

the removal of Fidel Castro from power, but rather you will find hungry families living in unnecessary poverty. In 2005 you will find a large constituency of Cuban Americans such as U.S. soldier Sgt. Carlos Lazo, who are angered and embittered by U.S. policies that limit visits with their family members to only once every three years.

You will find a Cuban-American constituency angered by the fact that in the wake of Hurricane Dennis (a disastrous force that wrecked havoc on the island and killed 16) they are powerless to help their family members still on the island because of remittance and aid restrictions.

Cuban people are well known for their strong sense of family values. It is therefore an outrage that a group of people who hold family bonds in such high esteem are prevented from assisting their families in a time of overwhelming need because of outdated and unreasonable U.S. policy.

Today marks the 52nd anniversary of the start of the Cuban-Revolution and for 46 years Cuba's government has remained the same. This is overwhelming evidence that U.S. policy towards Cuba must be reevaluated.

We should move towards a policy of active engagement with the people of Cuba, encouraging travel and visits to the island of all Americans who wish to go. The very presence of a significant number of U.S. citizens affluent and free will be an opponent to the Castro regime and will serve as a contrast that will sharpen the realization of the Cuban people of the failure of Communism to provide them with an economic system which can get them out of the poverty which afflicts most of the Cuban people. Visiting U.S. citizens will inevitably place enormous pressure on the Castro regime.

As it stands our policy toward Cuba is one that severely limits the availability of medicine and medical supplies to the Cuban people. It is a policy that denies U.S. Citizens the right to travel where they choose. It is a policy that prevents Cuban and American diplomats from establishing meaningful channels of communication to improve our relationship and prevent misunderstandings.

It is a policy that denies American companies and businesses access to an important and potentially enormous new market for American goods, services, and ideas. It is a policy that prohibits a country ninety miles from our shores from being a partner in our global effort to thwart terrorism, to counter drug traffickers, or protect our overlapping ecosystems. Most importantly however, it is a policy that has proven itself ineffective for more than 40 years.

The Cuban people are the ones who are suffering and it is time to put politics aside and work on developing a new foreign policy standard in regards to Cuba. Developing a relationship with Cuba is an important foreign policy goal and in order to achieve this goal a new and rational approach to relations between our countries is urgently needed, based on dialogue, open travel and increased trade.

I introduce in the RECORD an article from today's Miami Herald reporting on the circumstances in Cuba on the eve of the celebration of the 52nd anniversary of the start of the Cuban revolution.

[From the Miami Herald, July 26, 2005]

PATIENCE WEARS THIN ON EVE OF JULY 26

SEVERAL CUBAN DISSIDENTS REMAINED IN DETENTION AS THE GOVERNMENT SCALED BACK PLANS FOR FESTIVITIES COMMEMORATING THE START OF THE REVOLUTION.

(By Nancy San Martin)

When Cuban leader Fidel Castro takes to the microphone as expected today to commemorate the 52nd anniversary of an attack that marked the start of his revolution, many on the island will cling to words that promise relief from conditions exhausting the patience of an already exasperated population.

Human-rights activists on the island have said that "tempers are flaring" as the country continues to struggle with extended blackouts and a shortage of food, made worse by Hurricane Dennis.

Meanwhile, 10 of as many as 33 dissidents arrested last week spent their third day in custody Monday, opposition leaders in Havana reported. They were detained as they tried to participate in an anti-government protest in front of the French Embassy in Havana. And while the European Union joined the United States in condemning the arrests, leaders of the opposition movement on the island began plotting their next move to bring international attention to their plight.

"The detentions are completely arbitrary," said prominent dissident Martha Beatriz Roque, who was released from custody Saturday without charges. "We cannot allow the government to continue to treat us this way."

"There must be a response, not only from the opposition but from everybody," Roque told The Herald in a telephone interview, declining to reveal whether any new anti-government protests were planned in the coming days. However, she hinted they could be organized at a moment's notice.

"All I can say is that opposition groups all over the island are on alert," Roque said. "They are waiting for the call to take to the streets. I see the strong possibility of civil unrest."

Roque's determination to strike back comes as the government prepares to commemorate the July 26, 1953, assault led by Castro in a failed attempt to seize the Cuban army's Moncada Barracks in the eastern city of Santiago.

The event planted the seeds of a revolution that brought Castro to power in 1959. The anniversary usually is marked by big public events, but this year's planned celebration appears more subdued.

Castro is expected to give a speech, but as of late Monday, the location had not been announced. Other events were planned to take place indoors.

Several opposition leaders said the scaled-back festivities illustrate government fear that widespread discontent could escalate. Human-rights activists in Cuba have said patience is wearing thin as the island continues to struggle with blackouts that can last 12 or more hours a day, spoiling what little food there is in most refrigerators. Several anti-government incidents have been reported, and police presence has been boosted.

Besides the 10 in custody since last week, six others who tried to participate in a separate demonstration July 13 remain jailed on "public disorder" charges.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am writing to notify you that I was absent July 20, 2005. They reason for my absence was that I had to have an emergency appendectomy at the Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Regarding the votes that I missed please see below for the way that I would have voted had I been present: Vote No. 390—King (IA) No. 46 Amendment—"aye", Vote No. 391—Kucinich Amendment—"nay", Vote No. 392—Lantos Amendment—"aye", Vote No. 393—Rogers (MI) Amendment—"aye", Vote No. 394—Watson No. 38 Amendment—"aye", Vote No. 395—Berkley/Crowley Amendment—"aye", Vote No. 396—Rohrabacher Amendment—"aye", Vote No. 397—Ros-Lehtinen Amendment—"aye", Vote No. 398—Democrat Motion to Recommit—"nay", Vote No. 399—Final Passage of H.R. 2601—"aye", Vote No. 400—Rolled Suspension Vote on H. Res. 326—"aye".

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
WITH RESPECT TO COMMEMORATION
OF WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 59, to Establish Women's Suffrage Commemoration Day.

With this Commemoration Day, we pay tribute to our foremothers, who worked tirelessly for generations to gain the right to vote.

We acknowledge that the journey to equality is long and difficult, but it is well worth the fight.

And we pledge to keep the struggle for women's rights alive.

The journey towards women's rights in America is as old as our country itself. While John Adams drafted the Constitution at the Continental Congress, his wife counseled, "Remember the ladies," but the Constitution made no mention of women's rights.

So our foremothers fought on.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton declared that all men and women are created equal.

Susan B. Anthony was arrested for casting a ballot and refused to pay the bail.

Between 1917 and 1919, over a thousand women held a vigil outside of the White House, asking, "How long must women wait for liberty?"

Finally, in 1920, with the 19th Amendment, women won the right to participate in our democratic process.

As we remember the long and arduous battle for women's suffrage, let us also remember the right not yet won. 157 years ago, Elizabeth Cady Stanton called for equal rights for all Americans. It is time for our Constitution to echo that sentiment. There is no better tribute to our brave foremothers than to pass the Equal Rights Amendment.

Only the ERA can prevent women's rights from being rolled back. Afghanistan, Bosnia