

also rise to pledge my and the rest of the House of Representative's steadfast support of the people of Egypt as they stand resolute in the face of terror.

On July 23, 2005, a series of explosions throughout Sharm el-Sheikh; Egypt, resulted in the death of eighty four civilians and injured hundreds of others.

These murderers, whoever they are, have an absolute disregard for human life. They deliberately kill innocent people. These explosions were strategically placed in public areas, to kill the maximum number of people.

Sadly, we should not be surprised by the barbaric attacks in Sharm el-Sheikh. We have seen it before. We experienced our own tragedy from terrorism, losing 3,000 of our own citizens in one awful morning. Across the ocean that same fashion evil touched London, and fifty two people died with hundreds of others injured.

We are engaged in a global struggle against an apocalyptic radicalism that will take not only military power, but also the power of our ideology that values freedom and diversity. The latest attack in Egypt changes nothing. We still stand strong in the face of terror. We remain loyal to finding the terrorist wherever they may be, and capturing them from behind the rocks and shadows where they hide.

Egypt has been a strong and faithful ally throughout the war on terror. Her resolve is only strengthened by this latest attack. Our Egyptian friends will continue to fight terrorist with the same devotion they have already shown. Today we see the character Egyptians share. Many Egyptians returned to their public facilities the very next day, unafraid of the terrorists.

I have no doubt that our two nations will continue to face down terrorists and extremists. Our cause, which speaks to the noblest parts of the human soul, will win, just as it has throughout our shared times past.

May God bless America and Egypt.

COMMENTS BY A REPRESENTATIVE
IN THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, too often, violence claims innocent lives in our world. We have seen suffering on our own soil, and all over the world in places like Indonesia, Israel, Palestine, Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan, and recently, England. Amid this instability, for a Representative in the United States Congress to even hypothetically suggest that the United States would destroy Mecca, a holy site of one of the world's major religions, serves only to exacerbate the impression that U.S. actions in the Muslim world are part of a religious struggle—certainly a step backwards in national security. Sadly, such statements also perpetuate the unfortunate misunderstanding that an entire religion is responsible for the actions of a minority of religious extremists. These reckless comments do not reflect American values, and irresponsibly put American security at risk.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VOTING RIGHTS ACT

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, not so long ago, 40 years ago, in many parts of the American South, it was almost impossible for people of color to register to vote. Just 40 years ago, people of color had to pay a poll tax and pass a so-called literacy test in some States in the South. There were black men and women who were professors in colleges and universities, black lawyers and black doctors who were told that they could not read or write well enough to register to vote. People were turned away from the courthouse when they attempted to register. Some were jailed.

Forty years ago, on March 7, 1965, about 600 black men and women, and a few young children attempted to peacefully march from Selma, Al, to Montgomery, to the State Capital, to dramatize to the world that people of color wanted to register to vote. And the world watched as we were met with night sticks, bull whips; we were trampled by horses and tear gassed.

Eight days after what became known as Bloody Sunday, President Johnson came to this very Chamber and spoke to a joint session of Congress. He started off that speech on March 15, 1965 by saying: "I speak tonight for the dignity of man and for the destiny of democracy." President Johnson went on to say: "At times, history and fate come together to shape a turning point in a man's unending search for freedom. So it was more than a century ago at Lexington and at Concord. So it was at Appomattox. So it was last week in Selma, Alabama."

And during that speech, 40 years ago, President Johnson condemned the violence in Selma, and called on Congress to enact the Voting Rights Act. Echoing the words of the civil rights movement, he closed his speech by saying "And we shall overcome."

Forty years ago, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, and on August 6, 1965, it was signed into law.

Because of the action of Congress and the leadership of a President and the courage of hundreds and thousands of our citizens, we have witnessed a nonviolent revolution in America, a resolution of values, a revolution of ideas. The passage of the Voting Rights Act helped expand our democracy and open up our democracy to let in millions of our citizens.

We still need to keep the voting rights act strong. The Voting Rights Act must be reauthorized. Not just reauthorized, it must be renewed and strengthened. The vote is the most powerful, nonviolent tool that our citizens have in a democratic society, and nothing, but nothing, should interfere with the right of every citizen to vote and have their vote count.

Mr. Speaker, the history of the right to vote in America is a history of conflict, of struggling for the right to vote. Many people died trying to protect that right.

For millions like me, the struggle for the right to vote is not mere history; it is experience. The experience of minorities today tells us that the struggle is not over and that the special provisions of the Voting Rights Act are still necessary.

I am proud to be the sponsor of H. Con. Res. 216, a resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, which I introduced with my colleagues from the Judiciary Committee, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CHABOT and Mr. NADLER. In that resolution, we pledge to "advance the legacy of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by ensuring the continued effectiveness of the Act to protect the voting rights of all Americans."

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to protect the voting rights of all Americans.

Today we celebrate how far we have come. We celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, Mark Twain famously said that one of the most striking differences between a cat and a lie is that a cat has only nine lives. This is certainly the case with respect to one of the most persistent slanders against the State of Israel: the contention that on June 8, 1967, the Israel Defense Forces intentionally attacked a U.S. Naval Intelligence vessel, the USS *Liberty*.

Fortunately that lie has been put to rest once and for all by the careful and exhaustive research of the Honorable A. Jay Cristol, a distinguished judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. His careful research of the *Liberty* incident clearly demonstrates that this tragedy was the result of mistaken identity at the height of the Six Day War, when Israel's very survival was at stake.

This conclusion is in line with the conclusions of 10 official U.S. investigations—including five congressional investigations—that there was never any evidence that the attack was made with knowledge that the target was a U.S. ship. There is substantial evidence the attack was a tragic mistake caused by errors on the part of both the U.S. and Israel.

On June 8, 1967, at the height of the Six Day War, a U.S. Naval intelligence vessel, the USS *Liberty*, strayed into the waters 14 miles off the Sinai Peninsula, near El Arish. The Israel Defense Forces, having incorrectly identified it as an Egyptian vessel engaged in an attack of Israeli forces, attacked the *Liberty*, killing and wounding some of the crew.

As a U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry found, "Available evidence combines to indicate that the attack on LIBERTY on 8 June was in fact a case of mistaken identity."

No one with an open mind can read the evidence amassed by Judge Cristol and reach any other conclusion. Nonetheless, the conspiracy theories persist.

Conspiracy theories tend to have a life of their own. They can never be disproved. If there is no evidence supporting the conspiracy, then it is proof of a coverup. If there is evidence proving there was no conspiracy,

that is also proof of a coverup. Either way, evidence disproving a conspiracy theory only proves to believers that the conspiracy really exists.

No one denies that this incident was a terrible tragedy, but some have sought to exploit a case of mistaken identity by insisting that the Israeli military knew that the *Liberty* was a U.S. naval vessel, and attacked it on purpose. Despite the complete absence of any credible evidence to support this outrageous claim, it continues to be repeated as if it were true.

Judge Cristol has done a tremendous service with his work. It is my hope that his book, "The Liberty Incident: The 1967 Attack on the U.S. Navy Spy Ship," which was the result of more than 14 years of research, will finally lay to rest this slander against one of our Nation's most reliable allies.

RECOGNIZING THE L.A. HONPA
HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist temple and its members as they celebrate their Centennial Anniversary. The temple is located in downtown Los Angeles in my 34th Congressional District.

The Temple, which began in 1905 in Little Tokyo on Jackson Street and Central Avenue, was established due to the strong and faithful desire of the followers of the teachings of Buddha to have a place to congregate after emigrating from Japan. The Issei (first generation) pioneers brought with them their Japanese culture, traditions, customs, and their Buddhist religion.

In 1925, a new temple was built on the corner of First and Central streets. The Temple, fondly called "Nishi" by Buddhists in Southern California, is currently housed in a traditional Japanese-style temple building on First Street in the eastern sector of Little Tokyo. Nishi is one of sixty temples around the United States that make up the Buddhist Churches of America.

Since its inception, Nishi has continuously served its members and the Little Tokyo community. Even during World War II, when the Temple was used as an initial assembly site for many of the 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans who were evacuated from the west coast of the United States to internment camps, the Temple provided the evacuees a haven to safely store their belongings until after the war. Throughout their internment, Nishi ministers continued to administer to the faithful Buddhist members.

Today, the Temple offers Sunday services, as well as services for weddings, funerals, and family memorials. Nishi also provides a children's day care center, and community programs for youth and adults, such as sports and cultural activities.

The Centennial Anniversary Celebration commemorates the dedication and commitment of the Issei pioneer members that laid the foundation of the Temple. It also commemorates the hard work of succeeding generations that built the Temple as it stands today. The addition of the new Wisteria Chap-

el and the Muryo Koju-do (nokotsudo-columbarium) were built as a centennial project to commemorate the pioneering members and to continue the legacy of the Issei for future generations. The Dedication Service of this new addition to the Temple will be part of the Centennial Celebration weekend of August 27–29, 2005. Nishi members will also conduct a memorial service in honor of past members and ministers and host an evening banquet.

I congratulate the Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and its members on reaching this historic milestone, and I join them in celebrating their 100th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHEYENNE
RIVER SIOUX TRIBE EQUITABLE
COMPENSATION ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act of 2005.

The Act will help to right a historic wrong that occurred during the construction of the Oahe dam and reservoir, depriving the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of some of their best lands and failing to provide adequate compensation.

Recognizing these past wrongs, Congress moved to compensate the tribe in 2000 by establishing a trust fund. While these actions were commendable, they left one important group behind—tribal members that lost privately owned lands. This act would correct that omission and allow the tribe to distribute funds to individuals who are currently prohibited from receiving them.

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act would provide just compensation for the taking of lands over 50 years ago. I urge its swift consideration and passage.

RECOGNITION OF FINN GRAND
FEST 2005

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a festival in my district in northern Michigan that honors the history, heritage, culture and contributions of American-Finnish and Canadian-Finnish people. This joint U.S./Canadian Finnish festival to be held on August 10–14, 2005, in Marquette, Michigan gives the Finnish communities in the U.S. as well as Canada the opportunity to experience activities, educational programs, worship opportunities, musical entertainment, cultural displays and a parade based around the theme "Heritage Powers the Future".

The Finn Grand Fest 2005 is the second time FinnFest USA and Finnish Canadian Grand Festival will have participated in a joint, international event. The first occasion took place five years ago in Toronto, Canada. Planning committees from both countries have expressed interest in holding a joint festival held

every five years as a new tradition. The Canadian festival is considerably older than its U.S. counterpart having first been organized in the 1940's as an influx of Finnish immigrants came to Canada to work. Although Finnish immigrants first came to the U.S. during the decades around 1900, FinnFest USA was not established until 1983 in Minneapolis, MN.

Since 1983, FinnFest USA has been held each year around the country except the 1½ year gaps before and after February 2004 when accommodations were made for a winter festival in Florida. Locations are determined by places where there is a strong Finnish community to organize the event. A large population of people of Finnish descent live in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This will be the second time Marquette, Michigan has hosted the festival in the United States. They also hosted it in 1996. Other Michigan cities to host this event include: Hancock in 1985 and 1990 and Farmington Hills in the Detroit area in 1987. Other cities throughout the country include: Seattle, Washington (twice), Lake Worth, Florida (twice), Minneapolis, Minnesota (twice), Fitchburg, MA, Newark, DE, Thousand Oaks, CA, Portland, OR, and Portland, ME.

While Canadians have been able to maintain the use of the Finnish language in their current culture, the communities in the U.S. have unfortunately watched as the traditional language has been replaced by English. This happened over the generations as many families spoke Finnish at home but the children learned English in school. As time went on, English was the primary language used to communicate with non-Finns, taught in school and practiced at home. Canadians are facing the beginning phases of this trend that may result in the loss of native Finnish speakers in their country as well. Thankfully, there are still a number of people in Michigan's Upper Peninsula who still speak Finnish. In fact, my district is home to a weekly television program call "Finland Calling" hosted by Carl Pellonpaa. "Finland Calling" is a weekly show about Finnish heritage that has been on the air for 43 years.

Like the Finnish language, the original organizers of FinnFest are slowly slipping away. A major contributor from among the earliest generations was Dr. Sylvia Kinnunen who recently passed away on July 25, 2005. Despite her admired age of 84, she was an energetic force in the planning and execution as the Co-chair of Cultural Programs for Finn Grand Fest 2005. We appreciate her devotion to preserving Finnish culture and for her contributions to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She will be greatly missed.

Americans and Canadians are proud of their Finnish heritage and the Finnish people. FinnFest organizers have noted that even are non-Finns have taken active roles and in some cases are major contributors to the event. Among those non-Finns is the musical headliner White Water made up of a family of folk music artists from Amasa, Michigan. The Premos began incorporating Finnish influence in their music and even performed at a folk music festival in Finland last year. The premiere performances at the Finn Grand Fest 2005 include a solo by Evan Premo during a double bass concerto on Thursday, August 11 and 100 violinists of all ages performing at the opening ceremony organized by Evan's mother Bette Premo.

The esteem felt for the Premos by the local Finns is an example of the educational sharing