

serious divisions existing between traditional leaders and lower-ranking Fijians.

So far, no resolutions have been established to provide balance and fairness to both Fijians and ethnic Indians. In the past 20 some years, Fiji has had four coups and three constitutions. In the two coups of 1987 and the political crisis of 2000, ethnic tensions played major roles.

Until we understand this beginning and begin to converse about it, democracy will not get underway. Having had several discussions with interim Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and dozens of others during my visits to Fiji, I believe U.S. leadership can help strengthen bilateral ties and improve regional conditions.

By employing smart diplomacy in Fiji—which has been the hallmark of President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's foreign policy initiative even in Myanmar—I have every hope that we can achieve equal suffrage and other political, economic and social reforms targeted under the "Strategic Framework for Change," just as the interim Prime Minister seeks.

#### IN HONOR OF HERMAN J. RUSSELL

##### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn spirit that I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary man who labored tirelessly for the greater good, a man that stood as an example to us all, Mr. Herman J. Russell. Sadly, Mr. Russell passed away on Saturday, November 15, 2014. Funeral services were held on Saturday, November 22, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Philip AME Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Born on December 23, 1930, Mr. Russell was a lifelong resident of Atlanta, Georgia. At the young age of 16, he purchased a small plot of land for the price of \$125, an investment he eventually used to put himself through college at Tuskegee University in Alabama. He then went on to form a plastering company which, over the course of several decades, grew into a multi-million dollar real estate development and construction company, H.J. Russell & Co. Today, it is one of the nation's largest minority-owned real estate firms.

Herman Russell is known as a founding father of the city of Atlanta. From Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport to the Georgia Dome, from the Georgia-Pacific tower to the Coca-Cola headquarters, and from Turner Field to the Philips Arena, Mr. Russell played an essential role in the construction of much of the great skyline we see today. His firm is a partner in the joint venture selected to build the new nearly \$1.3 billion Atlanta Falcons stadium, which is slated to open in 2017.

In addition to his many accomplishments as a leading African-American businessman, Mr. Russell was an esteemed civic leader. He served as the first black member of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce as well as the chamber's second black president. Mr. Russell was an activist and champion of the Civil Rights Movement, working closely with other influential figures such as the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He also contributed to the successful campaign of Maynard Jackson, Atlanta's first black mayor.

Mr. Russell was also well-known for his giving heart, evidenced by his role as a generous benefactor for numerous educational programs for institutions such as Morehouse College, Georgia State University, and his alma mater, Tuskegee University. Additionally, Mr. Russell lent his charitable support to accomplish such tasks as the expansion of the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta facility at Hughes Spalding.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." The great Capital of the South would not be the same without Mr. Russell. Breaking down the numerous racial and economic barriers that stood in his path, Mr. Russell was a visionary and a man ahead of his time. His passing is a great loss to us all but his memory and storied legacy will serve as an enduring source of inspiration for so many.

Mr. Russell is survived by his wife, Sylvia Anderson Russell; and his three children, Michael, Jerome, and Donata, who each run a portion of the family business, continuing their father's legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the great Herman J. Russell, a charitable man who worked his whole life to overcome great challenges and grow into the leader he was destined to be. Mr. Russell was a remarkable man and a blessing to the state of Georgia and the nation as a whole. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 530 had I been present, I would have voted "no".

#### HONORING THE CITY OF NEWPORT'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Mayor, City Council, and residents of Newport, Minnesota, past and present on the occasion of the city's 125th Anniversary.

Even before its incorporation as the village of Newport in 1889, the city was a vibrant Mississippi River community with deep roots in Minnesota history. Newport has always drawn its strength from the people who live within it, and takes pride in its rich history and natural beauty. According to the Washington County Historical Society, Newport began as two separate settlements, one of which was called Red Rock. It was settled by European immigrants shortly after the land was purchased by the U.S. government in 1837 through treaties

with the Ojibwe and Dakota. The name Red Rock was derived from a red-painted granite boulder, an unusual remnant likely deposited by retreating glaciers. This rock, which has been moved several times, was held in great reverence by the Dakota. Today the rock sits in front of Newport United Methodist Church.

The area around the settlement of Red Rock became a place of agriculture and commerce on the Mississippi River, as well as a major gathering spot for Methodist camp meetings. The "Red Rock Camp Ground Association" held meetings each July that drew single-day crowds of 20,000 people. Special steamboats and trains brought people from St. Paul twice a day. By the 1880s, however, attendance began to decline rapidly. After the city was incorporated, several successful companies began operation in the city, including Farmer's Terminal Meat Packing Company (Cudahy), the Farmer's Terminal State Bank and the Fritz Candy Company.

In the 1950s Newport Plaza opened a new and dynamic chapter in retail for the city. Today the shopping center with its signature red roof continues to welcome local residents as well as travelers from nearby Highway 61 for legendary home cooking at the North Pole restaurant and for essential items from John Bartl Hardware.

125 years after it was founded, Newport is thriving. It is helping to model sustainable and ecologically sound practices by participating in Minnesota GreenStep Cities, a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their environmental and quality-of-life goals. Through the dedicated work of local elected officials and residents, the community is a leader for other communities in our state.

Fellowship and community involvement is essential to the prosperity of any small town, and Newport boasts several outstanding examples of community engagement, including its annual Pioneer Day celebration, community garden, Veterans Memorial, and the Newport Public Library and Community Center. Residents are constantly working to keep this river community a desirable place to live and work.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise to pay tribute to residents of Newport, Minnesota and its noble place in our state—past, present and future—on the city's 125th anniversary.

RACHEL T. EMMER

##### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rachel T. Emmer for bringing her passion for environmental solutions and entrepreneurship to her community.

Rachel traveled several paths after earning an undergraduate degree in business. She started a hotel and restaurant in Central America, selling the business in the early 90's and becoming part of a film crew recording documentaries for National Geographic, Discovery and the BBC. It was during this time she found her passion for environmental solutions. She earned an MBA in sustainability from Bainbridge Graduate Institute. One of the first "Green" MBA programs in the United States.

Today, Rachel is the founder of the DetritusGroup which collaborates with businesses, municipalities and nonprofit organizations to build up their internal capacity and effectiveness in the area of sustainability. Rachel is also an Adjunct Faculty in the Business Department of Red Rocks Community College teaching business and entrepreneurship classes and inspiring both young students and returning adults to pursue a career in business and the development of entrepreneurship.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Rachel T. Emmer for being honored by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

**HISTORICAL RECORD OF  
FALEOMAVAEGA'S REQUEST FOR  
OFFICIAL CLARIFICATION OF  
U.S. POLICY REGARDING AMERICAN  
SAMOA'S STATUS BEFORE  
THE UNITED NATIONS  
DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE**

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, the following information about my request for official clarification regarding American Samoa's status before the United Nations Decolonization Committee.

FALEOMAVAEGA VISITS UNITED NATIONS AND REQUESTS OFFICIAL CLARIFICATION OF US POLICY REGARDING AMERICAN SAMOA'S STATUS BEFORE THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE

[Press Release—Mar. 30, 2006]

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that on Monday March 27, 2006 he visited the United Nations (UN) as part of an official Congressional Delegation (CODEL) led by Chairman Henry Hyde and Ranking Member Tom Lantos of the House Committee on International Relations. The CODEL, which included other senior Members of the International Relations Committee, met with Ambassador John Bolton, the US Permanent Representative to the UN, to discuss the current nuclear crisis with Iran and whether Congress should withhold funding for the UN when problems of corruption and lack of accountability continue to exist.

During the visit, Faleomavaega also had the opportunity to be briefed by Commander Jeffrey J. Jones who has been appointed by the US Mission to serve as the liaison for the United States to the UN Special Committee of Twenty-four (C-24), also known as the UN Decolonization Committee. As a follow-up to his briefing, Faleomavaega wrote to Ambassador Bolton to determine American Samoa's status relative to US policies relating to the Decolonization Committee and the United Nations.

The full text of Faleomavaega's letter to Ambassador Bolton dated March 30, 2006 follows:

Dear Mr. Ambassador: I am writing to thank you for meeting with Members of the House International Relations Committee during our recent visit to the United Nations (UN) and the United States Mission. I commend Chairman Henry Hyde and Ranking Member Tom Lantos for leading our Congressional Delegation and I was pleased to be a part of our important discussions with you

regarding the current nuclear crisis with Iran and whether Congress should withhold funding for the UN when problems of corruption and lack of accountability continue to exist. During our visit to the United Nations, I also had the opportunity to be briefed by Commander Jeffrey J. Jones who has been appointed by the US Mission to serve as the liaison for the US to the UN Special Committee of Twenty-four (C-24), also known as the UN Decolonization Committee. As you know, in 1945, the United Nations established the International Trusteeship Council for the purpose of reviewing and then making recommendations before the UN General Assembly to declare certain territories as non-self-governing, or dependent on colonial powers. Since the creation of the UN, more than 80 colonies have gained their independence and 16 non-self-governing territories, as defined by the UN remain today.

Although the Trusteeship Council no longer exists, the Decolonization Committee stands in its place. Each year, the UN Decolonization Committee reviews the status of the 16 non-self-governing territories which include American Samoa as well as other US possessions. It is my understanding that the US does not pay much attention anymore to the activities of the Decolonization Committee in part because the US has had frustration over the years in dealing with member countries like Cuba that continue to view the United States as a colonial power. A few years ago, I attended a meeting of the Decolonization Committee held in Havana, Cuba and I can confirm the fact that the remarks of the Speaker of the Cuban Parliament were very negative towards the United States.

This aside, it is my understanding that there are no negotiations on American Samoa underway between the United Nations and the US Government. Notwithstanding these circumstances, Commander Jones informed me that the US State Department does file annual reports about American Samoa with the Decolonization Committee after consulting with officials of the US Department of the Interior. These reports contain information about the economic, social and political development of American Samoa and, for this reason, I am requesting your assistance in determining the official position of the US regarding American Samoa's status before the UN Decolonization Committee. Again, the Decolonization Committee defines and categorizes American Samoa as a non-self governing territory.

In recent years, our late Governor Tauese Sunia initiated a movement to request that American Samoa be de-listed as a non-self governing territory by the United Nations. However, neither our US Secretary of State nor our Secretary of the Interior ever brought this matter before the people and leaders of American Samoa for consideration. While I suspect that at some point in time a plebiscite may be needed to determine whether or not the listing should be continued, I respectfully request that the Governor, our territorial legislature, and my office be informed on what procedures need to be taken before action, if any, is taken by the UN Decolonization Committee or the US Mission to the UN.

As you can appreciate, it is imperative that the elected and traditional leaders and the people of American Samoa are fully briefed and informed about the territory's political status as a non-self governing territory as defined and categorized by the United Nations before any action is taken.

Faleomavaega concluded his letter by saying, With this understanding, I would appreciate receiving a response from you as to

American Samoa's status relative to US policies relating to the Decolonization Committee and the United Nations.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. RUSH HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes on Thursday, November 20, 2014. On Roll Call Vote 529, the Waxman of California Part C Amendment Number 1, I would have voted "aye." On Roll Call Vote 530, on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions to H.R. 4795, I would have voted "aye." On Roll Call Vote 531, On Passage of H.R. 4795, the Promoting New Manufacturing Act, I would have voted "no."

**HONORING KAREN NELSON**

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't take long for anyone to recognize that the Congress depends on staff people to get most of its work done. Members speak and Members vote, but much of what we say is researched for us by staff and many of our votes are based on advice and counsel we get from our staff.

I have been in Congress for 40 years now. For 36 of those years, I have had the great good fortune to be advised and counseled by Karen Nelson, my chief health staff person. Much of what we have accomplished in health during that time has been because of her.

First, she knows the field. For three decades, she has been directly involved in every public health and health finance law that has passed this House. She's a living reference work for details about everything from Medicaid rates to pharmaceutical trials to tobacco advertising to health exchanges. She also provides the institutional memory on the origins of these laws as well as the alternatives and amendments that were considered in their passage.

She is, however, much more than an encyclopedia of health policy. She is also intuitive about issues. I have seen her be briefed on an issue that was altogether new to her and immediately hone in on the central problem. She can hear disparate facts and figures and then pick out the common thread. She has often learned of a policy roadblock and quickly found a way over, under, around or through it.

And, fundamentally, she is wise. When politics and politicians come to a stalemate, she can find a fair compromise. When egos and pride get in the way, she can find a way for everyone to save face. And when a policy is unfair, inequitable, or just wrong, she has the courage of her convictions to say so.

This is not to say that Karen spends all her life at the office. I've seen her walk out of members' meetings to go to a basketball game of her beloved Wizards. I know that if I have a weekend night free that Karen will have seen every movie in town and will have a review for me. As hard as she works, she also manages to enjoy her free time, too.