

would reaffirm America's commitment to a world without torture and show the rest of the world that the U.S. is committed to rehabilitating those who have suffered at the hands of torture.

We as a nation must set a clear example that we do not support torture, nor do we condone such practices. For the benefit of our troops, for the good of Iraq, for the good of America, and for the safety of the World, we must heal the wounds caused by torture to those victims domestic and foreign. A strong bipartisan message of support needs to be displayed by this body to right the wrongs and send a message to the world that America is committed to ending what President Obama called a "dark and painful chapter in our history," by providing treatment to the victims of torture. I invite my colleagues to stand with me today and support this important legislation.

TAX AND CAP A JOB KILLER

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, the U.S. House of Representatives today passed H.R. 2454, the so-called Cap and Trade bill. I noted in opposition to that measure and offer the following statement.

The Cap and Tax bill could not come at a worse time and could be a job killer. The 1,200 page measure will impose a national tax on ALL energy and lead to higher energy prices for ALL American households. Most families cannot afford the estimated \$1,400 yearly increase in energy costs. With the economy struggling, this bill, with its increased expense to industry, will cause additional unemployment by sending jobs overseas where doing business is cheaper. This bill also further expands the role of government by imposing new restrictions and requirements on everything from light bulbs to water dispensers.

As the Republican Leader of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I want to point out that Transportation accounts for 30% of greenhouse gas emissions. This legislation contains significant provisions in the committee's jurisdiction, yet we held no hearings on this massive tax increase, and willingly surrendered our responsibility to consider any amendments to try to improve the bill.

According to the Heritage Foundation, by 2035 this Cap and Trade bill would: reduce aggregate gross GDP by \$9.4 trillion (or reduce Florida gross state product by \$28 billion); raise electricity rates 90 percent; raise gasoline prices by 58 percent; raise residential natural gas prices by 55 percent; and increase inflation-adjusted federal debt by 26 percent, or \$28,728 additional federal debt per person.

For this any significant other reasons I voted against passage or H.R. 2454.

COMMEMORATING THE FIRST BURIALS AT BAKERSFIELD NATIONAL CEMETARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give tribute and honor to the brave men and women of Kern County who have proudly served their country in the United States Armed Forces. As a nation, one of our most vital duties is to ensure we are committed to providing for our military veterans. This includes providing a final resting place for the honored to be recognized. Thus, today, I would like to commemorate the first burials at the new Bakersfield National Cemetery.

The Bakersfield National Cemetery is a 500-acre site located approximately 25 miles outside of Bakersfield nestled in the Tehachapi Mountains. Surrounded by golden scenery, crushed red rock and drought resistant plants, the newly developed cemetery is furnished with a memorial walkway, committal service shelter, internet areas and administrative and maintenance buildings. Upon project completion, the cemetery will be equipped to serve 200,000 Central California veterans, their spouses and children.

The first cremation and casket burials will take place on July 1 and July 2, 2009, respectively. On July 1, the cremated remains of nine soldiers and one spouse from the Bakersfield and surrounding area will be lowered in unison. The casket burial ceremony on July 2 will commemorate the life of Iraqi veteran Army Reserve Maj. Jason E. George, a fallen soldier killed in action.

"A Place of Honor, For Those Who Served With Honor." These patriotic words to be inscribed at Bakersfield's National Cemetery demonstrate the overwhelming pride we have for our soldiers. Veterans in Kern County and surrounding areas take comfort in knowing their undying pledge and sacrifice to protect America's freedom is not forgotten. Having our own national shrine allows us to properly honor the fallen soldiers, veterans from generations past, and soldiers who are currently fighting overseas from the Kern County area.

On behalf of our veterans, I hereby express my high admiration and appreciation for all those who are currently serving our nation and commemorate those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Let today's ceremony be a perpetual reminder of honor for all of America's men and women of valor.

SUPPORT OF H. CON. RES. 127, "RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NATIONAL CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support of H. Con. Res 127, which recognizes the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

As a child of Jamaican grandparents, I understand the importance of recognizing the influence Caribbean cultures continues to have on all facets of these United States. Growing up, my grandmother who hails from Jamaica, instilled in me a strong appreciation for her Caribbean values. As a result of my upbringing, I have adopted a strong work ethic and tremendous pride in my heritage. As a parent, I have passed on these same values to my own children, so they will develop a sense of pride in their Caribbean heritage and acknowledge the many roles Caribbean people play in shaping this nation. I wholeheartedly support this resolution that commemorates Caribbean heritage, history, culture and contributions to the United States.

In her 1970 autobiography, Shirley Chisom, the first black woman elected to Congress, credited her success to the education she received while attending school in Barbados. She wrote, "Years later I would know what an important gift my parents had given me by seeing to it that I had my early education in the strict, traditional, British-style schools of Barbados. If I speak and write easily now, that early education is the main reason."

This is a nation built by immigrants. From as early as the 17th century there have been individuals from the Caribbean Islands, working here in the United States as indentured servants in the colony of Jamestown, Virginia. They worked in fields picking cotton, tobacco and crops just as the slaves did.

Caribbean immigrants have been contributing to the well-being of American society since its founding. Alexander Hamilton, the First Secretary of the Treasury, was from the Caribbean island of St. Kitts. We count among our famous sons and daughters, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Cicely Tyson, W.E.B. Dubois, James Weldon Johnson, Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier to name a few.

H. Con. Res. 127 recognizes the significance of Caribbean people and their descendants in the history and culture of the United States. Our nation would not be what it is today without these significant contributions of the Caribbean people and we should honor these accomplishments with the passing of this legislation. The contributions of Caribbean-Americans are a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of the United States and play an important role in shaping the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States, which ultimately enriches and strengthens our nation.

By passing this legislation we continue to honor the friendship between the United States and Caribbean countries. We are united by our common values and shared history, and we should celebrate the rich Caribbean Heritage and the many ways in which Caribbean Americans have helped shape this nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to pay tribute to the common culture and bonds of friendship that unite the United States and the Caribbean countries.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES R. KIRBY

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the James R. Kirby