

I extend my deepest congratulations to Applied Research Associates, Inc. for receiving the Business Recognition Award from the Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation. I thank you for your commitment to our nation and the Jefferson County community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAY
HUTCHISON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ray Hutchison, the husband of former U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. Mr. Hutchison was a dedicated public servant and power broker who played a key role in the creation of many of North Texas' most important economic engines.

After serving in the Navy, Mr. Hutchison attended Southern Methodist University on the G.I. bill and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1957 and with a law degree in 1959. Mr. Hutchison, a lifelong active civil servant was elected to the Texas House Legislature in 1972. I consider it a privilege to have served in the Texas House Legislature with Mr. Hutchison from 1973 to 1977. It was in the State legislature where he and Mrs. Hutchison first met and began their 36 years of marriage. In 1976 Mr. Hutchison was elected as chairman of the Texas Republican Party and stepped down the following year in an unsuccessful run for governor.

Mr. Hutchison was known as a genius in the field of finance law. He served as senior counsel at the Dallas law firm of Bacewell & Giuliani where he worked as recently as this past Thursday. Mr. Hutchison used his expertise specializing in government finance to help implement major city improvements such as the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, DART and stadiums for the Mavericks, Cowboys and Rangers. He was a member of the Dallas Citizens Council, the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, and served on the Executive Board of the Chancellor's Council for the University of Texas System.

I extend my deepest condolences to the Hutchison family during this time of grieving. Our country has benefitted immensely from his career in public service and his memory will continue to inspire others. I wish to commend Ray Hutchison and thank him for his service to this great Nation. Through his work he has created positive pathways many future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 149, 150, 151, weather issues in California caused me to miss my flight. Therefore I did not arrive in Washington, DC until late in the evening. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yes".

COMMENDING VIETNAM

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Viet Nam for its national report on the promotion and protection of human rights under the 2nd cycle universal periodic review.

The report is drafted in accordance with the guidelines of Resolution 60/251 dated 15 March 2006 of the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 5/1 dated 18 June 2007 of the Human Rights Council, and Decision 17/119 dated 19 June 2011 of the Human Rights Council.

The drafting of the report was carried out by an inter-agency working group composed of government agencies and National Assembly committees working in the field of human rights, including the Office of the Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Security, Government Committee for Religious Affairs (Ministry of Home Affairs), Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Ministry of Information and Communications, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Committee of Ethnic Minorities, People's Supreme Court, People's Supreme Procuracy, National Assembly's Committee on Law, and the National Assembly's Committee on Foreign Affairs.

In an effort to engage in international cooperation on human rights, Viet Nam holds annual human rights dialogues with a number of countries and partners including the United States, the European Union, Australia, Norway and Switzerland. These dialogues have produced positive outcomes. They not only enhance the understanding and relationship between Viet Nam and its partners, but also bring about discussions on best practices to address human rights matters of mutual concern.

On rights to freedom of expression, press and information, Viet Nam has made significant progress. Presently, there are 812 print newspapers and 1,084 publications; nearly 17,000 registered journalists; one national news agency, 67 radio and television stations; 101 TV channels and 78 broadcasting channels, 74 electronic newspapers and magazines; 336 social networks and 1,174 registered e-portals (compared to 46 e-newspapers and 287 e-portals in 2011). The Voice of Viet Nam (VOV) Radio Station broadcasts throughout 99.5 percent of Viet Nam's territory and many other countries via satellite. Today, the VOV reaches more than 90 percent of all households in Viet Nam.

Viet Nam law prohibits all actions harming the life, health, property, dignity and honor of detainees. Detainees have the right to meet their family, access to counsel or legal aid according to the law, access to information via newspapers, radio and television available in detention facilities and have the right to petition against violations of the law and detention regulations.

Prisoners have a right to education during their sentence and prisons strictly run edu-

cation programs on literacy, elementary education, vocational training, laws and politics. Preventive healthcare and treatment for inmates are provided and prison health clinics have been upgraded or improved with professionally trained staff.

Freedoms of association and assembly are guaranteed by the Constitution (Article 69) and are legally protected in laws and by-law documents. There currently are 460 social, professional organizations whose geographic scope of activity are nationwide or interprovincial; 20 profession-based trade unions; 36,000 associations, federations, and social organizations which are local and, in general, these organizations have made great contributions to the development of the country, serving as a bridge between their members and the government.

Viet Nam is a multi-religious society with many religions represented including Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Islam, Cao Dai, Hoa Hao Buddhism, Four Depts of Gratitude, and others. Ninety-five percent of all the people have some form of belief. There are about 25,000 places of worship and about 24 million followers of various faiths. The consistent policy and law of Viet Nam is to respect the right to freedom of religion. Yearly, there are about 8,500 religious festivals. The closing ceremony of the 2011 Holy Year of the Catholic Church was attended by more than 50 bishops, 1,000 priests, 2,000 dignitaries and nearly 500,000 believers. The 100th anniversary of Protestantism in Viet Nam was also celebrated in 2011 and the many activities associated with the celebration were widely attended by dignitaries and followers from Viet Nam and throughout the world. In 2013, Viet Nam and the Vatican conducted the fourth round of the joint working group meeting on the strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation. In 2014, the Buddhist Church of Viet Nam will host the UN Vesak Day which is also expected to attract thousands of followers.

When visiting Viet Nam in my official capacity as former Chairman and current Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I have attended different religious services in various houses of worship and did so unannounced. I have always found Viet Nam to be a place favorable for religious activities, and I appreciate that Viet Nam is working to protect activities of religious groups by law.

Much more could be said about the positive developments in Viet Nam regarding religious freedom, healthcare, the economy, education, gender equality and other areas of importance. As a Viet Nam veteran, I am proud of the progress Viet Nam is making. This is why I have entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a more accurate accounting of all Viet Nam is doing to promote and protect human rights so that history may counter any erroneous information that differs from the facts.

ZECH FRYE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Zech Frye for