

commitment to education and passion for empowering young people is truly inspiring. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the lifetime of contributions of Thelma Pond on her 100th birthday.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 658,
FAA REAUTHORIZATION AND RE-
FORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that H.R. 658, the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act, will fully fund the FAA through FY2015, particularly because it will include the NextGen Air Traffic Control Modernization Program. That program is important to my constituents who travel through O'Hare Airport. The program will ensure that air traffic congestion is lessened, noise and pollution mitigation efforts are continued, and air traffic control is improved according to best practices.

However, it is unconscionable that anti-labor provisions regarding the National Mediation Board were allowed to find their way into this bill. Organized labor has protected the rights and livelihood of American workers for decades. H.R. 658 changes the rules for holding elections, making it harder even to give workers the opportunity to have union representation. The bill makes it easier to strip union rights in the case of mergers between airlines or railways. It also allows election results to be challenged in person by employers, opening up union elections to voter intimidation. Those and other provisions will only undermine the ability of American laborers to be represented in their places of employment. They do not belong in the bill, and they will hurt rather than help workers and our national transportation system as a whole.

I agree that the FAA, and the NextGen program should be fully funded. I voted against H.R. 658 because it injected anti-labor provisions into a reauthorization that should have been devoid of partisan political stunts.

CONDEMNING CHINESE AND RUS-
SIAN SUPPORT FOR THE SYRIAN
REGIME

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the Chinese and Russian actions on Saturday, February 4, 2012, that blocked the United Nations Security Council from endorsing the Arab League's plan for a cessation of violence and political transition in Syria.

The United States joined with people of many faiths from countries around the world to ask the Security Council to hold Syria accountable for the bloodshed it has already committed, and continues to commit, against its own people.

Unfortunately, the Chinese and Russian governments appear to place more value on

weapons sales to President al-Assad's bloody regime than the lives and freedoms of the people of Syria, and together they vetoed a resolution that would have committed the international community to putting an end to the violence.

Since the beginning of the uprising, I have called on President Obama and Secretary Clinton to hold the al-Assad regime accountable for its despicable actions and to speak up for the rights of the Syrian people who are dying for expressing their own independent political voice.

It is not too late for President Bashar al-Assad to do the right thing—step down—for his sake and the sake of the Syrian people.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL ELEC-
TION REFORM ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the District of Columbia Special Election Reform Act. I introduced similar legislation last Congress, which passed without objection by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the full House. Final enactment of the bill was prevented, however, by an anonymous hold in the Senate, which is no longer allowed in that Chamber. This bill is of great importance to the District of Columbia, particularly now as the District of Columbia Council is faced with the sort of vacancy that this bill is meant to address. The District has to hold a special election just one month after the primary election, which will cost the city an estimated \$318,000. Although this bill will not take effect before the upcoming special election, the bill will provide the District with the flexibility in the future to conduct fair elections without such redundancies and unnecessary costs. The District of Columbia Special Election Reform Act is of little concern to Congress, but the D.C. Council cannot amend the Home Rule Charter. All of the provisions in the bill have been passed or approved by the District of Columbia.

The District of Columbia Special Election Reform Act makes minor changes to the District's Home Rule Charter to provide the city greater flexibility to conduct special elections for vacancies in the office of mayor, attorney general, Council chairman and other members of the District of Columbia Council. Current law requires that a special election be held on the first Tuesday occurring more than 114 days after a vacancy. The bill would establish a range during which a special election may be conducted, between 70 and 174 days, to reduce the gap in local representation, while also allowing the Board of Elections to take into account important factors when scheduling a special election, such as maximizing voter participation and avoiding conflicts with religious and culture observances.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to work closely with the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Chairman DARRELL ISSA to develop this bill, and look forward to the bill being signed into law.

TRIBUTE TO MS. LOYOLA ROSE
TRUJILLO OF SAN ANTONIO,
TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a true asset to our country's armed forces, Ms. Loyola Rose Trujillo.

Ms. Trujillo is currently the Director of the Civilian Hispanic and American Indian/Alaska Native Programs for the Department of Defense's Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity. Prior to this esteemed position, she has served in various posts within the Department of Defense and has worked in budget and contracting, civilian personnel, strategic planning and manpower. Throughout her career, Ms. Trujillo has been a model for public service and government effectiveness, and her dedicated efforts have ensured that our nation's military is an employer that operates at the highest level of civil rights compliance and protections for its employees. Additionally, her work to promote diversity has greatly increased opportunities for members of minority communities to serve proudly and exceptionally in our nation's armed forces.

She is the daughter of Elisa Dominguez and Antonio Simone Trujillo, who was the first Mexican-American policeman on the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department. She is married to LTC Randall Miller USMC (ret), and she considers her greatest accomplishments to be the raising of her wonderful family, including two daughters and seven outstanding grandchildren.

It is my proud honor to represent constituents like Ms. Loyola Rose Trujillo in our nation's capitol. Once again, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in recognizing a true public servant.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.