

torched. And most experts believe that these numbers are grossly underreported, since Dalits are afraid to report crimes to police, and when they do, police often refused to register or investigate their complaints. In 2001 Amnesty International estimated that only about 5 percent of sexual assaults were registered, and that police officers dismissed at least 30 percent of rape complaints as false.

Approximately eighty percent of the tribal population lives below the poverty level. Despite constitutional safeguards, the rights of indigenous groups in the eastern parts of the country are often ignored. In recent years, crime against the tribes has risen. Indigenous peoples suffer discrimination and harassment, are deprived of their land, and subjected to torture and to arbitrary arrest. Mob violence, lynching, arson, and police atrocities against tribal persons occur in many states.

Dalits and tribal peoples suffer horribly from human trafficking. Dalit girls have been forced to become temple prostitutes as devadasis, or "servants of god," a practice where they are "married" to a deity or temple where they are then forced to have sex with upper caste men and are eventually sold into prostitution. In 2001, more than 40,000 tribal women were forced into situations of economic and sexual exploitation. An estimated 40 million people, most of them Dalits, are bonded workers, many working to pay off debts that were incurred generations ago, according to a 1999 report by Human Rights Watch. These people work under slave-like conditions for less than U.S. \$1 per day. Fifteen million are children, and according to UNICEF, the majority are from the lowest castes.

Dalits and tribal peoples are often the targets of Hindu religious extremism as well. Over the years, many Dalits and tribal groups have converted from Hinduism to other faiths to escape widespread discrimination and achieve higher social status. However, such converts often lose benefits conferred by the Government's affirmative action programs because these, according to the Constitution, are reserved only for those having scheduled caste status. Converts to Christianity are particularly targeted.

Christian missionaries have been operating schools and medical clinics for many years in tribal areas and among the very poor, and tribal peoples and Dalits have made great strides as a result. Hindu extremists resent these gains for disturbing the traditional social order, since better educated Dalits and tribals no longer accept their disadvantaged status as readily as they once did. Some Hindu groups fear that Christians may try to convert large numbers of lower caste Hindus, using economic or social welfare incentives. Many acts of violence against Christians stem from these fears, and most go unpunished. Many states have also adopted anti-conversion laws, in violation of India's constitutional protection for religion freedom.

In many cases, India has very good laws to protect the human rights of its citizens, although new and tougher legislation against trafficking is clearly necessary. But the best laws in the world are useless unless there is vigorous enforcement, and all too often, enforcement of laws protecting human rights is weak or non-existent. As an American I can easily understand the difficulty in a democratic, federal system of confronting deeply ingrained social prejudices against a minority,

but that difficulty must be faced and overcome in any nation which aspires to its rightful place as one of the great nations in the world. To keep nearly a quarter of one's population in subhuman status is not only a grotesque violation of human rights, but it is a formula for economic and political stagnation as well. Once in America, we deprived African Americans of the most basic rights and opportunities. This was especially true in our Southern states, which were once a byword for poverty and backwardness among people of all races. For a long time we refused to act at a national level to stop lynchings, often arguing that it was a local problem. Yet we all suffered the consequences of shutting off a huge segment of our population from equality and justice. Now, after the civil rights movement ended all legal basis for discrimination, and lynching is only a shameful memory, the Southern states are among the most economically dynamic in America, and all regions of America enjoy unprecedented prosperity. By fulfilling its promises of equality and justice for all, India will also benefit in every way imaginable.

INTRODUCTION OF ALS REGISTRY
ACT OF 2005

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the ALS Registry Act of 2005 with my esteemed colleague, LEE TERRY of Nebraska. We are proud to have the support of over 40 other bi-partisan members of Congress today as original co-sponsors of this important legislation.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a fatal, progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects motor nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. While the great baseball player, Lou Gehrig, put a national face on ALS over 65 years ago, my own family was devastated by the death of my grandmother, Dora Engel, who passed away from ALS in her 50s. Unfortunately, families across the Nation face the challenges and experience the suffering associated with ALS every single day. 5,600 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with ALS each year, and it is estimated that as many as 30,000 Americans have the disease at any given time. The average life expectancy for a person with ALS is two to five years from the time of diagnosis. The causes of ALS are not well understood and there is no known cure. We must provide hope to change this tragedy today.

Surprisingly, a single national patient registry which collects and stores information on the prevalence and incidence of ALS does not currently exist in the United States today. The legislation I am introducing with Congressman TERRY, would create an ALS registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and will aid in the search for a cure to this devastating disease. The registry will collect data concerning: the incidence and prevalence of ALS in the United States; the environmental and occupational factors that may contribute to the disease; the age, race or ethnicity, gender and family history of individuals diagnosed; and other information essential to the study of ALS. The registry will also provide a

secure method to put patients in contact with scientists conducting clinical trials and scientists studying the environmental and genetic causes of ALS.

We need to provide our Nation's researchers and clinicians with the tools and information they need to make progress in the fight against ALS. The data made available by a national registry will potentially allow scientists to identify causes of the disease, and maybe even lead to the discovery of new treatment, a cure for ALS, or even a way to prevent the disease in the first place. This is good public policy.

The establishment of a registry will bring new hope to thousands of patients and their families that ALS will no longer be a death sentence. I strongly urge the swift consideration and passage of the ALS Registry Act of 2005.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD "NUB"
BROWN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Richard "Nub" Brown of Winnsboro, Texas, for his effort to fight crime and support law enforcement through the Enough Is Enough Drug Task Force.

On April 18, 2005, in response to a drug-related tragedy in Winnsboro, Nub Brown gathered over 340 members of the community in the high school auditorium and cried, "Enough is enough!" Several committees were formed that evening to work with city officials and law enforcement officers to rid Winnsboro of drugs. Today this program is helping educate and inform the community of Winnsboro about drug awareness and to help achieve a safe and drug-free environment.

Nub Brown is an active member of his community, serving as the Youth and Education Minister of Pine Street Baptist Church since 1997. He is also an active member of his community, speaking on drug and alcohol awareness in many schools, civic clubs, youth groups and churches, as well as serving the prison ministry at the Clyde M. Johnston Unit in Winnsboro.

As the father of two children, I appreciate the leadership of Nub Brown and his commitment to rid his community of drugs. Today, I would like to thank him for his public service and for the outstanding contributions he has made to make his community and his country a better place.

70TH ANNUAL TUSKEGEE-
MOREHOUSE FOOTBALL CLASSIC

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, October 8, 2005, the Golden and Maroon Tigers will face each other on the field at McClung Stadium in Columbus, Georgia for the 70th Annual Tuskegee-Morehouse Football Classic.

The historic clash of these two titans of college football, is more than just a ball game between two rivals, the event itself, themed a "salute to our military troops" is an opportunity for us to pause and celebrate the tremendous role that we as African Americans and as former, current and future leaders of men and women play in the success of our great nation.

As many of you know, African-Americans have a proud and rich tradition of service to our nation. From Crispus Attucks, born a slave, who was the first casualty of the Revolutionary War to the oldest Buffalo Soldier and Calvaryman, Sergeant Mark Matthews, who fought under General Pershing in the Spanish American War and recently died at age 111; from the Black Union Soldiers who volunteered and fought in America's Civil War, to July 19, 1941, when during World War II, a program began in Alabama to train black Americans as military pilots, a squadron of fighter pilots that we now know as the Tuskegee Airmen.

We honor and recognize those African-American servicemen and women who have served in the Korean War, Vietnam, and Operation Desert Storm, as well as the brave soldiers, sailors and marines who continue to serve in our Nation's global war on terror. Officers and soldiers trained by institutions such as Morehouse College and Tuskegee University have and continue to fight for freedom. We pay tribute to them today, as we honor the courageous men and women, here at Fort Benning and around the world who dedicate their lives for their country.

Therefore, I invite my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as those present at this year's 70th Annual Tuskegee-Morehouse Football Classic to join me in saluting our military troops. We pause in celebration and in recognition of their service and sacrifice on our behalf.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the anniversary of the Republic of China's (Taiwan) Independence Day, a day commonly referred to as Double 10 Day. Double 10 Day celebrates the start of the Wuchang Uprising on October 10, 1911, which led to the collapse of the Qing dynasty. It is therefore also known in Chinese as National Celebration Day. I am proud to join with the people of Taiwan and their leader President Chen Shui-bian in commemorating the Chinese people's struggle for independence.

Double 10 Day offers those of us in Congress an opportunity to recognize Taiwan's friendship and unwavering alliance with the United States. This strong alliance is predicated in part on shared values. In fact, Taiwan has nurtured a stable democracy and vibrant economy that encourages the entrepreneurial spirit. Taiwan has also become a model society. It has excellent schools, outstanding medical care, a strong economy, and many of its people enjoy one of the highest standards of living. Taiwan's social welfare programs have been making laudable efforts to raise the standard of living for all.

Mr. Speaker, I would also take this opportunity to praise the good work of Taiwan Representative David Tawei Lee. He is a fine diplomat who has kept those of us in Congress well informed and well briefed on all of the latest developments in Taiwan.

Again, congratulations to the people of Taiwan on their Independence Day and I wish the 23 million people of Taiwan continued progress and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE SLIGER

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, my good friend and an outstanding Central Florida businessman, Stephen Blair Sliger, passed away on October 4, 2005.

He is a native of Deland, Florida where he was born on November 21, 1952. Steve Sliger was preceded in death by his brother, Gus A. Sliger. Gus, also a close friend, lost his life 10 years ago in a tragic motorcycle accident. Steve headed Sliger and Associates of Port Orange, FL, founded by his late brother.

A wonderful father and husband, he was dedicated to his family, his community, and his business.

To Steve's wife, Sonia, his sons Adam and Noah, his father Gus A. Sliger, II and all of his family, we extend our deepest sympathy. They have lost a loved one. I have lost a good friend and our community has lost a great American.

HONORING LIMA COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 25TH REGIMENT UPON THEIR RETURN HOME FROM IRAQ

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Ohio has shouldered an enormous share of the sacrifice, but no one has shouldered a greater share than the Marines and families of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment, based in my hometown of Columbus. On August 3, 2005, this brave group of soldiers lost nine of their brethren in western Iraq. Since its deployment in March, Lima Company has lost fifteen of its 160 men.

The 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines' reputation is legendary. First activated on May 1, 1943, "3/25" captured a key airfield at the Batte of Iwo Jima in the Pacific. The battalion fought heroically in the battles of Kwajalein Atoll, Saipan, Tinian, and Colonel Justice Marino Chambers received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery as Commander of the 3/25 at Iwo Jima. After being deactivated at the end of WWII, the battalion was reactivated in January of this year, and headed to Iraq in March.

It truly is impossible for us to fully comprehend the dangerous mission these valiant Marines have undertaken in Iraq. They've

been tasked with the most strategic yet risky assignments, often moving from town to town, door to door, in search of armed insurgents along the Euphrates River. And as desperate insurgents have been staging more frequent and deadly attacks on our armed forces, Lima Company endured the brunt of these attacks on that fateful day in August and laid to rest nine brave soldiers.

When confronted with a loss as great as this, we all search for some perspective, trying to balance the sacrifices made by these brave Marines with the vital mission our soldiers are carrying out in both Iraq and Afghanistan. We take some solace in knowing that because of the commitment and dedication to freedom by America's soldiers and those of our allies, more people in the Middle East region are living in freedom under democratically elected governments than at any point in the history of this region. We have witnessed free elections in Palestine and the election of a leader committed to achieving lasting peace. Saudi Arabia has held elections, and Syria has ended its occupation of Lebanon. Libya's nuclear program has been dismantled, and Egypt is allowing for challengers to compete in a public election against the sitting president. This democratic domino effect portends a safer, freer future for the people of the Middle East and the rest of the world.

As Lima Company returns home to Ohio, the Iraqi people are about to embark on a monumental endeavor—casting a vote on their very own Constitution—drafted by officials they selected just ten months ago in a free and fair election. I have to think that the crossing of these two meaningful events is not coincidental. There is far too much symbolism. This Constitution is a tangible and lasting symbol of freedom and liberty in a part of the world that for centuries has known neither, yet without the brave sacrifices of Lima Company, and all of America's armed forces, they would probably never know. Thank you, Lima Company, for your bravery, heroism, and sacrifice. We welcome you home.

RECOGNIZING MELVIN KREB OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melvin Horton Krebs, deputy director of the California Conservation Corps and a distinguished citizen of Humboldt County, CA. He is being honored for his contribution to one of our Nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. His commitment to the preservation of our political liberty is worthy of appreciation and recognition.

Mr. Krebs, a graduate of Humboldt State University, has served with distinction at the California Conservation Corps since 1980. He began his career as a conservation administrator and spent many years as the district director for northern California. In the past year he was singled out to become the chief deputy director in the State of California.

Mel was a founding member of the Eel River Watershed Improvement Group and the Salmonid Restoration Federation. He has received numerous awards for his restoration