

I first came to admire Ron even before being elected to Congress from my work in the Free South Africa anti-apartheid movement. For 14 years, Ron did not relent until he freed his landmark bill for South Africa divestment, overcoming a presidential veto.

By the time I was elected to Congress, Ron had already been chair of the District of Columbia Committee for more than a decade. That committee is long gone, and nothing would have pleased Chairman Dellums more than its demise. But when freedom-loving Ron Dellums first came to Congress, he knew that if there had to be such a Committee, he wanted a seat on it. Just as Ron sought peace by serving on the Armed Service Committee, he sought to free D.C. from congressional control by serving on the D.C. Committee.

He joined the D.C. Committee during his very first term in Congress. Upon becoming chair of the Committee, Ron framed his service as “an advocate, not an overseer of District affairs.” No sooner had Ron gotten to Congress in 1975, in his very first term, long before I even thought about becoming a Member, he introduced the first D.C. statehood bill.

Ron would relish our progress today as we close in on enough votes for the D.C. statehood bill to pass in the House this term. We expect a vote soon in the Oversight and Reform Committee to send the bill to the House Floor. When that committee vote occurs, we will not be able to claim we are breaking new or historic ground. In 1987, more than 30 years ago, Chairman Ron Dellums proclaimed, “There should be no colonies in a democracy” and led the District Committee in a vote for statehood for the District of Columbia that passed in his Committee.

The American citizens who live in the nation’s capital will forever remember Ron Dellums, prescient warrior for equality and freedom—and well ahead of his time—a leader for statehood for the District of Columbia.

LORELEI DOMKE—CRITICAL
LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP (CLS)

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lorelei Domke, a Cape Coral, FL resident and senior at New College of Florida studying Chinese language and culture, who was awarded the U.S. Department of State’s Critical Language Scholarship.

The Critical Language Scholarship Program is merit-based and funded through an annual appropriation to the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The scholarship program seeks to expand the number of Americans studying foreign languages for national security and economic prosperity by providing instruction abroad in fourteen key languages. Out of more than 5,500 student applications, Ms. Domke was among the 572 students to be selected.

I congratulate Lorelei on her selection for the Critical Language Scholarship and look forward to seeing the contributions she will make to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAPLE
ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Maintaining Appropriate Protections For Legal Entry (MAPLE) Act. This bill, which is included within the Responsibly Addressing the Marijuana Policy Gap Act (H.R. 1119), would exempt cannabis-use and/or participation in the cannabis industry as a disqualification for entry into the United States from a country that has ended its marijuana prohibition and would protect foreign nationals who participate in cannabis activity in states where it’s legal from deportation.

Our federal cannabis laws are outdated and out of touch. They also have negatively impacted countless lives. Congress cannot continue to be out of touch with a movement that a growing majority of Americans support. It’s time to end this senseless prohibition.

HONORING DR. HIRAM TAVAREZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Hiram Tavarez from McAllen, Texas. Dr. Tavarez recently retired after dedicating his career to the health and prosperity of the people of South Texas. For the past 55 years, he has worked tirelessly to help people in the Rio Grande Valley lead healthy lives.

Dr. Tavarez earned his medical degree from the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon in Monterrey, Mexico, and started his residency in internal medicine at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas. In 1965, Dr. Tavarez finished his residency and joined his brothers, Marvin and Vicente, in McAllen where they began practicing medicine. There, they opened the Tavarez Medical Center which still serves our community today. In the early days of the Tavarez Medical Center, Hiram and his brothers frequently made house calls homes to administer treatment and care. Dr. Tavarez would continue to demonstrate his unwavering commitment to serving others throughout his career. His good deeds did not go unnoticed as he received several honors and awards for his commitment to his community and patients.

Dr. Tavarez’s dedication to helping others is matched by his staff’s loyalty and mission of service. The staff at the Tavarez Medical Center consistently praise Dr. Tavarez for his compassion and his kindness; sentiments echoed by his patients. For more than half a century, Dr. Tavarez has unfailingly ensured every patient receives the highest quality care possible. His past shines brightly with his good feats, and his retirement is well deserved.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Tavarez is a pillar of the community in South Texas and serves as an example to all of us. It is truly an honor to represent dedicated, selfless individuals like him.

OFFICER ANTHONY NERI

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Anthony Neri, an officer with the Sanibel Police Department who passed away on Monday, May 6, 2019. Mr. Neri had served the Sanibel Police Department since 2012, and as an officer since 2015.

Prior to serving with the Police Department in Sanibel, Mr. Neri was a Revenue Officer with the U.S. Department of the Treasury for 30 years. He also served as a police officer in Union Township, New Jersey prior to moving to Southwest Florida.

Officer Neri was honored along with 18 other officers at the Lee County Fallen Officer Memorial Ceremony held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at Centennial Park in Fort Myers, Florida.

I am grateful to Officer Neri for his service to our community, and my thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family.

OPINION PIECE BY U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL DAVID M. FRIEDMAN

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD the following piece authored by U.S. Ambassador to Israel, David M. Friedman in honor of the one-year anniversary of the U.S. embassy opening in Jerusalem:

A YEAR AFTER OPENING THE JERUSALEM
EMBASSY: ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY

On May 14, 2018, the United States finally opened its embassy in Israel’s eternal capital, Jerusalem. In making the courageous decision to take this historic step, President Donald Trump not only fulfilled a 23-year-old mandate from the United States Congress but he also recognized a 3,000-year-old truth that Israel’s enemies have long sought to erase.

America has been fascinated by Jerusalem since the early days of our republic. In 1844, Warder Cresson, the first consul general, announced after his appointment by the secretary of state that the United States was thereby extending its protection to the Jews of Jerusalem. The first permanent consular presence opened just inside the Jaffa Gate in 1857, and diplomatic presence has remained constant in and around the Old City ever since. President Abraham Lincoln, just before his death, told his wife how he longed to visit Jerusalem. And President Ulysses Grant and Mark Twain both visited Jerusalem in the mid-19th century and wrote extensively about their experiences.

Neither Grant nor Twain were all that impressed with Jerusalem in those days. It was poor, inhospitable and undeveloped. The Old City of Jerusalem remained that way well into the 20th century, whether under the rule of the Ottoman Empire until 1917, the British Mandate until 1948, or the Kingdom of Jordan until 1967. In 1967, Jerusalem was reunified as a single city under Israeli rule. Almost immediately, Jerusalem began to