

against an unlawful referendum is just the tip of the iceberg. A recent report by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan indicated that respect for human rights in Pakistan is afforded to few and that women and children in particular experience tremendous violence and discrimination.

These facts provide a glimpse of the social conditions in Pakistan. However, other human rights violations such as limited press and religious freedom, torture and killings by the police and lack of free and fair elections are also evidenced in the report.

Although Musharraf has been an ally to the United States in the war against terrorism, we cannot forget that he is the dictatorial leader of Pakistan and that he is not in fact the duly elected President. The political, social, and economic situation in Pakistan is bleak. This fragile country can only be improved by a democratic leader who will represent the interests of Pakistani citizens. It is unsettling to think of the negative repercussions of 5 more years of rule under Musharraf, given the current majority of opposition and given the current lack of basic human rights afforded to Pakistanis.

#### URGING SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION TO INFLUENCE MEXICO TO REJECT OPEC AFFILIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, soon after the tragic attacks on our institutions on September 11, as everyone knows, our economy began to sink, to plummet to depths that we could not have foreseen. While we were struggling to right our ship, as it were, the OPEC nations decided, before the end of the year, before the end of 2001, to cut oil production, which would have the natural consequence of rising prices at the gas pump here in the United States and elsewhere. This was an insult added to injury to have our former allies, like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait who are part of OPEC, to make certain that prices would rise at the gas pump in the midst of an economy that was being severely hurt by what had happened at the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania.

Imagine my surprise then when, we all know that OPEC has to depend on the non-OPEC nations to go along with their guidelines, their decisions on oil production and pricing, et cetera; imagine my surprise, my pleasant surprise when I learned that Mexico, for instance, was not going to join with OPEC in this drastic decision that they made.

Well, that was good news for the United States on two fronts: one, that Mexico, our neighbor to the south, was sticking with the United States in its hour of economic peril and, in effect saying to OPEC, no thank you, they will not go along with the price-setting

and oil production cuts that OPEC proclaimed. Imagine my next round of surprises when not too long after that, Mexico, in a meeting with Venezuela, decided to jump back into the OPEC pool and there again indicate to the world that they were going to join OPEC in the cutting of oil production, thereby having the effect of rising prices at the gas pump.

Now, this is the same Mexico that said that they would not join with OPEC. Now they have decided to stick with OPEC; and in doing so, they slapped us right in the face, because the cut in production of 100,000 barrels per day, or cut of availability to the United States of that 100,000 barrels a day, was an ingredient that caused the rise of prices that we saw in March of 15 to 17, and some places higher than that, 17 to 20 cents a gallon over a short period of time, and more to come, because the normal period for rising prices, the summer season, is already upon us.

Well, I have introduced a resolution just today which would call upon the President and the administration to again approach our OPEC allies, as they were, they were allies, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia; as a matter of fact, we came to their aid, we came to their side against an aggression by Iraq. We are asking the administration to convince or to try to convince those allies of ours whom we saved in that particular period of time to produce what is needed for the consumption in the world without regard to setting prices and to cutting production to artificially raise prices while, at the same time, the resolution calls for extra efforts to convince our neighbor to the south, Mexico, not to join with OPEC.

Mr. Speaker, the Mexican economy and the Mexican-American border which we share, all of that depend on a strong American economy. The Mexican economy itself depends on the American economy. Can my colleagues imagine that they would take steps to cause rises in the prices at gas pumps? We must convince them that they should renounce joining with OPEC now and forever and to remain with the United States in a hemispheric system to become an economic engine of its own. We do not need OPEC if Mexico would simply deal with the United States in oil production.

So this resolution calls for an important foray into Mexican-American relations, strictly with respect to the OPEC cartel and the insistence of Mexico to go along with OPEC. We cannot tolerate that.

So whatever comes by way of oil production, if the United States and Mexico can cooperate one on one in the production of oil and in the market, sale and pricing of oil, the American economy will be better off and, therefore, so will the Mexican economy. I ask for Members to join in this resolution.

#### TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONS MARYLAND TERRAPINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as the boxing great Muhammad Ali once observed, "Champions are not made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them, a desire, a dream, a vision."

Thus, it is with great pride, Mr. Speaker, that I rise tonight, a 1963 graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park and a current member of the University system's Board of Regents, to congratulate the men's basketball team and a fellow alumnus, Coach Gary Williams, for realizing their dream 8 days ago: winning the 2002 national championship, the first in the university's long history.

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Too often perhaps, Mr. Speaker, we imbue athletic competition with a seriousness beyond its significance. However, anyone who watched these 12 Terrapins this season observed the qualities that carried them to the mountaintop: hard work and determination, teamwork and skill, and an unbending will to win that allowed them to overcome virtually every obstacle. Those are lessons for life as well as success in sports.

After the Terrapins had won their game with the Indiana Hoosiers in the title game on April 1, Washington Post columnist Thomas Boswell wrote, "This was not just a great Maryland team. In time, it will be seen as a champion among champions."

Who could argue with that? There was the school record for wins in a season, 32, the fourth consecutive season with 25 wins or more. There was the undefeated home record of 15-0 at Cole Field House in the last year of play in Cole Field House. What a way to end a run.

There was the second straight appearance in the Final Four and the ninth straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament under Coach Williams, and there was the first Atlantic Coast conference regular season championship in some 22 years.

The path to preeminence, however, of course was not paved with ease. There was a heartbreaking loss to Duke University in the Final Four last year. There was a season opening loss and an unexpected defeat in the ACC tournament this year. There was personal hardship off the court, as well.

The national championship, Mr. Speaker, was never a coronation. The Terrapins faced and defeated perennial basketball powerhouses Kentucky, Connecticut, Kansas, and then Indiana. Collectively, those teams won over 15 national titles.

In hindsight, it was fitting to win the championship on that road. Difficulty and adversity vest victory with an even greater sense of accomplishment. No