

twice a week to accommodate the growing need of free, quality health care that still continues today.

Mr. Speaker, the RotaCare clinics' commitment to providing accessible, free health care to those who would otherwise go without care keeps our community thriving with healthy, active people. It is therefore fitting to honor and thank RotaCare Bay Area's San Rafael clinic for 20 years of success in adhering to the mission of providing health care to those who are most in need and to offer best wishes on many more years of important work.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FORT
HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL'S
MARCHING BAND

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fort Hamilton High School Marching Band on their 25th Anniversary.

Founded during the 1990 to 1991 school year, the Fort Hamilton High School Marching Band has been a mainstay for students, staff, and parents alike. During its inaugural year, the Marching Band was busy purchasing instruments, uniforms, and sheet music. Under the guidance of Laurence Laurenzano, the Assistant Principal of Music at the time, 75 students participated in their first competition at Festival Disney in Disney World and Universal Studios.

For the past 15 years, Thomas P. Oberle, the Assistant Principal for Performing Arts, has led the Fort Hamilton High School Marching Band. Under his leadership, students have performed in Canada, Atlanta, Williamsburg, and Boston. Furthermore, they have also marched in the Labor Day, St. Patrick's Day, Norwegian Day, Veterans Memorial Day, and Greek Independence Day parades. Not to be outdone, the Marching Band has also performed at the Gridiron Gala for the National Football League and United Way.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Fort Hamilton High School Marching Band on their 25th Anniversary. Their success is proof of their commitment, energy, and greatness.

WINNING THE FIGHT AGAINST
HUMAN TRAFFICKING: THE
FREDERICK DOUGLASS TRAF-
FICKING VICTIMS PREVENTION
AND PROTECTION ACT OF 2017

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the subcommittee I chair held a hearing on accelerating the fight against human trafficking with particular focus on the new Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Act of 2017—the comprehensive, bipartisan legislation that my friend and colleague Karen Bass and I introduced last Thursday joined by Chairman Royce, Representatives Jackson Lee, Brooks, Frankel, Wagner, Cardenas, Poe, and Costello.

In the fight to end modern day slavery, and as the author of the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, the new bill honors the extraordinary legacy of one of the greatest Americans who ever lived.

Born a slave in 1818—we look forward to celebrating the 200th anniversary of his birth next year—Frederick Douglass escaped slavery when he was 20 and dedicated his entire life to abolishing slavery and, after emancipation, to ending Jim Crow laws while struggling for full equality for African American citizens. A gifted orator, author, editor, statesman (and Republican), he died in 1895.

The Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act authorizes \$130 million over 4 years to prevent human trafficking, protect victims, and beef up prosecution at home and abroad. Among other things, I note that this bill encourages more hotels at home and abroad to put policies and trainings in place so that the hotels are less likely to be used by human traffickers to exploit children. To the extent practicable, the U.S. Government will direct U.S. Government travelers using taxpayer money to use hotels that have taken affirmative steps to end trafficking within their walls.

The new bill seeks to restore the credibility of the Trafficking in Persons Report, produced annually by the Department of State, to hold countries accountable for progress, or the lack thereof, in the fight against human trafficking. Talk is cheap—we insist on sustainable action.

This report scrutinizes more than 190 countries—with the credible threat of serious sanction for egregious violators branded Tier 3—to improve their trafficking laws and actions.

But in several notable cases, particularly in 2015, countries that should have been held accountable by the last administration with Tier 3 designations were given a pass—countries such as Malaysia, Cuba, China, Oman, Uzbekistan, and others. The new bill tries to ensure that countries complicit in trafficking are held accountable. No politics. Ever. And it will remove from current law the presumption that countries failing to quantify convictions and identify victims somehow deserve passing grades.

IJM's Policy Director Tim Gehring underscored that concern in his testimony today stating, "The politicization of the tier rankings, against the advice of the anti-trafficking experts at TIP Office is to the detriment of the annual report, the U.S. Government's leadership on combatting this human rights abuse, and, ultimately, to the people exploited in the countries which receive an undeserved higher ranking."

Last year alone, I chaired two hearings on this: "Accountability Over Politics: Scrutinizing the Trafficking in Persons Report" in July and earlier in March, "Get it Right This Time: A Victims-Centered Trafficking in Persons Report."

I was profoundly disappointed that the Obama Administration chose to politicize tier rankings rather than speak the truth to power. If the Trump Administration follows that dangerous precedent I will be no less a critic.

The Frederick Douglass Act will limit the amount of time a country can stay on the warning, Tier 2 Watch List, inspiring countries to take action against trafficking today, not in four years when their warnings are up.

The Act will also ensure that countries still using child soldiers, such as Afghanistan,

where boys are on the front lines fighting the Taliban by day and being used as sex slaves at night, stop this obscene practice before being allowed to partner with the U.S. military—something Green Beret Sergeant First Class Charles Martland tried to do at great personal cost.

The Act will also ensure that waivers for countries using child soldiers are not abused. In 2016, only three of 10 countries designated as using child soldiers were not allowed to access funds, and these were the countries we did not fund anyway. The Act will ensure that the waiver is used only in cases where the President can ensure steps are being taken to address the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

In addition, the Act will help keep goods made by child trafficking victims out of the United States by ensuring continued funding for and enhancing the specificity of Department of Labor reports on slave-made goods.

Provisions in the Act will prevent the abuse of domestic servants in embassies and diplomatic homes in the United States. Diplomats and their families in the U.S. are getting off scot-free after trafficking domestic servants in their homes—we are going to change that. Trafficking is illegal here, no matter who you are.

The Act encourages accountability for U.S. Government funds going abroad to help trafficking victims, and strengthens implementation of U.S. laws and regulations to prevent government purchases from putting money in the hands of traffickers.

We welcomed several of the top anti-human trafficking organizations who have endorsed the legislation, including ATEST, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which submitted testimony for the record, and Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives, whose work educating children about the threat of trafficking has inspired this legislation.

HONORING THE DISABLED VET-
ERANS MEMORIAL IN UNION,
MISSOURI

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Disabled Veterans Memorial in Union, Missouri. The memorial is located in Veterans Memorial Park which broke ground in 2013 to provide nearly 44 acres of multi-use facilities for the Union community. This dedication of this beautiful memorial is taking place on Sunday, May 7, 2017. May 7th also marks a historic day when, in 1945, Nazi Germany unconditionally surrendered to the allies at Reims, France, ending World War II in the European theater. I can think of no better day to reflect on the sacrifices that our men and women in uniform make every day. This day of dedication will feature numerous members of the Union community and local veterans including: pastors, legion honor guard, and local high school bands.

This memorial has been 20 years in the making and would not be a reality without the dedication of stakeholders throughout Missouri. The memorial has been funded through private donations from individuals and groups