

To date, this president has offered nothing more than an abdication of leadership and a failure of vision, which has culminated in human suffering and misery.

Obama has failed the people of Sudan who yearn for peace, justice and basic human rights.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2013

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall vote No. 330 and rollcall vote No. 331. Had I been present, I would have voted no on vote No. 330 and no on vote No. 331.

IN SUPPORT OF MOLDOVAN PARLIAMENT DECLARATION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE TRANSNISTRIAN CONFLICT SETTLEMENT PROCESS

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2013

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the peaceful reintegration of the young and aspiring Republic of Moldova. I also want to acknowledge my colleagues Reps. DAVID PRICE, Rep. ELIOT ENGEL, Rep. WILLIAM KEATING, Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Rep. MARK MEADOWS, Rep. DIAZ-BALART, Rep. ALCEE HASTINGS, Rep. PATRICK MCENRY, who have agreed to associate themselves with this statement.

Most importantly, we support the recent conclusion of negotiations between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union on Moldova's Association Agreement, held in Luxembourg on June 25, 2013. We welcome the progress instituted by Prime Minister Iurie Leanca and the Moldovan government in strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law, as well as in preparing for economic and political association with the European Union.

As the goals and promotion of values of the Eastern Partnership are of utmost importance to U.S. strategic policy, we encourage Moldova to remain united in its continued focus on the domestic reforms integral to eventual European Union accession. We hope that the forthcoming EU Summit in Vilnius in November will result in an opportunity to reaffirm Moldova's EU aspirations, and call on the U.S. State Department to assist in every aspect of this challenging transition. Doing so affirms the United States' commitment to our allies in this region.

While encouraged by Moldova's increasing harmonization with EU norms and standards—as evidenced by its recent agreement on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement as part of the European Union's Association Agreement—Moldova is being forced to fight for its own internationally recognized sovereign, independent and territorial integrity.

We are concerned with the unilateral set of actions undertaken by the self-proclaimed

leaders of the breakaway region of Transnistria, who recently launched provocative actions by adopting the so-called “legal act on the border.” These unilateral actions violate Moldova's sovereignty, as the leadership of Transnistria has claimed territories that are fully in the control of the Republic of Moldova. We are also concerned by recent entreaties by the leadership in Transnistria—entreaties that threaten Moldova's territorial integrity and European Union accession prospects. These actions undermine the July 1992 ceasefire as well as the “5+2” conflict settlement process. We call on the U.S. State Department to secure a fair and democratic settlement process while maintaining Moldova's independence and sovereignty.

Today, we stand in support of the Moldovan Parliament's Declaration on the Current Situation of the Transnistrian Conflict Settlement Process, adopted consensually on June 21, 2013, and urge leaders of the self-proclaimed Transnistria, as well as all parties involved in 5+2 negotiation process, to conclude negotiations on the legal status of the Transnistrian region and its rightful role in the Republic of Moldova. Only a legal status agreed upon through the 5+2 framework will prevent further escalation of conflict. At the same time, we firmly recognize the need to finalize the withdrawal of Russian troops and munitions from the region, according to its internationally recognized obligations assumed at the 1999 summit of the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe.

We call on the United States and the international community to take all the diplomatic steps possible to prevent further escalation of conflict, protect Moldova's European Union accession aspirations, resume talks on the political status of Transnistria and ensure the reintegration of a sovereign and independent Moldova.

TRIBUTE TO BETH GROVES

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Norco, California are exceptional. Norco has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Beth Groves is one of these individuals. This year, Beth will end her tenure as the City Manager for the city of Norco after four years of service.

Beth's passion and commitment for providing for the community began early. After graduating from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Arts in Applied arts, she went on to hone her talent, receiving a Masters in Public Administration from California State University Long Beach, and a Doctorate in Public Administration from the University of Laverne. Beth began her career as Community Relations Coordinator for Mission Hospital, in Mission Viejo, California, and eventually landed a position in the City Manager's Office of Corona, where she served from 1996 to 2008, ultimately becoming the City Manager

of Corona. It is the expertise and knowledge gained through these experiences that have allowed to Beth lead Norco for the past four years in such a dynamic manner.

Under Beth's leadership, the city administration has actively promoted and supported the community. Beth is credited with many accomplishments during her time, including negotiating the Silverlakes agreements, establishing a new animal shelter despite many budget restraints, and maintaining the Preservation and Development Zone (PAD) program by working closely with both the planning director and historic commission. She has also encouraged economic development and a family-centered entertainment atmosphere by increasing filming and events that have taken place within the city.

In 2002, Beth received the “Woman of Distinction” Award in the category of International Good Will and Understanding from Soroptimist International of Corona, and the title of “2007 Distinguished Citizen of the Year” from the Temescal District of the Boy Scouts of America. She has also served as a Community Council Member for the Corona-Norco Chapter of the American Cancer society. The highlights of her extensive volunteer experience include The Foundation for Community and Family Health, Alternatives to Domestic Violence (ADV), Inspire Life Skills, and Peppermint Ridge.

Beth is no stranger to Southern California, having been a Corona resident for many years, where she is a mother to two adult sons and is a member of the Crossroads Christian Church. At the conclusion of her time as City Manager, Beth will remain a fixture in our community, serving as a full time professor at Cal Baptist University in Riverside, CA.

In light of all Beth has done for the city of Norco and the greater community, it is only fitting that she be honored for her many years of dedicated service. Beth's tireless passion for public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of Corona and Norco and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she moves forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 316, had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall No. 317, had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall No. 318, had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall No. 319, had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall No. 320, had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall No. 321, had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall No. 322, had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall No. 323, had I been present, I would have voted “no.”