

ability to waive financial sanctions and travel prohibitions. It onerously requires the President to obtain congressional approval for every waiver on a case-by-case basis, complicating and delaying an American response to, for example, new Palestinian elections or a natural disaster.

Moreover, this legislation is unnecessary. Current U.S. law already forbids members of Hamas and other foreign terrorist organizations from obtaining visas or having diplomatic relations with the United States. According to the Bush Administration, the executive branch already has ample authority to impose all of the bill's restrictions. It is a rare but notable occurrence for me to agree with this Administration.

While I believe, that America should not provide aid to Hamas, I oppose this bill's reckless approach to the Middle East peace process. I voted for S. Con. Res. 79, that states that the U.S. should not provide assistance directly to the PA if any representative political party holding a majority of parliamentary seats within the PA maintains a position calling for the destruction of Israel. Unlike the bill before us today, however, that resolution provided the executive branch the flexibility necessary to work with moderate Palestinian groups and permitted foreign aid to go to nongovernmental organizations.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this harmful legislation and to consider a more thoughtful approach to achieving peace in the Middle East.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
BROWARD COUNTY 23RD ANNUAL
SENIOR HALL OF FAME BREAK-
FAST

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 25, 2006, 11 outstanding Broward elders will be honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame Breakfast. These 11 seniors being honored have volunteered in their communities and have contributed countless hours to helping others. Their outstanding character and compassion have truly set them apart. Those being honored are Judith Armstrong, Frieda Kramer, Reverend James Gooden, Helen Landers, Marie Long, Robert Millikan, June Sragow, Shirley Strassler, Jean Thompson, Mayor Joe Varsallone and Sunny Wein.

Judith Armstrong of Fort Lauderdale volunteers with the MediVan Health and Community Services' MediVan Project, providing critically needed primary medical care and prescription medicines to Broward's uninsured, low-income, elderly community. Ms. Armstrong is active on many different senior committees and manages multiple worthwhile projects, making her an incredible asset to the community of Fort Lauderdale.

Frieda Kramer of Coral Springs has dedicated over 20 years of service as a volunteer. She worked as a Medicare counselor with the Jewish Family Service at the Coral Springs Medical Center and with the SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) Program as a counselor. Frieda's dedication to helping the elderly with Medicare and medical needs

goes above and beyond the call of duty. Her contributions of time, talent and energy have inspired all.

Reverend James Gooden of Fort Lauderdale has contributed countless hours to the Broward Schools Bi-racial Committee, the City of Fort Lauderdale Redevelopment Committee, and the Planning Committee for the North Broward Hospital District's Seventh Avenue Family Health Center. Reverend James Gooden is truly dedicated to helping those less fortunate and his love for humanity is demonstrated through all of his actions.

Helen Landers of Fort Lauderdale has dedicated her life's work to improving the status of women in our Nation's history. As chair of the Florida Education and Employment Council for Women and Girls, Ms. Landers has helped improved the status of all females. She is not only an outstanding advocate for women, but also for the environment. Ms. Landers is a Florida and Broward County Women's Hall of Fame Award Member and a valued historian.

Marie Long of Coral Springs is a very youthful 90-year-old volunteer at the Coral Springs Medical Center. Ms. Long has totaled more than 8,000 volunteer hours and has assisted her community through her passion for the latest computer technology. Marie's positive outlook and motivation support her life motto, "Youth is in the mind, not the age." These words come from an inspirational and well respected lady who leaves a legacy everyday in her community.

Robert Millikan of Coconut Creek is the face of the Breakfast Club at the Northwest Focal Point Senior Center. The center is a congregate lunch site, however, thanks to Robert participants have enjoyed breakfast, as well, for 8 years. Robert is beloved by both seniors and staff for his humble service and friendship. His kind heart has been a gift to everyone who has known him.

June Sragow of Hollywood is a retired educator who devotes her time and teaching skills to improving the lives of her peers. For over 8 years she has volunteered at Southeast Focal Point Senior Center teaching American History and Current Affairs, as well as tutoring non-English speaking seniors in the English language. June devotes her free time to Hospice of Southeast Florida. June's enthusiasm and desire to give back are evident by her visible presence in the community.

Shirley Strassler of Tamarac recently celebrated her 96th birthday, making her the hardest and oldest working volunteer. Ms. Strassler averages over 300 hours of service a year. Her work has involved: collecting canned goods, shopping for food and getting clothing to those in need during the holidays, and helping the senior program with various activities. Shirley won Volunteer of the Month in January 2003 for her outstanding dedication and inspiration to South Floridians she has touched along the way.

Jean Thompson of Fort Lauderdale has given countless hours of her time, since 1982, serving the less fortunate and homeless. Jean volunteers her time providing food, clothing, and medical supplies to the homeless of all ages. Jean has given hope to those who have lost their way and changes lives with her unconditional love.

Joe Varsallone of Margate has diligently served the city of Margate as mayor, vice mayor, and commissioner for more than 20 years. Mayor Varsallone continues to assure

that the needs of Broward's senior population are met by voting to appropriate funding to the Aging and Disability Resource Center. Joe Varsallone's generosity and grand presence within the community gives Broward County seniors the ability to live in their accustomed environments, without losing their independence.

Sunny Wein of Tamarac has volunteered with the city of Tamarac for approximately 26 years. Ms. Wein began calling and coordinating volunteer drivers to pick up elderly residents for medical and shopping appointments. She also assisted Hall of Famer Helen Sobel in collecting clothing, food and other items for needy families in Tamarac. Sunny is a hard working, dedicated volunteer who loves interacting with people and enjoys helping others.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again congratulate these 11 outstanding Broward County citizens who are being honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame, and thank them for their years of service to their fellow Floridians.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my friend from Florida, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for bringing this legislation to the floor. I would also like to thank my other friends, Chairman HENRY HYDE and TOM LANTOS, for their hard work on this bill.

As many of my colleagues have already stated, the need for this bill could not be clearer. In January of this year, the people of the Palestinian Authority elected Hamas, a terrorist entity with decades of experience in killing and maiming Jews, to govern the Palestinian Authority. When we pass this bill, the United States House of Representatives will tell the world that no terrorist organization can expect any support from the American taxpayer.

Some of my colleagues have complained that existing U.S. laws already provide the tools needed to combat Hamas effectively. But the fact is that none of us, during the process of passing those laws already on the books, believed that Hamas, one of the most dangerous groups in the world, would actually seize the reins of power in the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinians must understand that American assistance to others is not an entitlement.

I trust President Bush's instincts on his commitment to Israel. I view this bill as supporting those instincts. I believe, as the President does, that the Hamas government must either completely change its view of Israel and the existence of the Jewish state, or it must fail. Today, the House is acting to say this: Until Hamas changes or it is relieved of its authority to govern by the Palestinian people, American taxpayer dollars will not be used to support it either directly or indirectly. No general waiver authority is needed, in my opinion, to advance this goal.

Of course none of us here want to see the Palestinian people suffer needlessly. This bill does not cut off the stream of humanitarian

funding that some Palestinians unfortunately rely on to survive. But none of us here want to see the Israeli people suffer either. Hamas wants to and will take every opportunity to kill Israelis and Jews of other nationalities. It says so in their charter. And it was demonstrated just weeks ago in the bombing of a Tel Aviv restaurant, in which a close relative of my good friend ERIC CANTOR was murdered.

Leading the world by example is not easy, Mr. Speaker. It requires hard choices, it requires moral courage, and it requires standing on principle. Some of our closest friends overseas may try to take the easy way out by offering incentives to an unreformed Hamas government. But today the House stands with Israel, as we always have, against terrorism. We encourage the Administration to stand firm; and today we give them legislation to help them do just that. I look forward to working with colleagues from the Senate to get this bill to the President's desk. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 4681.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I missed the following votes because I was traveling on a congressional delegation to Egypt: S. 1235, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act, as amended (No. 177). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye." H.R. 3858, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (No. 178). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during yesterday's rollcall votes on S. 1235, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act, and H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both bills.

LOUISIANA SCHOOL RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

HON. BOBBY JINDAL

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, recently more than 1,200 students from across the country participated in the national finals competition of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution. This is one of the most extensive educational programs in the country developed specifically to educate young men and women about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The program is administered by the

Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education. It is my distinct pleasure to announce the competition's Unit 5 Award winner: Grace King High School from Metairie, LA.

The national finals are an arduous 3-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which the students testify before a panel of judges on constitutional topics. Students from many schools demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. This year's winner, Grace King High School, is an educational institution known for high standards of academic achievement that has produced many talented students. The winners of this competition have proven through their hard work and meticulous study of our Constitution that they are no exception.

Mr. Speaker, the names of these outstanding students from Grace King High School are as follows:

Aaron Baer-Harsha, Patrick Berrigan, Jaime Bruno, Lily Chen, Caitlyn Clarke, Paulius Donauskas, Janice Fan, Rebecca Felix, Jeremy Finnegan, Alice Ho, Tony Huang, Thomas Lambert, Krysten Le, Donald Levenson, Ali Mahbod, Elise Murphy-Mejia, Jacob O'Neil, Sean Olsen, Veronica Oro, Anna Plakisy, Rachelle Ross, Olivia Saito, Sara Sands, and Murielle Telio.

I also wish to commend Jamie Staub, the teacher who was responsible for preparing the student class for the national finals competition. Also worthy of special recognition is John Alexander, the State coordinator, who is among those responsible for implementing the program in my district.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues in the House, please join me in congratulating these young constitutional experts from Louisiana for their outstanding achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Monday, May 22, 2006, due to unavoidable circumstances in my congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" to S. 1235—The Veteran's Benefits Improvement Act of 2005 and "yea" to H.R. 3858—The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2005.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, the January victory of Hamas in parliamentary elections in the Palestinian territories was a shock to observers worldwide and to the many of us in the United States and abroad who have repudiated violence be-

tween the Palestinians and the Jews and have repudiated attacks on the state of Israel.

The election was a shock to the peace efforts in the Middle East because its outcome resulted in the Palestinian government being controlled by a party that was legitimately elected by the voters of the Palestinian territories but that also is a party that sponsors terrorist acts against the Israeli people and whose doctrine is based upon the notion that the existence of Israel is an affront to Islam.

For there to be any progress towards peace under a Hamas-led Palestinian government, Hamas must immediately acknowledge Israel's right to exist; uphold all previous agreements including the Roadmap for Peace; rid itself of all terrorist ties and dismantle its terrorist infrastructure; ensure the continuation of democratic institutions; and how fiscal transparency. If they do not, Hamas cannot expect the support and recognition of the United States and other governments.

However, any actions carried out by the U.S. Government against Hamas must address Hamas specifically and not the Palestinian people generally and must not undermine our goals in the Middle East. The bill being voted on today by the House would undermine the U.S. Government's ability to further the peace process and it would clearly hurt the Palestinian people. It could also lead to chaos in the Palestinian territories, which would be counter to both American and Israeli interests.

I am not alone in saying that denying all aid, except in the most isolated of instances, to the Palestinian people runs counter to both American and Israeli security interests. If we provoke a humanitarian crisis there, it may very well lead to the collapse of the Hamas government but not without potentially severe costs to both law abiding Palestinians and the peace process at the same time. And it could also erode civil order.

We do not and must not ever support terrorists in the Palestinian government. However, the United States must continue to support programs providing the Palestinian people's basic needs such as food, water and medicine; programs supporting democracy, human rights, freedom of the press and non-violence; as well as peaceful co-existence with Israel.

That is why I voted against H.R. 4681. The United States has already cut off direct aid to the Hamas government. This bill would not have brought additional penalties directly to Hamas. That objective has already been achieved. But it would penalize the Palestinian people and greatly limit the Administration's diplomatic options in pursuing peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

I hope that a conference committee with the Senate might produce legislation that addresses my concerns and the concerns of my other colleagues and of many well-regarded organizations and individuals who are deeply pro-Israel and who are great supporters of humanitarian efforts in the Middle East. I look forward to being able to support a revised bill that will send the proper message to Hamas that its violence toward Israel will never be supported and to the Palestinian people that the United States stands ready to work with them to resolve this most difficult and important conflict in peace.