

hands of the Castro regime on February 23, 2010.

Reina Luisa Tamayo, Orlando Zapata Tamayo's mother, declared that the regime murdered her son and loudly condemned the atrocity. As a consequence, Castro's thugs punished her with harassment, barbaric acts of repression, and beatings by hateful mobs in the days and weeks following her son's murder.

Sadly, the two years since Orlando Zapata Tamayo's death have been years of increased repression and more murders by the Castro regime. The number of political arrests doubled between 2010 and 2011. Furthermore, since Orlando Zapata Tamayo's death, the Cuban regime has murdered three other brave prisoners of conscience—Juan Wilfredo Soto Garcia (d. May 8, 2011), Laura Pollan, inspirational leader of the Ladies in White (d. October 14, 2011), and Wilman Willar Mendoza (d. January 19, 2012). They are all heroes, and their deaths were all immeasurable losses.

While we continue to mourn the loss of Orlando Zapata Tamayo, and the senseless deaths of so many other brave activists, his spirit and mission have strengthened Cuba's courageous pro-democracy movement. Immediately following his death, other political prisoners picked up his cause and began hunger strikes of their own. Another great pro-democracy activist, Jorge Luis Garcia Perez ("Antunez"), renamed his pro-democracy organization the "Orlando Zapata Tamayo National Front for Civic Resistance and Civil Disobedience," which continues to organize protests and oppose the Castro dictatorship. On June 30, 2011 in Vilnius, Lithuania, the Parliamentary Forum of the Community of Democracies unanimously passed a resolution honoring that organization and acknowledging its importance to the pro-democracy movement in Cuba.

I remain outraged that the regime in Cuba robbed the world of such a remarkable and courageous leader. But, in many ways, Orlando Zapata Tamayo lives. Within the pro-democracy movement that still honors him, and among the courageous activists that were emboldened by his sacrifice, Orlando Zapata Tamayo has become a symbol of perseverance in the face of crushing totalitarianism. His life will forever be a blessing to Cuba's brave pro-democracy movement, and his memory will outlast the horrors of the dying Castro regime. When the Cuban dictatorship is finally relegated to the ash heap of history, Orlando Zapata Tamayo will be remembered as a hero who helped to lead Cuba into freedom.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
BANKRUPTCY EQUITY ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, when nearly one in four homeowners owe more on their mortgage than their home is worth, I am pleased to introduce the Bankruptcy Equity Act. "Underwater" mortgages are a tremendous source of financial stress for families. While some are able to continue making their payments, others are so overwhelmed by debt

that they lose their home to foreclosure, to a "short sale," or by simply walking away. Bankruptcy should offer a legal means to escape from debt and get a second chance, but ordinary homeowners are denied this opportunity with their mortgages.

Current bankruptcy law prohibits modifying mortgages for people who live in their homes but allows modification for vacation homes or investment properties. For instance, if a speculator whose investment property lost half of its value files for bankruptcy, a judge can modify the loan, including reducing the balance to its fair market value and lowering the interest rates.

The Bankruptcy Equity Act allows a bankruptcy judge to modify a homeowner's mortgage, bringing fairness to ordinary people who cannot afford payments on the inflated value of their homes, but can make payments if their mortgages were fairly valued. It helps keep families in their homes and prevents the foreclosures that are driving down home prices and creating vacant properties that can devastate communities. It will also help prevent the buildup of another housing bubble by encouraging financial institutions to take greater care to ensure they are lending to only responsible borrowers. The securitization of questionable mortgages would not have been possible if homeowners were treated as businesses.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to protect America's homeowners.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 61, the Bishop Amendment to H.R. 3408, I inadvertently voted "aye," when in fact I intended to vote "no."

IN HONOR OF THE NEW YORK GIANTS SUPER BOWL XLVI VICTORY

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the New York Giants—the champions of Super Bowl XLVI. I ask that this poem, penned in their honor by Mr. Albert Caswell, be placed into the RECORD.

"THE G FORCES"

In nature there are such forces . . .
As in this sport is!
That which are so hard to withstand!
For in the NFL, there are such Giants who dwell!
Whose strength, size, power, and speed over all others exceed!
The G-Men, of whom I speak have Gotham Hearts you must heed!
As it's all here where a team bonds as one to succeed!
Learning to rely on each other as brothers in arms, their creed!
With such sacrifice and blood, sweat, and tears, all at speed!

As week by week and all throughout the year so grows this seed!
And some will give up their health in future years indeed!
As all in their most Gotham hearts so beats!
A dream to be the best in the NFL . . . the Dream!
To be the Super Bowl Champions of the World!
The one that every player has unfurled!
Perhaps even greater than being in the Hall of Fame
For above all else, this championship means team!
And now this moment of truth has come, sixty minutes and it's done!
To make that dream come true, or so succumb!
And on this night, the G-Men stood strong and defiant!
To become the world champions, they are The New York Giants.
In the battle of two strong guns, two of the Hall's future sons,
As Eli was coming and Brady was hoping for another one . . .
Would E lie down or would Brady's dreams come undone?
The Patriots were favored, but of this the Giants would have none!
Because, G-Forces are so hard to tolerate, my son!
And too much exposure will make your dreams come undone!
All for Myra, the Patriots so wanted this one!
While on the opening drive their defenses came alive,
As one of Weatherford's three great punts put the Pats in a bind!
But, the reversal on the 12 man D left Belichick crying!
Then, Victor put it into Cruz control with a TD flying!
Already nine to zip, it was looking like a G-Man Championship!
Eli was nine for nine,
But, the Pats did the patriotic thing . . . they never gave up, and they never gave in.
As Brady completed ten passes straight, on a 96 yard drive . . .
As Danny Wood used his head on a catch across the line.
At the half, the Pats look like Giant killers, finally this time!
As the Pats got the ball and scored seven on a 79 yard drive,
Even Ochocinco and Brady hooked up, and finally combined.
And then Hernandez was key when he caught a 12 yard TD . . .
While in Bean Town a World Championship was coming to mind!
But little did they know that E would not lie down!
And in that Gotham City you could hear the hearts pound!
But the drive died . . . failed, as time was running out . . .
When, the Pats got the ball back they started to drive . . .
Looking like the Giants may be going down for the count this time!
Would Brady take away the G and the I?
Who would play Batman and Robin this time?
And as the ball came down to Wes Welker on that 20 yard line . . .
Surely he'd make that great catch, as he had made a million times!
Turning the G-Forces into P-forces, and to over them preside!
But he dropped it, as you could feel him and the Patriots' hearts die
As the G-Men got the ball back with 3:46!
It was getting close, as time meant the most, do or die!