

tactics carefully applied to each target.”

Two months after he submitted this testimony here, Mr. Binh became a target and was taken into custody. This simply must stop.

I urge the Vietnamese government to facilitate the immediate release of Mr. Binh and to afford its citizens the freedoms that they deserve.

ANNIVERSARY OF LEBANESE WAR OF LIBERATION

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, 15 years ago today the Lebanese people and their last legitimate government, headed by Prime Minister Aoun, courageously engaged in a war of liberation against Syria.

For 19 months, this heroic people fought to save and defend that which Syria wanted to destroy, Lebanese sovereignty and independence. Tragically, the Syrian regime overpowered them and succeeded in turning Lebanon into a captive nation.

Today, Syria harasses, arrests, imprisons, tortures and disappears anyone who speaks out against Syria's domination of Lebanon, and its campaign of intimidation extends here to the U.S. Congress.

Late last year, General Aoun appeared before the Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia, which I chair, to address Members about Syrian occupation of and terrorist activities in Lebanon. For this, he was charged with treason, tried in absentia and sentenced to 15 years of hard labor.

We must send a clear message to Syria that its continued occupation of Lebanon will not be tolerated. Lebanon is a captive nation, and we must not rest until Lebanon is free from Syria's regime and their strangle hold.

TRANSIT FUNDING

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Federal transportation law currently penalizes communities like Redding and Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in my district or like South Bend, Indiana; Lubbock, Texas; Shreveport, Louisiana; Wichita, Kansas; Jackson, Mississippi; Fort Collins, Colorado; communities like them all over the country.

When these communities reach 200,000 people, transit systems in these areas are required to spend Federal money like the big-city transit system. They lose their flexibility. What they need is a small system with unique needs. They are lumped in with the New Yorks and the Philadelphias. But areas like Lancaster and Redding are nothing like Philadelphia.

As a result, people in these areas and dozens of others lose out, and that is

why I introduced a bill to prevent the Federal Government from penalizing these thriving communities, the Transit Flexibility Protection Act. This bill does not authorize new money. It merely protects small transit systems and their ability to use Federal funds wisely.

If we are going to invest in public transit, we should at least do it in a way that truly promotes it in communities like these.

IN DEFENSE OF ANTHONY RAIMONDO

(Mr. TERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to defend a good American and a good Nebraskan, Tony Raimondo, who lives the American Dream of building a manufacturing plant in Nebraska and having several others throughout the country, employing now 1,200 people that make farm equipment, fencing, tanks, metal buildings. The Bush administration has tapped his expertise to become the new American manufacturing czar; but of course, then this has to be roiled down into Presidential politics.

The Kerry campaign, in a rather deceitful way, attacking a great American, Tony Raimondo, because out of 1,200 American jobs that he has created, they have 180 jobs in China to make farm equipment to sell in China.

This is not an issue of outsourcing jobs. This is an issue of being efficient in a global economy. This is a great American, and I stand to defend him against these unwarranted, deceitful, political, presidential-year politics and attacks.

SIGNING OF IRAQI INTERIM CONSTITUTION

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to come to the floor of the House today to recognize a momentous event and a momentous event that occurred earlier this week, and I do not think it has gotten sufficient press and that, of course, was the signing of the Iraqi interim constitution by the 25 signatories earlier this week.

We heard a lot of information on Friday when the signing was held up, but the press scarcely reported what will likely be one of the events that will shape not only the world events around us but shape events for the next century.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate our President on his leadership for getting this accomplished. I want to congratulate Ambassador Bremer in Iraq. I know he is looking forward to the conclusion of his term there when sovereignty is returned to the Iraqis. They

have got a hard job ahead of them. Four elections within the next year's time will be a daunting task for them, but they have laid the groundwork. They have laid the foundation.

Again, congratulations to our President, congratulations on his leadership for getting this interim constitution signed in a timely fashion.

AMERICA STANDS WITH SPAIN

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America awoke this morning to learn the tragic news that at least 170 people were massacred and over 600 wounded in terrorist attacks on the public transit system in Madrid, Spain. The Basque terrorist group, ETA, is believed to be responsible for these murderous bombings.

This is only the latest in a global campaign of terror that seeks to undermine freedom and democracy throughout the world by taking the lives of innocent civilians. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11 here in America, there have been deadly attacks from Morocco to Indonesia and from India to Turkey and Russia, along with assaults in Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

As British Prime Minister Tony Blair has rightly said this morning, "This terrible attack underlines the threat that we all continue to face from terrorism in many countries and why we must all work together internationally to safeguard our peoples against such attacks and defeat terrorism."

Our allies in Spain, led ably by the courageous prime minister, Jose Maria Aznar, should know that Americans mourn with them today. America is committed to stand by Spain to defeat global terrorism, as we are grateful for the Spanish heritage of America.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops; and we will never forget September 11.

RECOGNIZING ARIZONA CHAPTER OF ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS AND ARIZONA ROCK PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to two local associations in my home State of Arizona: the Arizona chapter of the Associated General Contractors and the Arizona Rock Products Association.

Sunshine Acres Children Home, in my home district of Mesa, Arizona, was in desperate need of paved roads and paved emergency roads. These are required and mandated by the city of Mesa. The Associated General Contractors and the Arizona Rock Products Association were able to join forces and donate their expertise, materials,