

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.