

I do not agree with every single detail of his foreign policy decisions, but I certainly applaud his commitment to diplomacy and cooperation as the best way to prevent war, solve international problems and get a dialogue started.

During the G-20 summit in Europe, the President worked hard to restore good relations with our allies, which were stretched to the breaking point by the previous administration's arrogance. He said that America will listen to the concerns of our European friends, and he promised to rebuild our partnership with them.

While he was in London, the President also pledged to work with Russia to reduce both nations' nuclear arsenals, and he announced a new effort to rid the world of nuclear weapons once and for all. And he called for U.S. ratification of the comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty, which I have been asking for for many, many years.

On his trip to Turkey, Mr. Speaker, the President also reached out to the Muslim world. He said that the U.S. is not and never will be at war with Islam. Those were very welcome words, while he also promised to seek broader engagement with the Muslim world based on mutual interest and mutual respect.

Along these lines, Mr. Speaker, the administration recently stepped up its effort to engage Iran in talks. They agreed to participate in talks with Iran and other global powers about Iran's nuclear program.

When the President attended the Summit of the Americas a little bit later, he pledged to work closely with the nations of the hemisphere on climate change and economic development and to cooperate with Mexico to end the violence on our border.

Most important, however, Mr. Speaker, President Obama called for a new beginning in our relations with Cuba. After a delegation of Members of Congress visited Cuba during the Easter work period, President Obama lifted some of the restrictions that Americans face when they want to travel to Cuba and/or send money to relatives there.

So far the response of the Cuban Government has been very positive. I hope this is a beginning to the end of the 50-year cold war between the United States and Cuba, but I know we have a lot of work to do. These problems probably won't be solved overnight, but we are on the way.

I also have some concerns, concerns with our very own administration about some of their policies. For example, the administration is planning to prolong our occupation of Iraq until at least the end of 2011, and it appears that they could be expanding our military presence in Afghanistan indefinitely.

The lessons of the past 7 years, Mr. Speaker, have made it clear that a military option won't work in either Iraq or Afghanistan. We must, instead, fundamentally change our mission in

both countries to focus on reconciliation, economic development, humanitarian aid and regional diplomacy.

I am, however, encouraged, Mr. Speaker, by the administration's desire to chart a new and better course for America's place in the world.

President Obama is willing to listen, build partnerships and show respect for other cultures. That's a big step forward for making the world a more peaceful place for ourselves and our children.

TOM TANCREDO VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, America's colleges and universities are training the future leaders of our Nation. In an academic setting, all viewpoints on matters of public policy deserve the chance to be heard. This tradition of academic freedom must be protected.

Unfortunately, last week at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, students were denied the opportunity to hear a talk by former Congressman Tom Tancredo by protesters who interrupted his speech. Congressman Tancredo had been invited by the University of North Carolina Chapter of Youth for Western Civilization to speak on the topic of in-State tuition for illegal aliens, an issue that has been hotly debated in the State of North Carolina.

Campus police shut down the event after protesters who shouted accusations of racism shattered a window of the classroom where the talk was to be held.

Following the incident, I had the chance to speak with the University of North Carolina Chancellor Holden Thorp by telephone. Chancellor Thorp said he had called Congressman Tancredo to apologize for how he was treated during his visit to the campus. The chancellor also issued a public statement about the incident.

He said, and I quote, "We expect protests about controversial subjects at Carolina. That's part of our culture. But we also pride ourselves on being a place where all points of view can be expressed and heard. There's a way to protest that respects free speech and allows people with opposing views to be heard. Here that's often meant that groups protesting a speaker have displayed signs or banners, silently expressing their opinions while the speaker had his or her say."

That did not happen during Congressman Tancredo's visit.

I commend Chancellor Thorp for extending a personal apology to Congressman Tancredo and for publicly voicing his disappointment that a visitor to the campus was denied the opportunity to express his views.

On behalf of all taxpayers who support North Carolina's public univer-

sities and their system, I also would like to apologize to my former colleague, because it all comes down to one simple point: If our public universities cannot protect freedom of speech on their campuses, who will? While his opposition to in-State tuition benefits for illegal immigrants may be controversial to some, Congressman Tancredo is a respected and knowledgeable leader in the immigration reform movement.

It is a shame that those with dissenting viewpoints prevented others from hearing his comments. I hope disciplinary measures will be taken, as warranted, against any student or professor who participated in disrupting Congressman Tancredo's talk. It is my understanding that the school is working with the students and would like to invite Congressman Tancredo back to campus to speak. In fact, Mr. Speaker, former Congressman Virgil Goode, another opponent of illegal immigration, is already scheduled to speak at the school tomorrow, and I hope that his speech will be protected.

I hope the university will take steps to ensure that future student-sponsored discussions on the university campus at Chapel Hill do not get shut down by those with dissenting viewpoints. We have a right to agree and disagree in this country. But if we cannot protect that at a university, I don't know what the future holds, quite frankly.

Again, in closing, I thank the administrators at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for working to protect the integrity of the university by allowing free speech to be exercised on their campus.

If our men and women in uniform or in Afghanistan and Iraq are trying to protect the freedom in those countries, then let's do what is possible to protect the freedom of different views at our universities and our colleges in America, because they are the future leaders of America, and they have a right to participate with those who agree and disagree.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I ask God to bless our men and women in uniform, and I ask God to please bless America.

HONORING HARRY KALAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and accomplishments of one of the most distinctive voices in all of sports, a true baseball legend, and someone who called the Seventh Congressional District of Pennsylvania home. Harold Norbert "Harry" Kalas, born in Naperville, Illinois, graduate of the University of Iowa and Hall of Fame broadcaster for over 44 years, passed away on April 13, 2009, having lived a life of great distinction.

After graduation, Harry Kalas served in the 25th Infantry Division of our