

IN SUPPORT OF THE REPUBLICAN  
LIBERTY CAUCUS

**HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 22, 2013*

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Republican Liberty Caucus who like so many grass-root organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; the Republican Liberty Caucus promotes the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

Mr. Speaker, these truly American patriots of every cultural, religious and ethnic background have found a common cause in fighting back today's proliferating big government rules and regulations imposed by costly bloated government bureaucracies who are accountable to no one at the expense of individual rights.

They are God-fearing, freedom-loving Americans who desire nothing more than to rein in big government's tendency toward excessive coercion and the insidious spread of government overreach. They question when the validity of laws and morality contradict each other. They desire nothing more than the extension of individual freedom in a Constitutional Republic that attaches all possible value to citizens rather than making each citizen a mere agent, a mere number of the state; a Constitutional Republic that seeks equality in Liberty rather than in restraint and servitude.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great political awakening taking place in our country today. The roots of which are solid stock and American made, they are a visionary group of individuals who understand the moral foundations of a Constitutional Republic, the benefits of free markets, and the Blessings of individual liberty. May they continue to strive valiantly and dare greatly.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of the Republican Liberty Caucus, a truly American grass-roots organization.

RECOGNIZING OF ONE ACCORD  
MINISTRY

**HON. DAVID P. ROE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 22, 2013*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks today to commend Of One Accord Ministry of Hawkins and Hancock Counties for their 25 years of service to East Tennessee.

Of One Accord Ministry began humbly in 1988 in the home of Sheldon Livesay, founder

and director of the organization. Livesay's desire to give back to the people of East Tennessee led to the creation of this organization, which began with the aim of meeting the needs of low-income families in the First District of Tennessee and has since expanded to include a free medical clinic, a drug recovery program, and several international humanitarian missions.

This year marks the 25th year of operation for Of One Accord Ministry. In its time, this organization has served over 833,000 East Tennesseans with the distribution of approximately 11 million pounds of food, 21,600 winter coats, and 900 pairs of eyeglasses. In addition, Of One Accord Ministry has served countless others internationally with over 1 million meals around the globe.

Of One Accord Ministry has dedicated itself to improving the lives of low-income families in both Appalachia and around the world and I sincerely thank them for all that they do for the Volunteer State.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 22, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,075,230,597,788.39. We've added \$6,448,353,548,875.31 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.4 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING DARIUS ASSEMI

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 22, 2013*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Darius Assemi as he is honored with the Fresno State Alumni Association's Top Dog Distinguished Alumnus Award. Darius is well deserving of this award as he has contributed so much to the City of Fresno and our entire Central Valley.

Darius immigrated to the United States from Iran almost 40 years ago. He graduated with honors from California State University, Fresno in 1983 with a degree in Civil Engineering. After graduation, he served as vice president of Granville Homes up until 2009 when he became president. Granville Homes is a local business that is family-owned and operated.

Fresno has benefitted in so many ways from the efforts made by Darius. Granville's developments are spread throughout the city. They provide housing to individuals of all ages, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds. For over 30 years, Darius has stood behind Granville's mission "to improve the well-being of people in our community" and promote "positive change in the lives of people in the Central Valley." For the past eight years, Darius has hosted a "Home of Hope" fundraiser. Participants buy one hundred dollar raf-

file tickets with the possibility of winning a new home. All of the proceeds from the raffle tickets are donated to local non-profits around the Central Valley. Since 2006, over 2.4 million dollars has been raised. The donations provide shelter, healthcare, education, and food to thousands of individuals.

Darius plays a big role in the city's effort to revitalize downtown Fresno. Granville has completed four housing projects downtown, and two more projects are in the works. As a result, over 500 individuals have moved to the area. Residents are making contributions to downtown Fresno that will have a lasting impact on the city's entire economy.

In addition to his work at Granville Homes, Darius is the chair of American Medical Overseas Relief (AMOR). AMOR is a non-profit organization that is improving the health of thousands of women and children in Afghanistan. In 2009, the Afshar Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan was built due to funding from AMOR. The 100 bed hospital serves more than 3,500 patients a month.

Darius also sits on several other boards including the California Transportation Commission, the California Health Sciences University, the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno, and the Fresno Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize Darius Assemi for his commitment to ensuring that the City of Fresno continues to prosper and thrive.

CALLING FOR JUSTICE FOR THE  
BYTYQI BROTHERS

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 22, 2013*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a concurrent resolution calling upon the government of Serbia to bring to justice those responsible for the murders of Ylli, Agron and Mehmet Bytyqi in July 1999. The resolution also calls on our government to do what it can to encourage and assist a successful prosecution of the case. I want to thank my fellow colleague from New York, Mr. Grimm, for co-sponsoring this resolution.

The three Bytyqi brothers were American citizens. Their ethnic Albanian family emigrated to the United States from Kosovo, and some family members reside in my district on Long Island. During the Kosovo conflict which prompted the NATO air campaign against Serbia, the brothers traveled to the region to fight. Remaining in Kosovo after a cease fire agreement ended the conflict, the three young men escorted an ethnic Romani neighbor and his family from Kosovo to Serbian controlled territory, where they would be safer. Accidentally straying across the border, they were detained by police in southern Serbia and then sentenced for illegally entering the country. When released from prison, they were not set free but taken to a Ministry of Interior special forces training camp where they were executed and buried in a mass grave with the bodies of dozens of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo.

To be clear, the Bytyqi brothers were not sentenced for any crime other than illegal entry. They were not afforded an opportunity

to defend themselves in a court of law. They were not given a fair and public trial. They were shot, in cold blood, by a paramilitary unit working under the Ministry of Interior.

In 1999, Serbia was under the rule of Slobodan Milosevic, whose regime fomented ethnic hatred and was responsible for some of the worst atrocities in Europe since World War II. Today, Serbia is a very different place, moving forward in its democratic development, improving relations with its neighbors and advancing on its path toward European integration. In doing so, it has worked to prosecute many of the crimes committed in the Milosevic era. It is unfortunate, however, that those responsible for the murders of the Bytyqi brothers continue to elude justice.

Our government should do everything it can to ensure the successful prosecution of those responsible for the murders of U.S. citizens abroad. It should provide resources as needed, and it should make it clear to the authorities in Belgrade that inaction does have repercussions on bilateral relations. This resolution encourages just that. The resolution will also hopefully convey to the Serbian authorities the concerns of the U.S. Congress, and it is my hope they will respond by removing any protection given to the perpetrators of this crime and prosecuting them in a court of law. Hopefully, Serbia's political leaders will not only recognize the seriousness which we attach to this case but also understand that it is in Serbia's interest to let justice work to sever the ties with the Milosevic past that have held the country back from a Europe where it otherwise belongs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this resolution and its passage in this Congress.

HONORING DOTTIE BERGER  
MACKINNON

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 22, 2013*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an outstanding leader of the Tampa Bay community, Dottie Berger MacKinnon. Her tireless crusade to better the lives of neglected and abused children is an inspiration to the Tampa Bay community and to this great nation.

Among Mrs. Berger MacKinnon's numerous accomplishments is her work in founding charities that support needy children. In 1992, Mrs. Berger MacKinnon led a community effort to found Joshua House, a kid's shelter in the Tampa Bay area which now handles children ages 7 to 17 who have been removed from their homes. Never tiring of making a positive difference, Mrs. Berger MacKinnon worked to found Kid's Charity of Tampa Bay in 2006. Kid's Charity also manages A Kid's Place, a 60-bed emergency shelter for children waiting to be placed with a foster family. Mrs. Berger MacKinnon's visionary leadership resulted in raising \$5 million for A Kid's Place to build an amazing facility that now has helped more than 700 abused, abandoned and neglected children.

A native of Kentucky, Berger MacKinnon had an early passion for politics that led her to move at age 15 to live with an aunt on the

outskirts of Washington. She later moved to Tampa where she earned a B.A. in political science in 1984 from the University of South Florida. She joined the Gulf Coast Division for the Children's Home Society of Florida in 1985 where she served as one of its State Board members.

Mrs. Berger MacKinnon won a seat on the Hillsborough County Commission in 1994 and went on to become chairman from 1996 to 1997. On the Commission, she continued to fight for abused and neglected children. Mrs. Berger MacKinnon served on the Hillsborough County Hospital Authority, as well as three terms on Tampa General Hospital's governing board. Here, she was instrumental in its transformation into a not-for-profit institution. Mrs. Berger MacKinnon was inducted into the Hillsborough County Women's Hall of Fame earlier this year.

Mrs. Berger MacKinnon was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1999 and unfortunately passed away this October. Through her brave battle with cancer, Mrs. Berger MacKinnon was an inspiration to others who are fighting this devastating disease. To carry on her tenacious spirit and honor her legacy, I introduced the Eliminating Disparities in Breast Cancer Treatment Act. This Act will help ensure greater access to cancer treatment for women across the Nation. Mr. Speaker, today on behalf of the many people who have been inspired by her diligent efforts and for the thousands of children whose lives are forever bettered by her never-ending generosity, we salute and thank Dottie Berger MacKinnon.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF  
HAMPTON

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 22, 2013*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a legacy of faith in Virginia's Third Congressional District. This year, First Baptist Church of Hampton is celebrating its 150th anniversary, and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the history of this esteemed institution and its contributions to the greater Hampton Roads community.

The history of many African American churches in existence today developed from a small band of worshippers who sat in the "designated section" of a white church. In this respect, First Baptist Church of Hampton is no exception and was borne out of worshippers at the Hampton Baptist Church located a short distance away from the present church site. With Reverend Zechariah Evans as its first pastor, First Baptist Church of Hampton came into its own and built its own building to house services.

The Church continued to grow and prosper, but in September 1944, a catastrophic fire destroyed the church building. Members of the community and sister churches rallied to support First Baptist Church. With generous support from the Hampton Baptist Church and other supporters in the community, the sanctuary was restored and the facility was improved and expanded.

Over the years the Church grew in its capacity, its membership, and its mission. Com-

munity outreach became an integral part of the work of the Church. The accomplishments of First Baptist Church of Hampton are far too many to list, but among them are the founding of the People's Building and Loan Association under Reverend Richard Spiller and the organization of the Big Brothers of America in Hampton under the leadership of Reverend Seymour J. Gaines.

On July 6, 2006, First Baptist Church officially elected Reverend Dr. Richard W. Willis, Sr. as its tenth and current pastor and he has continued to lead the church in its strong tradition, dedicated to fellowship and social action.

Over the years, the First Baptist community has continued to grow and flourish. The church now offers programs to increase healthy living through its Health Ministry program, hosts voter registration drives, provides housing for the homeless through "A Night's Welcome," and remains steadfast in providing for the least of these, through its efforts in meal service and food distribution.

As First Baptist Church of Hampton gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on its future as "[a] place on the harbor where heaven meets heaven." I would like to congratulate Reverend Willis and all of the members of First Baptist Church of Hampton on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary. I wish them many more years of dedicated service to the community.

IN SUPPORT OF THE WILLOW RUN  
TEA PARTY CAUCUS

**HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 22, 2013*

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Willow Run Tea Party Caucus of Ann Arbor, Michigan who like so many grass-root organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictators; and promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

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