

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO YOLANDA MARTIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Yolanda Martin, a native of the town of Puerto Annuelles in the beautiful and rich province of Chiriqui, in the Republic of Panama. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her accomplishments.

Ms. Martin migrated to the United States in 1981, and settled in Brooklyn, New York. Ms. Martin's story is similar to many of our Nation's proud immigrants. In 1999 through 2002, she founded three Child Care Services. Ms. Martin is the executive director and CEO of Minnie's Day Care Center, Parents United For A Better Day Care Centers No. 1 and No. 2, both of which operate 24 hours. All centers provide parents with day care services, an after school program, pre-kindergarten classes, a summer program and overnight child care.

Ms. Martin attended several colleges over the years and is a N.Y. State certified EMT, NY State certified AIDS and HIV educational instructor, an American Red Cross CPR and First Aid instructor.

From 1982–1985, Ms. Martin worked for NY State with the mentally disabled, from 1985–1998, she worked for the NYS Division for Youth Corrections in facilities with incarcerated youth ages 14 to 18 years old. From 1991 to 1995, she worked with the NYC Department of Education as an integrating bilingual paraprofessional in special education. From 1990 to 1995, Ms. Martin also worked as an Emergency Technician with Tri-Com Ambulance services.

Ms. Martin is the proud mother of three beautiful children: Ronald (25) Kendra (18) Courtney (9) and an adopted daughter in Panama, Kiris (10). When she is not working with others in the community, Ms. Martin spends time with her children and family. She is known for her excellent cooking, baking and interior decorating skills. Ms. Martin's hobbies are the performing arts, modeling, and horseback riding. One of her short-term goals is to own her own horse and then a stable with a minimum of six horses is her long-term goal. Ms. Martin truly believes that the key to success is to do for others. Says Ms. Martin, "the more you do, the more is returned to you," it is the rule of the Universe.

Mr. Speaker, Yolanda Martin's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the 75th Anniversary of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. I am proud to pay tribute to the years of service and protection provided to the citizens of Missouri by the Highway Patrol.

On April 24, 1931, Governor Henry S. Caulfield signed Senate Bill 36, establishing the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The bill provided for a superintendent, 10 captains, and 115 patrolmen, but only 55 men were originally hired as troopers. The first superintendent, Lewis Ellis, was hired on July 21, 1931, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol became effective on September 14, 1931.

Throughout its 75 years, the Patrol has provided many invaluable services. In addition to enforcing traffic laws, it encourages traffic safety to the public through displays, speaking engagements, Community Alliance Programs, and the Safety Education Center. The Governor's Security Division, a branch of the Patrol, provides security to Missouri's governor, his family, and visiting dignitaries. Since the Patrol assumed the operation of Missouri's weigh stations in 1942, it has also proven vital to the removal of illegal drugs from the highways.

In the last 75 years, Missouri has called upon the Patrol for assistance in periods of civil unrest and natural disaster. In 1954, troopers were called upon to help quell a full-scale prison riot. The Patrol helped Missourians overcome the paralysis caused by the Great Flood of 1993. After Hurricane Katrina, 56 Patrol personnel responded to a call for assistance to Biloxi, Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, the Missouri State Highway Patrol can be proud of all it has done for the State of Missouri. I know the Members of the House will join me in congratulating the Missouri State Highway Patrol for 75 years of excellent service.

TRIBUTE TO OLIVIA "LIBBY" MAYNARD

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Olivia Maynard as she receives the Eleanor Roosevelt Award from the Michigan Democratic Women's Caucus. Olivia will be honored at a luncheon on Saturday, April 8th in Detroit.

Olivia Maynard, also known as Libby, has served the people of Michigan in numerous capacities since graduating from the University

of Michigan in 1971 with a Master of Social Work degree. After serving as the director of the Office of Services to the Aging, she ran for Lieutenant Governor in 1990 with Governor Jim Blanchard. President Clinton appointed her to the Federal Council on Aging, and she served as a delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Aging.

Elected in 1996 as a Regent of the University of Michigan, she was re-elected in 2004 and continues in that capacity at the present time. Deeply committed to Michigan and its people, Libby was a founding member of Michigan Prospect an organization committed to connecting government to its citizens and creating a caring democratic society. Currently serving as President of Michigan Prospect, Libby devotes her time and energy to bringing about a diverse, just, humane state of Michigan.

Libby also serves as a trustee of the C.S. Mott Foundation, on the boards of the Nature Conservancy of Michigan, McLaren Regional Medical Center, the Council on Michigan Foundations and the Council on Foundations. She is the past chair of the Michigan Democratic Party. Along with her husband, S. Olof Karlstrom, an attorney in private practice, they have generously supported Michigan establishments. Their gift of \$2.25 million to the University of Michigan School of Social Work is just one example of their commitment to supporting the institutions and ideas that will make the future of Michigan brighter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to stand with me and applaud the tremendous contributions Olivia Maynard has made to the promotion of dignity, justice, education, and social well-being. Her lifelong commitment to all segments of society has made a positive impact on the lives of countless persons. I value her support, counsel and common sense. Olivia Maynard is one of the giants of the Flint Michigan community and I am honored to call her my friend.

REAFFIRMING OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, Chinese President Hu Jintao is scheduled to visit Washington, DC, later this month. Mr. Hu is most likely to discuss trade, currency, North Korea, Iran and Taiwan with President Bush. I ask President Bush to not yield to Chinese demands on Taiwan but to reaffirm our long standing support for Taiwan and its people.

During the 1995–1996 Taiwan Strait missile crises, President Clinton sent two aircraft carrier battle groups into the region. Since then, the Chinese military has greatly expanded its capabilities and deployed hundreds of missiles targeting Taiwan. As the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Peter Rodman mentioned in his remarks before the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, "U.S. policy opposes unilateral changes in the Taiwan Strait status quo by either party. The PLA military build-up changes that status quo and requires us to adapt to the new situation, as we are doing now." Therefore, we must help the Taiwanese people to protect themselves in the event of a military conflict in the Strait.

Taiwan is very worried about China's military intentions. Last March, the Chinese enacted the anti-secession law, which gives them the right to use force against Taiwan. Chinese leaders have consistently maintained that military action is a viable possibility.

I ask President Bush to persuade Mr. Hu to withdraw Chinese missiles from the Strait, to rescind the anti-secession law and to resume a dialogue with Taiwan's elected leaders.

Peace in the Strait is important to the United States, China, and Taiwan. The 23 million people of Taiwan have worked hard to earn their democratic way of life and they should be allowed to determine their own future. Keeping the freedom of the Taiwanese people secure is a matter of deepest concern to all of us.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE
WITH VIETNAM: IS VIETNAM
MAKING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, I co-chaired a hearing to examine the results of the recent Human Rights Dialogue with the government of Vietnam, and the progress, or lack thereof, in Vietnam's respect for human rights and religious freedom. While the hearing revealed that there have been some improvements in Vietnam's human rights record, the testimony showed that the evidence of abuse is still too strong for us to relax our efforts.

It would be inappropriate, in any discussion of Vietnam, not to first raise the issue that engages more Americans, more deeply, than any other when we talk of Vietnam—the need to complete a full, thorough and responsible accounting of the remaining American MIAs from the Vietnam conflict. As my colleagues know well, of the 2,583 POW/MIAs who were unaccounted for—Vietnam (1,923), Laos (567), Cambodia (83) and China (10)—just under 1,400 remain unaccounted for in Vietnam. During my last visit to Vietnam in December 2005 I met with LTC Lentfort Mitchell, head of the Joint POW-MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). While JPAC is making steady progress and is able to conduct approximately four joint field activities per year in Vietnam, I remain deeply concerned that the government of Vietnam could be more forthcoming and transparent in providing the fullest accounting. It is our sacred duty to the families of the missing that we never forget and never cease our pursuit until we achieve the fullest possible accounting of our MIAs.

This hearing took place in the context of the recently concluded Human Rights Dialogue with Vietnam, which our distinguished witnesses from the State Department, the Honorable Barry F. Lowenkron, Assistant Secretary

of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, the Honorable John V. Hanford III, Ambassador-at-Large for the Office of International Religious Freedom, and the Honorable Eric John, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, reported on.

The State Department had suspended the Human Rights Dialogue since 2002 because it was clear Hanoi was not serious about our concerns. Since that time Hanoi was designated a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) for egregious and systematic violations of religious freedom in both 2004 and 2005. Vietnam is currently anxious to receive Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) with the U.S., to gain admittance to the World Trade Organization (WTO), and to have President Bush attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in November. Indeed, this is the "APEC Year" in Hanoi. Now that the dialogue has been resumed, at Hanoi's request, it is both imperative and opportune for the administration and Congress to pressure Hanoi for more deeds than words. Vietnam needs to show that it is not merely trying to smooth out some minor "misunderstandings" which get in the way of Vietnam's important economic and political goals, but rather that it has made a fundamental commitment to human rights and reform, and to fulfilling its international commitments, a fundamental commitment which will not be forgotten after it has achieved those goals.

Section 702 of Public Law 107-671 requires the Department to submit a report on the U.S.-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue within 60 days of its conclusion "describing to what extent the Government of Vietnam has made progress during the calendar year toward achieving the following objectives:

(1) Improving the Government of Vietnam's commercial and criminal codes to bring them into conformity with international standards, including the repeal of the Government of Vietnam's administrative detention decree (Directive 311/CP).

(2) Releasing political and religious activists who have been imprisoned or otherwise detained by the Government of Vietnam, and ceasing surveillance and harassment of those who have been released.

(3) Ending official restrictions on religious activity, including implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance.

(4) Promoting freedom for the press, including freedom of movement of members of the Vietnamese and foreign press.

(5) Improving prison conditions and providing transparency in the penal system of Vietnam, including implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

(6) Respecting the basic rights of indigenous minority groups, especially in the central and northern highlands of Vietnam.

(7) Respecting the basic rights of workers, including working with the International Labor Organization to improve mechanisms for promoting such rights.

(8) Cooperating with requests by the United States to obtain full and free access to persons who may be eligible for admission to the United States as refugees or immigrants, and allowing such persons to leave Vietnam without being subjected to extortion or other corrupt practices.

So far, all the evidence suggests, however, that Vietnam still has a long way to go before it can convince us that it has made any fundamental and lasting change in its human rights policy. The State Department's Human Rights report on Vietnam for 2005, upgraded Vietnam's Human Rights record from "poor" to merely "unsatisfactory." Freedom House still rates Vietnam as "unfree," but it is no longer at the absolute bottom of the repression scale. These are not exactly ringing endorsements.

There are fewer religious and political dissidents in jail, but there still are too many. Even those let out, like Father Ly, Father Loi, Dan Que, are subject to continued forms of house arrest or harassment. Restrictions on the legal churches have eased, but requests to build churches, to receive back confiscated properties, and provide charitable and educational services, which are allowed under current law, are never answered quickly, and often never answered at all. Hundreds of churches have been closed in the past 5 years. Last year, a few dozen were opened, which does to begin to redress the earlier harm. And still large numbers of believers who belong to "illegal churches" suffer continued harassment—not everywhere, not everyone, not always, but their rights to believe and practice are still not secured by rule of law. Too often all of the improvements are based on local and arbitrary decisions which can be reversed at any time. The Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam (UBCV) is still illegal, and its leaders, the Venerable Thich Quang Do and Patriarch Thich Huyen Quang remain under strict "pagoda" arrest, and 13 other senior figures remain under similar restrictions. The independent Hoa Hao Buddhists are also illegal, and their church was singled out for repression last year. Evangelical Protestant house churches, Mennonites, Bahai, Hindus, and others exist in a legal limbo: technically illegal, sometimes tolerated, but sometimes repressed. Those officials who violate government guaranteed religious rights appear never to be punished. This is not the way a rule of law society is constructed.

Reports of forced renunciations of Christianity in the Montagnard regions have diminished—but they have not ended. Montagnard house churches are allowed to operate, but have not received their registration. The UNHCR, and various diplomats, are allowed to travel, sometimes, to some Montagnard regions, but only when carefully monitored. Montagnards eligible for resettlement in the U.S. get their passports and exit visas, but not all, not everywhere. And hundreds of Montagnards languish in detention.

Vietnam reportedly weakened its two-child policy several years ago, after coercive policies involving contraception, birth quotas, sterilization and abortion cut Vietnam's fertility almost in half in 20 years. Yet last year the Deputy Prime Minister called for "more drastic measures" to cut the birth rate further. It is not clear that this has yet been enforced, but it hangs there as a storm cloud over all families, but especially over Vietnam's long-abused indigenous minorities. Like China's one child policy, Vietnam's two-child policy has led to a large and growing imbalance in male and female births, which will only increase its already severe problems as a source, transit and destination country for human trafficking. According to last year's State Department's Human Trafficking report, Vietnam remained a