

the Millennium Challenge Goals (MCG). Reaching the goals will be a trying task, but some regions of the world seem to be making satisfactory progress. The Caribbean is one such region that has high hopes for success in this important endeavor.

On the occasion of a recent Inter-American Development Bank seminar on the issue of the Millennium Challenge Goals, Dame Billie Miller, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the island of Barbados, wrote an informative May 3rd Op-Ed which describes the prospects and challenges facing the Caribbean in regards to achieving the Millennium Challenge Goals.

Dame Miller's overall view is that the Caribbean's progress to date has been very promising. Indeed, the United Nations Development Program's Regional Report for the Caribbean gives a rather bright prognosis for the majority of the Caribbean's nations in their MGD progression. However, some countries continue to face significant obstacles.

For example, Haiti remains mired in political instability and economic impoverishment. Though it contains 50 percent of the Caribbean's population it is the region's poorest country. The nation of Guyana, though blessed with abundant natural resources, is saddled with an extremely high ratio of debt, making it the Caribbean's only Highly Indebted Poor Country.

Despite the Caribbean's overall progress, Dame Miller emphasizes that there remains threats to the region which must be accounted for. Most pressing is the region's ongoing vulnerability to natural disasters.

We are all aware of the calamity the Caribbean region faced in 2004 due to Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan, and Tropical Storm Jeanne, which caused billions of dollars in damage. Thousands lost their lives, and the region's tourism and agricultural sectors, on which so many islands depend, was battered. The production of major agricultural exports for many countries is still on hold several months later. The Caribbean in concert with its neighbors, like the United States, must continue to address the issue of disaster response and mitigation. With efficient and functioning systems in place, these disasters need not be so devastating to the region.

Dame Miller also emphasizes the region's need to broaden access to education, as well as information and communications technology, for all its residents. Doing so will help to spur the economic development of the region, and also allow for the greater participation of the Caribbean population in civic and political life.

She also stresses the importance of the region's continuing efforts at regional economic integration. In the face of increasing globalization and trade liberalization, Dame Miller argues that the Caribbean must solidify their economic and trade ties, in route to a Caribbean Single Market Economy, which would remove all barriers to trade, capital movement, and technology and manpower transfer. Dame Miller foresees such an integration being achieved by 2006.

I sincerely thank Dame Miller for her insightful opinions. She reminds us, that while the Caribbean will undoubtedly face challenges in its socio-economic evolution, its dedication to addressing these challenges, and its ability to harness its immense potential, will ultimately determine its future success.

[From the New York Carib News, May 3, 2005] CARIBBEAN MAY DEIFY "OVERWHELMING ODDS"—AS REGION SEEKS TO IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARDS IN CHALLENGING TIMES

In this first decade of the 21st century, in a post 9/11, post Enron World the time seems hardly propitious for the removal of obstacles to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals nor the realization of the 0.7 percent of overseas Development Assistance Commitment.

Progress (towards the achievement of the Millennium Goals set by the world's leaders summit in 2000) has been far from uniform across the world—or for that matter across the Goals. There are large disparities across and within countries. In terms of priorities for attention, the developing world is divided into well-organized categories: the LDC's (less developed countries), of which Haiti is the only member in the Caribbean, although with a population of 8 million, it accounts for over 50 percent of the 14 million citizens of the Caribbean Community, or Caricom, as it is known; the HIPC (highly indebted poor) countries, of which Guyana, the seat of the Caricom secretariat, is the only one among the Caricom states; and finally, the poorest of the poor. Small, middle incomes, mostly island countries, are, as we would say in the Caribbean, neither fish, fowl nor good red herring. We are therefore acutely aware that self-reliance and national and sub-regional actions will be the defining imperative in our efforts to achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, MDGs.

In that respect, and defying the overwhelming odds, the prognosis for the achievement of the MDGs in the Caribbean is very promising. In fact, the United Nations Development Program's Regional Report on the matter gives an optimistic outlook for most of our countries in respect of at least six of the eight goals. But the region faces a number of challenges to the achievement of the Goals.

Foremost among them is the vulnerability to economic shocks, and to every natural disaster known to humankind, be it hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, mudslides, earthquakes or flood.

The catastrophic hurricane season of 2004 had a grave impact on the socio-economic development prospects of many of the small islands of the Caribbean. Decades of painstaking human and financial investment in social development, representing several years' worth of gross domestic product were lost in a matter of hours.

The devastating Indian Ocean tsunami in December serves as a stark reminder of the vulnerability of many developing nations to natural disasters.

Globalization, education, information and communication technology all offer the potential for reducing social exclusion by creating economic conditions for greater prosperity through higher levels of growth and employment, and by providing new avenues for community participation.

Conversely, there is the risk of an ever-widening gap between those who have and control the resources, the capital and knowledge of the global economy and those who are excluded. The challenge for all of us is to fashion policies, which reduce this risk and maximize this new potential. Various studies in Latin American and the Caribbean have shown that even in the presence of steady rates of economic growth, a reduction of inequality is not guaranteed. Clearly, the solution does not lie exclusively in wealth creation.

Globalization has brought tremendous benefits to significant portions of the world, but at the same time, large sections of the world

have experienced far too few of its benefits, while others still, particularly in the poorest countries, remain totally marginalized. Many feel threatened by the way these processes have affected their communities, endangering their jobs and widening the gap between rich and poor. For them globalization has not delivered on the promises of vast development opportunities on a global scale, nor has it lessened the prevalence of economic disparities and social injustice.

For the Caribbean, the only sensible response to globalization and trade liberalization, and to the inevitable disappearance of trade preferences has been to expedite the deepening of the Caricom integration process. At this time, the members of the Caribbean Community are fully engaged in the most ambitious of endeavors to consolidate our market place and economic space through the implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, CSME, which provides for the removal of barriers to trade, goods, services, movement of capital, technology and skilled persons and also to the establishment of letterpresses. We expect that the CSME will be fully operational by 2006, making us the only integrated region, apart from the European Union to achieve such a status, and readying us to better access the global market process.

HONORING LAKE HOPATCONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lake Hopatcong Historical Society, in my Congressional District. The Historical Society is celebrating fifty years of protecting documents and artifacts for the community and promoting education and historic preservation.

The actual creation of the Lake Hopatcong Historical Society occurred on August 10, 1955, at the Langdon Arms Restaurant with eight people in attendance. From the beginning, the members' goal was to establish a museum for the lake.

From the original eight individuals who attended the first meeting in 1955, the society grew to 150 members by the time the museum opened in 1965. In the early 1960's the state of New Jersey moved forward with plans for a new administration building at Hopatcong State Park. The park was on land which was previously owned by the Morris Canal and Banking Company. When the canal was abandoned in the 1920's, the 98 acres around the Lake Hopatcong dam were set aside as a state park.

Today, with nearly 800 members, the organization continues to follow its mission "to collect, house and preserve artifacts and documents relating to the civil, political, social and general history of Lake Hopatcong and to encourage the education and dissemination of information about Lake Hopatcong's history."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues in the House of Representatives join with me in congratulating the Lake Hopatcong Historical Society, its trustees and all of its outstanding members and volunteers, upon celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARINE
LANCE CORPORAL DUSTIN R.
FITZGERALD

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Marine Lance Corporal Dustin R. Fitzgerald. As our country honors our military personnel, both past and present, this Memorial Day, I want to take this opportunity to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and security.

Lance Corporal Fitzgerald leaves behind a legacy of compassion and leadership. His family and friends remember him as a mentor who was truly inspirational in helping the people he loved reach their full potential. They remember his pride in being a Marine, his willingness to go beyond the call of duty to assist the members of unit, and his joy and laughter.

Lance Corporal Fitzgerald had aspirations to be a lawyer, and his interest and enthusiasm are a source of inspiration to the lives he touched. Based on his reputation for being hard-working and committed to fulfilling his responsibilities, I have no doubt he would have been an effective lawyer.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay my last respects to a young man who was so full of life; to a young man who had a full and bright future ahead of him. I pray Lance Corporal Fitzgerald's family and friends find peace in their hearts, knowing his country is grateful and humbled by his sacrifice. I thank our brave men and women in uniform for continuing with our mission in Iraq, which is the ultimate tribute to our fallen soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen.

Dustin, to you I offer my sincere gratitude and my solemn commitment to continue to support your friends, the members of your unit, and the men and women in Iraq who are continuing without you. Thank you for seeing a vision greater than yourself and for the strength of your commitment to our country. God bless you.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF CHIEF
JOSEPH MARVIN OF THE WOOD-
STOCK, ILLINOIS POLICE DE-
PARTMENT

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chief Joseph Marvin and his twenty-seven years of service to the Woodstock Police Department in Woodstock, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Marvin has been intricately involved in community building programs for over two decades. He has served as the Coordinator of Community Services and Chairman of the Crime Prevention Committee in Woodstock. These programs and his involvement in them have improved the lives for generations of Woodstock residents.

Serving his community as a police officer gave him the awesome responsibility to be a first responder, community leader and a role

model for his family, friends and neighbors. I know that in his retirement he will continue to have a lasting impact and positive influence on the City of Woodstock. I would like to thank him for his service to and presence in the community and wish him the best of luck in his much-deserved retirement.

Also, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of all police officers like Chief Martin who selflessly work for the good and of their communities, giving of themselves so that we may all enjoy the peace and safety they provide.

HONORING THE ALTO LADY
JACKETS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Alto Lady Jackets track team who won the Texas 2A High School Track Championship on May 14, 2005. For the third time in three years, the Lady Jackets went down to Austin and returned home with the State Championship trophy.

I would like to recognize teammates Tiffany Hart, Angelitha Dickerson, Monique Hackney, Tashkia Mitchell, Kindal Baugh, Taneshia Pope, Tiffany Griffin, Margo Kahla, and Coaches Mildred Brown and Shanequa Redd. The outstanding team performance of the Alto Lady Jackets was highlighted by gold medals in the 800 and 16,000-meter relays and a silver medal in the 400-meter relay. Additionally Monique Hackney took gold in the long jump, setting a new class 2A record in the process.

As the congressional representative of the families, coaches, and supporters of the Alto Lady Jackets, it is my pleasure to recognize their tremendous victory and outstanding season. This is an accomplishment that these young women will remember for the rest of their lives.

HONORING THE CANTON ROTARY
CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. On February 23, 2005, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary International has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders whose mission is to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges, and encourage community service.

I also want to provide special recognition to an important member of this outstanding organization, the Rotary Club of Canton, Texas, for their twelve years of service to Van Zandt County. Throughout its twelve year history, the

Canton Rotary Club has achieved great successes in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

In past years, the Canton Rotary Club has raised money to provide scholarships to local students and sponsored programs to improve area literacy. In addition, the Canton Rotary Club has been active in Rotary International's Polio Plus program.

Through these actions, the Rotary Club of Canton, Texas, has exemplified the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to be able to honor them today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1815) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Taylor Motion to Re-commit today on the issue of providing full TRICARE to all members of the Guard and Reserve and their families. I am most outraged by the fact that there will be no consideration of the Taylor amendment on TRICARE for reservists as well as the Salazar amendment on ending the Military Families Tax and the Marshall amendment on ending the Disabled Veterans Tax. These amendments are three key provisions in the GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century, which House Democrats unveiled in March. It seems blatant, that the Rules Committee would not allow the full body to consider these vital amendments which could have greatly strengthened this Defense Authorization.

My colleague Mr. TAYLOR's amendment would have provided full TRICARE to all members of the Guard and Reserve and their families. Currently, the Guard and Reserve are covered by TRICARE only when they are mobilized for active duty. Under the Taylor amendment, all members of the Guard and Reserve could buy into TRICARE for an affordable monthly premium. The Taylor amendment was in fact adopted by the Armed Services Committee by a vote of 32 to 30. However, after the mark-up, Chairman HUNTER stripped the amendment from the bill based on a violation of the Budget Act, instead of allowing Representative TAYLOR to make a slight modification to his amendment which would have addressed the violation. It is the slightly modified version that Representative TAYLOR had sought the Rules Committee to make in order and which the Rules Committee has egregiously rejected for consideration. It is a travesty indeed because this amendment could have done so much good for so many Guardsmen and Reservists.

The simple fact is that more than 433,000 of our National Guard and Reserves have been