

Syria would begin to lose its grip so quickly on the people of Lebanon?

We must do more to show that the United States is on the side of those who want peaceful change toward democracy and fundamental freedoms, and we must devise new ways to work with our friends around the globe to fan the embers of freedom.

That is what our new bill seeks to do. We are starting by proposing reforms to the State Department and other parts of the U.S. Government so that promoting democracy is a fundamental and central component of our foreign policy. This legislation:

Declares that it is the policy of the United States to promote freedom and democracy as a fundamental component of U.S. foreign policy, to see an end to dictatorial and other non-democratic forms of government, and to strengthen alliances with other democratic countries to better promote and defend shared values and ideals.

Establishes in statute the Under Secretary for Global Affairs with a strong mandate to promote democracy and fundamental freedoms; expands the duties of the Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor to specifically include democracy promotion; and enhances the Human Rights and Democracy Fund controlled by that Bureau.

Establishes a new Office of Democracy Movements and Transitions and separate Regional Democracy Hubs to be points of contact for democracy movements and to promote democratic transitions and democratic consolidation, and creates a Democracy Promotion Advisory Board to provide outside expertise to the Department of State on democracy promotion and to conduct a study on the efficiency and effectiveness of current U.S. democracy assistance.

Requires the Secretary of State to prepare an annual report on democracy that will include a specific action plan, developed in consultation with local organizations, individuals and movements, to promote and achieve transition to democracy in non-democratic countries.

Provides for U.S. embassies to be "islands of freedom" and encourages U.S. ambassadors to promote democracy in non-democratic countries, including by meeting with representatives of democracy movements and speaking out on democracy and human rights in such countries, particularly at universities.

Provides training for State Department personnel on democracy promotion and links promotion and performance awards to effective advocacy and promotion of democracy, particularly in non-democratic countries.

Establishes a Congressional Democracy Award for U.S. government officials who have made an extraordinary effort to promote democracy.

Provides for increased efforts to work with other democratic countries to promote democracy including bilaterally, with the UN and related organizations, the Community of Democracies, and the new Democracy Transition Center being established by European countries in Hungary.

Requires translation of the annual report on democracy, the country reports on human rights practices, the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom, and the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, and requires the creation of a democracy and human rights Internet web site collecting these and other

materials related to the promotion of democracy and human rights.

Let me be clear—there are many fine members of the Foreign Service at the Department of State and many dedicated civil servants that are relentless on issues of promoting democracy and protecting human rights, but we can do better. We hope that this legislation will change the Department's culture into one that focuses on freedom, not feel good relationships, and will give a framework and direction to our diplomats as they pursue the promotion of democracy around the world.

Mr. Speaker, in 1956, Hungary was in the midst of a national uprising. The Hungarian people had a real hope of freedom from the yoke of Soviet-installed communism. Then the West stood by while the Soviet Union invaded and extinguished the sparks of revolution in one aggressive wave.

In 1989, we did not make that mistake. The United States and our democratic friends and allies stood with the Hungarian people and helped them and others confront their communist masters and achieve freedom.

The central question of today is whether we will stand with the reformers, as we did in 1989, or stand by as the oppressors take action against them. This legislation will help ensure that we make the right choice and stand with the reformers.

Make no mistake, the achievement of universal democracy is not an easy task, and we have no illusions about that. But as the only remaining superpower and the beacon of hope for so many people around the globe even now, the United States must find a way to promote democracy in this complex world. It in our own interest, it is consistent with our principles and our history, and it is the right thing to do.

“RAILROAD MAN” RETIRES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and wish well in retirement Warren Weber of Sacramento, California. Mr. Weber served with the California Department of Transportation for over forty years, and eight as the Chief of Caltrans Division of Rail.

Warren graduated from California State University, Los Angeles, and pursued his Master's Degree in Public Administration at California State University, Sacramento. He began his career in the Urban Planning Department, at the Division of Highways. He moved through the ranks at the California Department of Transportation and served as a Supervising Transportation System Analyst, Chief of Rail Planning and Corridor Studies, Assistant Director of Legislative and local government affairs, and finally Chief of the Division of Rail.

Throughout the years Warren was responsible for various activities. Before he became chief of Caltrans Rail, he served for over five years as Caltrans' Assistant Director for Legislative and Local Government Affairs where he was responsible for development of Caltrans' State legislative program. As the chief of the California Department of Transportation's Division of Rail he is responsible for the program management, administration, and marketing of State-supported Amtrak service in California.

To enhance his busy career, Warren also serves on various committees. He is a member of the Transportation Research Board Committee, Local and Regional Rail Freight Transport; Transportation Research Board Committee, Intercity Rail Passenger Systems; National Research Council Committee, Assessment of Federal High-Speed Ground Transportation R & D; and the Board of Directors for the California State Railroad Museum Foundation.

In conjunction with being an active member of several Transportation Research Board committees, Warren has received the AASHTO's President's Modal Award for Rail Transportation and a special recognition award from the American Short Line Railroad Association. He also received the finalist award for State Employee of the Year from the California Film Commission.

Ever the busy character, Warren has authored several papers on multi-modal transportation improvements for intercity corridors.

His time and dedication to the development and implementation of rail programs are to be lauded. Warren has truly been an instrumental player in the transportation sector, and while his retirement will be celebrated, he will also be missed by his many colleagues.

PEACE CORPS CELEBRATES 44TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, on March 1st, the Peace Corps celebrated its 44th anniversary. It is especially fitting in these troubled times that we recognize the quiet dedication of the men and women of the Peace Corps. Since the inception of the Peace Corps in 1961, more than 178,000 Peace Corps volunteers have served in 138 countries, promoting the Peace Corps' mission of world peace and friendship. Today, the program remains phenomenally successful. The Peace Corps has 7,700 volunteers currently in the field, the highest number in 29 years; 5 of those hard working volunteers hail from our 9th District of Ohio.

The Peace Corps is a cross section of our population; recent college graduates work next to retired citizens. Individuals of all races and ethnicities devote their time and dedication, giving of themselves to help people who are less fortunate.

The Peace Corps operates in 72 countries. Just recently Peace Corps volunteers volunteered in Mexico for the first time, and another 20 countries have expressed interest in working with the Peace Corps. Peace Corps volunteers serve as teachers, business advisors, information technology consultants, health and HIV/AIDS educators and youth and agriculture workers. These volunteers serve as ambassadors to the world, promoting international understanding.

During National Peace Corps Week we honor all the volunteers past and present who have brought help and hope to people in need. Peace Corps volunteers serve from Belize to Ghana, Armenia, Mongolia, East Timor and beyond. We honor their service and compassion. I especially would like to thank

the volunteers from the 9th District: Gwenna Corvez, Michael Heydt, Lenore Johnsen, Bethany Tebbe and Sarah Wilson, who are serving in Uzbekistan, Dominican Republic, Ukraine, Togo, and Moldova. You bring honor to all of us.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL PEACE
CORPS WEEK FEBRUARY 28 TO
MARCH 6, 2004

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, the Peace Corps is celebrating its 44th anniversary on March 1st, and its work has never been more relevant than it is today. Since its inception in 1961, over 178,000 Peace Corps volunteers have served in 138 countries to promote the Peace Corps' mission of world peace and friendship.

There are over 7,700 volunteers now serving in 72 countries around the world—this is the highest number of volunteers in the field in 29 years. Our Peace Corps volunteers work as teachers, business advisors, information technology consultants, health, youth and agriculture workers. With the spread of HIV/AIDS ravaging many countries, more than 3,100 volunteers are working directly or indirectly on HIV/AIDS prevention and education activities throughout the world. In short, Peace Corps volunteers provide valuable knowledge and life-changing skills to people all over the world in all aspects of daily living, altering countless lives in a positive way.

We are a generous nation and pride ourselves in giving, not only monetarily, but of ourselves. As a nation, we recognize the importance of humanitarian service, and host countries are eager for our volunteers because we give with sincerity of cause and commitment to service. Our volunteers spread goodwill and embody America's strength and pride.

During National Peace Corps Week, I would like to salute and honor our men and women who serve abroad as Peace Corps volunteers. I would especially like to mention my constituents who are currently serving in countries ranging from Albania to Swaziland: Anna Gutierrez, Nicole M. Hendrix, Meldy Hernandez, Cliff Okada, Erica Smith and Samrong So.

Thank you for your service. And thanks to the Peace Corps for continuing to encourage and inspire Americans to give so willingly of themselves.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN MARCOS MAYOR
SUSAN NARVAIZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize all the efforts the San Marcos Mayor Susan Narvaiz has made to her community. Since she moved to San Marcos in 1995 she has worked for the strengthening of the community in a countless number of ways.

Susan Narvaiz has been very involved in the advancement of the workforce in San Marcos starting with her first major accomplishment to the community through her business Core Strategies, Inc. which provides employment and training to the people along Interstate 35. In 2000 she launched a similar business Sedona Staffing Industrial Development Center which offers free-of-charge training to citizens so they can find work. Both of these services helped a countless number of people receive the necessary training to successfully compete in the modern work force.

Mayor Narvaiz's presence extends for beyond the employment issues she has tackled; she is also an active participant in such organizations as the American Cancer Society and United Way of Hays County. It is also not out of the ordinary to find her supporting the San Marcos High School Basketball and Baseball Boosters Club at a high school function.

There is one role that San Marcos Mayor Susan Narvaiz plays in the community that trumps everything; she is married to Mr. Mike Narvaiz and the mother to six beautiful children. For all the ways she serves San Marcos, I would like to thank Mayor Narvaiz for committing her time and energy to the better of San Marcos.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DETENTION OF ENEMY COMBATANTS ACT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Detention of Enemy Combatants Act. This legislation authorizes the detention of "enemy combatants" in the war on terrorism while guaranteeing that they are granted timely access to legal counsel and judicial review.

Earlier this week, a federal judge in South Carolina ruled that the Administration lacks statutory and constitutional authority to indefinitely imprison without criminal charges a U.S. citizen designated as an "enemy combatant." Last month, another federal judge ruled that holding individuals indefinitely as "enemy combatants" unconstitutionally violates their right to due process and that some foreign terror suspects held in Guantanamo Bay can challenge their confinement in U.S. courts. That ruling came some eight months after the U.S. Supreme Court held in Hamdi that while the President has the authority to detain "enemy combatants" captured in the battlefield, detainees are entitled to lawyers and the chance to challenge their imprisonment.

The Court, however, left a host of unanswered questions that Congress should seek to resolve. Justice Scalia, in his dissent, called on Congress to act, noting: "I frankly do not know whether these tools are sufficient to meet the Government's security needs, including the need to obtain intelligence through interrogation. It is far beyond my competence, or the Court's competence, to determine that. But it is not beyond Congress's."

The Supreme Court also side-stepped the case of Jose Padilla and will likely be forced to speak again on these issues should a vacuum still exist due to congressional inaction.

Until then, enemy combatant law will continue to be written in a piecemeal fashion through a series of conflicting lower court decisions.

I believe that the federal government must have the authority to detain terrorists as "enemy combatants" to protect the public, gather intelligence and safeguard national security. But we must also ensure that the accused are afforded the due-process rights guaranteed under the Constitution. I am particularly concerned with the detention of U.S. citizens and lawful residents.

In the last Congress, I introduced the Detention of Enemy Combatants Act to authorize the government to detain suspected members or associates of al Qaeda, but requiring that U.S. citizen detainees be granted access to legal counsel and due-process hearings. The bill called for standards to be set for such detentions that distinguish these cases from other Americans held for trial on criminal charges.

While we must grant broad latitude to our armed forces when it comes to protecting national security, American citizens should not be held indefinitely upon the sole determination of one branch of government without access to counsel or proper judicial review of those determinations.

These same concerns have even been echoed by Michael Chertoff, the newly-confirmed Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and former head of the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice, who has suggested that policymakers now "may need to think more systematically and universally about the issue of combatants" and to "debate a long-term and sustainable architecture for the process of determining when, why, and for how long someone may be detained as an enemy combatant, and what judicial review should be available."

In addition, Viet Dinh, former head of the Justice Department's Office of Legal Policy has called "unsustainable" the government's current insistence on detentions without meaningful oversight or any sort of due process.

I am currently examining ways to heed this invitation for congressional action and hope to introduce a piece of legislation in the near future that establishes specific standards and procedures under which terrorism suspects may be detained as enemy combatants and provided due process.

In the interim, I am reintroducing this piece of legislation in the hope that Congress and the Administration will finally work together to create a workable framework to deal with these matters of significant constitutional import. In addition, I have renewed my call for congressional hearings to examine proposals for congressional action in this area. After the shameful internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, we must be vigilant to protect against the government's decision to detain, perhaps indefinitely, any American without adequate review of the basis of its decision.

TRIBUTE TO YOLANDA GARCIA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sympathy that I rise today to give a final farewell to an outstanding woman and a dear