

HONORING CHANDLER ELEMEN-
TARY SCHOOL AS A 2012 BLUE
RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Chandler Elementary School of the Brownsboro Independent School District from the Fifth Congressional District of Texas for excellence in education. Chandler Elementary School was named to the United States Department of Education's 2012 Blue Ribbon Schools Program, which: "recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of academic achievement."

Chandler Elementary School's performance illustrates the commitment and dedication of the school board, administrators, teachers, and staff who provide students with a quality education. The school district, parents, students, and community should be applauded for this achievement.

Mr. Speaker, as the representative for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I would like to commend Chandler Elementary School for their continued educational achievements.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF
MARY LYDIA MATTA GARZA

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs. Mary Lydia Matta Garza, of Mesa, Arizona.

Known to her friends and family as Mary Lou, Mrs. Matta Garza is perhaps best known in the Mesa community as the proud owner and operator of the former Matta's Restaurant. Now a Mesa landmark, Matta's was opened in 1953 by Mrs. Matta Garza and her husband, Manuel. Mary Lou and Manuel opened Matta's with only \$1,000, and grossed a mere \$25 a day in those first few weeks and months of getting their small business off the ground.

Matta's opened as a small storefront, but its family-oriented traditions and atmosphere, and of course, its great dishes based on Matta family recipes passed down for generations, drew larger and larger crowds. The Matta's following grew so much that in 1969, Mary Lou and Maneul were able to expand Matta's home, adding enough seating for 350 people.

Mrs. Matta Garza and her family decided to close Matta's in 2008 after 55 years of serving quality Latin fare. But despite its closed doors, its traditions, and of course, its great food, now live on at Matta's Mexican Grill in East Mesa and Matta's Grill and Cantina in Northwest Mesa, which are owned and operated by Mrs. Matta Garza's grandchildren.

While Matta's was becoming a successful business and Mesa landmark, Mrs. Matta Garza—in between helping to run the restaurant and raise six children—made many important contributions to the Mesa community

and the state of Arizona. She launched the Mesa-Phoenix and Flagstaff councils of the League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC, and served as LULAC's regional governor. She volunteered her time at the Southside Hospital of Mesa and Desert Samaritan Hospital and served as a board member and treasurer of the Mesa Chamber of Commerce. For her many efforts to give back, Mrs. Matta Garza was named Mesa Woman of the Year in 1973.

In her 90 years, Mary Lou Matta Garza raised her six children, saw the birth of 21 grand children, 23 great grandchildren, and even one great-great grandchild. She ran a profitable business that became a pillar of Mesa. And she gave much of her time, effort, and love to her community. Mrs. Matta Garza is fond of saying that giving back in this way will "reward you tenfold." As a Mesa resident, I feel rewarded to have had her as an integral part of our community. Thank you, Mrs. Matta Garza, for all you have done and continue to do for our town and our home.

EXAMINING THE ROLE OF RWANDA IN THE DRC INSURGENCY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I held a hearing that examined U.S. policy toward Rwanda following the release on June 26th of a United Nations report confirming Rwanda's support of rebels who have ravaged the provinces of North and South Kivu in neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo, or DRC. In the aftermath of the 1994 genocide until the issuance of this report, the international community declined to comment on Rwanda's interventions in the DRC. We need to better understand the devastation caused by these interventions and gauge how the United States can play a helpful role in bringing this crisis to an end.

Unfortunately, our previously scheduled Administration witnesses—Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson and USAID Assistant Administrator for the Bureau of Africa Earl Gast—are unable to testify this morning due to events in the world involving heightened security for U.S. embassies and aid missions. This would have been an opportunity to present a full statement of the Administration position on what has happened in the DRC and what needs to be done to more effectively address the root causes of the ongoing conflict there. We expect that they will be available to speak publicly on these matters at a later date.

We had a distinguished private panel that was more than able to shed light on the crisis in the DRC, as well as Rwanda's involvement in the ongoing rebellion in eastern DRC. The crisis in the DRC is both tragic and complex, and the ethnic cleavages have developed over more than a century, although they have been heightened in recent decades. The first significant recorded influx into the DRC of Rwandan Tutsis and Hutus dates back to the 1880s.

Other ethnic groups in DRC (then known as Zaire) began to fear the influence of the Rwandans, especially in the East. The Hutu-Tutsi conflict in Rwanda led to the 1994 geno-

cide there, but Hutu-Tutsi animosity also spilled over into the DRC. Hutu militiamen, who fled Rwanda after the genocide, have repeatedly attacked Rwanda, and fighting involving Tutsis and Hutus inside the DRC have terrorized the inhabitants of the eastern part of the country.

As one of our witnesses today, Congolese Bishop Ntambo Ntanda, told us, six million people have lost their lives in the DRC as a result of recurring conflict. Far from resolving ethnic disputes, the interventions by Rwanda in the DRC have exacerbated tensions among the ethnic groups who live there.

In the wake of activity by Rwandan troops or militias that they create or support, Tutsi and Hutu people living in the DRC have become targets as a result. Rwanda has been engaged in armed intervention in the DRC for at least 17 years. If this is the most successful method to halt cross-border attacks into Rwanda by Hutu rebels operating from DRC territory, why is there continued devastation in the region? Why do Tutsis and Hutus living in the DRC seem more hated today than they have been previously?

During the summer of 2008, the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP), a Congolese rebel group, reportedly was backed secretly by Rwanda. It was initially led by Tutsi General Laurent Nkunda, an indicted war criminal. A March 23, 2009, agreement between the DRC and Rwanda led to the arrest of Nkunda, but replaced him with Bosco Ntaganda, even then a suspected war criminal for whom the International Criminal Court (ICC) had issued an arrest warrant in 2006. When the CNDP judged that DRC President Joseph Kabila had broken the 2009 accord, Ntaganda led a mutiny that named itself M23 for date of the broken agreement and began a reign of terror in eastern DRC.

In June of this year, a United Nations Group of Experts report confirmed that Rwandan Defense Minister James Kabarebe and other top Rwandan military officers played a central role in organizing, funding and arming the mutineers in eastern DRC. The report also stated that Rwandan military officers engaged in efforts to convince Congolese businessmen, politicians and former rebels that had joined the Congolese army to join the M23 mutiny in order to wage "a new war to obtain a secession of both Kivus." The report further charged that Rwanda was protecting Ntaganda from arrest. Meanwhile, Nkunda remains in Rwanda—immune from prosecution for his crimes.

Aside from ethnic divisions and allegations of breach of faith in agreements, another source of conflict has been the abundant mineral wealth in DRC, including 70% of the world's coltan (used to make vital components of cell phones and other electronic equipment), 30% of the world's diamond reserves and vast deposits of cobalt, copper and bauxite. The UN report stated that rebels in the East export precious minerals for profit to fund their continuing mayhem and that Rwandan officials also were benefiting from DRC's mineral wealth.

We have held this hearing to begin the process of finding a way to address the factors that have caused Rwanda's armed intervention in hopes that the U.S. Government can offer a lasting solution to the long crisis in the DRC.