

KAZAKHSTAN'S COMMITMENT TO ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to Washington, DC to participate in the Nuclear Security Summit, we see that the basics of water and energy in Central Asia need attention.

In order to obtain electric power for the industrial development, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan for several years have been trying to build hydroelectric dams on their mountain rivers. Uzbekistan sees this as a threat to their agriculture in the Fergana Valley and has made clear its adamant opposition. The only winners, if this conflict results, will be the armed extremist armies that will gather new supporters on every side of the battle.

Nuclear energy is a safe, sustainable, and affordable energy source. Kazakhstan, together with the International Atomic Energy Agency and other outside partners, established the world's first Low-Enriched Uranium (LEU) Fuel Bank. This Fuel Bank, which Kazakhstan has committed to support through facilities and resources as the host nation, provides a secondary market for LEU to guarantee that all nations have an energy source for peaceful civilian nuclear power. Affordable energy remains a prerequisite for modernization of the economies of the countries of Central Asia. More importantly, radical groups will have less impact on the region since the threat of a water crisis is not a major concern.

Kazakhstan is a suitable location for the international energy center. President Nursultan Nazarbayev is a proven leader having the respect of all of Kazakhstan's neighbors. The southernmost region of Kazakhstan is close to Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Additionally, Kazakhstan is not involved in water disputes; therefore, it can guarantee the supply of electricity to all the countries. The absence of conflicts with the neighbors and international authority of Kazakhstan make it an ideal electric energy hub for the region.

Kazakhstan has a great opportunity to take a lead in transforming the whole Central Asian region into a more stable and prosperous place. I applaud President Nazarbayev and the Kazakh people for their continued commitment to civilian nuclear energy and Central Asia's development.

HONORING GENERAL MARC A. CISNEROS

**HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor General Marc Anthony Cisneros, who recently received the Daughters of the American Revolution Medal of Honor.

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a volunteer organization whose members donate their time and energy toward pre-

serving American history, funding scholarship programs, and honoring great Americans like General Cisneros who have dedicated their lives in outstanding service to the United States of America.

General Cisneros led an illustrious career in the U.S. military from 1961 until 1996. He is most remembered for his role as a commander of the U.S. Army South in the 1989 Panama invasion, where he led the effort to depose General Manuel Noriega. It was his leadership that minimized casualties while achieving a total victory in the war.

I join the Daughters of the American Revolution in thanking General Cisneros for his service.

HONORING THE MARINE MAMMAL CENTER

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Marine Mammal Center in honor of its 40th anniversary. Located in Sausalito, California, the center seeks to expand knowledge of marine mammals and to inspire conservation efforts in the Bay Area and beyond.

Founded in 1975, the Marine Mammal Center works to advance the lives of ocean mammals and their habitats through rescue operations, rehabilitation, scientific research, and education. They have rescued and treated more than 20,000 animals over the past four decades, providing care across more than 600 miles of California coast. Additionally, their education programs engage approximately 50,000 children and adults each year through field trips, teacher training, and volunteer opportunities.

Along with providing direct care to individual animals, the Marine Mammal Center remains committed to protecting our water environments. Their ongoing awareness campaigns—from encouraging people to eat sustainable seafood to educating on the harmful effects of trash in our oceans—have made a lasting impact, and their scientific research has helped shed light on factors that impact the health of marine mammals, including the harmful effects of climate change.

The Marine Mammal Center has been a force of nature in ocean protection efforts, not just in Marin County and the California Coast but around the world. Their small but mighty staff oversees more than 1,100 volunteers, and their researchers have contributed to hundreds of publications over the years. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to honor and thank the Marine Mammal Center on their 40th Anniversary for their unyielding commitment to our oceans and the creatures that call it home.

PORTION OF HIGHWAY 18 RENAMED TO HONOR MILITARY VETERANS

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an important ceremony that took

place in my district on Friday, April 8, 2016. A stretch of State Highway 18 located in the San Bernardino mountains was dedicated as the "Rim of the World Veterans Memorial Highway." I want to thank California State Assemblyman Jay Obernolte for authoring Assembly Concurrent Resolution 21, which was the legislation that was passed by the California State Assembly to rename Highway 18.

More importantly, though, I would like to commend the members of American Legion Post 360 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9624 for their tireless efforts to make this dedication come to fruition. Renaming Highway 18 to honor the sacrifices of the men and women who served in our Armed Forces exemplifies the respect that residents in the mountain communities of San Bernardino County have for our veterans.

I look forward to seeing the new signage on my next trip to the mountains. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making this special day possible but, most importantly, thank you to the veterans who've made America the greatest nation on earth.

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY'S GRAVITATIONAL WAVE DISCOVERY

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 12, 2016*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, our understanding of the universe leapt forward when gravitational waves were first detected. I rise today to recognize that achievement and honor six researchers from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) who were part of one of the most significant scientific discoveries in a century.

While hundreds of scientists worked together to make this discovery, I am especially proud of the researchers from RIT—James Healy, Jacob Lange, Carlos Lousto, Richard O'Shaughnessy, John Whelan, and Yuanhao Zhang. All of these researchers are members of RIT's Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation, which is led by Manuela Campanelli. Her team was one of the first groups to initially solve Albert Einstein's strong field equations describing black hole mergers. Because of this legacy, it is fitting that the recent discovery helps further confirm Einstein's general theory of relativity.

As the only microbiologist in Congress, I know that every scientist hopes to have their predictions verified by direct observation. I also know that this is relatively rare, so I stand in awe of this RIT team that accurately modeled the merger of two black holes and predicted the gravitational waves that were detected. This monumental achievement marks yet another chapter in Rochester's rich history as a center of scientific innovation and discovery.

Rochester has helped pioneer important research and develop innovative products such as the Kodak Brownie camera, the Norden bombsight, and myriad high-powered lasers. Established in 1829, RIT has not only played a critical role in Rochester's past, it continues to ensure that Rochester remains a global center of excellence. RIT makes invaluable