

themselves from Mr. Bush, some Democrats are going to play this very evocative, very visual "giving away our ports to the Arabs" card against them in the coming elections. Yes, you reap what you sow.

But while I have zero sympathy for the political mess in which the president now finds himself, I will not join this feeding frenzy. On the pure merits of this case, the president is right. The port deal should go ahead. Congress should focus on the NSA wiretapping.

Not this.

As a country, we must not go down this road of global ethnic profiling—looking for Arabs under our beds the way we once looked for commies. If we do—if America, the world's beacon of pluralism and tolerance, goes down that road—we will take the rest of the world with us. We will sow the wind and we will reap the whirlwind.

If there were a real security issue here, I'd join the critics. But the security argument is bogus and, I would add, borderline racist. Many U.S. ports are run today by foreign companies, but the U.S. Coast Guard still controls all aspects of port security, entry and exits; the U.S. Customs Service is still in charge of inspecting the containers; and U.S. longshoremen still handle the cargos.

The port operator simply oversees the coming and going of ships, making sure they are properly loaded and offloaded in the most cost-effective manner. As my colleague David E. Sanger reported: "Among the many problems at American ports, said Stephen E. Flynn, a retired Coast Guard commander who is an expert on port security at the Council on Foreign Relations, 'who owns the management contract ranks near the very bottom.'"

What ranks much higher for me is the terrible trend emerging in the world today: Sunnis attacking Shiite mosques in Iraq, and vice versa. Danish caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad, and violent Muslim protests, including Muslims killing Christians in Nigeria and then Christians killing Muslims. And today's Washington Post story about how some overzealous, security-obsessed U.S. consul in India has created a huge diplomatic flap—on the eve of Mr. Bush's first visit to India—by denying one of India's most respected scientists a visa to America on the grounds that his knowledge of chemistry might be a threat. The U.S. embassy in New Delhi has apologized.

My point is simple: the world is drifting dangerously toward a widespread religious and sectarian cleavage—the likes of which we have not seen for a long, long time. The only country with the power to stem this toxic trend is America.

People across the world still look to our example of pluralism, which is like no other. If we go Dark Ages, if we go down the road of pitchfork-wielding xenophobes, then the whole world will go Dark Ages.

There is a poison loose today, and America—America at its best—is the only antidote. That's why it is critical that we stand by our principles of free trade and welcome the world to do business in our land, as long as there is no security threat. If we start exporting fear instead of hope, we are going to import everyone else's fears right back. That is not a world you want for your kids.

ON THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF
PEACE CORPS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, as a former Peace Corps Volunteer, I am honored to for-

mally recognize the agency on the 45th Anniversary of its inception and to help kick-off National Peace Corps Week. This week begins a year long celebration of Peace Corps' 45th Anniversary with events taking place across the country and throughout the world.

During National Peace Corps Week, we salute the men and women of this nation who selflessly have served abroad as Peace Corps Volunteers, as well as those current Volunteers who continue to carry out the Peace Corps mission: empowering people in developing countries through their grassroots development efforts.

Seventeen constituents of the 15th Congressional District of California are currently serving in the Peace Corps. These honorable constituents serve in almost every continent. The countries being served include Peru, Armenia, Georgia, Namibia, Benin, Bolivia, Ukraine, Moldova, Mali, Namibia, Ghana, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Thailand, and Guinea.

I am encouraged by the growth in the number of Peace Corps Volunteers and posts over the years. 7,810 Volunteers are currently in 69 posts serving 75 countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Pacific Islands. As Chair of the Congressional Ethiopia and Ethiopian American Caucus, I am particularly interested in the efforts of the Peace Corps to re-instate its post in Ethiopia. I am in total support of the expansion of this worthy organization.

I fondly remember my time as a volunteer in El Salvador where I built schools and health clinics. The experience meant much to me personally and professionally, sparking a lifelong desire to serve in the public sector. I returned with a passion for teaching, and quickly put my skills, including fluency in Spanish, to use in Santa Clara County schools. Most importantly, I returned to the United States with a deeper understanding of humanity and a personal commitment to speak on behalf of the marginalized and powerless.

With that said, allow me to call your attention to the President's FY07 request for Peace Corps at \$337 million. Though this is a modest increase from the FY 06 enacted level of \$318.8 million, it will allow the Peace Corps to expand into two more countries. In addition, it will also optimize the number of Volunteers and staff in existing countries, strengthen and expand recruiting efforts, and maximize safety and security training and compliance efforts. I encourage my colleagues in the Foreign Operations Subcommittee to fulfill the President's request.

This week, I honor the Peace Corps and its brave Volunteers for their service to our nation and to the international community. Volunteers are providing expertise and development assistance to countries around the world, finding common ways to address global challenges, and forming bonds with people throughout the world. They make service a cultural necessity. They set a universal standard for how we are to embrace the realities of an ever-shrinking world.

The Peace Corps mission is more vital than ever, and I hope that each one of you will join me in thanking the Volunteers and the Peace Corps for their hard work in pursuit of an altruistic mission.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL
PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Peace Corps Week, which runs from February 27th through March 5th.

Forty-five years ago, John F. Kennedy challenged the people of the United States to serve their country: to travel to places they never dreamed they'd visit, to help people they never thought they'd meet, and to do this from the bottom of their hearts. The men and women of the Peace Corps answered and have continued to answer that call, volunteering two years out of their lives to the lives of others.

With 7,810 current volunteers, the Peace Corps has enlisted more than 182,000 men and woman and served in 138 countries to improve the lives of the less fortunate. They've been teachers and mentors to countless children. They've helped farmers grow crops, worked with small businesses to market products, and helped teach new health care practices. They've helped schools develop computer skills, and educated entire communities about the threat of HIV/AIDS.

The United States was founded on the principle that human beings, regardless of race, creed, or sex possess certain inalienable rights: the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Peace Corps volunteers are the ambassadors of these rights.

In the past half-century world events have brought many challenges to Peace Corps volunteers. Yet they have always been able to adapt, responding to those in need regardless of the situation. Volunteers meet all challenges head on with innovation, determination, and compassion. For their altruism, Peace Corps volunteers deserve to be recognized for their work toward peace.

To date, the 6th District has produced over 350 Peace Corps volunteers, including the following 27 current volunteers: Troy A. Agron, who is working in Azerbaijan; Sarah W. Bartfeld, Albania; Carol A. Batz, Tonga; Zachary Burt, Morocco; Lilian Chan, Eastern Caribbean; Rustin P. Crandall, Guyana; Catherine A. Cvengros, Armenia; Ashley E. Fine, Benin; Amil A. Gehrke, Georgia; Levi Hanzel-Sello, Moldova; Sharon Kaiser, Eastern Caribbean; Connor J. Kamada, Senegal; Jenna Kay, Uganda; Paul H. Kingsbury, Panama; Anna F. Kuhn, Tanzania; Ana Alecia Lyman, Mozambique; Julia C. Miller, Burkina Faso; Priya N. Mishra, Moldova; Jonathan G. Morris, Ukraine; Lanthy Nguyen, Macedonia; Nickolette D. Patrick, Ukraine; Alyson L. Peel, Swaziland; Shaydra A. Pflaum-Scott, Macedonia; Uriah S. Reisman, Panama; Christopher Shutt, Bulgaria; Elicia F. Smith, Kenya; and Eric J. Tawney, Vanuatu.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating National Peace Corps Week and honoring the brave and selfless volunteers who have sacrificed years of their lives to make our world a better place.