

the project. He gave an emotional speech at the conference which he concluded by saying: "Let us not repeat the mistakes of the past! I call on all the people to help stop the nuclear weapons testing around the world! Nuclear test sites must be closed! Let our sky be clean and our children be healthy! I do not have arms to hug all of you and to express my gratitude for participation in this conference, but I have a heart and it belongs to you! Let your families live in peace and serenity!"

According to its organizers, the ATOM Project seeks to affect real and lasting change by engaging millions of global citizens to stop nuclear weapons testing by joining together to show the world's leaders that its citizens deserve and demand a world safe from additional nuclear weapons testing.

Meanwhile, participants at the conference included politicians and experts from both nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states: Valentina Matviyenko, President of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation; Miroslav Jenca, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General who read a message from the UN Secretary General; Eni F.H. Paleomavaega, U.S. Congressman (D-American Samoa); Douglas Roche, the founder of the Middle Powers Initiative and the founding chairman of the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament; Gareth Evans, Co-chair of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation & Disarmament and former Australian Foreign Minister. Parliamentary leaders in attendance included speakers, chairmen of committees and legislators from the parliaments of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, India, Iraq, Israel, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russia, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and dozens of others, as well as members from the European Parliament.

The conference objective was to create an additional momentum for the global nuclear disarmament movement, and to mark the United Nations International Day against Nuclear Tests on August 29 which aims to raise public awareness on the effects of global nuclear weapons tests and highlight the importance of banning such tests as a step towards achieving a safer world.

The timeline of implementing the anti-nuclear initiatives pursued by Kazakhstan indicates that the country is steadily moving in the direction of disarmament, non-proliferation and nuclear-weapons-free-world.

On August 29, 1991, President Nazarbayev of the then Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic, defying the pressure from the Soviet authorities, shut down the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in eastern Kazakhstan. In the early 1990s, Kazakhstan voluntarily renounced nuclear weapons, the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal, inherited from the former Soviet Union, and by 1995 fully rid itself of the nuclear weapons.

In 2000, the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site was completely closed and its infrastructure dismantled, and in 2006 a nuclear weapons free zone in Central Asia was established under the Treaty of Semipalatinsk.

In 2009, the UN General Assembly voted unanimously to designate August 29 the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

In addition to the fact that anti-nuclear initiatives pursued by Kazakhstan have become important prerequisites for political and economic development for the country, they have created a favorable environment for the continuous improvement of its status in the international arena.

Kazakhstan has remained a steadfast activist in the area of nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation given the legacy of nuclear weapons testing and the effect those tests had on the more than 1.5 million people in eastern Kazakhstan.

The ATOM Project is seen as a logical next step in the country's efforts to achieve the goal of building a nuclear weapons free world.

## REAUTHORIZING CERTAIN VISA PROGRAMS

SPEECH OF

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 11, 2012*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, S. 3245 extends for three years the authorization of the E-Verify program, the EB-5 Regional Center Program, the Special Immigrant Nonminister Religious Worker Program and the Conrad State 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program. While these are all important programs, I want to speak specifically about E-Verify.

There are currently 23 million Americans who are unemployed or are looking for work. This lack of jobs is causing almost unimaginable hardship for millions of Americans and their families. And each month more people become discouraged and give up even trying to find a job.

Making sure that Americans have every opportunity to find work is more important than ever. One important way to achieve this goal is to reduce the number of jobs that go to illegal immigrants. The E-Verify program helps do just that.

E-Verify allows employers to check the work eligibility of new hires by running the employee's Social Security number or alien identification number against Department of Homeland Security and Social Security Administration records.

In 1995, I chaired the Congressional Task Force on Immigration Reform. We published a 200-plus page report with more than 80 specific recommendations. One of those was for an electronic employment eligibility verification system, which was included in Chairman Smith's 1996 immigration reform bill. That system is now known as E-Verify.

The program is currently voluntary for most of the almost 400,000 employers who use it. It is free, Internet-based and easy to use. And the employers who use it agree.

E-Verify has proven to be such an effective tool in preventing the employment of those who are illegally in our country that it should be used by all employers to check the employment eligibility of their new hires. It is the easiest way to help make sure U.S. jobs go to Americans and legal immigrants.

Short of requiring all employers to use E-Verify, at the very least we must ensure that the program remains in place for the 400,000 employers who depend on it. S. 3245 does just that by providing for a 3-year extension. So I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

HONORING MR. JAMES FLOYD CLEVELAND

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 13, 2012*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. James Floyd Cleve-

land, who passed away on July 31 at the age of 88.

Mr. Cleveland was a truly wonderful example of a man who lived the American dream. Born on December 17, 1923, he was a cultivator of corn, cotton, soybeans, hogs and cattle on his family farm for over 60 years. He was widely known to have the best okra and mustard greens in town. Moreover, many deemed him the "Historian" for his long life and incredible ability to bring oral history to life.

Having accepted Christ at an early age, Mr. Cleveland was baptized in 1939 and dedicated much of his time to good works, notably as an active member of St. Matthew Benevolent Society and Secretary of the Lily Lodge number 5911 in Rapides Station, Louisiana.

Mr. Cleveland enjoyed 57 years of married life with Bernice Jones. Mrs. Cleveland preceded him in death on January 6, 2011, but not a day went by that he didn't speak lovingly of seeing her again. Their union produced a daughter, Sheila Joyce Bryant, who married Arthur R. Bryant. His two granddaughters, Rachel Joyce and Bathsbeba Felice were the joys of his life.

As a leader in his community, he strived to make life better for others. He rose to the occasion after the 1965 United States Voting Rights Act and was instrumental in ensuring African-Americans registered and cast their votes for the first time. He was appointed to the Rapides Parish Election process and served as Key Custodian from 1991 to 2006, always going above and beyond in his civic duty.

We all have much to learn from the life and legacy of Mr. Cleveland, who lived a quiet and honorable life as one of the farmers who feeds America. To say that Mr. Cleveland left his fingerprint on the world is an understatement. He was a friend to many and an example for all who had the good fortune to know him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the late Mr. James Floyd Cleveland.

LEONEL MANZANO OLYMPIC MEDAL

**HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 13, 2012*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a local hero in the 11th District of Texas, Leonel Manzano. Leo won the Silver medal in the Men's 1500 Meter race in the 2012 Olympic games, sealing his place in Olympic history and becoming an iconic figure in our district.

An Olympian is more than just an athlete—they are a representative of our nation. For the last four years, our athletes have invested blood, sweat, tears, and an extraordinary amount of time in the journey to become the best they can be. In a greater notion, this journey is what America is all about: the opportunity for all to achieve the highest echelons of success. And Leo, as a Silver Medalist, has proven an excellent representative of our District, state, and what our nation represents.

Leo rose from humble beginnings and from an early age, he demonstrated his athletic prowess. This did not go unnoticed. Soon, he