for mitigating vulnerabilities.

While protecting DHS information systems is critical to our Nation's security, we also need to be mindful of the importance and need for information sharing. H.R. 6193, H.R. 4806 and H.R. 3815 address the need for information sharing in a secure manner. H.R. 6193—Improving Public Access to Documents Act of 2008—dovetails with H.R. 4086's effort to remove obstacles to more and better information sharing in the unclassified category.

Our offshore territories are the first point of entry to the U.S. for many foreigners and our shores are extremely vulnerable to illegal and possibly terrorist activities. I am pleased that H.R. 5531 will put in motion a plan to deploy next-generation radiological detection technology at our ports of entry to more effectively and more efficiently scan persons and cargo as they enter the United States. I fully support the "Biometric Identification At Sea Pilot Project" which has allowed the Coast Guard to collect biometrics from individuals interdicted in the Caribbean to run them against terrorist and criminal databases. H.R. 5531 and H.R. 2490 address the vulnerabilities of our Caribbean shores.

Madam Speaker, the implementation of these bills would not be possible without our State, local and tribal entities. Fusion Centers provide much needed support to these entities in the implementation of Homeland Security programs. H.R. 6098 requires DHS to allow State and local governments to use Homeland Security grant funding to hire and keep analysts in fusion centers—for however long State and local officials see fit.

I urge my colleagues to support these bills and their passage.

MEDICAL EVIDENCE OF TORTURE
BY U.S. PERSONNEL**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, last week the Helsinki Commission, which I Chair, held a briefing at which representatives from Physicians for Human Rights presented the findings of their recently published report, "Broken Laws, Broken Lives." In it, they documented the medical evidence of torture by U.S. personnel in 11 specific cases. I believe this briefing was the first opportunity on Capitol Hill for the public to hear specifically about the medical consequences of the administration's detention policies and to consider some of the ethical questions related to the medical treatment of detainees, including forced feeding and the possible role of medical professionals during interrogations.

We were fortunate to have with us as panelists Leonard Rubenstein, J.D., President of Physicians for Human Rights; Dr. Allen Keller, Advisor to Physicians for Human Rights and Director of the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture; and Dr. Scott Allen, also an Advisor to Physicians for Human Rights.

For many years, members of the Helsinki Commission have been actively engaged on issues related to torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment. Over

the years, we have raised concern about the nearly constant reports of torture and abuse in Chechnya. We have pressed Turkey to provide detainees with prompt access to lawyers and medical personnel, because we know that when people are held incommunicado, they are more likely to experience torture. We have expressed alarm regarding the number of people who walk into Uzbekistan jails on their own two feet—and who have been returned to their families in boxes.

Last week, it was my sad duty to hear representatives from Physicians for Human Rights describe the torture and ill-treatment some detainees have experienced at the hands of U.S. personnel. As I noted then, I certainly expected to hear about the medical and psychological impact of this torture on the individuals whose cases were investigated by Physicians for Human Rights. But, coincidentally, there was a different kind of impact on display last week, when the U.S. also opened its first war crimes trial since World War II.

In the trial of Salim Hamdan, alleged to be Osama bin Laden's driver, the military judge overseeing the case found it necessary to exclude from evidence several statements of the defendant because they were obtained under what the military judge deemed "highly coercive" conditions. Another one of the government's efforts to bring a defendant before a military tribunal had already been put indefinitely on hold, reportedly because the evidence in the case cannot be disentangled from the impermissible methods that were used to extract it. In other words, the use of abusive interrogation methods has undermined the government's ability to prosecute people suspected of terrorism or terrorism-related crimes.

Let me repeat: the ill-conceived policy of "enhanced interrogations" has undermined our country's ability to prosecute people for the most serious crimes committed against this nation.

As it happened, on the day of our briefing last week, the ACLU released three new "torture memos" it had obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. Although highly redacted—indeed, one of them has ten pages that are entirely blacked out—these documents nevertheless provide some additional insight into the development of the policies that set the stage for what Major General Antonio Taguba, in his preface for the Physicians for Human Rights report, called "a systematic regime of torture." (You may recall that General Taguba led the U.S. Army's official investigations into the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal.)

Here's just one bit of information we now have from a memo prepared by the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel on August 1, 2002 and released last week. This memo, prepared for the CIA, advises that the crime of torture, as defined by U.S. statute, requires a showing of specific intent to cause severe pain or suffering. That specific intent, in turn, will be negated if a defendant acts with a good faith belief that his actions will not cause severe pain or suffering. That good faith belief can be demonstrated by showing that an official acted in reliance on the advice of experts. And guess what? The Office of Legal

Counsel is a bunch of experts. And they go on to say that the objective of the interrogation techniques under discussion—we don't know precisely what they are because they're blacked out—is not to cause severe physical pain. Just like magic, you have your expert advice, which gives you your good-faith belief, which negates the specific intent required under the statute which criminalizes torture. So you guys can go ahead and waterboard and God knows what else because the Office of Legal Counsel has told you that it does not cause severe pain or suffering, so you have legal license to ignore your own eyes and ears, which tell you that waterboarding will break a person in minutes.

Madam Speaker, the report by Physicians for Human Rights makes several recommendations that deserve study and consideration. But in light of the release of these most recent torture memos, I would like to highlight today one particular recommendation of the report: "The U.S. Department of Justice should publicly release all legal opinions and other memoranda concerning standards regarding interrogation and detention policy and practices."

The Department of Justice is the arbiter of what is the law of the land for this country. And I think the American people have a right to know if their government has sought to redefine "torture" as "not torture." Accordingly, I urge the Attorney General to release the full texts of all the memos relating to interrogation and detention policies and practices.

HONORING WILLIAM J. KOWALSKI

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring William J. Kowalski as he retires from the Federal Bureau of Investigation on August 1st.

William "Bill" Kowalski became a Special Agent in May 1983 after receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Detroit in 1979 and his Juris Doctor from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1982. After taking the oath of office he trained at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia and began his Bureau career by returning to his hometown of Detroit.

After serving tours of duty in Memphis and New York City, Bill was promoted to a supervisory position at FBI Headquarters in 1989. In this capacity he was responsible for counter-intelligence and espionage investigations throughout the United States. He was one of the first FBI Agents to travel to Eastern Europe after the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

Returning to Detroit, Bill became a Field Supervisor in the Detroit Division in August, 1992. He assumed supervisory responsibilities in Flint and Ann Arbor. In September 2004 he was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Division, overseeing the FBI Detroit's Joint Terrorism Task Force, with counter-terrorism investigation jurisdiction in the state of Michigan.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise and join me in applauding the exemplary work of William J. Kowalski. He has been a dedicated public servant, working to ensure the safety of the United States and its citizens for many, many years. I have appreciated his insight, his thoughtfulness and his commitment to performing his work and I wish him the best as he enters the next phase of his life.

RECOGNIZING STOP CHILD ABUSE NOW OF VIRGINIA ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of SCAN Virginia—Stop Child Abuse Now—and congratulate this fine organization for 20 years of change in children's lives.

Twenty years ago, in 1988, a group of Alexandria citizens concerned about abused and neglected children in Northern Virginia came together to plan ways to prevent child abuse. As a result, David Cleary founded Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, a nonprofit organization to prevent child abuse and neglect and became affiliated with the State organization now called Prevent Child Abuse Virginia.

The first program offered at SCAN was the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program that now is the Alexandria/Arlington CASA Program. CASA now serves more children and engages up to 75 volunteers at a time to give voice to the needs and priorities of abused or neglected children, one child at a time.

SCAN works collaboratively with the Arlington and Alexandria Juvenile & Domestic Relations Courts to mold a CASA Program that provides helpful information to the Juvenile Judges who make determinations on the futures of abused and neglected children, while SCAN's CASA volunteers provide an independent voice that focuses solely on the best interest of the children.

SCAN's Parent Education Program has a continuum of services that range from intensive parenting classes, weekly educational parent support groups and developmental playgroups—all offered in English and Spanish. SCAN also offers a tri-annual Parent Connection Resource Guide, a publication that gives critical information about region-wide parenting classes, support groups, playgroups and other resources available to parents in Northern Virginia.

The Allies in Prevention Coalition, which is made up of child welfare professionals from the five major Northern Virginia jurisdictions, is a central part of SCAN's Public Education Program, as is SCAN's website: www.scanva.org. SCAN's Allies in Prevention Coalition engages child and family advocates in communicating regional messages to prevent child abuse and promote children's well-being in Virginia.

Madam Speaker, I can think of no higher calling than to help children in need. Please

join me in commending SCAN of Northern Virginia as it celebrates twenty years of serving children and families in Northern Virginia through programs and services that keep children safe, strengthen parenting skills and provide advocacy in the courts, legislature and the community.

REMEMBERING THE U.N. SAFE HAVEN OF ZEPA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, last Friday, July 25, marked the 13th anniversary of the 1995 fall of Zepa, a United Nations-declared "safe haven" in eastern Bosnia, to the Army of Republika Srpska. I rise to commemorate the fall of Zepa today on behalf of the thousands of Bosnian Americans who live in my District, the First District of Iowa. —

Zepa was a village in eastern Bosnia declared a "safe haven" in a May 1993 U.N. Security Council Resolution. This declaration was supposed to guarantee the safety of its population, but the siege of Zepa began in the summer of 1992 and lasted until the fall of the enclave in July 1995. Throughout this period, the population suffered from continuous shelling and starvation, and many Zepa residents and refugees from surrounding areas perished during the siege. After the fall of Zepa, an unknown number of Bosniak males were taken away never to be seen again, including the commander of the defense of Zepa, Avdo Palic. Thousands of others were victims of "ethnic cleansing."

This 13th anniversary took place during the same week as the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, indicted on charges of genocide and other crimes by the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague. I believe that at this time it's very important to remember the tragedy that befell Zepa, and the lives that were lost there. It's also important that we support the efforts of the families of the missing to learn the fate of their loved ones, and the families of those missing and killed in their search for justice. It is only with truth, justice, reconciliation, and democratic governance that a stable and prosperous Bosnia can be built.

HONORING RICHARD BURTON MURPHY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Richard Burton Murphy.

It is with the deepest appreciation that I pay tribute to retired Sergeant Richard Burton Murphy. May 16, 2008 marked the day Sergeant Murphy retired from the Toledo Police Department.

Sergeant Murphy began his career in law enforcement for the City of Oregon, Ohio Police Department, in January 1967. Two years