

ideologies. Then, in the span of a year, three giants converged on the world scene and human history was forever changed. England's Iron Lady, Margaret Thatcher, Poland's native son, Pope John Paul II, and our own Ronald Reagan boldly championed freedom, inspired hope in millions and gave those living behind the Iron Curtain the courage to imagine a world transformed.

While the Soviet Union is relegated to the history books, today there remain ideologies that threaten human freedom and dignity. There remain governments who rule by fear. There remain people held captive in their own nation.

Similarly, there are those who still warn that America ought not meddle in other countries' internal affairs. There are still those who caution against disrupting bilateral relations. There are still those who maintain that the desire for freedom and basic human rights is not universal.

But the events of 20 years ago teach us something very, very different.

Ask the Sharanskys and Solzhenitsyns whose lives in prison improved when leaders in the West spoke out on their behalf. Ask the thousands of East Berliners who, facing certain death if caught, dug tunnels, constructed hot air balloons and built pulleys in their desperate attempts to escape a literal prison.

There are lessons to be drawn from this anniversary—lessons which must inspire our foreign policy today. People yearn for freedom, they crave dignity. These things are not bestowed by the government and as such cannot forever be denied by the government. People are inspired by words. Dictators cower when their lies are exposed. And seemingly impenetrable regimes can find themselves on “ash heap of history.”

COMMENDING THE WINNERS OF THE 2009 NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend the winners of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Medicine, particularly Dr. Carol W. Greider, a professor of molecular biology and genetics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, for discovering how chromosomes are protected by telomeres and the enzyme telomerase. The research of Dr. Greider, along with her colleagues Dr. Elizabeth H. Blackburn and Dr. Jack W. Szostak, has created a greater understanding of how chromosomes protect themselves from degrading when cells divide. This has unlocked mysteries about the human aging process and will have an enormous impact on fighting cancer and many other inherited diseases caused by telomerase defects.

I applaud Dr. Greider's outstanding achievement as it reflects many years of study and hard work, a deep commitment to scientific innovation, and a desire to have a positive impact on peoples' lives. Her achievement is all the more significant in that only 8 of the 192 individuals to receive this prize have been women. I hope her success will inspire young women to enter the field of science.

Congratulations to these scientists for their groundbreaking work in the field of medicine and for their extraordinary contributions to humankind.

HONORING ERROTABERE RANCHES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a family farming operation whose owners exemplify the spirit of fortitude, entrepreneurship, and advocacy demonstrated by so many of those who strive to provide food and fiber to our great Nation. Much has contributed to California's bountiful agriculture industry and economic well-being, but one significant underlying factor in California's agricultural success has been the presence of families such as the Errotabere family. A diversified family farming operation in Fresno County, Errotabere Ranches is being honored on November 18, 2009 in Fresno, California as the 2009 Baker, Peterson & Franklin Ag Business Award recipient.

Though the Errotabere story didn't begin in the United States, the Errotabere family has clearly added strength to the fabric of this great Nation since coming to America. Jean Errotabere was born in a French-Basque village in France called Aldudez just two miles from the Spanish-French border. He came to Riverdale, California in the late 1940s to work with his brother on their ranch which was started in the late 1920s. Georgianne, a native of Vancouver, Canada, also came to the Central Valley of California to look for work. While waitressing at the Santa Fe Basque Restaurant in downtown Fresno, now known as the Sheppard's Inn, she met Jean Errotabere and their life together began.

Over the next 3 decades, their family and their business continued to grow and at the time of Jean's death, in 1979, their sons Dan, Jean and Remi, took over the ranch operations. Together with their wives Susan, Colleen, and Maureen the Errotaberes have developed a diversified family farming operation that now spans over 5,500 acres throughout western Fresno County. Among the crops the operation grows are almonds, pistachios, processing tomatoes, garlic, pima cotton, alfalfa, wheat, safflower, Romaine lettuce, processing onions, seed lettuce, cantaloupes and honeydew melons.

Errotabere Ranches has been actively involved in Agricultural Organizations, Riverdale schools, the Jordan College of Agriculture Sciences and Technology at California State University, Fresno and the Fresno County Farm Bureau. Errotabere Ranches President Dan Errotabere has been recognized and praised as a crusader for agricultural water issues, including his role in negotiating the historical treaty between Westlands Water District and the Friant Water Users Authority in 2004.

“This great Valley that we have is certainly the envy of the world,” Errotabere was recently quoted as saying. “It's a promising story for California that agriculture can do as much as it can.”

It is a pleasure to honor and congratulate the Errotabere's “can-do” attitude and repeated earnest advocacy for Agriculture. The

Errotaberes are truly deserving of this great honor and I salute the entire family for their accomplishments and contributions to Agriculture in California and the Nation.

WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in observance of the World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims and their Families, which was observed on Sunday, November 15, 2009, as well as to offer my heartfelt condolences to all those who have lost loved ones to road crashes.

The third Sunday in November was designated as World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims by the United Nations earlier this decade, and in support of this effort, both the House of Representatives and Senate unanimously passed concurrent resolutions during the 110th Congress. This day allows us all to reflect upon the more than 1.3 million people worldwide who die on the world's roads each year, as well as the more than 50 million who are injured. An estimated 44,000 of those deaths occur in the United States, and the global death and injury toll is rising precipitously. At the current rate of growth, road crashes will be the fifth leading cause of death by the year 2030, rivaling the top global health epidemics.

Road crashes do not discriminate; they know no bounds of age, class, gender, race, nationality, or geography. Globally, more than 40 percent of all road traffic deaths occur among individuals under 25 years old, and crashes are the leading cause of death for children and young adults aged 10–25 years old. Over the next decade, this is estimated to become the leading cause of death for children 5 and older worldwide.

In some African countries, up to half of all hospital surgical beds are occupied by road crash victims, while in others the fatalities rank second only to HIV/AIDS. Here in the U.S., road crashes are the leading cause of death for Hispanics under 34 years of age. The human cost of this problem is unfathomable: 1.3 million deaths per year is the equivalent of 10 jumbo jets crashing each day.

Road crashes also come at a great cost to the global economy. It is estimated that road crashes cost \$518 billion globally each year. In developing countries, road crashes have a dramatic impact on their fragile economies, costing an estimated \$100 billion, often exceeding the total amount received by these countries in development assistance. Furthermore, road crashes affect first responder services, health care services, and health insurance services, as many victims require extensive, and expensive, critical care, as well as follow-up care and rehabilitation. In countries where a primary bread winner is killed or injured, or must care for the injured, this can destroy livelihoods and devastate communities.

Road crashes are predictable and can be prevented, however, and America is playing a critical, active role domestically and internationally to address this epidemic. Earlier this