EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR'S OP-ED WARNING PALESTINIANS TO CONTROL TERRORISM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a particularly important and insightful op-ed written by Israeli Ambassador Daniel Ayalon in yesterday's Washington Post. Ambassador Ayalon gives a forthright analysis of the precarious position that Israel finds itself in as it prepares courageously to implement Gaza disengagement.

Israel's bold decision to hand Gaza over to the Palestinians—risking its national unity for the sake of advancing prospects for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—clearly demonstrates its profound devotion to peace-making. Nevertheless, Palestinian terrorism is on the rise again. Islamic extremists from Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, in particular, continue to attack Israeli civilians with Qassam rockets, mortars, suicide bombings, and drive-by shootings. The reason is clear. The terrorists want people to believe that Israel is withdrawing out of fear, not generosity or commitment to peace.

Ambassador Ayalon rightly warns Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas that he must bring the terrorism to a halt; otherwise, he will waste the Palestinians' best opportunity ever to demonstrate that they are "capable of governing a functioning democratic society, free from terrorism and focused on improving the lives of its citizens." Mr. Speaker, I want to underscore my complete agreement with this judgment. Ambassador Ayalon is exactly right in saying that "Gaza is both the opportunity and the test for the Palestinian leadership."

With much of Israeli society in anguish over the disengagement, no one can dispute that the Israeli government is doing more than its part for the sake of peace. Now it is time for the Palestinian government to respond in kind; if it equivocates, the terrorists will win.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the entire text of the Ambassador's soberingly perceptive op-ed be placed in the RECORD.

IN GAZA, A TEST CASE FOR PEACE

(By Ambassador Daniel Ayalon)

Next month thousands of Israelis will be uprooted from their homes in 25 settlements, against the backdrop of widespread political opposition and intensifying Palestinian terrorism. Israel faces difficult days ahead.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is boldly determined to move forward with disengagement from Gaza and the northern West Bank out of a deep conviction that it is critical to Israel's future. Unfortunately, the Palestinian leadership has failed to meet him halfway. The Palestinian Authority's refusal to disarm terrorist organizations has enabled the terrorists to regroup and renew deadly attacks against Israelis, compounding the difficulties of this engagement and casting an ominous shadow on the possibility of future progress.

The sharp increase in Palestinian terrorist attacks, particularly in the past week, underscores the precariousness of the situation. While Israel is committed to completing the disengagement as planned, we will not sit idly by while our civilians are under attack. Time is running out for the Palestinian leadership to confront the terrorists. Should it fail to do so, Israel will be forced to take the necessary steps to defend its people. Lest the Palestinians miss another historic opportunity, the world should insist that they crack down on terrorism now.

After numerous failed attempts by Israelis and Palestinians to reach peaceful accommodation over the past 15 years, Sharon decided to embark on a different course. Disengagement is an immense political, strategic and indeed historical undertaking, aimed at reducing friction between Israelis and Palestinians, jump-starting the peace process and providing the Palestinians with a unique opportunity to build institutions of responsible self-governance.

At the same time, it puts a terrible burden on thousands of Israelis called on to leave their homes against their will. Many have lived there for more than three generations. Specially trained, unarmed units will move from house to house as part of a massive logistical operation involving some 50,000 security personnel, accompanied by teams of social workers and psychologists. Living, breathing communities, some more than 30 years old, will simply vanish. Businesses, factories and farms will be shut down. Schools, synagogues and cemeteries will be relocated. The removal of graves, including those of terrorism victims, will be especially heart-wrenching.

The trauma of disengagement has unleashed dangerous rifts in Israeli society. While the withdrawal is supported by most of the public, many Israelis deeply oppose it on moral, religious and security grounds. Sharon has demonstrated steadfast leadership in the face of an unprecedented political backlash from his traditional supporters. Given the intense political opposition and growing civil disobedience, the prospect of violent resistance cannot be ruled out. Regardless of the outcome, the repercussions of disengagement will be felt in Israel for years. At stake is not only the success of disengagement but also the very fabric of Israeli society.

Adding fuel to the fire, public anxiety in Israel has increased because of the resurgence of Palestinian terrorism, including suicide bombings, drive-by shootings and rocket attacks. Rather than confront the terrorist organizations and disarm them, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has invited Hamas into his government, thereby providing a terrorist organization with an official seal of approval. The result has been an emboldened Hamas, a further weakening of the Palestinian Authority and a potentially disastrous perception that disengagement is a victory for terrorism rather than an opportunity for peace.

Abbas must seize the moment and lead the Palestinians toward peace. The terrorist organizations must be disarmed as called for in the "road map" if Palestinian statehood is to be achieved. This is non-negotiable. Gaza is both the opportunity and the test for the Palestinian leadership. Will that leadership prove itself capable of governing a functioning democratic society, free from terrorism and focused on improving the lives of its citizens, or will it squander yet another opportunity? After leaving Gaza, Israel will no longer provide an easy excuse for Palestinian failure.

The rock-solid, principled and bipartisan support for Israel in the United States has been vital to our ability to overcome terrorism and prepare the ground for a political initiative. The notion of disengagement would have been unthinkable had Israel not prevailed in the latest round of sustained terrorism waged by the Palestinians since September 2000.

The stakes for Israel are enormous. We are a strong but small country facing a largely hostile region roughly 500 times our size. We can ill afford to make mistakes. Iran's nuclear weapons program is imminent, posing an existential threat. Syria and Iran promote and support Palestinian terrorist groups sworn to our destruction. Hezbollah has intensified terrorist attacks against Israel from Lebanon, opening a second front aimed at derailing any progress. Despite these challenges, Israel has shown it is prepared to take difficult steps to achieve President Bush's vision for peace in the Middle East. The world should insist on no less from the Palestinians.

THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT FORUM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues and this country an important announcement by the Bush Administration. This week, the Administration took to two important steps in developing a strong trade and investment partnership between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa.

On Monday, President Bush announced the African Global Competitiveness Initiative, which continue and increase funding for trade capacity building efforts currently funded under the Trade for African Development and Enterprise Program. Under these new changes, the U.S. Agency for International Development's Regional Trade Hubs would be expanded from three to four in order to create greater opportunities and mechanisms for trading in Africa. The Hubs are currently located in Accra, Ghana; Gaborone, Botswana; Nairobi, Kenya. These hubs are important in identifying, promoting, and developing trading alliances that benefit the people of Africa and the U.S.

On Wednesday, during her visit to Dakar, Senegal, the Honorable Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced the creation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Diversification Fund. The fund will provide resources to help African countries diversify their economies, including the development of transportation systems in African

countries. It would provide important opportunities to assist in Africa's development of new and emerging markets and technologies and aid in their economic progress

These initiatives are useful steps forward. I look forward to working with the Administration to ensure that these programs are fully funded and that we conduct a sustained effort to promote growth in Africa that reaches everyone—working people, farmers, and businesses—by extending duty-free allowances for apparel produed in Africa using the fabric from other regions, and in diversifying the range of products eligible for duty-free treatment under AGOA.

These steps continue recent efforts of the United States and the international community to reach out to the people of Africa in order to aid in their economic development. It is important that the United States takes a role in assisting the African community in this regard. With the resources, knowledge, and manpower of this country; we should be able to reach more to our brothers and sisters in Africa. We should continue to provide aid and assistance to these developing countries in the interest of ensuring quality lives, healthy environments, and real opportunities for people who have too often been excluded from technological advances. We should finding ways to address the crippling poverty, the disturbing barriers to adequate health care, and the limitations and restrictions to education and progress that predominate in the countries of Africa.

The Administration has taken two important steps in this regard in the last week. The 109th Congress should join with the President and other African leaders to ensure that everything is done to ensure that the progress of the 21st century does not pass Africa by.

I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD three statements from the Bush White House and the State Department detailing their efforts and justifications for extending our assistance to the people of Africa. Let us push forward in our efforts and our resolve to assist the continent of Africa and its people.

AFRICAN GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS INITIATIVE

''I think one of the things that many African nations have come to discover is that through trade, they can develop a more hopeful society rather than through aid. . . . When you open up your market to entrepreneurs and small businesses, it helps spread wealth. And that's, after all, what we're trying to achieve.''—President George W. Bush, June 7, 2005.

FACT SHEET

President Bush has announced the African Global Competitiveness Initiative with a five-year funding target of $200 million of additional resources. This new initiative greatly expands the trade capacity building efforts underway with African nations through the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Regional Trade Hubs located in Accra, Ghana; Gaborone, Botswana; and Nairobi, Kenya. The Initiative will further the work of the Trade Hubs in enabling African economies to become better integrated into regional and global markets and to take advantage of trade opportunities afforded by the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

As part of the new African Global Competitiveness Initiative, USAID will open a fourth trade hub. The new hub will complement the efforts of the USAID trade hubs in Botswana, Ghana, and Kenya.

The Global Competitiveness Initiative will emphasize trade capacity building in the following areas:

Improve the climate for private investment in Africa;

Expand AGOA trade and intra-African trade;

Strengthen the emphasis on information and communications technology in facilitating investment and trade-related efforts in Africa;

Stimulate private sector development;

Encourage and promote the diversification of exports;

Reduce time to market and transport costs by facilitating trade at borders and along transport corridors;

Strengthen the financial sector;

Facilitate investment in infrastructure and address general barriers to competitiveness; and

Improve the capacity of African countries to meet international quality standards and U.S. animal and plant health inspection requirements.

Improving African Competitiveness

Open trade and international investment are some of the surest and fastest ways for Africa to make economic progress. With the rebounding of the global economy and recovery from several lengthy conflicts, much of Africa is poised to see more robust economic growth and an improvement in living standards in the years ahead.

AGOA is the cornerstone of the Administration's trade and investment policy toward Sub-Saharan Africa. AGOA's objectives include promoting free markets, expanding U.S.-African trade and investment, stimulating economic growth, and facilitating regional integration and Sub-Saharan Africa's integration into the global economy.

To continue to realize the potential benefits of AGOA, eligible Sub-Saharan African countries need to diversify greatly their export base, develop intra-regional trade linkages, and enhance their external competitiveness. The U.S. views trade capacity building and technical assistance programs as essential components of its trade and investment policy.

SECRETARY OF STATE RICE ANNOUNCES NEW AGOA FUND TO PROMOTE AFRICAN ECONOMIC GROWTH

On her first trip to Africa as Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice announced the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) Diversification Fund at the U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum in Dakar, Senegal, on July 20.

This fund will provide resources through several U.S. Government agencies to help African countries diversify their economies and thus take advantage of a wider range of opportunities under AGOA. Among the projects to be funded are a feasibility study for West Africa regional rail integration and technical assistance for the development of a new West African aviation safety and security agency.

On July 18, 2005, President Bush announced another AGOA-related program, the African Global Competitiveness Initiative (AGCI). It will provide an additional $200 million over the next 5 years to build the capacity of African nations to take advantage of trade opportunities and increase their competitiveness.

AGOA seeks to spur economic development and expedite the integration of African economies into the world trading system. It expands duty-free access for more than 6,400 products to U.S. markets. It also provides a framework for U.S. technical assistance to build trade capacity and to expand business links. In 2004, AGOA imports to the United States totaled $26.6 billion, up 88 percent over 2003. The AGOA theme for this Forum is ''Expanding and Diversifying Trade To Promote Growth and Competitiveness.''

The Secretary of State's participation in the AGOA Forum reflects the importance President Bush gives to the African Growth and Opportunities Act, and highlights his vision of Africa as a continent of promise and progress.

Also attending the Dakar Ministerial are Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns, USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios, Millennium Challenge Corporation CEO Paul Applegarth, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Randall Tobias, and officials from the U.S. Trade Representative's Office and the Departments of Commerce and Energy.

At the Forum, members of the U.S. delegation met with senior government officials, private sector leaders, and civil society activist from 37 African nations and the United States.

REMARKS OF SECRETARY CONDOLEEZZA RICE AT THE AGOA FORUM

Thank you very much. I want, first of all, to thank Foreign Minister Gadio for that extraordinary introduction—(laughter)—very, very kind introduction. Before I begin I want to acknowledge something that the Foreign Minister has said. I was here just about two years ago in Senegal with President Bush and we went to Gorée Island to the site of the transatlantic slavery. And as we stood at the gate that I think one could call a gate of no return, we all thought about the extraordinary bonds of kinship, of blood, of tragedy between the United States and Africa.

In my own personal case, of course, many of my ancestors may have come through that gate. And it is only in the course of the last several years that the United States has fully begun to come to terms with that great tragedy. It has become—we managed to come to terms through institutions of democracy and inclusion. But I personally want to acknowledge my gratefulness to the sons and daughters of Africa, without whom there quite literally would have been no United States of America.

(Applause.)

And as President Bush said when he was at Gorée Island, it was one of the great ironies that Africans, who came in chains to America to build America alongside Europeans, would ultimately help America to find itself as slavery was abolished and as less than 50–years ago, segregation was finally abolished in my home state of Alabama and throughout the South. We have a long heritage and history together, but we also have a very promising future.

(Applause.)

I want to thank the people of Senegal, President Wade and his (inaudible) for hosting this event. I want to thank Prime Minister Sall for his efforts. Whether measured by the distance on a map or by the strength of a partnership between America and Africa are closest together here in the city of Dakar.

I would like to welcome my fellow ministers and many members of both African civil society and the private sector, who have crossed this great continent to be here this morning. And I am pleased to join all of you for the annual Forum of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

We gather today not two weeks after President Bush and other G–8 leaders met in Gleneagles, Scotland to launch an historic partnership with the nations of Africa. Our partnership rests on the conviction that only the people of Africa can solve the problems of Africa. But for these men and women to fulfill their dreams of democracy and security and prosperity, all developed nations have a responsibility to help.

As President Bush has said, ''We believe Africa is a continent full of promise, and talent, and opportunity. And the United States

of America will do our part to help the people of Africa realize the brighter future they deserve.''

With President Bush's leadership, America has tripled our development assistance to Africa. And we will double it again by 2010. I would like to recognize Andrew Natsios the Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development who is helping Africa to expand and transform our partnership here in the developing world.

President Bush has launched the largest effort ever by one nation to combat a single disease—the $15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. And joining us here today is Randall Tobias the President's Coordinator for Global AIDS who is helping America give hope to thousands of men, women and children living with this disease.

Just last month, President Bush strengthened America's partnership with Africa even further. He pledged $1.2 billion to fight malaria, with the ultimate goal of covering 175 million people in 15 nations. He also proposed new initiatives to train half-a-million African teachers, to offer scholarships to 300,000 African students, mostly girls, and to help several African states better protect the rights of their women citizens.

Not only is America giving new money, we are revolutionizing how much of that money is given, together with Africans who believe in good governance, democracy, and an open society.

Under the leadership of Paul Applegarth, who is here today, our Millennium Challenge Account Initiative is providing new development grants to nations that govern justly, promote economic freedom, and invest in their people. So far, eight African countries have qualified to apply for grants, including Senegal, and one, Madagascar, has already signed a development compact worth $110 million.

Development assistance can be catalytic. But it alone, will never enable people to lift themselves out of poverty. Open markets that allow individuals to realize the benefits of their own hard work are essential. This is the purpose of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA, which brings us here to Dakar today.

AGOA represents the strong bipartisan consensus behind America's support for Africa's development. And it enshrines the principles of good governance as a condition of membership. Governments that advance democratic reform, protect economic liberty, and strengthen the rule of law are the best partners to entrepreneurial citizens. So far, 37 sub-Saharan African countries are meeting these critical standards.

AGOA benefits everyone. African businesses create more, better-paying jobs. And American consumers receive more goods at lower prices, products like sorbet from South Africa, and woodcarvings from Tanzania, and tuna from right here in Senegal. Last year alone, non-oil imports increased 22%, and the United States imported over $26 billion in total from the AGOA group of African nations.

To expand the success of AGOA, African economies must become more competitive and better able to seize the opportunities of trade. With these goals in mind, the United States is launching two new initiatives to build the capacity of African countries to trade in freedom.

The first, which President Bush announced today, is the African Global Competitiveness Initiative. This will provide $200 million over the next five years to help the people of Africa participate more fully in trade. As part of this initiative, we are opening a fourth ''trade hub'' here in Dakar, where teams of experts will help African countries trade more effectively with one another and with the United States.

The second initiative, which I am proud to announce today, is the AGOA Diversification Fund. Through this initiative, several U.S. agencies will support the efforts of African governments to diversify their economies and capitalize further on the promise of AGOA. One project, run by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, will provide grants totaling nearly $1 million to help West African nations increase the safety of their air travel and plan a new railway to better integrate the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Africa is a continent of overwhelming promise. All human beings possess the dignity and the capacity to flourish in freedom. And AGOA is helping the talented men and women of Africa to realize their natural potential for prosperity.

The United States will always offer our full support to the people of Africa as they build thriving democracies and achieve lasting development. You have set these goals for yourselves, and by yourselves. You are taking ownership of your destiny. And America is proud to be your partner.

(Applause.)

Now, it is my great honor to welcome Prime Minister Sall to the podium. Thank you very much for your time.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT S. (BOBBY) REESE, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, August 6th we will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the birth of the Atomic Age, widely celebrated as having begun when President Harry S Truman ordered the historic and fateful mission of the *Enola Gay.* But, another event took place on that day in and of itself that could have triggered the onset of this historic period, at least in the mind of Robert S. (Bobby) Reese, Jr., who was born on that day in Florence, South Carolina to ''Big Bobby'' and ''Gem'' Reese.

Bobby worked here in Washington for more than 30 years representing the American Trucking Associations and the Altria Group. Many in this chamber have had the good fortune and pleasure to have shared much of that time with Bobby. During my tenure here, Bob has been a trusted advisor and personal friend. I, like many others in this august body, often partnered with Bobby on the golf course, and often shared with him the thrill of victory. Of course there were moments when Bobby and many of us experienced the agony of defeat. But I think that all of us will agree that he was always a reliable partner or tough competitor. And, at least with me, he never understood the phrase ''customer golf.''

Bobby retired about 2 years ago and he and his lovely wife, Peggy, moved back to our home State and are enjoying their retirement in the Dunes West golf course community near Mount Pleasant. Bobby and Peggy are also enjoying spending more time with their four adult children: Patty, Cynthia, Taylor and Michael and two grandchildren Tayson and Senna.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in wishing a happy and festive 60th birthday to Robert S. ''Bobby'' Reese, and our hopes that he, Peggy and all of the Reese family and friends will have a joyous occasion on August 6, 2005 and for many more years to come.

IN HONOR OF UNITED HEALTH CENTERS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, INC.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley, Inc., on the opening of their new Kerman Health Center in Kerman, California.

United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley has been a dedicated leader in bringing quality medical care and services to underserved rural residents. In the effort to complete its mission, United Health Centers has brought to the forefront many public issues related to unattended healthcare concerns in the community.

Through the numerous clinics located in the heart of rural California, this organization offers a variety of services including family medicine, dental, x-ray, pharmacy and laboratory. United Health Centers has also adopted a preventative agenda and taken the initiative to implement family support programs such as prenatal care, nutrition, Women Infant and Children, health education, family planning and immunization.

The new Kerman facility is the latest addition to seven already existing health centers in Fresno and Tulare Counties. The last three decades have chronicled the growth of United Health Centers into Huron, Earlimart, Mendota, Kerman, Sanger, Parlier and Orange Cove. The two-story Kerman operation will house seven dental stations, ten examination rooms and a full-service pharmacy and lab.

United Health Center's employees, directors and organizers have touched the lives of numerous economically disadvantaged individuals who are so often overlooked by existing healthcare organizations. This dedication ceremony marks an opportunity to welcome improvements in the availability of healthcare and also provides incentive to look toward the future for innovative and novel means of making adequate medical care accessible to all communities—specifically rural communities.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3199, USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose this closed rule and H.R. 3199, the USA PATRIOT and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2005.

The manner in which the amendment process of this bill was handled is shameful. Both the Judiciary and the Intelligence Committee had jurisdiction over this legislation, yet somehow, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee

has managed to twist this bill into one that only he finds acceptable.

As a Senior Member of the Intelligence Committee, I offered an amendment that would have extended the sunset for Section 6001 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 until 2010. Section 6001, also known as the ''lone wolf' provision, allows the government to define any individual non-US person as a terrorism suspect, even if that person has no clear ties to a foreign government. This new authority has been in place for a mere seven months and has yet to be subjected to meaningful review. Extending the sunset would give Congress a significant period of time in which to assess the impact of this considerable new authority. Members of the Intelligence Committee agreed; and my amendment had the support of almost every single Member of the Committee, both Republican and Democrat. Inexplicably, the amendment was later removed by the Judiciary Committee.

I asked Chairman SENSENBRENNER point blank in the Rules Committee hearing yesterday why my amendment was removed from the bill. His response—''I don't know.'' He doesn't know, then who does? I guess somewhere between the fourth floor of the Capitol and the Judiciary Committee, my amendment must have been lost.

I believe the partisanship and incivility of the Judiciary Committee has unfortunately, infected the bipartisan manner in which the Intelligence Committee has always approached its work. Regardless, I am still committed to pursuing my amendment and working with the conference committee in a bipartisan fashion to reinsert my amendment into this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing that, once again, I find myself protesting the manner in which legislation has been brought to the floor. Over sixty amendments were offered in the Rules Committee yesterday yet only twenty have been made in order. Forty amendments, including my own, will not be debated today. Even Representative HARMAN, the ranking Member on the Intelligence Committee, offered four amendments that the Rules Committee refused to make in order. In fact, none of the amendments offered by any Intelligence Committee Democrat is made in order under this rule. This is absolutely inexcusable.

America's national security is of paramount importance, but our security needs will not be met by limiting debate on the issue. The American people deserve a Congress that has fulfilled its Constitutional role by considering each and every idea put forth by its Members to improve this and all pieces of legislation.

Without a doubt the underlying bill could be improved. For example, this bill amends Section 213 of the Patriot Act to require the government to notify the subject of a search warrant within 180 days of the search but does not sunset the provision. Statistics provided to Congress show that only eleven percent of the searches conducted using this power were related to terrorism—eleven percent! Given that this overbroad search and seizure power is abused almost ninety percent of the time, isn't Section 213 the very model of a section in need of a sunset? Again, amendments were submitted to the Rules Committee addressing these issues but they were not made in order.

While no one in this body, Democrat or Republican, objects to this country's need to fight terrorism, the sweeping, un-checked powers provided to our government through the provisions of the Patriot Act and the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 are beyond worrisome. The inclusion of sunsetting provisions allows us to examine the practical effects, both positive and negative, before permanently allowing such a broad expansion of government power.

As a freedom loving society, we must diligently monitor any infringement on our civil liberties to ensure it is justified. But this bill, allowing the virtually unchecked monitoring of the average citizen on the flimsiest of justifications, is too broadly tailored to defend. After careful consideration and examination, I cannot support a bill that takes away so much while offering so little. I urge my colleagues to vote no on this closed rule and no on H.R. 3199.

HONORING TROY UNIVERSITY'S TRANSFORMATION INTO ''ONE GREAT UNIVERSITY''

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a unique university based in my congressional district in southeast Alabama which is truly transforming itself into a global force in education.

On July 29th, Troy University, formerly Troy State University, will officially join its 60 campuses in 11 countries and 13 time zones across the world into ''One Great University.''

This change will unite the entire student body of each campus. All curriculums will be the same at each campus making it easier for students to transfer within the system. Besides a common curriculum, the students will now have unified identification cards, the same student handbook, as well as pay the same fees.

The unification of Troy University is more than a clerical notation, however. A long established leader in higher education in the Southeastern United States will officially raise its banner high enough to be seen around the world. This is a very proud moment for Troy University and Alabama.

I would also like to congratulate Chancellor Jack Hawkins and his staff on their great efforts to make this transition a success. Their hard work and dedication will be recognized and remembered for years to come as Troy takes center stage in uniting our world through the promise of higher education.

USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3199) to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, four years ago I voted against the bill that became the ''USA PATRIOT Act,'' more commonly called simply the ''PATRIOT Act.''

I agreed that our law-enforcement agencies needed increased power and more tools to fight terrorists. But I also thought then—and still think today—it was imperative for Congress to proceed carefully in order to protect Americans' civil liberties.

I take very seriously my duty to preserve and protect our Constitution. For me, this is a matter of conscience—and four years ago I concluded that I could not fulfill my duty and also vote for the legislation.

However, I took some comfort from the fact that a number of the most troublesome provisions of the new law were temporary and would expire unless Congress acted to renew them.

And the imminent expiration of those provisions is the reason this bill is before us today.

I think the value of such ''sunset'' provisions is shown by the debate we are having today. It is evidence that requiring Congressional action to renew agencies' authorities can and does result in ongoing Congressional oversight and periodic reconsideration.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today does not fully follow the good example of our procedure 4 years ago. Instead, the bill would make permanent no fewer than 14 of the 16 provisions of the original ''PATRIOT Act'' that were covered by the law's ''sunset'' clause—as well as other new authorities provided by last year's bill to reform the intelligence community—and under the bill the other two will not ''sunset'' for a full 10 years.

That is one of the main reasons I will vote against this bill. But it is not the only reason.

Neither the expiring provisions nor the other sections of the ''PATRIOT Act'' are limited to cases involving terrorism. This makes even more troubling their potential for abuse or misuse in ways that intrude on Americans' privacy and civil liberties.

Because of that potential, over the last four years more than 300 communities and seven States, including Colorado—governments representing over 62 million people—have passed resolutions opposing parts of the ''PATRIOT Act.''

Much of that public concern—a concern I share—has focused on the possible effects on the privacy of patrons and customers from the application of section 215 of the ''PATRIOT Act'' to libraries and bookstores.

Section 215 expanded the FBI's ability to obtain ''any tangible thing'' under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Previously, the government could obtain records only from hotels/motels, storage facilities and car rental companies, and only if the records pertained to agents of a foreign power.' Now, it can seek ''any tangible thing'' from anyone at all as long as the information is relevant to an investigation.

Many of us think this is so broad that the government could investigate consumers' reading and Internet habits and private records (such as credit card information, medical records, and employment histories), without the requirement of relevance to any criminal activity that applies in grand jury investigations.

I would like to think that this authority will not be abused. But we cannot be sure that will never occur, and I think there are reasons to worry.

I understand, for example, that the American Library Association has confirmed that

Federal agents went into a library and asked for a list of everyone who checked out a book on Osama bin Laden—which likely would include people who wanted to learn about his connection to the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington—and that overall, since those attacks libraries have received more than 200 formal and informal requests for materials, including 49 requests from federal officers.

It is not clear what authority (if any) was cited by the federal officers for obtaining this information—and, because recipients of orders issued under section 215 not only have no effective way of challenging them but in fact are prohibited from disclosing to anyone but their attorneys that they received such an order, there is no way of knowing how often this authority has been used.

So, I remain concerned about the possibility that the "PATRIOT Act" would be used to obtain very private information—whether library records, medical information, or gun purchase records—without an adequate showing of a connection to terrorism.

It is true that this bill would make some worthwhile changes to current law, including allowing the recipient of a Section 215 order to challenge it before a three-judge panel of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, FISC, in Washington, DC, and assert that the law was wrongly applied.

But I think we ought to have at least had the opportunity to debate more substantial reform to this part of the law.

To begin with, we should have been able to at least consider a limited exemption for bookstores and libraries, along the lines of the bipartisan amendment that the House voted to add to the Justice Department appropriations bill for fiscal 2006. However, the Republican leadership blocked that amendment from even being offered.

Further, I think consideration should be given to changing the standard for issuing a section 215 order, to require some individual suspicion that the records the government wants are related to a spy, terrorist or other foreign agent—which could include the records of other parties if they were clearly relevant to the activities of the subject under investigation. Again, no amendment along those lines was allowed consideration.

It is true that the House did have the opportunity to consider a number of worthwhile amendments. I was glad to have the chance to vote for them, and am glad that so many were adopted. However, we should have had the chance to consider many more.

For example, the House ought to have had the chance to at least debate changes such as some proposed in the Intelligence and Judiciary Committees. I have in mind the amendment to "sunset" the so-called "lone wolf' provision, approved by the Intelligence Committee and an amendment offered in the Judiciary Committee to restore a requirement for reporting on the disclosure of electronic communications that was included in the bill approved by the Judiciary Committee in 2001 but later stripped by the Rules Committee without explanation.

Unfortunately, the Republican leadership did not allow any of these amendments to even be debated on the House floor, although it did allow time for a new amendment—not considered in committee, as far as I can tell—that would, among other things, change the rules for jury trials in many federal criminal trials, evidently including some not related to terrorism.

And so, Mr. Chairman, my reaction to the bill now before the House is similar to the one I had to the original "Patriot Act" legislation four years ago.

As I did then, I strongly support combating terrorism, here at home as well as abroad.

But I continue to think that it is essential that we remember and respect the Constitutional rights of law-abiding Americans as we wage war against those who would destroy both our Constitution and our country. In fact, I think that if we don't do that we will lose much of what we are seeking to defend.

And, now as then, I have concluded that for the reasons I have mentioned this bill as it stands—especially after rejection of the proposal to shorten the extension of expiring provisions—does not strike the right balance, and should not become law in its present form.

But, now as four years ago, I am hopeful that the bill will be further improved as the legislative process continues.

Four years ago, that did not happen. However, I think there is good reason to think that this time history will not repeat itself.

There evidently is considerable support in the other body—by Senators on both sides of the aisle—for provisions that would improve on this legislation. I hope and expect that the Senate will make such improvements and that in the end the result will be a measure that deserves the support of all Members of Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join Congressman JOHN LEWIS in introducing a resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. On August 6, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law. This Act is one of the Nation's most important civil rights victories and serves as a tribute to those that marched, struggled, and even died to secure the right to vote for all Americans.

Brave Americans of different races, ethnicities, and religions risked their lives to stand up for political equality. Most notably, on March 7, 1965, a day that would come to be known as "Bloody Sunday," nonviolent civil rights activists, like Congressman JOHN LEWIS, were brutalized and demeaned in their pursuit of voting rights for all Americans. It took this horrific violence for the Nation to realize it had to own up to the democratic ideals it preached. Eight days later, President Lyndon B. Johnson called for a comprehensive and effective voting rights bill.

This call for a voting rights bill was to ensure that this country realized the 15th Amendment of the Constitution, that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." Forty years later, the Act has proven effective in furthering this Constitutional ideal, as it has enhanced political participation and opportunity among racial and ethnic minorities. Today the Voting Rights Act also serves to protect the rights of language minority and disabled voters.

Please join us in celebrating this significant progress from 40 years of enforcement of the Voting Rights Act.

THE ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, Sunday July 10, 2005 (3 Tamuz, 5765), marked the eleventh anniversary of the passing of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, of righteous memory. When Rabbi Schneerson first became the Rebbe, or spiritual leader, of Chabad-Lubavitch, the movement had barely survived the brutality of the Holocaust. Yet, over the course of his 44 years as "The Rebbe," Rabbi Schneerson turned Chabad-Lubavitch into a worldwide movement.

Under the Rebbe's leadership, Chabad-Lubavitch began to offer educational and social services to the elderly, ill, and infirm. Over time, and under Rabbi Schneerson's leadership, Chabad-Lubavitch became a global force for good-will and kindness. It is not surprising therefore, that upon Rabbi Schneerson's passing, both this House, as well as the Senate, voted unanimously to award him the Congressional Gold Medal.

It is a testament to the Rebbe's leadership that Chabad-Lubavitch's social, educational, and humanitarian efforts did not cease upon his passing. In fact, Chabad-Lubavitch presently has over four thousand emissaries operating more than three thousand institutions around the globe. Chabad-Lubavitch offers vital outreach and social services to communities in more than sixty countries on six continents.

In the wake of the devastating Tsunami in South-East Asia, Chabad-Lubavitch responded to the crisis in a manner consistent with Rabbi Schneerson's teachings and leadership. Chabad-Lubavitch of Thailand has extended a helping hand to all Tsunami victims and survivors, regardless of race or religion.

Chabad-Lubavitch has provided both funding and technical assistance to local relief organizations in order to support the local relief effort. Chabad-Lubavitch also provides interest free loans to Tsunami survivors in order to assist in the economic recovery of individuals and communities. Chabad-Lubavitch also participates in an ongoing effort to provide fresh food and drinking water to the villages of Koh Muk, Laem Naew, Baan Talae Nok, Ko Rah, Bak Jok, Ko Surin, and Tung Dap.

Mr. Speaker, while we continue to honor Rabbi Schneerson's memory, we must also celebrate his ongoing legacy of kindness and compassion.

RECOGNIZING CORINA VILLARAIGOSA, THE FIRST LADY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary woman, Corina Villaraigosa, the First Lady of the City of Los Angeles.

Corina is a working mother whose proven ability to balance a successful career while never losing sight of her first priority—her family—has made her a role for model for countless Latinas and other women. Corina is a very talented and giving person whose love for her children and her students has no boundaries.

For nearly 20 years, Corina Villaraigosa has extended her love for children beyond her home and into the schools of the Montebello Unified School District. Thousands of young Californians, many of them English language learners, have been fortunate enough to call Mrs. Villaraigosa their teacher. Whether at home or in the classroom Corina creates an enriched environment that enables children to embrace the gift of learning and to become productive members of our society. She understands that education is the great equalizer for the Latino community and all communities. For Corina, teaching is truly a vocation, a calling to help young people—our Nation's greatest treasure.

Corina's strong sense of civic duty was learned at an early from her beloved parents. As a mother, a teacher and now as the First Lady of Los Angeles, Corina has always served her community with grace and distinction. The residents of Los Angeles are proud to call Corina Villaraigosa their First Lady.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mrs. Corina Villaraigosa for her selfless and extraordinary dedication to her family and community. She is a role model for future generations of Mexican-American women and all women, and I am honored to recognize her today.

CALLING FOR FREE AND FAIR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, with H. Res. 326, the House of Representatives calls for free and fair parliamentary elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Without question, we send a message with this resolution that improvements must be made in Azerbaijan's democratic process, but while we discuss our hopes for improvement, it is important to remember how important Azerbaijan is to American interests in the region.

Azerbaijan is a staunch ally in the global war on terrorism. Following September 11, Azerbaijan was amongst the first countries to offer the United States unconditional support in the war against terrorism, providing its airspace and the use of its airports for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan was the first Muslim nation to send its troops to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Iraq.

Azerbaijan joined all 12 international conventions on counter-terrorism and reinforces regional cooperation on fighting terrorism through signing numerous agreements and participating in the activities of regional organizations such as NATO, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and others. Azerbaijan serves as the chair of the GUUAM Working Group (Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Moldova) on the fight against terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking. GUUAM countries actively cooperate in law-enforcement, trade and transportation, and political-military spheres.

Azerbaijan was a pioneer in opening the Caspian Sea to international cooperation and oil and gas exploration. Since 1994, Azerbaijan has extensively developed its energy resources to diversify western energy supplies. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline opened May 25 of this year. It is widely recognized that the East-West energy corridor plays an important security role in the region.

To the United States, Azerbaijan is a critical partner in the Global War on Terrorism and the energy sector. To Azerbaijan, the United States is a pivotal leader in its efforts to promote democracy and stability within its borders and throughout the region.

Azerbaijan is seeking to establish itself as a democratic nation and viable socio-economic partner in the Caucasus, Europe and on the world stage. It is already an important partner on many fronts, and free and fair elections will allow us to further develop that partnership.

USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3199) to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes:

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I supported the State Department Authorization (FY 06–07) bill as reported by the International Relations Committee, and supported many of the amendments offered here on the floor of the House. However, this bill now also includes three major amendments which came up on the floor of the House, which are misguided and which I opposed.

The Rohrabacher amendment correctly acknowledges the importance of intelligence gathering, while it ignores allegations of serious abuses at Guantanamo Bay. These instances of abuse, combined with others have damaged our credibility around the world and hindered the effectiveness of our efforts in Iraq and the war on terror.

As to the Ros-Lehtinen amendment on Iraq, I have never supported setting a deadline for withdrawing American troops from Iraq. We do need an effective plan in place to transfer responsibility for Iraq's security to the Iraqi people as soon as possible. This requires specific and meaningful benchmarks to gauge progress and determine when our troops can return home. The Ros-Lehtinen amendment, which was never discussed in Committee, makes no reference at all to any benchmarks and contains language that gives support to a vague, open-ended commitment to keep our troops in Iraq indefinitely.

Finally, I support U.N. reform. The Hyde legislation regarding the U.N. when brought up separately in the House was opposed by 195 Members and was the subject of serious objections from the Bush Administration. It was also quite clear that it could not pass the Senate, so it is being bootstrapped to this bill. The Hyde Amendment lacks the flexibility needed for the Administration to effectively seek the necessary reforms at the U.N. For example, if a single one of 14 specific goals set forth in the amendment are not met by 2007, 50 percent of our dues would be withheld. Such a rigid approach would weaken the Bush Administration's hand to implement the changes which are necessary at the U.N.

Because the final State Department Authorization bill contains those three amendments, which I opposed, I am voting against final passage. I hope the Senate and Administration will seek the necessary improvements in this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO A GREAT MENTOR

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, mentors have played an important role for business leaders, artists, athletes and politicians for hundreds of years. Having an influential and important role model to learn from and to lean on for support and advice is priceless. Today I would like to honor and compliment my personal mentor, New York State Senator Owen Johnson from Babylon, Long Island.

For over 10 years I had the honor and privilege to work for my good friend Owen in the New York State Senate. Always supportive of my entrepreneurial efforts, Owen encouraged intellectual curiosity and always gave me the latitude and freedom to complete my master's degree.

While Owen had the chance to run for Congress himself, he chose to remain a New York State Senator to be closer to his family. Christel, his lovely wife, son Owen, and daughter Chirsten are truly the loves of his life.

Owen Johnson, a conservative before it was fashionable, is the chairman of the prestigious Senate Finance Committee. A seasoned and polished debater and legislator, Owen and I had hundreds of spirited debates over the years. While we may not have always agreed at the end of the day, each conversation was a learning experience.

I am extremely proud to call Owen Johnson a mentor, a friend, and the best State Senator New York State has ever had.

Here's to you Owen for all you taught me about conservative and family values.

ADDRESSING THE GRAVE HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ABUSES OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound concerns over the People's Republic of China's, PRC, persistent efforts to squash religious freedom and religious expression. As a senior member of the House International Relations Committee, I have worked—along with like-minded colleagues in the House and Senate—to send a strong, consistent message to repressive regimes like the PRC that membership in the community of nations requires a real commitment to support and advance democratic governance, political openness, respect for human rights, and promotion and protection for the freedom of speech and religion. Tragically, this message continues to fall upon deaf ears and the persecution of religious freedom continues; as best exemplified by the PRC's campaign of repression against members of the peaceful Falun Gong movement.

Many of us have become familiar with the case of the Falun Gong—also known as Falun Dafa—a religious movement which combines a regimen of exercise with meditation. According to its practitioners, the beliefs of Falun Gong are derived from qigong, a set of movements that stimulate the flow of vital energies throughout the body. As I understand it, the practice teaches the virtues of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance, while warning against moral degeneration and materialism.

Since 1999, because the members of this peaceful practice dared to ask their government for official recognition and their constitutional rights to free speech, press, and assembly, the PRC has systematically and ruthlessly cracked down on the practitioners of Falun Gong. Yet the Falun Gong were only one of many groups to face persecution. On October 30, 1999, China's National People's Congress promulgated an ''anti-cult'' law, retroactively suppressing the Falun Gong movement and thousands of other religious sects across the country; closing 67 teaching stations and 1,627 practice sites in Beijing alone.

Subsequently, the PRC detained and questioned over 30,000 followers nationwide, and charged Falun Gong leaders with numerous crimes, including: organizing superstitious sects, disrupting public order, leaking state secrets to foreigners, and engaging in unlawful assembly and publication. Between 150 and 450 group leaders and other members were tried and sentenced to terms of up to 18–20 years in prison; and an estimated 10,000 to 100,000 citizens have spent time in detention or ''labor reeducation'' camps solely because of their religious beliefs.

In fact, the U.S. State Department's International Religious Freedom Report of 2004 stated that ''the Government [of China] continued its repression of groups that it categorized as 'cults' in general and of the Falun Gong in particular.'' Moreover, the arrest, detention, and imprisonment of Falun Gong practitioners continued as they respectfully refused to recant their beliefs. As a result, they are being continually subjected to harsh treatment in prisons and re-education through labor camps—many times resulting in deaths due to torture and abuse. For example, in December 2003, Falun Gong practitioner Liu Chengjun died after reportedly being abused in custody in the Jilin Province. The report went on to state that the Chinese Government ''tends to perceive unregulated religious gatherings or groups as a potential challenge to its authority, and it attempts to control and regulate religious groups to prevent the rise of groups or sources of authority outside the control of the Government and the CCP.'' The U.S. Department of State—for 6 consecutive years—has designated China as a ''Country of particular concern'' for ''particularly severe violations of religious freedom,'' especially as it pertains to the persecution of Falun Gong members.

It is in part due to the brave and courageous writers at The Epoch Times—a Chinese-language newspaper and publisher of the Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party—that we have an accounting of this religious persecution and the numerous other dangerous activities of the PRC. The Commentaries present an uncensored and honest history of the Chinese Communist Party, CCP, effectively and poignantly detailing the brutal conditions under the CCP which have prompted over 3 million Chinese to make public statements renouncing all ties to Communism. By now, over 300 public forums of the Nine Commentaries and 100 public rallies—with tens of thousands of supporters—have been held in more than 50 major cities throughout the world. I applaud and commend their tireless efforts to show the world what is truly happening inside China.

Mr. Speaker, the right to religious freedom is firmly enshrined in both our own Bill of Rights as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 18; and a nation's adherence to this principle is now widely understood to be a strong indicator of the good governance required to protect the rights of minorities and safeguards of social peace. The importance of promoting religious freedom cannot be overstated. In many ways, the promotion of religious freedom is intimately connected to the promotion of other fundamental human and civil rights, as well as to the growth of democracy. Once believers cannot convene, worship, and publish their literature, there is essentially no freedom of expression, freedom of association, and freedom of press.

As we work to spread the ideals of democracy to areas of the world that have languished in the shadow of tyranny, we must also carry forward the simple but powerful message that every person has a right to religious freedom and fight to roll back the tide of religious repression whenever and wherever it threatens to spread across the globe.

To that end, I ask my colleagues to join with me to support efforts in the U.S. Congress that seek to highlight the plight of and express American support for all the innocent citizens who have been imprisoned unfairly; and to continue to stress to China's leaders that the American people are firmly committed to defending religious freedom throughout the world.

In closing, I would respectfully commend to my colleagues' attention an open letter to the world written by Yeong-Ching Foo to rescue her fiancé Charles Li, one of the many Falun Gong practitioners persecuted by the People's Republic of China; and I would like to have the text of this letter placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

OPEN LETTER TO RESCUE CHARLES LI

FELLOW AMERICANS: My fiancé, a former post doctoral researcher of Massachusetts General Hospital, is jailed by a government which has inflicted on its own people wars, famine, tyranny, massacre, and terror. Now my fiancé's life and fate are at its disposal. Over two and a half years have passed since Charles was arrested in China. Since the very beginning of his arrest, every day has been a nightmare. I have not been allowed to hear his voice, but not once have I stopped thinking about how he is doing. I can't imagine the abuse he suffers and the brainwashing sessions he is forced to constantly attend.

Charles has been subjected to other forms of torture; I cannot list them all. He could have lost his life twice, and over 2½ years, the authorities have been trying to take away his soul with brainwashing. We should never have given them the chance to hurt him like that. Charles must be rescued back immediately.

In June 2003, after Charles had not had food in his stomach for almost eight days, Chinese guards shoved a tube into his stomach and left it there for 33 hours.

In July 2003, Charles was physically forced by inmates that were instigated by the authorities to attend a brainwashing class to renounce his belief in Falun Gong. They knocked Charles down to the ground and dragged him by the feet down a flight of stairs, causing bruises all over his body.

In December 2004, Charles was tortured until he experienced fast heart beats and shortness of breath. He was forced to sit up straight with his head facing forward and was not allowed to move for 4 to 7 hours each day. He was tortured like this for 48 consecutive days.

Charles went to China trying to stop the persecution of Falun Gong in China by trying to expose the atrocity and brutal persecution of Falun Gong that is based on lies. Persecution of Falun Gong is carried out in a large scale to the extent where the former communist ruler, Jiang Zemin himself handed the propaganda of Falun Gong to high officials outside China; building '6–10 offices', a Gestapo-like organization set up to eradicate Falun Gong throughout the whole world. This was confirmed by Hao Fengjun, a former policeman in the '6–10' office, defected to Australia. He verified that the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China is indeed extremely brutal (See http://enqlish.epochtimes.com/news/5–6–10/29446.html).

For each hour that Charles is held captive in China, his life is endangered. My heart has been bleeding for over 888 days by now! All this time, I have been very strong and forbearing. Actually, without my practice of Falun Gong that teaches me Truthfulness, Compassion and Tolerance, I know I would have gone crazy.

Since Charles' arrest, I have appealed to you—Charles' fellow Americans—for support and help in rescuing him. The response has been overwhelming and we are both very grateful. Two summers ago, after a series of van tours across the U.S. when thousands of people expressed their support, Charles' treatment improved. But as public attention turned to other issues, his situation has worsened. As long as Charles is still in jail, I will not stop trying to bring him home, but I need your help.

The United States was founded on the principle of freedom of belief, as those who fled religious persecution in England were seeking independence in the New World. The Chinese people also seek spiritual independence

and an escape from the lies and hate that have plagued them under the CCP. I am proud of Charles for the risk he took to try and accomplish that in peaceful, non-violent way. I am proud of him for his courage.

Charles should be rescued back immediately, and unconditionally. I believe that, together, we, the American people and the US government, will not let him down.

''My family, friends and I are fortunate to have so much help and support from you ever since I have been illegally detained and persecuted. We all appreciate it very much. As time goes by, I believe that the truth will be revealed to you. The persecution of Falun Gong is totally illegal and brutal. And also, as Dr. King says, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Thank you very much! Yours Very Sincerely, Charles Li''—From a letter written in jail by Charles to US officials, May 16, 2003.

Let's rescue our fellow US citizen back from the hand of the Chinese Communist Party and let the moral value and conscience be awakened! Thank You!

Yours sincerely,

YEONG-CHING FOO.

MARCUS GARVEY—KEEPING HIS LEGACY ALIVE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to the life and legacy of a towering figure in the struggle for global human rights. Marcus Garvey is now widely viewed as one of the most crucial figures in the modern history of peoples of African descent, and is considered a national hero in his native Jamaica. The movement he started with the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) during the early 1900's is still the largest that the modern Black world has ever seen. During a bleak and oppressive period, he gave Black people in this country and around the world a pride in themselves and a hope for the future.

His efforts were a major impetus in the later movements that ended legalized discrimination in this country, and freed many parts of the Black World from the shackles of colonization. Indeed, his life and philosophy were embraced by influential leaders of the 20th century such as Kwame Nkrumah, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X.

Marcus Garvey has been an inspiration to me since I was a child. I was born, raised, and still live in Harlem, where Garvey established the Headquarters for the Universal Negro Improvement Association. Though I was born three years after Garvey was deported from the United States, his imprint on Harlem was still deep throughout my childhood and adolescence. I often met followers of Garvey's movement, known as Garveyites, who would preach his philosophy. Their words encouraged me to do my own research. As I grew older, I came to fully understand the importance of Garvey—both the man and his message—, and the injustice of his wrongful conviction.

Despite his future impact, he lived in an early 20th century America that was very resistant to change. Many became threatened by the size and implications of his movement, and he soon became the target of significant government harassment, led by a young J. Edgar Hoover.

Hoover became determined to rid the country of Garvey and his message. After many failed attempts to impugn his reputation and his motives, he ultimately became the victim of an unjust prosecution and conviction by the United States government in 1923, on a single count of mail fraud. So great was the outcry regarding the suspect nature of the conviction that President Calvin Coolidge would commute his sentence in 1927.

The actions of J. Edgar Hoover in his capacity as FBI Director are well documented, and have been the source of much public objection. Indeed, we now know of the efforts he made to undermine and discredit Dr. Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement.

Outside the issue of J. Edgar Hoover however, the case of Mr. Garvey highlights a regrettable period in American history—when groups and individuals inexcusably used the American legal system to assail innocent people, especially African Americans. Many, like Garvey, who had achieved great fame and success, were victims of such malevolence.

Jack Johnson, the famous African American Boxer, is one example. His wrongful prosecution and conviction, which occurred little more than a decade before that of Marcus Garvey's, has elicited a bi-partisan effort in the Congress to bring about his exoneration.

Since 1987 I have sought to clear the name of Marcus Garvey by seeking Congressional recognition of the injustice done to him, and securing a Presidential pardon of his conviction. I have continued this effort in 109th Congress with H. Con. Res. 57, and have received the most support for the effort since I first introduced legislation nearly 20 years ago.

The case of Henry O. Flipper gives me optimism as I move forward with the current Garvey effort. Flipper was West Point's first Black graduate, and the Army's first black officer. But he was also the victim of an unjust, and racially motivated court-martial. President Clinton's 1999 exoneration of Mr. Flipper has cleared the way for other such posthumous Presidential pardons.

In addition, I am also heartened by the fact that individuals and groups in the U.S. and around the world continue to ensure that the deeds and legacy of Marcus Garvey is preserved for future generations. UNIA, the organization which Marcus Garvey established nearly 100 years ago still exists today, and continues Marcus Garvey's message of self improvement and self awareness, through various education and service programs around the country. The organization will actually be having a 91st anniversary celebration here in Washington, DC on July 30th, which will serve to further illuminate the life and message of this important man.

Other groups and organizations, such as the Connecticut-based International Foundation for the Exoneration of Marcus Garvey, have been active in spreading awareness of Marcus Garvey's wrongful conviction, and building support for the exoneration effort. I thank all of them for everything they continue to do to seek justice for Marcus Garvey and keep him alive in our hearts and minds.

Marcus Garvey once asserted that, ''Action, self-reliance, the vision of self and the future, have been the only means by which the oppressed have seen and realized the light of their own freedom.'' This message transcends any race or group; it is a universal human American ideal. It is why the world must never forget Marcus Garvey.

TRIBUTE TO COL. ROBERT A. ROWLETTE, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Robert A. Rowlette, Jr., Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers for the Louisville District. On July 29, 2005, after 26 years of distinguished and dedicated military service to our country, Colonel Rowlette will retire from his post as commander. I believe it is important to highlight the honors he has received and the assignments in which he has dutifully served.

Born in Berea, Kentucky, Colonel Rowlette was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers upon graduation from the University of Kentucky in 1979. At the University of Kentucky he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He returned to the University of Kentucky to earn a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1990. Additionally, he is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College. Colonel Rowland is registered as a Professional Engineer in the Commonwealths of Virginia and Kentucky.

Colonel Rowlette has received many honors and awards for his service to our Country. His military honors include the Meritorious Service Medal with seven Oak Leaf Clusters, The Army Commendation Medal, The Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Prior to becoming the Army Corps of Engineers' Commander for the Louisville District, Colonel Rowlette's tour of duty included assignments in the continental United States and Hawaii. He has previously served as a project manager and assistant chief Army Programs in the Louisville District. Following his assignment to Louisville District he served with the 46th Battalion at Ft. Rucker, Alabama as a company commander and operations officer.

Colonel Rowlette's next assignment was at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York where he served as an instructor and an Assistant Professor of Mathematical Sciences. Following his time at West Point attended the Command and General Staff College. Following graduation, he served as the Executive Officer for the 84th Engineer Battalion at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He next served as the Operations Officer for the 416th ENCOM FWD cell at Fort McPherson, GA.

I had the pleasure of meeting and working with Colonel Rowlette when he arrived in Charleston, South Carolina to serve as Commander of the Charleston District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in my Congressional District. He followed his tenure in my home state, as the Engineer Colonel Assignments Officer with the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command and attended the Canadian Forces College in Toronto, Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in celebrating the 26-year career of Colonel Robert A. Rowlette, Jr. His leadership has been characterized by excellence and service. He has been a great asset to his profession and a role model for all of those who follow him in the United States Army Corps of Engineers. I wish him a very happy retirement and Godspeed.

IN HONOR OF SELF HELP ENTERPRISES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Self Help Enterprises on the organization's 40th Anniversary of dedicated service to rural communities of California's San Joaquin Valley.

Self Help Enterprises' (SHE) efforts are based upon the simple principle of providing the tools necessary for individuals to help themselves succeed. SHE assists rural residents, primarily farmworkers, in a variety of housing needs. Offering technical assistance, helping people to compete for scarce resources and empowering individuals has been the main focus of this community oriented non-profit.

The beginnings of Self Help Enterprises can be traced back to 1964 when President Johnson launched the ''War on Poverty'' with the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. This legislation provided a much needed source of federal funding to help combat the devastating effects of continuous economic hardship. Self Help Enterprises originated in 1965 as the first rural self-help housing organization in the nation and shortly thereafter received its first of many grants from the United States Office of Economic Opportunity.

Since then SHE has been instrumental in the housing development needs throughout eight counties located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus and Tulare.

Self Help Enterprises' volunteers, benefactors and organizers have touched the lives of numerous families who are so often overlooked by the rest of the community. The 40th Anniversary of the founding of Self Help Enterprises is a time for us to not only commemorate past efforts, but also look toward the future for innovative and novel means of helping underserved rural residents.

COMMENDING THE CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the visit of the Prime Minister of India on the occasion of his visit to Washington. Prime Minister Singh's visit to the United States is the first by a national Indian leader since that of Prime Minister Vajpayee in November 2001. The Prime Minister's visit comes at a critical moment for relations between the United States and India. The 21st Century has brought our democracies together as partners with shared priorities.

The United States and India share the values of democracy and diversity and are building a vital economic and strategic partnership. As the world's most populous democracy, India is an important ally of the United States. Like the United States, India draws much of its democratic strength from its diversity. Dr. Manmohan Singh's election as Prime Minister, the first time a Sikh has been elected to this office, demonstrates that diversity. The United States and India also share the priorities of promoting global stability and combating terrorism around the globe, promoting trade and democracy, developing new technology, and combating the spread of HIV and other global health pandemics.

Relations between the United States and India are particularly important to the residents of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois. We have a dynamic Indian American community in the 9th Congressional District that has shared Indian culture with our residents and made a strong contribution to our economy. While these Indian Americans are now residents and citizens of the U.S., many of them still have family in India. The close, friendly relationship developing between our countries is important to Indian Americans in my district, and beneficial to all Americans and Indians. As a member of the Congressional India Caucus, I've been pleased to see the relations between our countries improve.

I had the honor of accompanying President Clinton to India in March of 2000—the first time a U.S. President traveled to India since President Carter in 1978. That trip also served a greater purpose. President Clinton's trip to Asia represented a major initiative by that Administration and members of Congress to set U.S.-India relations on a new level of increased cooperation across a broad spectrum of issues. President Clinton and Prime Minister Vajpayee agreed in a vision statement to institutionalize dialogue between our two countries through regular bilateral ''summits.'' In the years following that trip, many aspects of the vision statement have been realized and our countries have drawn closer together.

Since 1991, the United States and India have forged close economic relations. As India has liberalized its economy, it has become a more important trading partner for the United States. India has invested both in its businesses and its workers, fighting poverty while growing its economy at a steady, sustainable rate. Our economic relationship with India is sure to expand in the time to come.

India is an important strategic partner to the United States. After our country was attacked on September 11th, India quickly rushed to America's side to offer its full support to combat the terrorists and use of its bases for counterterrorism operations. India is a critical ally of geopolitical importance to the United States on the Asian continent. India is a partner in our efforts to work towards a more peaceful world, and has recently taken encouraging steps towards peace with Pakistan. The growing military partnership between the United States and India is a sign of our shared strategic priorities.

While India faces many challenges today, such as continued mass poverty and an HIV/AIDS epidemic, I will work closely with the Indian American community in my district, with my colleagues on the India Caucus and in the Congress as a whole to ensure that the United States continues to support India as it faces those challenges that threaten its development.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Prime Minister Singh for continuing to strengthen the relationship between the United States and India. A close relationship between our countries will help promote security, peace, and economic prosperity around the globe.

USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3199) to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes:

Mr. MACK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my thoughts and concerns regarding the USA PATRIOT and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3199). This legislation—though controversial since it was originally signed into law in 2001—is an important and effective tool for combating and winning the war on terrorism. However, it is the duty of this body to err on the side of freedom and that is why I support commonsense legislative oversight of this law.

Four years ago, Congress came together to provide law enforcement and intelligence officials with sweeping powers to increase intelligence-gathering abilities and information sharing in the name of fighting terrorism. This was a wise and prudent choice. However, due to the legitimate concerns raised about the powers this law puts into the hands of government and the need to be mindful of the liberty we are sworn to uphold, sunset provisions were attached to the original law to ensure there would be a judicious review of the law and how it has been implemented. Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker: sunset provisions do not weaken the law, nor do they undermine its purpose or its execution.

Last night, during the debate on the USA PATRIOT and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3199), a Motion to Recommit was offered that included instructions to extend the current sunset provisions on the sixteen most controversial provisions from 2005 to 2009. Two hundred and nine of my colleagues voted ''yea'' on this Motion to Recommit. I intended to vote ''yea,'' however, due to a technical malfunction, my vote was not recorded in the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Regrettably, because the Motion to Recommit failed (209 to 218), the legislation contained only two limited 10-year sunsets. Thus, in the spirit of freedom, liberty, and limited government, I voted against the final passage of the House-version of the PATRIOT Act reauthorization.

Detractors of sunset provisions state there has not been any evidence of widespread abuse of any of the PATRIOT Act's provisions. But, as leaders, we are supposed to have the gift of foresight. By making the law permanent at this time, we will handcuff the ability of Congress to carry out a constitutionally-mandated power legislative oversight. Why should we not review this Act in four year's time? Having an intelligent debate to weigh the accomplishments of the bill is a smart undertaking now, just as it will be in 2009.

History tells us that in times of war or conflict, government is all too willing to ask its citizens to trade a bit of their liberty for the hope

of greater security. We witnessed it during World War II with the immoral internment of Japanese Americans. Liberty has been trampled during every war we've fought. But we must ensure that it does not happen again through vigilant oversight of the provisions of the PATRIOT Act. Some have characterized the PATRIOT Act as an irresponsible reaction. I disagree because Congress was smart and just to include "sunsets" at the time. Most of the provisions in the PATRIOT Act were needed and should be reauthorized. But to contend as some of its supporters do that it is a perfect law and should not be looked at critically is absurd.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to ensure that proper legislative safeguards are achieved, in conference, through additional sunsets on the most controversial provisions. In the words of one of our Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin, "they that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." Mr. Speaker, the war on terrorism will be won. But, America must continue to be a shining beacon of freedom, security, and prosperity for the world. It is the job of this esteemed legislative body to strike the proper balance between liberty and safety. We ascended to our current world position by being a cradle of freedom—now is not the time to turn our backs on that fundamental principle.

HONORING THE 2005 "TREE CITY USA" CITIES OF FLORIDA

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 110 Florida communities that received the 2005 Tree City USA recognition from the National Arbor Day Foundation. This designation is in recognition of these communities' support of the USDA Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program. These Florida communities have dedicated substantial efforts to the improvement of the environment in their cities and towns.

For almost 30 years, the Tree City USA program has facilitated cooperation and partnership in the urban forestry community, and has proven a cost-effective way for state and federal governments to support the conservation efforts of local communities. The Tree City USA program has effectively coordinated and engaged public and private participants including municipal leaders, State and Federal governments, tree care professionals, and nonprofit organizations, toward a common goal of bettering our environment.

Tree City USA municipalities allocate over $765 million each year to forestry programs. These funds go towards enhancing the natural beauty of the environment in order to make our communities a more pleasant place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the communities of Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Coconut Creek, Cooper City, Coral Springs, Deerfield Beach, Juno Beach, Jupiter, Lighthouse Point, Oakland Park, Palm Beach Gardens, Plantation, Pompano Beach, and West Palm Beach on their efforts to promote environmental conservation and I encourage them to continue to improve the natural beauty of Florida.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2601) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes:

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me thank my distinguished colleague from California, the Ranking Member of the International Relations Committee for his leadership and commitment to addressing the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. And I also want to thank the Chairman, HENRY HYDE for his dedication and willingness to work with me on this important issue over the last several years.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment is completely unnecessary. While I appreciate the efforts of the Chairman to improve it, the real problem is that it reinforces the prostitution pledge—an underlying policy that I believe is fatally flawed, and I want to tell you why.

In 2003 I traveled to Zambia as part of a Congressional Delegation examining food security and HIV/AIDS in Africa. We visited the Chirundu region, on the border with Zimbabwe, where delays in processing travel had forced many truckers to wait for months before they could cross the border.

The Chirundu region is incredibly poor. But because the truckers were still receiving their per diem and had time to waste, many poor and destitute women were drawn there to sell their bodies in exchange for money to buy food and provide clothing and shelter for their families.

Thankfully, the USAID Cross Border Initiative was reaching out to the truckers and these women, to ensure that they were educated about the dangers of sex work, about the risks of HIV/AIDS, and about the need to protect themselves.

These women trusted the USAID program to help them, because even as it encouraged them to find other sources of income, and tried to educate and protect them from HIV, it did not cast judgment on them for trying to feed their families.

By requiring organizations to formally oppose prostitution, we hinder their ability to reach out to sex-workers and teach them about the dangers of HIV.

Such a policy runs counter to good public health practices, and effectively denies vital HIV prevention services and education to women.

We need to fix this broken, misguided policy.

USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3199) to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes:

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Chairman, as we consider reauthorizing The USA PATRIOT Act today, it is important to recognize that the 16 expiring provisions addressed by this legislation are controversial with good reason. That is why Congress wisely established sunset timelines for these particular sections when the original legislation was passed amidst extraordinary circumstances in 2001; this is one of the main reasons that I voted for its original passage. The sheer fact that Congress included a sunset provision in the bill shows that Members did have concerns with the bill, and recognized its troublesome aspects, even as they acted on the need for swift passage in the immediate wake of September 11th. While I believe it is critical that we update our law enforcement tools to respond to the deadly and unconventional threats we face from global terrorist organizations, it is vital that we do not at the same time endanger the basic civil liberties and freedoms that we hold so dear. I will vote against this legislation because I believe it fails to strike the critical balance between civil liberties and national security.

Reestablishing sunsets for all 16 controversial provisions, thereby recognizing the crucial role that Congress needs to continue to play in providing ongoing oversight in this most sensitive of legislative areas impacting our basic civil freedoms, would greatly improve this bill, but the rule does not allow us to vote on this. The rule also does not allow an amendment which would have defended important civil liberties, including the right to freedom of speech, by excluding booksellers and libraries from the scope of Section 215 FISA search orders. Before the PATRIOT Act, these requests at least had to be directed at "agents of a foreign power." Now they can be used against American citizens, even if they are not suspected of doing anything wrong, as long as there is a showing of "relevance" to a terror investigation. I strongly oppose such a provision which would allow government officials to collect personal data on ordinary Americans, including medical and library records, without any evidence linking them to terrorism or other crimes.

I also remain very concerned with Section 213 of the PATRIOT Act and the fact that it is not subject to a sunset. This permanent section of the law allows the delay of notification in executing warrants. I have serious misgivings about this provision, as it could indefinitely delay notice of a search or seizure. This notice provides a crucial check on the government's power by requiring authorities to operate in the open and by allowing the subjects of such searches to protect their Fourth Amendment rights. I also have concerns about the use of National Security Letters under Section 505 of the Act, which require no judicial review, and the use of roving "John Doe" wiretaps, which deserve increased oversight, such as requiring the FBI to identify with particularity the person targeted. Further, I am baffled that the majority voted twice to prevent the consideration of amendments which would have kept dangerous firearms out of the hands of terrorists. These amendments, which would have criminalized the selling of firearms to anyone on an FBI terrorist watchlist and prevented terrorists from obtaining .50-caliber

sniper rifles, would have gone a long way towards achieving the goal of securing our nation against the threat of terrorism.

I believe that successfully addressing our national security needs while protecting our basic freedoms and civil liberties requires continual Congressional oversight, and I will continue to work to assert the role of this body in carrying out this grave responsibility. I will also continue to fight for increased funding for state and local law enforcement, as well as for increased security measures to protect our nation's public transportation and critical infrastructure systems. I would like to have an opportunity to vote for a reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act that more perfectly strikes a balance between civil liberties and national security, and am hopeful that the Senate will address the aforementioned issues of concern. It is my understanding that the corresponding bill approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee today would incorporate greater checks on several of these controversial powers, and I remain open to reevaluating my vote should a bill incorporating such modifications come before the House of Representatives in the near future. The bill in front of us today, however, does not adequately reform parts of this law which I believe violate important civil liberties. Likewise, it fails to provide for continued congressional oversight of many questionable provisions. I cannot vote for this measure, as it fails to adequately safeguard our country's fundamental freedoms.

USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3199) to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 3199, the USA PATRIOT Act Reauthorization. We must provide law enforcement all the tools they need to keep us safe in today's changing world, but we need a bill that strikes a more appropriate balance between civil liberties and fighting the war on terrorism.

Since the enactment of the USA PATRIOT Act in the wake of 9/11, I have met with many constituents and countless groups to discuss the details of this controversial legislation. At a town hall meeting I hosted, the U.S. Attorney for Rhode Island and a representative of the state's American Civil Liberties Union passionately argued their cases. Some agreed with the U.S. Attorney that only the USA PATRIOT Act can prevent us from another attack. However, most of that crowd, as well as most Rhode Islanders, worry that we have already ceded too much ground on our precious civil liberties. In my state, six cities and towns have passed resolutions opposing parts of the USA PATRIOT Act, and my constituents understand what this bill means to them and their freedom.

Keeping America safe is not a partisan issue, but unfortunately, several provisions of this bill are. We could have reached a bipartisan solution to extend the provisions that are effective, such as permitting searches to the Internet and e-mail, and modify the provisions that need changes, such as the searching of library records and ''sneak and peek'' searches, to which Congress has already voiced strong and clear opposition. Instead, we forgo Congressional oversight and take away future opportunities for review.

I am most troubled that the Rules Committee has not permitted a single amendment to determine if 15 controversial provisions should expire. Sunsets require Congress to review the Act, extend what is working, and change what is not. Sunsets would make the bill better, and ensure regular oversight, but the rule does not permit us to vote on this important modification. Simply adding sunsets could have made the H.R. 3199 more palatable, and I am confident it could have had strong bipartisan support. However, the Republicans have again chosen division over unity.

I recognize the need for our laws to keep pace with new technology and a changing world, and I am committed to ensuring our law enforcement has the tools they need to keep our nation safe. However, providing these tools need not come at the expense of the liberties and freedoms that we hold so dear. If we cede these, we have already given up the very values the terrorists are trying to destroy.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to make many changes in H.R. 3199 to fight terrorism and protect our freedoms. I am encouraged that the Senate is taking a more bipartisan approach to renewal of the USA PATRIOT Act, and I look forward to a conference agreement that we can all support to protect our liberties and our country.

FREEDOM FOR GUIDO SIGLER AMAYA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Guido Sigler Amaya, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Sigler Amaya is a member of the Alternative Option Movement, and an activist of the pro-democracy opposition in Cuba. According to Amnesty International, he has been detained and harassed several times in the past. He was incarcerated in the totalitarian gulag in December 1999, after participating in a peaceful demonstration to celebrate the 51st anniversary on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 2002, he was again detained when he attempted to meet at a home in Havana to discuss human rights.

Despite the constant threats, despite being previously incarcerated in the gulag, Mr. Sigler Amaya never gave up his dignified struggle for democracy and basic human rights. Unfortunately, as part of the dictator's condemnable, March 2003, crackdown, Mr. Sigler Amaya was arrested. After a sham trial, he was sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Sigler Amaya is languishing in the depraved conditions of the totalitarian gulag because of his peaceful actions to promote basic human rights: The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, ''harsh and life threatening.'' It is a crime of the highest order that brave men and women are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for their belief in freedom.

Tragically, Mr. Guido Sigler Amaya is not the only member of his family sentenced to the totalitarian gulag. His brothers, Ariel and Miguel Sigler Amaya, whom I will speak about in the coming weeks, have been sentenced to 20 years and over 2 years in the gulag, respectively. These three brothers are brilliant and admirable examples of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how severe the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women who represent the very best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is completely unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, these three brothers are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Guido Sigler Amaya, Ariel Sigler Amaya, Miguel Sigler Amaya and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

CELEBRATING THE UNVEILING OF THOMAS JEFFERSON STATUTE IN JEFFERSON PARK

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the citizens of the Jefferson Park neighborhood of Chicago in celebrating the unveiling of the new statue of Thomas Jefferson. The ceremony that will take place tomorrow is the I culmination of years of work by many members of the community, and I am pleased to offer my gratitude and congratulations on this exciting event.

Jefferson Park, on Chicago's northwest side, is one of the most unique and interesting neighborhoods in Chicago and I am proud to represent its citizens in the U.S. House of Representatives. The mix of cultural and ethnic divergences is unrivaled in our great city. The Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce is one of the most active organizations in my district, and I applaud their efforts to honor our nation's 3rd President with this outstanding statue.

The bronze statue, the first life-sized statue of President Jefferson in the state of Illinois, was created by sculptor, Edward Hlavka. It depicts President Jefferson at a writing table signing a copy of the Declaration of Independence. Surrounding the statue are 13 pedestals representing the original American colonies, along with the inscription of one his most famous quotes, ''The will of the people is the only legitimate foundation of any government.''

The statue will adorn the front of the Chicago Transit Authority station in Jefferson Park, the major hub for commuters on the northwest side, and was made possible through the leadership of the Jefferson Park Chamber, Alderman Patrick J. Levar, State

Representative Joseph M. Lyons, and countless other members of the Jefferson Park neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Chicago and the 5th District of Illinois are truly honored to welcome the new Thomas Jefferson statue to Jefferson Park, and I thank all of those responsible for making this possible.

TRIBUTE TO HARRIET HENDERSON

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend one of my constituents, Harriet Henderson, on her outstanding service as the Director of Public Libraries in Montgomery County, Maryland.

As Director for the past eight years, Ms. Henderson has helped make the Montgomery County library system the envy of library systems throughout the country. The Montgomery County library system consistently ranks among the nation's top ten, often noted as ''one of the best . . . in the country.'' Working to increase library hours and expand the materials collection, Henderson has demonstrated a profound commitment to improving the quality and accessibility of our region's public libraries.

The impact of Ms. Henderson's work is not limited to her role in Montgomery County. A former president of the Public Library Association and the Virginia Library Association, Ms. Henderson has made contributions on a national scale. She has also served in leadership positions with the Urban Libraries Council as well as other organizations.

Ms. Henderson will soon assume a new position as Director of the Richmond Public Libraries. I am confident that she will excel in all of her future endeavors and that the Richmond libraries will benefit greatly from her wisdom and experience.

I applaud Harriet Henderson and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF HENRY JAMES ''JIM'' SCHWEITER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, change is a constant here in the House, and I suppose that's a good thing. It keeps fresh ideas and energy coming in. But sometimes it sure is hard to say farewell to trusted friends.

As you know, I never miss an opportunity to quote my fellow Missourian Harry Truman. In this case, the occasion is bittersweet.

Harry Truman minted one of the axioms of Washington. ''It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.''

To many in Washington, Mr. Speaker, that phrase may sound quaint.'' After all, so much of service in Congress is about credit. We issue press releases every day to make sure the folks back home know we're working for them. Much of what we are able to do is tied to the credit we get for our achievements.

Let me tell you about someone for whom that's not true.

Jim Schweiter has lived Harry Truman's words, not only during his service here but throughout his career. Jim is retiring from the Armed Services Committee staff at the end of next month. Thanks to our bipartisan structure, he has the official title of counsel. But for the last five and a half years, he has been, in effect, the minority staff director. And he has been my close and trusted friend.

Jim came to the Armed Services Committee from the Air Force in 1988. He brought with him a law degree and experience as a trial lawyer and judge advocate. But he also brought some things you can't learn.

Jim brought sound and mature judgment, informed by the kind of strong moral compass that informs both what should be done and how it should be done. When confronted with a difficult policy question, Jim frequently asks ''What is in the best interest for the Republic?'' I believe the Republic is the better for many of the policy issues on which Jim has had a hand. Jim has been involved in many aspects of the committee's work, serving with the Personnel and Investigations subcommittees, and later as General Counsel and ultimately as Minority Staff Director. In these roles, Jim has never done just what was required of him. He has always sought creative and sound legislative solutions when he saw a way of improving a situation. Though the Reserve Office Personnel Management Act in which he played a key role and the future management and professional development of Judge Advocates are just two examples of the legislation he has helped enact, Jim has frequently been directly involved in improving the lives of our military men and women.

The Armed Services Committee is near unique in the House for its integrated staff and the degree of its bipartisanship. In this, Jim could stand as the exemplar. He served as General Counsel to both Chairman Ron Dellums and Chairman Floyd Spence and provided exceptional advice to both. He embodies what we mean by professional bipartisan staff.

He also exemplifies a spirit of service to this House and to the Nation. When I asked him to return to the Committee after his distinguished service in the Department of Defense as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Jim did not hesitate. In the time since he has returned, he has not only provided wise counsel at every turn, he has demonstrated strong leadership to the rest of our staff. They are a true team because of that leadership.

Beyond all his other attributes, Jim brought an unwavering patriotism to his position. That might have something to do with Jim's late father, Major General Leo Schweiter, who jumped into Normandy on D-Day and continued distinguished service through Korea and Vietnam. It might have had something to do with growing up in the shadow of the Army War College. But mostly, I think it's just Jim.

While Jim is retiring, there is no doubt that he will continue to have an active career. To the Armed Services Committee, Jim has brought a fierce intellect, an encyclopedic knowledge of House procedure, and an outstanding rapport with both members and staff. Jim's skills could easily carry him through many more careers—as a parliamentarian, a law professor, or a professional hunter—to name just a few. I hope he gets a chance to try them all.

I suspect Jim's heart may be most in the last of these pursuits. Like so many who grow up in central Pennsylvania, Jim is a dedicated outdoorsman. He hunts with his close friends and he has hunted with members of Congress, including our current Chairman DUNCAN HUNTER. He is no more at home than walking the woods. While Jim's new home of Minneapolis won't give him much opportunity to watch his beloved Baltimore Orioles play at home, it will continue to give him many chances to be where he wants to be during hunting season.

Mr. Speaker, as this good servant of the people moves on, and as this invaluable friend gets a little farther away, it is a time of sadness for me. But it is also a challenge to the House. I hope that we can remain the kind of House that continues to inspire and attract people the caliber of Jim Schweiter, people who know that the good of the nation and the merit of ideas come before all else. He is an example for us of what the House should be—and what America deserves.

I know I speak for everyone on the Armed Services Committee in thanking Jim for his years of service and extending my best wishes to Jim and his wife Donna on the next phase of their lives together.

VETERANS BUDGET SHORTFALL

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 22, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the inadequate Supplemental request that President Bush has sent to the Congress for its approval.

The President has sent up a new supplemental request, this time for Fiscal Year 2006. While the amount of $1.977 billion sounds like a lot, the devil is in the details.

Of this amount, $300 million is the additional money for Fiscal Year 2005 that the original supplemental did not include.

Also, the President continues to insist that veterans have not done enough to protect the freedom of this country. He is continuing to insist that a $250 user fee and an increase in the prescription co-pay be included in the budget.

This House of Representatives, in fact this Congress, has spoken many times against these provisions. They do not want to pass these costs onto the backs of veterans.

Yet again and again, President Bush ignores the wishes of the public and this Congress by submitting a supplemental that includes these legislative policies of his.

I am trying to understand this series of events.

The House passed $27.8 billion for FY05. The request for the VA in FY06 was the same $27.8 billion. There was no accounting for inflation, the rapid increase of health care costs in general or the fact that a war was ongoing. Soldiers were to return from Iraq and Afghanistan and would need to be integrated into the system.

George Bush underestimated the problem to the detriment of veterans health.

A first year accounting student could understand that adding more people and services

into an already overwhelmed system would cost more.

Except in the George Bush land of make-believe.

Then Bush comes to us with a ''make-believe'' $975 million supplemental to cover the shortfall. However, that turns out not to be enough and that you actually need $300 million more.

As I said earlier, the Fiscal Year 2006 supplemental of $1.977 does not include funding for the ''legislative policies'' of George Bush by charging veterans for their service to this country.

This supplemental request is short by another $1.2 billion.

In reality, this request of $1.977 should read at least $2.977 if you use George Bush's estimate of what these ''legislative policies'' will cost. Most likely it will cost much more.

Support the higher amounts advocated by the Senate: $1.5 billion in emergency supplemental funding for FY05 and $3.2 billion in emergency supplemental funding for FY06.

I am not looking forward to whatever budget fiction George Bush is planning to lay on the veterans for Fiscal Year 2007.