

attacks from Gaza—the House passed a resolution strongly condemning these attacks, as well as the organizations and states supporting them. We have also provided aid for Israel's defense and for the security of the Middle East and will continue to support Israel's right to defend itself. While the challenges remain, the Israeli people have endured and persevered throughout history, and they will continue to do so, and the United States will remain a stalwart ally.

Madam Speaker, I again congratulate the people of Israel on this historic anniversary and wish them a peaceful and prosperous future.

A TRIBUTE TO LISSA LAYNG
REYNOLDS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lissa Layng Reynolds of South Pasadena, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our Nation's women. Accordingly, it is my privilege to highlight Mrs. Reynolds as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Lissa is a professional theater, film, and television actress whose interaction with her community goes far beyond the stage and screen. As the president of the California Performing Arts Centre and co-artistic director of the award-winning Fremont Centre Theatre in South Pasadena, Lissa will celebrate the theatre's 10th anniversary this year. She shares the milestone with her husband, James, who also serves as the theatre's co-artistic director and can be seen on NBC's "Days of Our Lives" as Commissioner Abe Carver. Together they have produced and co-produced over 30 plays during the Fremont Centre Theatre's decade of existence. Lissa and her family have lived in South Pasadena for over 20 years. Her son, Jed Reynolds, graduated from South Pasadena schools and now coaches the high school junior varsity basketball team. Jed is also pursuing a career as an actor and is currently starring in the Fremont Centre Theatre's hit show "Ravensridge."

In addition to the Fremont Centre Theatre, Lissa and James own and operate Classes Unlimited, an adult learning center, and Big Men Stuff, a clothing company that uses slogans to combat domestic abuse. The Reynolds' were selected as two of the most influential people in Pasadena by Pasadena Weekly and they received the Gold Crown Award from the Pasadena Arts Council for supporting local arts education and development.

Giving back to the community is a priority for Lissa. Her busy schedule is packed equally with volunteer, fundraising, and professional efforts. Examples include the Haven House Women's Shelter in Pasadena, the Pasadena Humane Society, the Foothill YMCA, and the South Pasadena Police Department. For many years Lissa has joined her husband on USO

handshake and educational tours for the troops and for their families. To encourage students to become active in the arts, the pair frequently directs local elementary school productions of Shakespeare and hosts an annual charity celebrity basketball tournament to benefit South Pasadena schools. For her continued philanthropic efforts Lissa has been honored by numerous organizations, including Women at Work, the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, and the Tournament of Roses Association.

Lissa's stage is her community; rather than focus on herself, she works to make South Pasadena the star. Her selfless service to the South Pasadena community is an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mrs. Lissa Layng Reynolds.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
COACH MICHELLE MISHLER FOR
COACHING THE HILAND HIGH
SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL
TEAM TO WINNING THE GIRLS'
DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach Michelle Mishler showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Michelle Mishler was a leader and mentor for the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Mishler has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach Michelle Mishler for leading the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team to winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

ASSESSING THE BURDEN AFRICAN
AMERICANS FACE IN A SLOWING
ECONOMY—AND WHAT CONGRESS
HAS DONE TO ALLEVIATE IT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to underscore the unfortunate financial squeeze many African American families will face as a result of the slumping economy. African American families and other families of color will suffer the most from a recession because they are disproportionately poor and do

not have the safety net enjoyed by others. They carry a significant and disproportionate share of the burden, victim to an economic downturn that will harm working- and middle-class Americans most—unless we offer fresh and bold solutions to cultivate an economy that works for us all. Not just the wealthy. Not just the politically connected. But us all.

The "New Direction" Congress has been swift in addressing this need. The stimulus package will provide much-needed tax relief to the tune of \$600 per individual, \$1,200 per married couple, and an additional \$300 per child. But it doesn't stop there. It goes on to protect the least among us, committing \$32 billion for those 35 million families who work tirelessly but do not earn enough to pay income taxes and guaranteeing rebates to seniors on Social Security, disabled veterans, and military widows. The package is estimated to create more than 500,000 jobs before the end of this year, of particular good news to African Americans, whose unemployment rate climbed from 8 percent in the fall to 9.2 percent just a few months afterwards.

A second phase of increases in the minimum wage will take effect this July, not a moment too soon for those two million African Americans who benefit from the hike, and the 1.1 million more African Americans now living in poverty since President Bush took office. Our work on behalf of small businesses has strengthened the 1.2 million of them owned by African Americans, with revenues eclipsing \$88 billion. That work has resulted in tax cuts for small business of \$4 million over the next 10 years, increasing their share of Federal contracts, and lowering their cost of financing. And in response to the subprime mortgage crisis—the result of bad lending practices that saddled African Americans and Hispanics two times as much as Whites with high-cost subprime loans—we've passed legislation providing some mortgage debt tax relief, cracking down on predatory lending, and expanding affordable loan opportunities.

As Americans endure the hardships of a sputtering economy, it is incumbent upon the people's Government to get us through it and steer us back to the path of prosperity. We have been responsive—and so shall we remain—to the needs of those communities most harshly hit in times of economic calamity, and as a unified people, looking after our own, we will get through this stronger and far more prosperous.

TWIN OAKS ESTATE

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2008

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, atop a hill on Woodley Road in northwest Washington, DC is a 26-room mansion known as the Twin Oaks estate, which served as the official residence of nine ambassadors from the Republic of China between 1937 and 1978. During its heyday, the Twin Oaks estate welcomed to its 17.6-acre compound countless American dignitaries and friends in the local Chinese community, to meet with ROC ambassadors and