

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO MIKE PARMAN

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Michael J. Parman, who had a long and distinguished career as editor and publisher of the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, the newspaper of record in Sonoma County.

Mike Parman died on July 1st after a long fight against pancreatic cancer. His rise to the top of the North Coast's publishing world was marked by grit, determination and independence. His tenure at the Press Democrat was marked by excellence and community involvement. And his final days marked by self-awareness, humor and grace.

Orphaned at 14, Mike raised himself in Reno, Nevada under the guardianship of two far-apart relatives. He attended Reno High School where he played basketball and was on the wrestling team. Inspired by his journalism teacher, Rex Daniels, he became a sports writer, and the school paper's sports editor, and wrote a weekly column for Reno's daily paper. Mike went on to the University of Nevada at Reno, where, while earning bachelors and master's degrees, he wrestled and boxed and worked as editor and sports editor of the campus paper, and continued to write for the Nevada State Journal.

In 1967, he married Michael McCulloch, the daughter of journalist Frank McCulloch and Jackie McCulloch, a marriage that lasted until his death and produced two children, Chris and Leah, who are now parents themselves.

After completing his master's degree in 1968, Parman was called to military duty. He served as an Army journalist and photographer in Vietnam, where he earned a Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal.

In 1970 he was hired as a reporter by the Pioneer Press, a group of weekly newspapers on Chicago's North Shore. He quickly rose to managing editor and at the same time worked as a stringer for Money Magazine. In 1973 he headed west for California, and worked briefly as a copy editor of the Santa Rosa Press Democrat before being hired at the Sacramento Bee. Starting at the copy desk, he successively was promoted to executive sports editor, weekend editor, assistant managing editor, and finally managing editor.

When the New York Times acquired the then privately-owned Press Democrat in 1985, Mike saw an opportunity play a major role in remaking the paper. At the Press Democrat, Mike Parman, first as editor, then as publisher, oversaw several major graphic redesigns of the paper, the construction of a regional printing facility, and the winning of dozens of awards, including a Pulitzer for Photography and a Polk Award for a series of articles.

During his 20 years at the Press Democrat, Mike Parman not only improved the look of the paper and the quality of its journalism and expanded its circulation; he also became deeply involved in community affairs. Mike Parman served as the President of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, on the board of directors of the Sonoma County United Way and on the Advisory Board of the Green Music Center and the North Bay Council.

When Mike Parman retired for health reasons in December 2005, he did not give up his public voice. Instead, he took to the new media, and began writing an Internet "blog," which gave a very personal account of how he, his family and friends were dealing with his cancer. Mike's blog revealed a man facing mortality and the terrors of cancer with courage, compassion and good humor. Going on vacation, Mike wrote that his cancer was a thing that he chose to leave behind. While undergoing chemotherapy, he wrote that he anticipated speaking at a rally where "I will mop my sweating brow, gray hair will explode from my head and little children will run home screaming." And if he used medical marijuana, the rather straight laced Parman feared he would be "Thrown in jail and forced to wear paisley pajamas the rest of my life."

Mike Parman's blog brought heartfelt responses from dozens of cancer patients and survivors, because he not only expressed his own feelings, but hit a universal chord.

"We make every moment count," Mike Parman wrote. "We love deeper. We live deeper. We soar on hope and laughter. We appreciate everything and nothing is taken for granted."

Mr. Speaker, if only we could all live that way every day of our lives.

### TRIBUTE TO MR. RAMON AYALA

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ramon Ayala, one of the most accomplished norteño music legends, for his contribution as the headlining act at the Supply Our Students Concert on August 2nd, 2006.

Mr. Ayala was born on March 10th, 1945, and first began his love of norteño music at six years of age by playing the accordion in small Mexican towns. He then started his path to his success by forming the Los Relampagos Del Norte band in the 1960s that defined modern norteño music. He has performed over a hundred albums, each one completely distinctive in the musical style that is the trademark of Mr. Ayala.

Mr. Ayala also has received two Grammy awards for his music, and numerous other awards. He is known for his philanthropic in-

volvement in the community of South Texas with underprivileged children and children with disabilities. Mr. Ayala has raised thousands of dollars for school supplies in the previous Supply Our Students concerts, and I commend him for his dedication to the education of our children in the great State of Texas. He is a truly exceptional musician and a role model for aspiring musicians.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the exemplary career of Mr. Ramon Ayala and his involvement with the Supply Our Students concert in the City of Laredo on August 2nd, 2006, and I thank you for this time.

### CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

#### HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Israel, our ally in the Middle East. I would like to thank Majority Leader BOEHNER and Chairman HYDE for their leadership in bringing this timely resolution to the floor.

Since its inception nearly sixty years ago, Israel has been engaged in a war for its survival. It has conducted that war according to every rule set out by the international community and has always acted with restraint when it comes to civilians. Israel's enemies have not only acted without restraint, they have deliberately targeted civilians in an effort to terrorize the nation.

Israel is now engaged in a new chapter of its war on terror. I fully support Israel's right to defend its citizens by using all means necessary to destroy terrorists and those that support them. However, we must also consider the root cause of today's violence. For nearly thirty years, the government of Iran has been monetarily and militarily supporting Hezbollah around the world. Evidence of Syrian and Iranian complicity in Hezbollah's abduction of two Israeli soldiers last week is abundant.

The scourge of terrorism will never go away until the state sponsors of terrorism have been dealt with decisively. Iran today remains the world's largest state sponsor of terror. Iran's president has repeatedly threatened to bring a rain of fire to Israel and the United States. Imagine what might happen if they get a nuclear weapon to back up those threats. The majority of the Iranian people oppose the theocratic dictators that rule their country. The time has come for the United States to actively support the Iranian people and help them bring about democratic change in their country.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CONDEMNING THE REPORT AT-  
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this Resolution which condemns Hezbollah and Hamas, the terrorist attacks against Israel and the full support of the U.S. for Israel to defend herself and live in peace among her neighbors.

As I support this Resolution, I believe it is deficient in not expressing this body's strongest desire for all parties involved in the current conflict to exercise military restraint in order to spare the lives of innocent Israeli and Lebanese civilians.

While the Lebanese people have been making laudable strides toward a more positive future and a peaceful coexistence in the region, terrorists have sought continuously to ignite conflict. The Government of Lebanon has paid a price for their stand against Hezbollah and Syria, enduring assassinations, political and social turmoil, and now the wide-scale destruction of civilian lives and critical infrastructure.

As a result the people of Lebanon are alongside our friends in Israel in being victimized by Hezbollah and Hamas in the current crisis. Both sides are enduring extraordinary hardship from air and rocket attacks and hundreds of civilians have been killed during the current military campaign. The terrorists have succeeded in creating a humanitarian crisis which the international community, including the United States, has yet to respond to. The escalating conflict is nearing full-scale war and terrorists and their state sponsors are realizing their goal of scuttling the Roadmap to Peace and pushing regional leaders away from the negotiating table.

I believe the United States has the responsibility and the power to be the voice of reason and put an end to brinkmanship. The region is desperate for restraint on the part of all parties. The Resolution is silent on this.

It should be our goal today to protect the civilian lives and critical infrastructure that have been targeted in the current fighting, and work to bring about restraint to resolve the crisis without further bloodshed.

We need a policy in the Middle East that does not begin and end with military force. A political solution must be structured and the U.S. can and should take a decisive role through diplomacy and negotiations to shape a solution to the conflict.

It is regrettable that the above is not addressed in House Resolution 921.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF MASTER SER-  
GEANT DAVID G. HARLOW FOR  
HIS 29 YEARS OF MILITARY  
SERVICE TO THIS COUNTRY.

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, as another Fourth of July has passed us by, Americans are

again reminded of the sacrifices so many have made and continue to make in order to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. None of these freedoms would be possible if it weren't for the brave men and women of our United States Armed Forces.

I stand here today to honor one such individual, Chief Master Sergeant David G. Harlow. On August 26, 2006, Chief Harlow will retire from reserve duty, after more than 29 years of federal military service in the defense of our great nation.

Chief Harlow was born in Riverside, California, and attended Charter Oak High School, where he excelled at Track and Field. After his graduation from Charter Oak, he enlisted in the United States Air Force in July of 1966. Upon completion of his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, Chief Harlow was assigned to Whellus Air Force Base in Libya, where he worked in information management. In July of 1968, he was reassigned to the 7272nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron, at Kingsley Field in Oregon, where he served as an Information Management Specialist.

Upon completion of his active duty service in July of 1970, Chief Harlow was licensed by the Department of Treasury as an International Customs House Broker in the cargo industry. Over the next few years, Chief Harlow became known as one of the top professionals in his field, and in 1980 he authored a book entitled "Importer's Guide to U.S. Customs."

In August of 1981, Chief Harlow entered the Air Force Reserves at Norton Air Force Base in California, and was placed in the 445th Aerial Port Flight, where he became the Unit Training Manager. In July of 1985, he was reassigned to the 37th MAPS unit at March Air Force Base where he eventually became the Superintendent of Operations. In 1989, Chief Harlow was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant. In November of 1990, he was reassigned to Saudi Arabia in support of operation Desert Storm, and served as his unit's Deployment Team Chief.

Upon his return from Operation Desert Storm, Chief Harlow was awarded the "Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year" award and was promoted to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. Later, he was reassigned to the 56th Aerial Port Squadron, where he introduced a set of training exercises known as the Aerial Port Field Exercises. This program trained Aerial Port Squadrons in the areas of mobility deployment and chemical attack survival. Chief Harlow's program was so successful that it led to the 56th Aerial Port Squadron being awarded the Air Force's prestigious "Aerial Port of the Year Award".

In June of 2000, Chief Harlow was promoted to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant and became the Superintendent of Squadron Operations. In June of 2005 he was reassigned to the 50th Aerial Port Squadron as Superintendent of Squadron Operations.

Chief Harlow has received numerous decorations including the Air Reserve Meritorious Service Medal with Seven Oak Leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service medal, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service medal, the Air Force Good Conduct medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Throughout his extraordinary service to our country, Chief Harlow has always been a dedicated and loving family man. He is married to his wonderful wife, Laurie Harlow. Together they have two sons, David and Daniel, as well as four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with an extreme sense of respect and pride that I stand here today to recognize Chief Master Sergeant David G. Harlow. His contributions to his family, the United States Air Force, and this great nation serve as a wonderful example of patriotism for all Americans to follow.

COMMENDING NASA ON COMPLETION OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE'S  
SECOND RETURN-TO-FLIGHT MIS-  
SION

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Con. Res. 448—Commending the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the completion of the Space Shuttle's second Return-to-Flight mission.

I can think of no better way to celebrate this great Nation's Independence Day than to witness the triumph of science and innovation. As a Member of the House Science Committee and the Senior Member of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, it was a thrill and a joy to see Space Shuttle *Discovery* launch on July 4.

The *Discovery* crew finished their 13-day mission, which included a docking with the International Space Station, two space walks, but most importantly, a keen review of all safety issues.

We began to focus on the issue of safety when the issues were raised by NASA safety engineers just before the launch of *Discovery* the first week of July. I met with NASA Administrator Michael Griffin just before the launch, and I am pleased that emphasis and priority has been placed on the safety of the astronauts and the space shuttle.

This was an exciting and positive mission. Over the course of the 5.8 million mile journey, the STS-121 Mission Crew succeeded in testing shuttle safety improvements, repairing a rail car on the International Space Station and producing unprecedented images of the shuttle during and after its July 4 launch. In addition, the entire mission exhibited a new concern with safety to coincide with NASA's exemplary reputation for accuracy, precision, and innovation.

Americans love their space program and it is the first priority of NASA and Members of Congress to ensure that it is a viable, continuing, and safe program. The survival of the space program has to be premised with an understanding of the risk, yet at the same time must embrace this new important culture of safety.

I would like to extend my thanks to STS-121, Commander Steve Lindsey, Pilot Mark Kelly, and Mission Specialists Piers Sellers, Stephanie Wilson, Lisa Nowak, and Michael Fossum. Your courage and resolve will continue to be an inspiration for generations to come.

Welcome home *Discovery*.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT-  
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 921. I strongly believe that the State of Israel has the right to defend itself and its citizens from attacks from Hezbollah. No country in the world would long tolerate the capture of its soldiers or the continual rain of deadly missiles and rockets onto its cities, towns, and villages without retaliating.

Mr. Speaker, I also support the statements by President Bush and the leaders of the other G-8 nations that Israel should exercise the utmost restraint in its military actions in Lebanon. It is crucial that Israel seek to minimize the loss of civilian lives and the destruction of the civilian infrastructure of Lebanon, as well as the destabilization of the Lebanese Government.

Moreover, thousands of Americans are currently trapped in Lebanon. Many of these Americans have family ties to my State of Michigan. I urge the State Department and the Department of Defense to evacuate these American citizens swiftly and safely. I am also pleased that the Bush administration has agreed to not charge the American citizens for the costs of their evacuation from Lebanon.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is the only superpower in the world. We should work closely with the United Nations and the international community to help find a lasting solution to Israel's conflicts with her neighbors. As the G-8 leaders said in their statement on the Middle East, the root cause of the problems in that region is the absence of a comprehensive Middle East peace. America should be leading the way to such a comprehensive peace between Israel, Lebanon and the Palestinians. In the near term, an immediate cease fire would allow desperately needed humanitarian assistance to reach the people of Lebanon, and would allow the Israeli residents of northern Israel to return to their homes and lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of July 10, 2006 the House voted on two measures under suspension of the rules. H.R. 5061, the Paint Bank and Wytheville National Fish Hatcheries Conveyance Act and H.R. 2563, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address certain water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho. On rollcall votes No. 358 and No. 359, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT-  
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT WEXLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution to express unwavering support for Israel as it faces a campaign of violence perpetrated by Hezbollah; express strong support for the Israeli government, which has evoked its unequivocal right to self-defense; and express support for the Israeli people, who are not alone. America stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Israel in its ongoing, 58-year struggle for security and peace.

Israel has been victimized by attacks on its sovereign land, and the international community must join us in decrying these horrific acts. Make no mistake—Hezbollah is not Israel's problem alone. In the past few years, Hezbollah has acquired advanced weaponry from Iran and Syria that threatens the security of Israel, the stability of the region, and American interests in the Middle East. The world cannot afford to remain on the sidelines as Israel fights to eradicate this global threat.

Two years ago, the United States and France joined together in passing U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559, which asserted the sovereignty of Lebanon and demanded the disarmament of Hezbollah. While Syria withdrew its troops from Lebanon, the Lebanese government was negligent in failing to disarm Hezbollah. During this time, Hezbollah strengthened its arsenal while continuing to serve as a terrorist proxy for Syria and Iran.

Today, I call on the international community to assist the Lebanese government in fulfilling its obligations outlined in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559. I call on the European Union to add Hezbollah to its terrorist list. I call on the United Nations to hold Iran and Syria responsible for arming, financing, and supporting Hezbollah. And I respectfully call on President Bush to implement the full range of U.S. sanctions against Syria and renew U.S. sanctions against Iran. As Israel's strongest ally and friend, the United States must exhaust every effort to restore stability and security to the Middle East.

As we reflect on the violence unfolding as we speak, we are reminded of the resilience and perseverance of the Israeli people, who have never sacrificed the dream of peace. It is my wish that the vision of hope embodied in Israel's national anthem—Hatikva—may come to fruition, and that Israel will succeed in defeating Hezbollah and creating a lasting peace.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT-  
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I offer my heartfelt condolences to the families who have

lost loved ones in the recent escalation of violence in the Middle East. I am pleased that H. Res. 921 expresses Congress's "condolences to all families of innocent victims of recent violence."

The United States is faced with a harsh reality that peace in the Middle East has been so elusive. Yet we cannot, we must not, stop trying to broker peace. The U.S. cannot turn its back on the families in the Middle East and must not conclude that constant war is inevitable. The U.S. must step up to the challenge of engaging the Israelis, Palestinians, and Lebanese and all the Middle East nations who want a lasting peace. I am not willing to give up hope that peace in the region can be achieved and nor should this administration.

It is imperative to remember that this region is very complex, and that there are forces working for peace and forces that crave war. Benjamin Franklin once said, "There was never a good war or a bad peace." It is time for this administration to remember these important words. The Middle East conflict has largely been pushed to the back burner by this administration with serious repercussions for U.S. national security interests. The U.S. must stop performing band-aid diplomacy and focus on long-term solutions to move toward peace. History should have taught us that violence only begets more violence and all actors involved need to recognize the mutual benefits of peace.

We are faced with a vital question—where can we go from here? First and foremost, Hezbollah and Hamas must disarm and recognize Israel's right to exist. Armed political parties that use brute force do not foster peaceful solutions. Israel has survived five major wars since its inception. This country lives in constant defense mode because terrorist organizations surrounding it still harbor hope of its destruction. The U.S. must continue its steadfast support of Israel, and all countries in the region must abide by U.N. resolutions that promote a two-state solution.

The loss of civilian lives in the Middle East is tragic and continued violence makes the challenge of achieving peace more difficult. The U.S. must renew a serious diplomatic effort in the region.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT-  
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with very strong and mixed feelings on H. Res. 921. This resolution condemns the recent attacks against the State of Israel. The State of Israel has two intractable enemies, Hamas and Hezbollah. Presently, Israel is engaged in military operations in Gaza and Lebanon. I cannot over-emphasize that I am vehemently and unalterably opposed to the attacks undertaken by Hezbollah against Israel. At the same time, I cannot and will not support other language in the resolution which I consider to be harmful to the interests of peace, diplomacy, security, and the protection of civilians in Lebanon and Israel.

Let me say at the outset, I support the right of Israel to exist and to defend itself from attack. I cannot support the level of retaliation it is using against the civilian population that did not provoke the attack. Hezbollah is the guilty party, and their attacks were egregious, without merit, and provocative. Israel must direct its campaign against confirmed Hezbollah strongholds. Given the sophistication of current surveillance technology and intelligence-gathering, I am convinced those strongholds can be effectively eradicated, without the current and ongoing loss of life and casualties to innocent civilians.

This resolution on first glance would appear to be easy to support, but on further review, it poses serious philosophical problems for me. Hezbollah provoked the attacks by capturing and killing Israeli soldiers. Indeed, in some instances, Hezbollah is using Lebanese civilians as shields.

The resolution declares that the House affirms its support for Israel. I believe that offering unconditional support to Israel's response sends the signal that the House supports the continuing and increasing carnage that is taking place in Lebanon. I fully recognize that lives have been lost in Israel too. All of these deaths are tragic and deplorable. This resolution does not even offer counsel to Israel to aggressively pursue the course of minimizing civilian loss of life. Furthermore, the resolution recognizes Israel's commitment to minimizing civilian loss of life. To date, Israeli military operations have resulted in excess of 300 civilians killed, with an estimated one-third of them being children. I do not see Israel's actions being consistent with a commitment to minimizing the loss of life.

The resolution also cites Israel's right to take appropriate action to defend itself, including conducting operations in both Israel and in the territory of nations which pose a threat to it. At the present time, Israeli military bombing operations are completely dismantling the infrastructure of Lebanon. Bridges, roads and buildings are being destroyed. Once the campaign wanes, the country will consist of rubble.

I am also concerned by the language that commends the President for fully supporting Israel. The language and the message state explicitly that the House supports the way he has handled the current crisis. I strongly disagree with this premise and statement.

I want to state that I am mindful that although the focus of our current attention is on the plight of the citizens affected in Israel and Lebanon, we must not forget the other component of the equation—the situation in Gaza involving the Palestinians.

In Gaza, a cordon has been set up by the Israelis, and Palestinians are suffering under unbearable conditions. My concern rests with the humanitarian plight of civilians in Gaza and Lebanon that are pawns in a struggle by terrorist organizations. Both organizations, Hamas—Sunni—and Hezbollah—Shia—provide vital social services such as education and medical care to civilian populations, while simultaneously engaging in terrorist activities. In fact, their efforts and ideologies have created desperate political and military scenarios. In the case of Hezbollah, their efforts are contributing to instability in the region.

I fully recognize the gravity of the situation that is presented by the unconscionable and provocative behavior of Hezbollah. I also have grave reservations about the level of the re-

sponse by Israel to Hezbollah's actions. The competing complexities and mixed messages presented by the language in the resolution preclude me from offering my support to H. Res. 921. Therefore, I will cast a vote of "nay" on this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO CHIKAMING  
TOWNSHIP

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 150th anniversary of the founding of a storied community in Southwest Michigan, Chikaming Township. This Saturday, members of the community will come together to celebrate the township's sesquicentennial.

The earliest known residents of Chikaming Township were the Miami Indians, who were first encountered by the European explorer, Father Jaques Marquette, in 1675. By the early 1820s the land was ceded to the U.S. Government and Chikaming was formally established on March 6, 1856. The first pioneers to settle there were lumbermen who harvested trees that were used to build the piers that extend out into Lake Michigan—a source of great pride for all Michiganders who reside on the lakeshore. As time passed, the first of many successful farmers and growers in Southwest Michigan took advantage of the soil and climate of Chikaming by harvesting a variety of fruits and vegetables. The magnificent weather and scenic beauty of the land attracted families to vacation on the lake's shores and continues to be a popular summer escape today.

Chikaming Township has also long been an important center of commerce for Southwest Michigan. Forestry and agriculture are only two of the many industries that have strengthened Southwest Michigan's economy. The beautiful beaches and friendly residents have been bringing generations back to the township for years.

I would like to congratulate the residents of Chikaming on their sesquicentennial. Know that your vital community will continue to be a blessing and an asset to our corner of Southwest Michigan for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND S.L.  
ROBERSON

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the tremendous works of Reverend S.L. Roberson, of Ypsilanti, Michigan as he marks his 52nd year of service to his church and his community.

Born in Moundville, Alabama, Reverend Roberson moved to Ypsilanti when he was two years old and has remained there since. He attended school in Ypsilanti and went to Eastern Michigan University for his undergraduate degree and continued his education at Detroit Bible College, ultimately earning his Doctorate of Divinity at Urban Bible College.

While honorably serving his country in the United States Marine Corps, the Reverend formed the unique perspective he has on the world, one that would help him in his decision to serve his fellow man. After his military service, Mr. Roberson went to work for Ford Motor Company in their Labor Relations and Personnel Services of Industrial Relations Department ultimately staying for 33 years. Through this position, he was able to help many individuals find employment, in turn bettering their own lives. The Reverend's other services are numerous, including posts as Treasurer of the Huron Valley District Association and President of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission.

In 1954, Reverend Roberson heard the call to service and became the Pastor of the Metropolitan Memorial Baptist Church in Ypsilanti. He has stayed with Metropolitan Baptist for 52 years and by every account his service has been productive. He provides leadership and moral guidance for his congregation, in turn leading the community through his example. His tenure has been so successful that he has received the Lawyers Association's Liberty Bell, the Ypsilanti Police Department's Honor Award, the Washtenaw Community College's Service Award and the city of Ypsilanti has designated December 14th as Reverend S.L. Roberson day. His faith also led him to serve as Chaplain of the Ypsilanti Police Department.

Reverend Roberson is a man of faith who embodies the characteristics of service, love and decency. I am glad and fortunate to know the Reverend and the people of Ypsilanti have truly benefited from such an upstanding and committed civic and spiritual leader. I thank the Reverend for his service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT-  
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I am proud to come to the floor today to voice my support for this resolution.

Since the year 2000, Israel has demonstrated a willingness to act unilaterally in the name of peace; only to have their enemies respond with more acts of violence.

In 2000, Israel withdrew their forces from southern Lebanon, only to be followed by Hezbollah and their missiles.

In 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza, only to be replaced by the militant wing of the Hamas party.

As a sovereign and independent nation, Israel has every right to defend itself from these constant attacks led by groups with the expressed purpose of destroying Israel.

There is agreement in this House and in the world community that there be peace in the Middle East, so that all families, whether they be Israeli, Palestinian, or Lebanese, can live without fear.

But there will be no peace so long as these terrorist organizations insist on the destruction of Israel.

There will be no peace, until Hamas agrees to curtail acts of violence and aggression and

show that they are willing to work towards a two-state solution.

Our own soldiers are currently engaged against an enemy that has no respect for human life and a complete disdain for democracy.

In this Global War on Terror, we have no greater ally than the nation of Israel, whose citizens are all too familiar with terrorists and their tactics.

I am proud to support this resolution because I believe it is important that we let the Israeli people know that we stand behind their right to defend their homeland and their citizens. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution, so that we may speak with one voice so that there may be peace for all people in the Middle East.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today the House is considering H. Res. 921, a resolution condemning the recent attacks against the State of Israel.

The resolution focuses on the attacks by Hamas and Hezbollah on Israel and expresses its condolences to all families of innocent victims of the recent violence. While the resolution is not perfect, it does call on the international community to cooperate to bring an end to the violence in the region.

The two sides cannot resolve this by themselves, and it is clear that only a diplomatic track will help to address the wide-spread unrest in the Middle East. Believing that, I would prefer the resolution do more to solidify the U.S. as an honest broker in the conflict.

It is unfortunate that while the violence has continued for more than a week now, Secretary of State Rice still has failed to travel to the region. Even further, she has declined to send a Special Envoy to focus exclusively on the crisis. This is yet one more example of the Bush Administration's failure on the foreign policy front.

The Administration must become engaged with the international community in pursuing a peaceful and just resolution to this on-going crisis instead of standing by while innocent civilians are killed. President Bush's stubborn involvement in Iraq has made it difficult for the U.S. to focus on this and other conflicts in the region. Instead of bringing parties to the negotiating table, President Bush and Secretary Rice have ignored the region while it has literally gone up in flames.

History has shown that the U.S. is most successful when it supports evenhanded, diplomacy-based foreign policy. This can be achieved by supporting and implementing the legislation I introduced earlier this year, SMART (H. Con. Res. 158). SMART steps include:

1. Preventing future acts of terrorism by strengthening international institutions and respect for the rule of law;

2. Reducing the threat and stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction;

3. Addressing the root causes of terrorism;

4. Shifting U.S. budget priorities to more effectively meet our national security needs; and

5. Pursuing to the fullest extent alternatives to war.

Until the Bush Administration adopts principles like these in the Middle East, and throughout the world, the cycle of unrest will continue.

Unlike previous Congressional acts, SMART strives to achieve a balance of support for all parties and puts the U.S. in the role of a partner for peace in Middle East.

With my constituents and colleagues, I call on the President to dedicate himself fully to the peace process and to guarantee the safety and well-being of all innocent civilians involved in the chaos in the Middle East.

INTRODUCTION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL RESOLUTION

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with Reps. HOWARD BERMAN (D-CA) and JERROLD NADLER (D-NY), am introducing a resolution commending the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General. For those who may not be aware, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was established in 1988 as part of an effort to investigate waste, prevent fraud, and review legislation at the Department.

The OIG and its agents and employees have been unwavering in their pursuit of justice. Even in the most trying of times, the OIG has been steadfast in its resolve. For instance, it was the OIG that uncovered the truth behind the incarceration of Brandon Mayfield as a material witness in the Madrid bombing investigation. It was the OIG that exposed the abuses of detainees in federal custody after the September 11 attacks.

On June 21, 2006, Special Agent William "Buddy" Sentner gave his life in service to his country, attempting to execute a search warrant on behalf of the Department. He left behind a legacy of public service and patriotism. His service no doubt will inspire those who follow.

This resolution recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of the agents, attorneys, and employees of the Office of the Inspector General. I look forward to working with my colleagues on securing passage of this legislation.

32ND ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH ILLEGAL INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

**HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today, as I have for more than two decades, to voice intense objection to the illegal occupation of Cyprus by Turkish troops and to declare my grave concern for the future of the island. The Turkish incursion into Cyprus, thirty-

two years ago, has rendered a legacy of internal division, and should worry those in this chamber who cherish freedom and espouse the virtues of democracy.

In July 1974, Turkish troops invaded and captured the northern part of Cyprus, seizing more than a third of the island. The Turkish strategy included ethnic cleansing. Not only did the Turks expel 200,000 Greek-Cypriots from their homes, but Turkish troops also were responsible for the systematic killing of 5,000 innocent civilians. In the process, Turkey installed 40,000 military personnel on Cyprus. Today, these troops, in conjunction with United Nations (U.N.) peacekeeping forces, make the small, once peaceful island of Cyprus one of the most militarized areas in the world. Well over a quarter of a century later, approximately 1,500 Greek-Cypriots remain missing, including four Americans.

The Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities are separated by a 113-mile barbed wire fence, called the Green Line. Until 2003, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), a government formally recognized only by Turkey, prohibited Greek-Cypriots from freely crossing the Green Line to visit the towns and communities of their families. Controlling 37 percent of the island, Turkey's military occupation has had severe consequences, most notably the dislocation of the Greek-Cypriot population and the resulting refugees.

The Republic of Cyprus has proven to be an ally of this country. An ally which, in times of need, stands up to the plate and offers assistance, understanding and compassion to our citizens.

I am sure that most of you have been following the developments in Lebanon, and the plight of over 25,000 Americans who are trying to leave safely with their families. How many of you know that Cyprus has opened its doors to everyone evacuating Lebanon? On July 15, 2006, Cyprus declared its readiness to assist efforts for the evacuation of U.S. citizens and other nationals fleeing Lebanon. A coordinating committee set up by the Cyprus government is in charge of organizing the reception and hospitality of foreign nationals arriving in Larnaca from Lebanon.

The U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Ronald Schlicher said that several thousand U.S. citizens were expected to arrive on Cyprus. They will stay in hotels or—if there are not enough beds—in schools and an exhibition space equipped with tents and prefab housing provided by the Cyprus government. Thanking Nicosia, Schlicher said that the Cyprus Republic had offered significant assistance and that this could be a good opportunity to deepen U.S.-Cyprus cooperation.

During the U.S. State Department briefing on the Lebanon evacuation efforts, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Maura Harty expressed gratitude for help offered by the Cyprus Republic. "We're so grateful to them. . . Cypriots have met every helicopter and ship with sandwiches and water and juice. They're just being fantastic" she said. "The Cypriot Civil Defense Force has been very helpful to us in what they have provided," she added.

The Cypriot citizens know first-hand what our people are going through because they have lived through it. I want to personally recognize and thank President Tassos Papadopoulos and the Greek-Cypriot people

for their swift offer of assistance for our citizens and for their efforts to alleviate the distress and suffering of our families. I pray for their safe return.

There also have been some other positive developments recently, based on Cypriot President Papadopoulos' initiative. He and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat agreed earlier this month to begin a process of bi-communal discussions to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem. The decision, which is part of a set of agreed upon principles, was made during a meeting between the two leaders in Cyprus with the U.N. Undersecretary General for Political Affairs Ibrahim Gambari. The two leaders stressed their commitment to the unification of Cyprus, based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, and political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions.

President Papadopoulos already has submitted a comprehensive proposal for the establishment of two committees on Economic Integration and Population Determination. The Government of Cyprus also has proposed and is ready for the establishment of additional bi-communal committees that will tackle other problems arising from the division of the island. Asked about Turkey's EU accession course in relation with the developments in the Cyprus problem, President Papadopoulos said they were two separate issues, and pointed out that Ankara still had to meet its obligations toward the EU. In a conversation with President Papadopoulos, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan expressed his satisfaction with the result of the meeting and congratulated both sides.

The agreement is the first positive result after the meeting in Paris last February between President Papadopoulos and U.N. Secretary General Annan, where they had expressed their common hope that these discussions would help restore trust between the two communities and prepare the way for the earliest full resumption of the negotiating process.

The following is the set of principles agreed to on July 8, 2006:

1. Commitment to the unification of Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions.

2. Recognition of the fact that the status quo is unacceptable and that its prolongation would have negative consequences for the Turkish and Greek Cypriots.

3. Commitment to the proposition that a comprehensive settlement is both desirable and possible, and should not be further delayed.

4. Agreement to begin a process immediately, involving bi-communal discussion of issues that affect the day-to-day life of the people and other substantive issues, both of which will contribute to a comprehensive settlement.

5. Commitment to ensure that the "right atmosphere" prevails for this process to be successful. In that connection, confidence building measures are essential, both in terms of improving the atmosphere and improving the life of all Turkish and Greek Cypriots. This requires putting an end to the so-called "blame game."

The following are the decisions by Mr. Papadopoulos and Mr. Talat:

1. The Technical Committees on issues that affect the day-to-day life of people will com-

mence by the end of July provided that, at the same time, the two Leaders will also have exchanged a list of issues of substance and its contents to be studied by expert bi-communal working groups and finalized by the Leaders.

2. The two Leaders will meet further, from time to time as appropriate, to give directions to the expert bi-communal working groups as well as to review the work of the Technical Committees.

I would like to stress that the Government of Cyprus continues to emphasize that it remains committed to reunify Cyprus as a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with democratic and human rights for all Cypriots. The Cypriot Government has announced a series of measures aimed at assisting those Turkish-Cypriots residing under the control of the occupying Turkish army. The package included a wide range of political, social, humanitarian, educational and economic measures that would enhance the Turkish-Cypriots' ability to enjoy many of the benefits that the Republic of Cyprus offers to its citizens—including benefits which result from its European Union membership. Far beyond a merely symbolic gesture, the package is a substantive program to integrate the Turkish-Cypriot community into the larger Cypriot society.

The Republic of Cyprus and Greek-Cypriots have provided the Turkish-Cypriot community more than \$700 million dollars in aid. In the past two years, the Government of Cyprus has paid more than \$43 million dollars in social insurance pensions to Turkish-Cypriots, and Turkish-Cypriots working outside the Green Line made \$7 million dollars in wages last year. Since April 2003, more than 24,000 Turkish-Cypriots have received free treatment in hospitals and medical centers inside the Republic of Cyprus, the combined cost of which totals more than \$9 million.

Since the invasion more than three decades ago, Turkish-occupied areas have received free electricity from the Cyprus Electricity Authority at a cost of nearly \$343 million. Also, more than 150,000 birth certificates, identity cards and passports have been provided to Turkish-Cypriots by the Republic of Cyprus, so that Turkish-Cypriots could travel and acquire work more efficiently. The Republic of Cyprus has begun a program where it pays the full tuition fees of Turkish-Cypriot pupils in secondary education private schools in the government-controlled areas. To date, this program has promised more than \$5.4 million in tuition fees, and the program added five times as many students this year than it did in 2003, its first year.

The occupying Turkish regime partially relaxed restrictions that limited travel across the Green Line. Since then, there have been more than ten million incident-free border crossings by Turkish and Greek Cypriots to visit areas and homes that were inaccessible to them for over 30 years. This has produced rare displays of human kinship, exchanges of flowers and pastries, and emotional visits to homes abandoned in the mid-1970s. As a result, Greek-Cypriots have infused more than \$57 million into the impoverished, Turkish-occupied economy in the North.

Still, neither the Government's incomplete, albeit well-intentioned, benefit package for Turkish-Cypriots, nor the limited lifting of restrictions by Turkey's occupying regime, substitutes for a comprehensive resolution to end Cyprus' divide. I urge the Bush Administration,

the United Nations, the European Union, and this honorable body to remain engaged in efforts to resolve the Cyprus problem, and to work toward a fair and lasting reunification of Cyprus.

We should look to correct the wrong that occurred more than thirty years ago. We should work to bring about a just resolution to the situation. And, at the very least, we must act to halt the continuing injustice which the world community allows to continue in Cyprus, our proven and strong ally.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALFREDO  
ZAMORA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Alfredo Zamora, Jr., Chief Executive Officer of South Texas Rural Health Services, Inc., for his exemplary leadership in providing healthcare to those living in rural areas in South Texas.

Alfredo Zamora, Jr. was born on June 19, 1941, to his Mexican-American migrant parents, Guadalupe Cantu and Alfredo Zamora. His family would travel to Wisconsin, and to the fields of Illinois to work the land there. After he graduated from Cotulla High School in 1961, he joined the United States Army, and received a honorable discharge in 1963, which allowed him to attend a teacher's college where he then continued his further education at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education in 1968.

He also received a fellowship in the Ford Foundation Leadership Development Program in 1969 that helped him learn how to become an effective leader in advocacy, community organizing, and political awareness. The leadership skills that Mr. Zamora learned was put to great use by becoming the first Mexican-American mayor of the City of Cotulla in the State of Texas. In 1972, Mr. Zamora was recruited to become Executive Director of SER-Jobs For Progress, an advocacy organization that helped represent Hispanics in Racine, Wisconsin. He also attended the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee where he received his M.S. in Supervision and Administration, and extensive study work towards his Ph.D. in Urban Education during his tenure with SER-Jobs For Progress.

In 1981, Mr. Zamora was hired as Chief Executive Officer of South Texas Rural Health Services, Inc., a community health center. He has successfully guided the organization from a singular site and a \$250,000 operating budget to approximately \$4.5 million worth of needed services to a multiple-county service area in South Texas. Mr. Zamora has spent his life working to help better the lives of those in his community, and I commend him for his commitment to South Texas and to improving rural healthcare services.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the wonderful dedication and commitment of Alfredo Zamora, Jr. to advocacy in the areas of healthcare and education for the City of Cotulla and to the rural community of South Texas, and I thank you for this time.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM RAMSTAD**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a strong and consistent supporter of Israel to urge my colleagues to pass H. Res. 921.

This important resolution condemns the recent attacks on Israel by the Hamas and Hezbollah terrorist groups and expresses continued U.S. support for the right of Israel to defend itself.

The State of Israel was created in 1948, and the United States was the first country to formally recognize its right to exist. Since that time, Israel has been one of our strongest allies in the world and a glimmer of hope in the Middle East as the only developed democracy in a region that has known too much war, too much terror and too much violence.

Israel consistently stands shoulder to shoulder with the U.S. in countering the most dangerous threats we face today, including the use of terror by groups attempting to destabilize moderate regimes and disrupt various peacemaking efforts.

In August 2005, Israel began its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and gave the Palestinian Authority (PA) the opportunity to prove themselves capable of exercising just and rightful authority over their own people. Since that time, the PA has proven to be ineffective at immobilizing terrorist activities, as shown by Hamas' frequent rocket attacks on Israeli cities and the cross-border ambush that took place only a few weeks ago, which resulted in the deaths of two Israeli soldiers and the kidnapping of another.

In addition, Iran's public declarations calling for both the destruction of the state of Israel and greater development of nuclear arms have produced a dangerous and volatile situation both regionally and globally. As Iran continues to provide weapons and supplies to terrorist groups like Hezbollah, we must allow Israel to continue to take necessary action to protect itself.

This is a critical time for Israel. We must allow Israel to continue its self defense efforts and attempts to prevent terrorist organizations from destroying the Middle East. As Prime Minister Olmert stated in his address to Congress, "[We must] replace the 'Culture of Hate' with an 'Outlook of Hope.'" Hezbollah and Hamas are organizations that have proven to be committed to this "Culture of Hate." Consequently, their removal from the Middle East is essential to instill hope into a region that has seen far too much destruction of innocent life.

Once again, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

FREEDOM FOR VIRGILIO MANTILLA ARANGO

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Virgilio Mantilla Arango, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba. Mr. Mantilla Arango is a pro-democracy leader in totalitarian Cuba. Because of his steadfast conviction in human liberty and his constant work to bring freedom to an island enslaved by the nightmare that is the Castro regime, he has been a constant target of the dictatorship.

According to multiple reports, Mr. Mantilla Arango was arrested on March 4, 2002, for peacefully protesting at a provincial hospital. The reports outline how, at the hospital, the group shouted "Long live human rights" and sat on the floor. After 2 years in the gulag, and after a sham trial in April 2004, Human Rights Watch reports that Mr. Mantilla Arango was "sentenced" to 7 years in the totalitarian gulag. The "sentence" included 4 years for his participation in the March 2002 protest and 3 years for continuing to peacefully protest against the nightmare that is the Castro regime during his time in the gulag before his "trial."

The U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices—2005, describes the deplorable conditions in the totalitarian gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." Sadly, this is all too true for Mr. Mantilla Arango. According to reports published on Net For Cuba, Mr. Mantilla Arango has suffered savage beatings by dictatorship thugs for denouncing the tyranny and hanging signs above his bed that say "Down with Fidel" and "We Need Freedom." In July, Mr. Mantilla Arango informed the Cuban Human Rights Foundation that he has been in brutal, solitary confinement since putting on a T-shirt last month that carried the words, "Down with Fidel."

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Mantilla Arango is the face of the real Cuba. No matter how intense the beatings, no matter how remorseless the repression, no matter how inhumane the conditions, he will never relent in his belief that the people of Cuba should be and will be free.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, in the 21st century and only 90 miles from our shore, brave men and women are locked in grotesque dungeons because they believe that all people have basic human rights. It is a profound embarrassment for mankind that the world stands by in silence and acquiescence while political prisoners 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 Virgilio Mantilla Arango and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today the House is considering H. Res. 921, a resolution condemning the recent attacks against the State of Israel.

The resolution focuses on the attacks by Hamas and Hezbollah on Israel and expresses its condolences to all families of innocent victims of the recent violence. While the resolution is not perfect, it does call on the international community to cooperate to bring an end to the violence in the region.

The two sides cannot resolve this by themselves, and it is clear that only a diplomatic track will help to address the widespread unrest in the Middle East. Believing that, I would prefer the resolution would do more to solidify the U.S. as an honest broker in the conflict.

It is unfortunate that while the violence has continued for more than a week now, Secretary of State Rice still has failed to travel to the region. Even further, she has declined to send a special envoy to focus exclusively on the crisis. This is yet one more example of the Bush administration's failure on the foreign policy front.

The administration must become engaged with the international community in pursuing a peaceful and just resolution to this on-going crisis instead of standing by while innocent civilians are killed. President Bush's stubborn involvement in Iraq has made it difficult for the U.S. to focus on this and other conflicts in the region. Instead of bringing parties to the negotiating table, President Bush and Secretary Rice have ignored the region while it has literally gone up in flames.

History has shown that the U.S. is most successful when it supports even-handed, diplomacy-based foreign policy. This can be achieved by supporting and implementing the legislation I introduced earlier this year, SMART—H. Con. Res. 158. SMART steps include:

1. preventing future acts of terrorism by strengthening international institutions and respect for the rule of law;
2. reducing the threat and stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction;
3. addressing the root causes of terrorism;
4. shifting U.S. budget priorities to more effectively meet our national security needs;
5. pursuing to the fullest extent alternatives to war.

Until the Bush administration adopts principles like these in the Middle East, and throughout the world, the cycle of unrest will continue.

Unlike previous congressional acts, SMART strives to achieve a balance of support for all parties and puts the U.S. in the role of a partner for peace in Middle East.

With my constituents and colleagues, I call on the President to dedicate himself fully to the peace process and to guarantee the safety and well-being of all innocent civilians involved in the chaos in the Middle East.

HONORING RAYFER EARL'E  
MAJOR, POET LAUREATE

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor a great man and a great artist, poet laureate Rayfer Earl'e Major. As our Nation's longest serving poet laureate, and the only current African American poet laureate, Rayfer Earl'e Major has shared his soul through his poetry for over 50 years.

It is the responsibility of a poet laureate to uplift and raise the status of poetry in the everyday consciousness of Americans. Since 1969, Rayfer Earl'e Major has embodied those ideals and standards.

All too often poetry has ignored the particular aspects and unique history of African Americans. Rayfer Earl'e Major's representations and imagery have shaped the way the world now views the African American experience. His poems have allowed us to reexamine and rethink our own views and experiences.

Rayfer Earl'e Major has authored several works that have sought to inspire us including: Poems; Poems II; A Tribute to Blackness; The Life and Times of Sister Menefee; Mammoth Melting Sugar; and To Mister or Sarah Jean: A Love Story. Through his craft, Rayfer Earl'e Major has enlightened us with the narrative prose of the brutal murder of Emmitt Till, and poetry relaying the 1916 lynching of Jesse Washington. His work has also detailed the reflections and expectations surrounding expectant fatherhood.

It is an honor for me to be able to recognize this outstanding man, artist, and lifelong member of Alpha Phi Alpha. His work and representations have brought reverence to the African American community and his brotherhood at Alpha Phi Alpha. I am fortunate enough to serve with several distinguished men of Alpha Phi Alpha, including: Congressman CHARLES RANGEL, Congressman GREGORY MEEKS, Congressman ROBERT SCOTT, Congressman CHAKA FATTAH, Congressman EMANUEL CLEAVER, Congressman DAVID SCOTT, Congressman DANNY DAVIS, and Congressman AL GREEN. I know that my fellow colleagues and Congressional Black Caucus Members equal the respect and admiration for Mr. Major.

I have the highest esteem for Rayfer Earl'e Major and his work, and I look forward to many more bright expressions of poetry, prose, and art in the years ahead.

PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2389) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2389, the so-called Pledge Protection Act. H.R. 2389 would strip all Federal courts, including the Supreme Court, of their ability to hear cases involving the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance is a true expression of liberty and justice for all—cornerstones of our great Nation. However, H.R. 2389 would punish those who exercise that freedom. Basic due process demands an independent judicial forum capable of determining Federal constitutional rights. This legislation deprives the Federal courts of their ability to hear cases involving the fundamental free speech rights of students, parents, and other individuals. In our Country, dissenting views are supposed to be valued, allowed and tolerated. To take away this fundamental freedom of expression is to dishonor America and all Americans.

At this time when American soldiers continue to die every day in Iraq, with the Taliban and Al Qaeda making gains in Afghanistan, when millions of Americans are suffering because the minimum wage has not been raised in almost a decade, when millions more lack any health care coverage, and when gas prices are skyrocketing, the Republican majority has decided that the House should instead debate a bill that is unnecessary and, if passed, would only serve to undermine our democracy.

I am not afraid of those Americans who oppose parts of the Pledge having an opportunity to express those views. Healthy, controversial debates and a free society able to challenge the status quo are what make our country so strong and so great. What is scary are those who seek to use bills, such as the one before us today, to advance their ideology at the expense of freedom and liberty. That is something we should all oppose in the strongest terms.

As Members of Congress we owe our constituents better. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 2389.

HONORING LOUIS "BOTCH"  
TONELLA NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Louis "Botch" Tonella on the occasion of his recognition as the Napa County Farm Bureau's Agriculturalist of the Year for 2006.

Mr. Tonella has been an active participant in the remarkable transformation of the Napa Valley into the world's premier wine-growing region. His career in vineyards started at a young age when he went to work at the Pontibeaulieu Vineyards, helping tend vines and trimming the orchards. During the difficult years of the Great Depression, he and a friend opened a general store in Rutherford to serve the needs of local farms and families. In 1949 Mr. Tonella purchased a vineyard, which he owned and operated for half a century before passing control to his son. Working among the vines beside his employees during the harvests, Botch was known for being a hard

worker and team player. He drove his tractor through the vineyards a final time in 1997, at the age of 85.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to his achievement as a vineyard owner, we should acknowledge Mr. Tonella's role as a member and leader of the community in the Napa Valley. He has performed the invaluable service of a volunteer fire fighter for the Rutherford Fire Department, including 10 years as the fire chief. He was also a founding member of the Sunny St. Helena Co-op Winery and an active participant in the Farm Bureau of Napa County for many years.

Mr. Tonella's life has been blessed by the company of his wife of 70 years, Eda Villa. His son Raymond now owns the Tonella vineyards, which today includes the Ponti vineyards Mr. Tonella worked on during his first job in the 1920s. The arrival of his first great-grandchild earlier this year marks another welcome addition to the Tonella family.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Louis "Botch" Tonella for his lifetime of dedication, hard work and success in the vineyards of the Napa Valley and his leadership as a member of numerous organizations in our community.

CONGRATULATING ELLICOTT CITY  
AND COLUMBIA, MARYLAND FOR  
BEING NAMED ONE OF THE  
"BEST PLACES TO LIVE" IN  
AMERICA BY MONEY MAGAZINE

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ellicott City and Columbia, Maryland located in beautiful Howard County which is part of my district, the 7th District of Maryland, for placing 4th on Money Magazine's "Best Places to Live" 2006 list.

This list recognizes what we in Maryland have known for years: that Ellicott City and Columbia provide the best of both worlds—an economy in which parents and children can thrive and a quality of life that allows them to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Located in the corridor between Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, DC, the area that became known as Ellicott City was a tobacco outpost until the Ellicott brothers turned it into the flour-milling capital of the 1700s. Two centuries later, Columbia grew from the vision of developer Jim Rouse, who created the town as an alternative to the epidemic of boring suburbs. Only 5 miles apart and now called home by 160,000 Marylanders, these two towns provide an active and charming downtown, a major music venue, a 30,000 square foot arts center, an impressive mall, and over 4,500 acres of park space. The Money Magazine recognition stands as a testament to the fine administration of the county and local governments and to the residents' long-standing commitment to active community involvement—working together to ensure the highest quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, Ellicott City and Columbia are not just great places to play and enjoy life, they are also excellent places to work and attend school. About one-third of these residents work at local businesses, at one of the national corporations headquartered there, or at

the Howard County General Hospital, a member of Johns Hopkins Medicine. Many others make the commute to nearby Baltimore, or Washington, DC.

In addition, Howard County's public schools, from kindergarten through community college, are constantly ranked among the best in the State and boast test scores 50 percent above average. Parents know that their children are receiving the best education possible, due to the hard work and dedication of the employees of the Howard County Public School System led by Superintendent Dr. Sydney L. Cousin, who has served the school system for almost 20 years in an exemplary manner.

With its top schools, great jobs, low crime rates, variety of recreational activities, and acres of open space, it is no surprise that Columbia and Ellicott City beat 741 other communities to place fourth on Money Magazine's Best Places to Live 2006 list. I applaud Howard County Executive James N. Robey for his nearly four decades of service to Howard County, as well as the citizens of Columbia and Ellicott City for making this area truly one of the best places to live in America—for it is the people who make our communities great.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the other 2006 Best Places winners, and I remind my colleagues to work with me to ensure that our policies support and facilitate the creation of livable communities for all Americans.

Again, I congratulate Columbia and Ellicott City, located in my district in Howard County, Maryland, on receipt of this prestigious recognition.

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#### CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution, which I sincerely believe will do more harm than good.

I do agree with the resolution's condemnation of violence. But I am convinced that when we get involved in foreign conflicts and send strong messages, such as this resolution will, it ends up expanding the war rather than diminishing the conflict, and that ultimately comes back to haunt us.

Madam Speaker, I follow a policy in foreign affairs called non-interventionism. I do not believe we are making the United States more secure when we involve ourselves in conflicts overseas. The Constitution really does not authorize us to be the policemen of the world, much less to favor one side over another in foreign conflicts. It is very clear, reading this resolution objectively, that all the terrorists are on one side, and all the victims and the innocents are on the other side. I find this unfair, particularly considering the significantly higher number of civilian casualties among Lebanese civilians. I would rather advocate neutrality rather than picking sides, which is what this resolution does.

Some would say that there is no room to talk about neutrality, as if neutrality were a crime. I would suggest there should be room for an open mind to consider another type of policy that may save American lives.

I was in Congress in the early 1980s when the U.S. Marines were sent into Lebanon, and I came to the Floor before they went, when they went, and before they were killed, arguing my case against getting involved in that conflict.

Ronald Reagan, when he sent the troops in, said he would never turn tail and run. Then, after the Marines were killed, he had a reassessment of the policy. When he wrote his autobiography a few years later after leaving the Presidency, he wrote this:

Perhaps we didn't appreciate fully enough the depth of the hatred and the complexity of the problems that made the Middle East such a jungle. Perhaps the idea of a suicide car bomber committing mass murder to gain instant entry to Paradise was so foreign to our own values and consciousness that it did not create in us the concern for the marines' safety that it should have.

In the weeks immediately after the bombing, I believe the last thing that we should do was turn tail and leave. Yet the irrationality of Middle Eastern politics forced us to rethink our policy there. If there would be some rethinking of policy before our men die, we would be a lot better off. If that policy had changed towards more of a neutral position and neutrality, those 241 marines would be alive today.

It is very easy to criticize the Government of Lebanon for not doing more about Hezbollah. I object to terrorism committed by Hezbollah because I am a strong opponent to all violence on all sides. But I also object to the unreasonable accusations that the Government of Lebanon has not done enough, when we realize that Israel occupied southern Lebanon for 18 years and was not able to neutralize Hezbollah.

Madam Speaker, there is nothing wrong with considering the fact that we don't have to be involved in every single fight. That was the conclusion that Ronald Reagan came to, and he was not an enemy of Israel. He was a friend of Israel. But he concluded that that is a mess over there. Let me just repeat those words that he used. He said, he came to the conclusion, "The irrationality of Middle Eastern politics forced us to rethink our policy there." I believe these words are probably more valid now even than when they were written.

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#### A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RUTH MCKENRY

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Ruth McKenry. She was an exemplary woman and a premier advocate for health care and the agriculture industry in the Valley. She passed away on June 2, 2006.

Ruth McKenry was a native of New York. She graduated from Bellevue School of Nursing in 1943 and became a U.S. Navy Nurse Corps Lt.j.g. serving from 1944 to 1946. Soon after being honorably discharged in 1946, she moved to California with her husband and worked as a registered nurse in various hospitals in the Central Valley.

Having raised four children, Mrs. McKenry was very knowledgeable and experienced as a nurse. She worked for the Selma District Hos-

pital Emergency Room, as well as at the Doctor's Hospital in Modesto, California, specializing in orthopedics, cardiology, surgery and as a relief supervisor. Furthermore, having an extensive background and a great understanding of the health care industry, Ruth was a long-time advocate for improving the health care system in the country. She was involved in the politics of the Valley and held several important positions in different organizations.

Ruth maintained an encompassing interest in the activities of her community. She served as a Brownie Girl Scout Leader, 4-H Leader, and as a volunteer for a local Well Baby Clinic. Additionally, her involvement in many vital agricultural groups and organizations left a mark on the people of the Valley. After retiring as a registered nurse, Ruth farmed grape vineyards and together with her husband, managed McKenry Farms in Kingsburg, California. Being a farmer herself, Ruth was strongly engrossed in the workings of the agricultural industry. She served as the State and Federal Legislative Chair and the Agricultural Labor Chair for the California Women for Agriculture (CWA). She also served as the Agricultural Labor Chair for the American Agri-Women (AAW) and for the Tulare County Farm Bureau.

Additionally, Ruth was involved with Women in Farm Economics and the California Farm Bureau Federation Agricultural Labor Committee. Many of her colleagues, especially in the CWA and AAW attest to her enthusiasm and her driving force in pushing for change in the agricultural labor industry, especially in providing farm workers access to necessary health care programs. Ruth once stated, "My involvement in agricultural labor has given me an interest in affordable health care for the farm worker and both pre-natal and well baby care for his/her family. I am interested in the nation's rural areas [and] as an employer, access to affordable health care premiums is needed."

The positions she held on agricultural labor committees gave her the chance to promote the changes that were necessary for the advancement of the agriculture industry. Her hard work was witnessed and admired by her colleagues, and in 1986, after, being nominated by her fellow CWA members, she was awarded the prestigious Leaven Award, the highest award an American Agri-Woman can receive. Her ability to work with and influence those around her, and multiply the effectiveness of the organization was testimony to the character she possessed which made her truly deserving of the Leaven Award. In addition, California State Assemblymember Bruce Bronzan nominated her as the Woman of the Year in 1991 for her outstanding contributions to her community.

Ruth McKenry was a prime example of a strong resilient woman. She lived a life of purpose and served as a role model, not just for the youth in the Valley, but for her peers and colleagues. She was devoted to her family and deeply involved in the life of her children and grandchildren. She was honored by those who worked beside her and by those whose lives she was able to change and touch throughout her lifetime. Ruth McKenry's life is a prime example of pure passion and loyalty and of genuine interest in agriculture, one of the most vital sectors of the Central Valley. She had an outstanding life and will always be looked up to by those who knew her.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT-  
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great sadness over the events in Lebanon.

I believe we must speak with one voice that Israel has a right to defend itself. I believe we are unanimous in our opinion that Hezbollah began this conflict; and I believe that we are unanimous that Iran and Syria continue to destructively meddle in the emerging democracy of Lebanon.

This resolution comes at a time when Lebanon—a potential unwavering ally to the United States, a western looking democracy, has become an unfortunate proxy in a war between Israel and extremism.

Right now, there are 5,000 of my constituents who are facing bombing raids and a harrowing escape from war. They were in Lebanon visiting friends, relatives, childhood homes, or just enjoying Lebanon's sites, and now they are in a war zone. As their representative, my first responsibility is to them.

The events of the last week have been horrific. The violence on both sides of the Israeli-Lebanon border has escalated, and more and more people, mostly civilians, have seen their lives forever changed.

Innocent Israelis and innocent Lebanese have been pulled into a conflict not of their own making. The "Peace of the Brave", that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin gave his life for, is today a lost hope.

Diplomacy, which the last Administration was criticized for using too much, seems to be a dirty word today.

This House, which after each Middle East conflagration brings a resolution of resolve and solidarity to the floor, could do much more to alleviate the suffering of the Lebanese.

Last summer, we passed unanimously a resolution that said, the United States would support efforts to enhance Lebanon's sovereignty. The same resolution said, "The United States should aid the people of Lebanon in their efforts to restore the separation of powers, the rule of law, and a proper respect for fundamental freedoms of every citizen."

We promised a commitment to the people of Lebanon that is not entirely reflected in this resolution. We said we would support them, and in my view the best way we can support them is to bring about a cessation of violence.

Israel's right to defend itself is absolute, but I am concerned that the current action will make it impossible for Lebanon's small military to properly assert itself along the troubled border.

We should support Prime Minister Tony Blair's plan to expand the international force along the southern border. We should also begin to rethink our own aid package to Lebanon's democratic government.

The United States can truly change hearts and minds in the Middle East if we commit ourselves to helping to rebuild Lebanon's infrastructure, help professionalize and equip their national military, and provide the eco-

nomie assistance they will need to keep their restive population employed and prosperous.

That is where I believe this resolution should be focused, and I believe it is in that omission that this Congress' policy is woefully inadequate.

The events of the past few days are heart-breaking. Not only because the unfolding violence involves our dear, and unwavering ally, Israel but also because it has sucked in Lebanon, a fragile nation that has had a bitter history and has only recently begun to reemerge from its dark past.

Madam Speaker, most tragically it was only 6 years ago that we were on the cusp of something almost magical—peaceful coexistence in the Middle East. The engagement of the United States was vital to that.

The brave dream laid out by Yitzhak Rabin was shattered by an assassin's bullet. The brave concessions by Ehud Barak and the support of President Clinton almost realized that dream.

But I believe we can get back to that moment. I believe it will take a fully engaged United States. I believe it will take a substantial investment on our part as a Congress to provide Lebanon and Israel with the assistance they need to overcome this crisis and re-establish security along their border.

Unfortunately, this resolution does not address these issues, and is an inadequate statement of policy to the parties who are friends of peace.

Madam Speaker, at this time I want to enter into the RECORD the names of twelve members of the Bzeih family who were killed as a result of the fighting—they have family in Michigan that held a memorial service for them on Sunday.

Hajji Fatme Bzeih, 80 years old; Hajji Thanya, 74 years old; Souad Nassour, 38 years old; Mariam Naem, 52 years old; Mohamad Naem, 17 years old; Malaak Naem, 17 years old; Hussein Naem, 11 years old; Naem Naem, 24 years old; Ammal Bzeih, 42 years old; Khouloud Bzeih, 18 years old; Farah Bzeih, 12 years old; and Aziza Bzeih, 9 years old.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT-  
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 921, which expresses the United States House of Representatives' support for the government and people of Israel at this most difficult time, and also extends its condolences to the families of all the innocent victims of the ongoing violence. I further wish to express my condolences to the Americans who are stranded or trapped in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza amidst the crossfire between Israel, Hezbollah and Hamas. My thoughts are with them at this time.

Though I support this resolution, I feel it falls short in failing to call for an immediate cessation to the ongoing hostilities, for an end to the loss of civilian life and the destruction of

property that is occurring in Israel, Lebanon and the West Bank and Gaza. Violence, death and destruction are the unfortunate consequences of war. But, here, these consequences are especially unfortunate because they have been experienced almost entirely by innocent civilians from all sides of the conflict, rather than its actual combatants. Over 200 innocent Lebanese civilians have been killed, with at least a thousand more injured. This destruction of innocent lives must immediately come to an end.

It is the responsibility of our government to protect Americans everywhere and lead them to safety during times of war. It's estimated that approximately 25,000 Americans are in Lebanon. Yet after 7 days of fighting, the government has only managed to evacuate a few hundred. It is now reported that 7,000 more Americans are scheduled to be evacuated by naval ship to Cyprus by week's end, but this is still not enough. I urge the administration to increase the pace at which it is evacuating Americans from Lebanon.

The administration must play a different, far bolder and more balanced role in resolving the current Middle East hostilities. When it comes to the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the administration has been disengaged for more than 5 years. Over the past 3 weeks, we have seen the disengagement.

Starting now, the United States must be willing to again engage itself, directly and forcefully, in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. We have played an important role in the prior progress that has been made toward peace and stability in the Middle East. We must resume this role. Secretary Condoleezza Rice must immediately lead the efforts for a multilateral diplomatic return to the peace process, and hang in there until real fundamental reconciliation is achieved.

Finally, I am deeply concerned about the impact the current crisis will have on the long-term prospects for peace in the Middle East and upon future generations in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, and Lebanon. A continuation of the violence and hatred will only serve to harden feelings and widen the gap now separating the people of this historic and cherished part of the world, and to make the securing of a real and permanent peace in the region more difficult and elusive than ever. Israel must learn to get along with its neighbors and vice versa.

Sometimes conditions need to hit bottom in the short term before they can get better in the long term. My fervent hope is that a decade from now, we will look upon these times as the bottom of the descent, and the beginning of a wondrous ascent, led by people of good faith in the Middle East and throughout the world, that ended the hatred and enmity between Israel and its neighbors, and produced the lasting peace that the peoples of the region pray for.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR CHARLES  
IVAN BITHOS

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt appreciation and

congratulations to a distinguished American military service member on the occasion of his retirement. Major Charles Ivan Bithos, of Kansas City, Kansas, has served the United States since 1974, serving in the Army, the Army Reserves, and the Army National Guard. Major Charles Ivan Bithos has been awarded numerous medals and honors for his exemplary service and dedication to the United States Armed Forces.

No other group of Americans has stood stronger and braver for our democracy than troops and our veterans. I strongly commend and appreciate the sacrifice that individuals such as Major Bithos have made in the name of protecting and defending the United States.

In honor of this great occasion, I am proud to share my admiration for dedicated public servants such as Major Bithos and offer both him and his family my most sincere gratitude for his service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL J. PARSONS, NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

### HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Michael J. Parsons, the President/CEO of First Source Federal Credit Union on his recent election to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). Mike Parsons has been a vocal supporter of credit union issues at both the state and national levels.

Mike's election to the NAFCU Board is just one more in a long list of accomplishments that has spanned 13 years as President/CEO of First Source Federal Credit Union, including his previous service as District President for the New York State Credit Union League.

As the President/CEO of First Source Federal Credit Union, Mike has focused on ensuring that his members receive helpful, personal service that caters to the needs of individuals and their financial goals. Through his credit union, Mike Parsons continuously demonstrates First Source's commitment to the financial wellness of the entire community. Most recently, Mike worked to have First Source support the Mohawk Valley Contractor's Guild, described as an "incubator for the development of small contracting companies in inner city Utica."

Mike's involvement to improve the lives of others can be further illustrated in his commitment to the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, School and Business Alliance, the Community at Sunset, and volunteering with the American Heart Association and Upstate Cerebral Palsy Association.

It is because of the good work of Mike and others like him that the credit union movement enjoys the success it has today. Such service is the hallmark of the credit union movement and I wish Mike the best of luck in his new role as a member of the NAFCU Board of Directors.

### SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

### HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it was with unwavering support for Israel, its safety, security and right to exist, that I cast a vote today against House Resolution 921. Hezbollah, not Israel, started this conflict with an ambush, and Israel has every right to defend itself. There is no doubt about that.

Nor is there any doubt anywhere about America's deep and abiding commitment to Israel.

A resolution in the House of Representatives will not change what the world already knows, but it might encourage what the world already fears: a wider war with greater casualties, undermining fragile but crucial support for Israel among Arab nations, and further endangering Israelis and other innocent civilians across the region.

I am especially troubled by the fact that H. Res. 921 goes far beyond reaffirming our unwavering commitment to Israel by declaring unlimited support for potential military action anywhere in the region. The resolution says we: "support Israel's right to take appropriate action to defend itself, including to conduct operations both in Israel and in the territory of nations which pose a threat to it."

This raises the ominous prospect that the House has given the administration a pre-recorded vote to support any action, at any time. Could that include a military strike on Iran's nuclear facilities? The resolution is a blank check, and we know that policy has failed in Iraq, and has only incubated further violence and terrorism.

No one can for one moment accept rockets in Haifa, Nazareth, or anywhere in Israel. But demanding that the Lebanese government rein in Hezbollah while bombs rain down on a variety of targets, some civilian, is not the answer.

Widening the war will inflame tensions, increase casualties and decrease any prospect for a permanent peace. The United States can best support Israel and the Arab world by vigorously pursuing an end to the violence, the resumption of a peace process and a commitment to unite the region to isolate terrorist groups and all who oppose a just and lasting peace for all people.

[From the Daily Star, July 19, 2006]

BACK TO BEIRUT, READY TO DEFY ISRAEL

(By Rami G. Khouri)

I must be one of the few people in the world trying to get into Beirut, rather than flee the city that is being bombarded daily by Israel, with explicit American approval. Israelis should grasp the significance of this, if they ever wish to find peace and a normal life in this region.

My wife and I were on a trip in Europe when the fighting broke out last week and we could not return directly to our home in Beirut. So we have returned to our previous home in Amman in order to find a reasonably safe land route back into Lebanon. I want to return mainly because steadfastness in the face of the Israeli assault is the sincerest—perhaps the only—form of resistance available to those of us who do not know how to use a gun, and prefer not to do so in any case, for there is no military solution to this conflict.

Of the many dimensions of Israel's current fighting with Palestinians and Lebanese, the

most significant in my view is the continuing, long-term evolution of Arab public attitudes to Israel. The three critical aspects of this are: a steady loss of fear by ordinary Arabs in the face of Israel's military superiority; a determined and continuous quest for more effective means of technical and military resistance against Israeli occupation and subjugation of Palestinians and other Arabs; and a strong political backlash against the prevailing governing elites in the Arab world who have quietly acquiesced in the face of Israeli-American dictates.

The Lebanon and Palestine situations today reveal a key political and psychological dynamic that defines several hundred million Arabs, and a few billion other like-minded people around the world. It is that peace and quiet in the Middle East require three things: Arabs and Israelis must be treated equally; both domestically and internationally the rule of law must define the actions of governments and all members of society; and the core conflict between Palestine and Israel must be resolved in a fair, legal and sustainable manner.

Because these principles are ignored, we continue to suffer outbreaks of military savagery by Israelis and Arabs alike, for the sixth decade in a row. The flurry of international diplomacy this week to calm things down was impressive for its range and energy. But it will fail if it only aims to place an international buffer force between Hezbollah and Israel, and leave the rest of the Arab-Israeli situation as it is.

Protecting Israel has long been the primary focus of Western diplomacy, which is why it has not succeeded. For decades now Israel has established buffer zones, occupation zones, red lines, blue lines, green lines, interdiction zones, killing fields, surrogate army zones, and every other conceivable kind of zone between it and Arabs who fight its occupation and colonial policies—all without success. Here is why: protecting Israelis while leaving Arabs to a fate of humiliation, occupation, degradation and subservient acquiescence to Israeli-American dictates only guarantees that those Arabs will regroup, plan a resistance strategy, and come back one day to fight for their land, their humanity, their dignity and the prospect that their children can have a normal life one day.

In the past two decades, with every diplomatic move to protect Israel's borders and drive back Arab foes, the response has been a common quest to strike Israel from afar—because the core dispute in Palestine remains unresolved. Three Arab parties to date have missiles of various sorts that can strike Israel from greater and greater distances: Iraq, Hamas and Hezbollah. All three have made the concept of buffer zones militarily obsolete and politically irrelevant. New buffer zones imposed by the international community to protect Israel, while leaving Arab grievances to rot, will only prompt a greater determination by the next generation of young Arab men and women to develop the means to fight back, some day, in some way that we cannot now predict.

Piecemeal solutions and stopgap measures will not work any more. Ending these kinds of military eruptions requires a more determined effort to resolve the core conflict between Israel and Palestine. This would then make it easier to address equally pressing issues within Arab countries, such as Hezbollah's status as an armed resistance group or militia inside Lebanon, which itself is a consequence of Israeli attacks against Lebanon and the unresolved Palestine issue.

In Israel's determination to protect itself and the parallel Arab determination to fight back, we have the makings of perpetual war. Or, for those willing to be even-handed for

once, an opening for a diplomatic solution that responds simultaneously to the legitimate rights of both sides.

In the meantime, I keep looking for a reasonably safe route back to our home in Beirut. Standing with the people of Lebanon in their moment of pain is the highest form of solidarity I can think of, and also the only meaningful form of defiance and resistance to Israel that I—and several hundred million other Arabs—can practice at the moment.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON  
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, honest and fair trade will help the U.S. and other countries grow more prosperous and stable. Trade barriers, quotas, and restrictions hurt all but a select few by raising prices for consumers, limiting economic growth, and restricting the ability of developing countries to improve their economies. However, I do not support free trade at any cost. There must be strong protections to ensure that workers benefit from trade, that the environment is protected, and that we provide the necessary help to those who lose out from increased trade.

Before the 2002 vote on “fast-track” trade promotion authority, I told President Bush in a meeting that he could gain broad bi-partisan support for a trade policy that expanded markets for U.S. products and helped developing countries grow themselves out of poverty if he made simple, small changes to the trade agreement model to take into account concerns over labor, the environment, and farmers in developing countries. However, the Oman Free Trade Agreement continues President Bush’s tradition of pushing forward harsh and divisive agreements, designed to pass by the smallest of margins.

For example, the Senate Finance Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the trade agreement exclude items made with forced labor, slave labor, or trafficked persons. Despite this, the President refused to make these simple changes that Congress demanded.

Questions of how the United States engages in an increasingly global economy are too critical to our future to use as partisan and political wedges. We must develop a forward-thinking and honest trade policy that can be broadly supported by Americans of all political stripes and that reflects the concerns that I hear from Oregonians. Because the Oman Free Trade Agreement doesn’t meet that test, I must oppose it.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 62ND  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION  
OF GUAM

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the

liberation of Guam. On July 21, 1944, Marines of the 3rd Marine Division and soldiers of the 77th Army Infantry stormed the shores of Asan and Agat to liberate the Chamorros, the indigenous people of Guam, from enemy occupation. The Imperial Japanese attacked, invaded, and then controlled Guam, at the outset of the War in the Pacific. Guam was the only American territory with a civilian population that was occupied by the enemy during World War II—an experience that had not occurred since the War of 1812.

The enemy occupation was a difficult time for the Chamorros. The Chamorro people, loyal Americans, endured atrocities including executions, beatings, forced labor, forced march and internment. They lost their freedom but remained loyal to the United States and resolute in the face of a brutal occupying force. The Chamorros proved their resilience and their patriotism during this trying time.

Today, we recall those who sacrificed. Both the liberated and the liberator are remembered. Liberation Day, which will be commemorated tomorrow on Guam, is a time for us to celebrate our freedoms and to honor those who fought and endured for our future.

The lives of many service members were lost in the battle to liberate Guam. Although the Chamorro people enjoy the freedoms they have today because of this sacrifice, the scars of their past remain. The story of the occupation and liberation of Guam is a story of courage, sacrifice, and resilience. It is a story worthy of commemoration and worthy of recognition. Liberation Day is our way of sharing and preserving this story.

The theme of Liberation Day this year is “Sustaining our Freedom, Honoring our Heroes.” Last week, we honored our heroes here at our Nation’s capital with a solemn Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. I was privileged to lay a wreath with General Peter Pace, USMC, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This wreath laying served as the national commemoration and paid tribute to the Chamorros who suffered the occupation and the Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, Coast Guardsmen, Merchant Mariners, and Airmen who lost their lives in the battle to liberate Guam.

This month the people of Guam have commemorated this sacrifice with ceremonies on our island. The people of Guam have gathered at Fena, Tinta, Faha, and Manenggon, historical sites where atrocities occurred. These sites and the stories of the horrors that occurred there remind us of the price of freedom. Tomorrow, the people of Guam will witness the annual Liberation Day parade. The parade is the culmination of the annual commemoration activities. Liberation Day is the most widely celebrated public holiday on Guam. The Liberation is a defining moment in our island’s history. It is our day to celebrate our freedom. This year we renew our commitment to the cause of freedom, we honor our manamko, and we salute our fallen veterans. Si Yu’os un benidisi Amerika yan Si Yu’os un benidisi Guahan.

THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ILLEGAL TURKISH INVASION OF  
CYPRUS

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 32nd anniversary of the 1974 illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

I have commemorated this day each year since I became a Member of Congress.

PSEKA, the International Coordinating Committee “Justice for Cyprus”, the Cyprus Federation of America, SAE, World Council of Hellenes Abroad, and the Federation of Hellenic Societies are primarily located in the 14th Congressional district of New York, which I am fortunate to represent.

These organizations have been strong advocates against the division of Cyprus and the human rights violations perpetrated by the Turkish army in Cyprus.

The United States must continue to play an active role in the resolution of the serious issues facing Cyprus. First and foremost is the ongoing illegal occupation by the Turkish military forces of the northern part of the island in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. The peaceful and cooperative spirit in the person-to-person, family-to-family interactions between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots is an encouraging sign for the successful reunification of Cyprus. However, it is time for Turkey to remove its troops from the island so that Cyprus can move forward as one nation.

Turkey must also show respect for the rights of the owners to their property in the north. I have introduced legislation, H. Res. 322, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives in support of the European Court of Human Rights for its decisions in the Loizidou and Xenides-Arestis cases against Turkey. Turkey must respect these decisions while ending the illegal exploitation of Greek Cypriot properties in the areas of Cyprus under Turkish military occupation.

Earlier this month, Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat agreed to begin a process of bi-communal discussions to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem. Based on President Papadopoulos’ initiative, the two leaders agreed to a set of principles including a commitment to the unification of Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions; recognition that the status quo is unacceptable and that its prolongation would have negative consequences for the Turkish and Greek Cypriots; and agreement to begin a process immediately involving bi-communal discussion of issues that affect the day to day life of the people and concurrently those that concern substantive issues, both of which will contribute to a comprehensive settlement. I welcome these developments.

As a full-fledged member of the European Union, Cyprus is playing a vital role in European affairs while also strengthening relations with the United States. Last July, the United States and the Republic of Cyprus signed a reciprocal Proliferation Security Initiative, PSI, Ship Boarding Agreement, which is aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of

mass destruction. Cyprus was the first EU member to sign this agreement. In the fall Cyprus became a signatory to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Finally, as citizens from many nations including the United States evacuate from Lebanon, Cyprus is providing critical support in helping these individuals reach safety.

A unified Cyprus would promote stability, both politically and economically, to the entire Mediterranean region. The people of Cyprus deserve a unified and democratic country, and I remain hopeful that a peaceful settlement will be found so that the division of Cyprus will come to an end.

In recognition of the spirit of the people of Cyprus, I ask my colleagues to join me in solemnly commemorating the 32nd anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus.

Long live freedom.

Long live Cyprus.

Long live Greece.

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CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I reluctantly rise in opposition to this one-sided resolution that condemns recent attacks against the State of Israel while failing to deplore Israeli violence against the people of Lebanon. Like the authors and supporters of this resolution, I support Israel's right to exist and denounce the tragic kidnapping of Israeli soldiers. I also appreciate the desire to marginalize Hezbollah. But Israel's disproportionate military response, which is decimating Lebanon's infrastructure and economy, and preventing the transport of necessary medicines into the country, is counterproductive.

As we are all painfully aware, the Middle East is a fragile place. Unfortunately, America's unconditional support for Israel is now tipping the balance in Israel's favor, facilitating a cycle of violence that undermines hopes for long-term peace. The latest back-and-forth threatens a larger, longer, and more deadly war, and underscores the failure of this administration to bring stability to the region.

Lebanon has a democratically elected government that is by no means safely ensconced. I fear that in an attempt to weaken Hezbollah, Israel will instead undermine a Lebanese government that is more autonomous and sovereign than at any time in the past two decades. Killing Lebanese soldiers, for example, will not help the Lebanese government limit Hezbollah's influence. President Bush and I rarely agree, but even he this week cautioned Israel to be "mindful" of allowing Lebanon's government to "succeed and survive" after the conflict.

I do not agree with the President's refusal, however, to join the international community in calling for a prompt cease-fire. Nor do I appreciate this resolution's tacit approval for a lack of American diplomacy. Rather than back any and all actions Israel takes, the United States should act as an honest broker and pressure both Israel and Lebanon to show restraint. Di-

plomacy, not more violence, is the path to peace in the Middle East.

Additionally, I strongly encourage the United States to acknowledge the plight of Americans living in Lebanon. Yesterday morning, the Washington Post ran a letter to the editor by a constituent of mine, noting the administration's Katrina-like response to evacuation requests. The constituent's family would like to depart Lebanon, but has been unable to secure transport out of the country.

Finally, I am concerned that particular language in this resolution that all but encourages Israel to take action against Iran's nuclear facilities. Section Eight in particular sanctions "Israel's right to take appropriate action including to conduct operations in the territory of nations which pose a threat to it" As with the current violence, I would urge Israel—and the United States—to pursue a diplomatic solution in Iran.

I cannot vote for a resolution that condemns one tragedy while supporting another. I urge my colleagues to embrace the difficult and challenging path to peace rather than the reflexively simple march to war.

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GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I, with my colleague Congressman WEXLER of Florida, would like to submit a statement regarding the current situation on the island of Cyprus.

As both Greek and Turkish Cypriots reflect on the events that took place more than 30 years ago, there is good news coming from the divided island of Cyprus. After a hiatus of more than 2 years since the unsuccessful referenda of April 2004, in which the Turkish Cypriots overwhelmingly voted in favor of a U.N. plan for a settlement, while the Greek Cypriots overwhelmingly voted against it, the two Cypriot leaders, Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat and Greek Cypriot leader Tasos Papadopoulos, met under U.N. auspices on July 3 and 8, respectively, and agreed to hold further meetings at the technical, as well as political levels, on the basis of a "Set of Principles."

Among these principles aimed at "the unification of Cyprus based on bi-zonal, bicomunal federation and political equality," is a commitment to the creation of the "right atmosphere" in order for the process to be successful; the enactment of "confidence building measures" to that end, and putting an end to the "blame game."

The meeting of the two leaders and the agreement they reached have been welcomed by the international community, including the United States, the European Union and others.

It is important that this new and positive spirit demonstrated by the two Cypriot leaders be supported by the United States Congress in order to help the parties build trust and forge an atmosphere conducive to peace. It is our sincere hope that the spirit of reconciliation and goodwill generated during the recent meetings will continue to be promoted by all parties involved.

Mr. Speaker, as the process moves forward it is also important to recognize the resolve of

the Turkish Cypriot people who have demonstrated time after time an unwavering commitment to reconciliation as well as remarkable flexibility both in the 2004 referenda and after. Despite their continued commitment to reunify Cyprus, Turkish Cypriots are still awaiting the fulfillment of the promises made to them by the international community before and after the referenda that their isolation would be lifted. We believe that both the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey, whose support was crucial in securing the "yes" vote of the Turkish Cypriots in the 2004 referenda, should be rewarded, not penalized, in order for the process to move forward toward a lasting settlement.

More than ever before, it is important to support the recent progress made in Cyprus and look towards a brighter future for Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

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TRIBUTE TO EMANUEL TURNER OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FL

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Emanuel Turner from Hernando County, Florida, who is retiring from the military after twenty-five years of service to our country.

Mr. Turner was born in Jackson, Mississippi on July 3, 1957 to Emanuel Turner Sr. and Marie Ellis. After graduating with a Bachelor's Degree from Jackson State University in June, 1981, Mr. Turner met and married Jarry Dean. Soon thereafter, he joined the Army to support his wife and later their two children, Emanuel III and Courtney Marie.

During his active duty in the United States Army from 1981 to 2006, Mr. Turner was stationed in several different locations around the country including Germany, Kentucky, Texas, Kuwait, Hawaii, Michigan, and Georgia. These frequent relocations could not have been easy for Mr. Turner or his family, and his willingness to remain dedicated to this country is commendable.

Serving with the 25th Infantry Division, the 3rd Infantry Division, and the Personnel Service Detachment, Mr. Turner participated admirably in Operation Restore Democracy, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Desert Storm. His involvement in these missions shows his commitment to the United States and our fight to advance the cause of freedom.

Also during his service, Mr. Turner met and married his current wife, Flora Nathan of Brooksville, Florida. They now reside in Hernando County with their three step-children and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Mr. Turner's retirement, I would like to thank him for his service to this country and the sacrifices he has made on behalf of the American people. Without his service our Nation would not be as strong as it is today.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT-  
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. TIM MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, I strongly support House Resolution 921 and America's ally, Israel.

This is a critical time for the entire Middle East. The unprovoked, illegitimate acts of Hamas and Hezbollah in recent days have been despicable. As the President has said, Israel, like any other sovereign nation, "should be allowed to defend herself." Israeli citizens should not have to live with hundreds of Hezbollah's Katyusha (ka-TOO-sha) rockets reigning down upon them in their neighborhoods.

Let there be no question that the attacks on the northern border and the kidnapping of the soldier along the western border are the result of more than 58 years of hatred against Israel by supporters of groups like Hezbollah and Hamas. These terrorist organizations simply do not want to live in peace alongside Israel. Hamas and Hezbollah both officially state they are totally dedicated to ending the nation of Israel and killing Israelis.

Certainly, the loss of innocent life anywhere in the world is tragic. We all mourn for families in Lebanon and Israel who have been torn apart in the recent violence. But perhaps the real treachery of extremist terrorists lies in their efforts to assimilate into nations of the world and hide amongst law-abiding citizens. For one full week now, from civilian areas of Lebanon, Hezbollah terrorists have lobbed more than a thousand rockets at innocent people in Israel. In response, Israel retains every right to retaliate against these attacks, and Hezbollah's disregard for innocent life on both sides of the Lebanese-Israeli border has led to needless deaths.

While our brave servicemen and women fight for freedom and democracy in Iraq, we must never forget that the nation of Israel has for decades been the greatest Middle East ally to the U.S. and all democratic, free nations.

The enemies of Israel can choose to live in peace alongside Israel. If they do not choose peace, Israelis have every right to defend their nation, with full confidence the United States will always stand with them.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT-  
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 921 condemning recent attacks against Israel. The attacks and kidnapping of Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah have precipitated a crisis in the region. Like any sovereign power, Israel has the right and responsibility to defend herself against unprovoked attacks.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 calls for the dismantling of all independent militias in Lebanon. That resolution has never been enforced. Consequently, the Hezbollah militia has been able to operate freely in Lebanon, especially in the southern area bordering Israel, and has amassed a large arsenal of weapons, including an estimated 13,000 rockets. During the past year, Hezbollah has launched at least four separate rocket attacks into Israel. The latest round of rockets have fallen indiscriminately on civilians in Haifa and other population centers.

Hezbollah's terrorist operations not only pose a threat to Israel, but they also threaten the security of Lebanon. The majority of people in Lebanon strongly resent Hezbollah for dragging Lebanon into a conflict with Israel. They understand that Israel did not initiate these hostilities and has a right to defend herself. Israel also has a right to destroy the military and terrorist apparatus employed by Hezbollah in its attacks on Israel. Israel must make it absolutely clear that its efforts are focused on that objective. Every effort must be made to prevent civilian casualties. Actions perceived by the people of Lebanon to unnecessarily target civilian infrastructure will have the unintentional consequence of transforming Lebanese anger at Hezbollah into anger at Israel. The United States and Israel must not unwittingly hand Hezbollah a propaganda victory and strengthen the hands of the extremists in the region.

Unfortunately, recent American actions in the Middle East and Southwest Asia, especially the war in Iraq, have had the unintentional but very foreseeable consequence of inflaming anti-Western sentiment and strengthening the position of the most radical Islamic forces. Among the biggest beneficiaries of the situation in Iraq has been neighboring Iran. Iran has exploited the chaos and instability in Iraq to advance its own radical agenda and expand its influence in the region. It has also further strengthened its leverage and reach in the region through its continued support of Hezbollah. The United States must do more to rally the international community to pressure Syria and Iran to end their support for Hezbollah and Hamas. However, our leverage has been considerably weakened by the situation in Iraq and the perception that the United States is bogged down there.

In a speech delivered at the American Enterprise Institute in February 2003, a few weeks before invading Iraq, President Bush declared that going to war in Iraq would promote democracy and stability in the Middle East, reduce the influence of the hardliners and help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Specifically, the President said, "Success in Iraq could also begin a new stage for Middle Eastern peace and set in motion progress toward a truly democratic Palestinian state. The passing of Saddam Hussein's regime will deprive terrorist networks of a wealthy nation that pays for terrorist training and offers rewards to families of suicide bombers and other regimes will be given a clear warning that support for terrorists would not be tolerated."

Unfortunately, but predictably, we have seen the opposite result in the aftermath of the invasion of Iraq. The prospects of achieving an Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement are far more remote today than they were when we invaded Iraq. While we engaged militarily in Iraq, this Administration disengaged from any

serious effort at re-establishing an Israeli-Palestinian peace process. This Administration must confront the fact that its failed policies in Iraq and the region are further destabilizing and inflaming an already volatile region. We must lead not just by the might of our military, but by the power of our example. It is time to begin rebuilding our credibility around the world.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House several key moments over the last several weeks where the United Nations has been called upon by the international community to address issues of grave global concern and has taken significant steps to increase its own efficiency and efficacy.

In the last week alone, the U.N., which is located in my congressional district, has been asked to deal with the nuclear threat from North Korea, hostilities in Lebanon, and the deteriorating peace and humanitarian situation in Gaza. In fact, as I speak, a U.N. team, led by Under Secretary General Vijay Nambiar, is on the ground in the Middle East helping defuse the current crisis. They have already met with the prime ministers of both Israel and Lebanon and the foreign ministers of the Arab League. Over the next few days, they may return to Lebanon and, perhaps, travel to Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinian territories before returning to New York to brief the U.N. Security Council. Secretary Rice called for the creation of this team and has, along with the President, the National Security Advisor, and a host of other administration officials, publicly supported it since its inception. In fact, during a press briefing in Germany on July 13, Secretary Rice called the Secretary-General's mission "the best opportunity now for deescalation of this crisis."

The U.N. Security Council has also taken action against Iran and North Korea, two regimes that the United States has deemed a serious threat to international security and stability but has been unable or unwilling to address directly on its own. Last Saturday, the Security Council voted unanimously to demand that North Korea suspend all ballistic missile launches and related activity and required all member states to prevent the import or export of funds or goods that could fuel Pyongyang's missile or weapons of mass destruction programs. And, as reported in Tuesday's New York Times, the Security Council, including China and Russia, is currently developing a resolution based on a previous agreement to require Iran to suspend its nuclear programs or suffer actions under article 41, chapter 7, of the U.N. Charter, which allows for sanctions.

In addition, at the request of President Bush and the Iraqi Government, the United Nations announced earlier this month that it will create an "International Compact for Iraq" to provide a platform for international support. The Deputy Secretary General has already traveled to Baghdad to begin discussions with

Iraqi President Jalal Talibani. The U.N., through a similar "Compact" for Afghanistan, raised billions of dollars for relief and reconstruction and built an international consensus on ways to improve the economy, security, and human rights situation in Afghanistan. Today, in part because of the U.N.'s role as a platform for international cooperation, Afghanistan has its first democratically elected parliament in more than 20 years; 4 million refugees have returned; 5 million children are back at school; 60,000 combatants have rejoined society; and the economy is growing.

These are only the most recent of a long list of ways in which the U.N. helps to safeguard American peace and prosperity. The U.N. currently maintains the world's second-largest standing army, which is keeping the peace in some of the world's most hostile environments. It is working to detect any outbreaks of avian flu and develop the first line of defense against a possible world pandemic, as the President noted in his National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza. It is providing humanitarian assistance and saving lives in volatile regions of the world. And it is developing an international legal framework and bringing those guilty of crimes against humanity to justice.

In addition to taking a central role in addressing these global problems and maintaining an increasingly important presence around the world, the U.N. has taken significant action over the past few months to look inward and improve its own efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

Over our July 4 recess, the U.N. General Assembly—with U.S. consensus—agreed to a slate of broad reforms, many of which had been recommended by former State Department Under Secretary for Management and current U.N. Under Secretary General for Management Christopher Burnham, that include an upgrade to the U.N.'s information technology systems to help better analyze and organize real-time financial data from computer systems spread around the globe and an acceptance of internal accounting standards. These particular actions were made against a backdrop of broader reform over the last 6 months, during which time the U.N. dismantled and replaced the discredited Human Rights Commission; increased staff and funding for internal auditing; created an Ethics Office; and enacted whistleblower and financial disclosure policies that are more far-reaching than those in the U.S. Government.

Mr. Speaker, the U.N. is an indispensable presence in the world, and it is absolutely necessary for maintaining peace and prosperity in the United States. Were the U.N. not to exist or were it unable to fully fund its programs, the U.S. would be forced to confront a rising tide of issues that are simply too numerous, complex, costly, and diplomatically implausible for us to handle on our own. The U.N., as the world's platform for international engagement, can only work when member states, especially the United States, actively engage with the organization and each other. Today—and in the future when we discuss U.S. dues to the U.N.—we will be sending a message to the international community. We must make sure, in the interest of all Americans, that the message is one of cooperation, engagement, and support for the United Nations.

## CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise to express strong support for Israel's right to defend itself against unprovoked acts of terrorism.

On June 25, members of Hamas attacked an Israeli army post, killing two Israeli soldiers and kidnapping another, Corporal Galid Shalit. Israel responded with appropriate force, seeking the return of its soldier and an end to rocket attacks coming from the Gaza Strip. Then, on July 12, Hezbollah terrorists attacked an Israeli military unit patrolling the Israeli border south of Lebanon, taking two Israeli soldiers hostage. They also began firing dozens of Katyusha rockets at northern Israel, including Haifa.

The acts of terrorism perpetrated by Hamas and Hezbollah created the situation that the world confronts today. Israel could not tolerate such assaults on its soil, against its citizens—no nation would. Israel responded to these acts of war by defending themselves. They entered Gaza and Lebanon to try to rescue their kidnapped soldiers and prevent terrorists from committing further attacks on their homeland.

Both of these attacks were calculated acts of war—attacks on Israeli soldiers guarding undisputed Israeli territory. The attacks by Hezbollah are blatant breaches of Security Council resolutions 1559, 1655 and 1680, which certified Israel's full withdrawal from Lebanese territory and called for the disarmament of all militias in Lebanon and an end to attacks across the Israel-Lebanon border. Unfortunately, the government in Beirut has not done its part to enhance the security of both nations. In fact, the attacks against Israel are the result of Iran, Syria, and certain factions of the Lebanese Government's inaction towards these terrorist organizations in their country.

Let's look at the facts. Despite the Security Council resolutions, Hezbollah remains an armed militia group that controls 23 seats in the Lebanese parliament and 2 ministers in the national government. According to the State Department, Hezbollah receives between 30 and 40 million a month in cash, aid and arms support from Iran. Additionally, the State Department reports that Syria is an active partner with Iran in supporting and funding Hezbollah.

At the same time, the leadership of Hamas recently called Hezbollah's actions "a heroic operation." It is clear that, despite optimism that Hamas would transform into a secular, stable government, it is sticking to its roots as a terrorist organization, supporting and encouraging attacks against innocent civilians.

Given these facts, I believe it is time for the world community to take action against Hamas and Hezbollah and the nations that support both regimes. The United States should demand that the Government of Lebanon immediately release the abducted Israeli soldiers. The same holds true for the soldier held by Hamas in Gaza. At the same time, we must

insist that Iran and Syria immediately cease interfering in the internal affairs of Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories by ending all support for Hezbollah and Hamas.

The United States must also continue to provide Israel with consistent and broad-based support, since an even greater destabilizing force is developing in the region—a nuclear-armed Iran with terrorist allies in Hezbollah and Hamas.

I also believe the United States must also play an active role in forging a solution to this conflict and its underlying cause. Let us not forget that it is not only the lives of Israelis, Lebanese, and Palestinians threatened by the fighting. Press reports indicate that approximately 25,000 Americans are in Lebanon, many of whom are trying to leave that war-torn area.

The best deterrent to future acts of terrorism is the presence of a unified world community. In the days ahead, I hope the Bush administration works to build a broad global alliance to deal with the current crisis in the Middle East, which will act as a powerful deterrent against similar acts of terrorism in the future. We cannot afford to let Israel go it alone in this conflict—we need the engagement of the Bush administration and the world community to punish the regimes that support terror, while also supporting the moderate voices in the Muslim world.

At this time of struggle and great peril, we need to stand firmly with the people of Israel and their government. Our country will stand with the government and people of Israel as they defend themselves. As an independent sovereign nation, Israel has every right to respond to acts of aggression against its homeland and the soldiers who defend it.

## TRIBUTE TO SEVERO MARTINEZ

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Severo Martinez who passed away in Santa Fe on Sunday, July 16, 2006 surrounded by his loving family and friends. Severo's family and friends have lost a very special person and New Mexico has lost a patriot who answered his country's call early in his life to fight for democracy in Europe and the South Pacific.

Severo was born on May 7, 1916 in Chama, New Mexico. He loved to fish and hunt throughout northern New Mexico with his brothers, son, grandchildren, and nephews. My former Legislative Director Tony Martinez, Severo's great nephew, joyously recalls going on many of those outings with his uncle where Severo would always be ready to pass the time by telling some jokes, playing cards and sharing stories of his service during World War II and in the South Pacific.

Severo was a proud veteran of World War II where he served with the 58th Quartermaster Battalion in Europe and in the South Pacific. He was recalled to federal service as a member of the New Mexico National Guard during the Korean Conflict. As a forward observer he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. After release from federal service he remained in the New Mexico National Guard until his retirement at the rank of Major.

Severo was always very proud of the men he served with in the National Guard and loved them dearly. After his service in the Armed Forces and the National Guard, Severo was employed with the New Mexico Employment Security Commission for 39 years. His faithful and dedicated public service assisted many New Mexico Veterans and citizens to obtain employment and helped start new careers for them throughout New Mexico. Severo is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a life member and charter member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Patrick Hurley Chapter.

To Severo's grandchildren: David, Will, Meagan, Ashley and Natalie, your grandfather lived through 90 years of extraordinary events throughout our country and world. His service during World War II and the Korean Conflict helped contribute to the preservation of democracy and freedom that exist today. That is something you should all be very proud of him for—in addition to the love he held for each of you as a proud grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my condolences to his children Vince, Norie, Kate, Becky, and the whole Martinez Family. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in honoring the memory and life of a proud veteran, proud father, proud grandfather and New Mexican—Severo Martinez.

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HONORING GRETCHEN JENKINS ON  
THE COMPLETION OF HER IN-  
TERNSHIP

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**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions Gretchen Jenkins has made while interning in my Washington, DC, office. Gretchen, a resident of Lebanon, Tennessee, has been a wonderful addition to the office and a great servant to the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Gretchen must now return to the Volunteer State, where she soon will begin her junior year at my alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University. The political science major has been active on campus as a member of the Raider Democrats, vice president of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and a columnist for MTSU's *Sidelines*.

Gretchen has gained a wealth of congressional experience that I hope will serve her well in the future. During her time here, she has addressed constituent concerns, served as a friendly and informative tour guide of the U.S. Capitol, and has been first in line to attend briefings given by some of our Nation's brightest and most eloquent statesmen.

I hope Gretchen has enjoyed her internship as much as my staff and I have enjoyed her presence in the office. I wish her all the best in the future.

CONGRATULATING THE HICKMAN  
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL ON  
BREAKING GROUND FOR ITS EX-  
PANSION AND RENOVATION

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to celebrate a few wonderful new changes coming to the Hickman Community Hospital in Tennessee.

Patients and visitors at the hospital will enjoy updated dining facilities and improved patient rooms to name just two of the enhancements that will improve the quality of life and the quality of care at the facility.

A real team effort went into this project which was funded through corporate and individual donations. The Hickman community came together, worked hard, and made this progress happen. They deserve recognition for this achievement which is the sort of initiative that has helped make the hospital a Critical Access Hospital.

I also want to recognize Jim Houser, Jack Keller, their teams at Saint Thomas Health Services and Hickman Community Hospital, leaders in the community, and most importantly, those who pledged support and are making this project a reality.

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CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT-  
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM NUSSLE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. NUSSLE. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for today's resolution (H. Res. 921) condemning attacks against Israel.

Israel is a friend of the United States and a strong ally in the War on Terror. They have every right to defend themselves against brutal terrorists who attack innocent civilians and bomb their cities. Terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah rely on violence, fear, and terror to spread religious fanaticism and advance their political agenda.

We will continue to defend the cause of freedom and stand up to evil terrorist regimes wherever they exist. Peace in the Middle East will not be possible until there is a permanent end to the violence by these terrorist groups and the countries that sponsor them.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support today's resolution. By taking action, the House of Representatives is sending an important message: That we support our friends in Israel and we condemn the state sponsors of recent terrorist acts.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during yesterday's votes

on H.R. 2389, which amends the Federal judicial code to deny jurisdiction to any Federal court, and appellate jurisdiction to the Supreme Court, to hear or decide any question pertaining to the interpretation of the Pledge of Allegiance or its validity under the Constitution. At that time, the House also considered H. Res. 911 pertaining to deadly terrorist attacks in Mumbai and H.R. 5683 regarding the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial.

Had I been present, I would have voted against H.R. 2389, and I would have voted in favor of both H. Res. 911 and H.R. 5683.

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CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT-  
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF  
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I share your concern about the grave nature of the ongoing violence in the Middle East.

It's good we are here talking about these very serious issues. I am pleased to see honest debate about the nature of this conflict and the need to stand with Israel. But what else should this Congress be doing?

It is vital that we engage one another in these critical days. With American military assets already deployed to the region for the evacuation effort, and the risk of escalation high, we must work together to get this right.

Passing this resolution, however, is only the first step.

After expressing our will, Congress must insist that the White House take our resolution and use it to encourage the international community to condemn Hamas and Hezbollah and expose them for what they really are—terrorist groups openly operating within the borders of democratically elected regimes.

The recent events in the Middle East have troubled us all. The campaign by Hamas and Hezbollah to kidnap Israeli soldiers and launch rocket attacks in Israel has the potential to destabilize the entire region and invite an expanded conflict.

Israel's ongoing incursions into Lebanon should rightly be viewed as retaliations against Hezbollah—and not against the people of Lebanon.

Like many of my colleagues, I have traveled to Lebanon and seen first hand the potential that country has. Like Israelis, the Lebanese want nothing more than to live in peace and prosperity.

But as fast as a rocket flying across the Israel border, the dreams of the Lebanese have been put on hold. Once again, their population is held hostage by foreign interests. And once again, the threat to Israeli sovereignty has forced an armed response.

I agree with Secretary Rice that Israel has a right and obligation to defend its people. That is exactly what Article 51 of the U.N. Charter guarantees to all sovereign nations.

As justified as their response may be, Israel must continue to be mindful of the effects, both physical and psychological, that their actions have on civilians in the region.

There is substantial evidence that Israel has taken several measures to minimize harm to the civilian population in Lebanon.

This includes the dropping of warning pamphlets in advance of Israeli missions in civilian areas.

It also includes the use of advanced weaponry that targets a military objective without harming civilians or civilian infrastructure.

But we must be honest. When engaged in armed conflict it is difficult to ensure the safety of civilians.

In fact, Hezbollah and Hamas purposefully operate in populated areas, often putting civilians between heavily armed terrorists and the Israeli military.

The effects of this type of warfare is also painful to Israel.

As Golda Meir so poignantly stated, "When peace comes we will perhaps in time be able to forgive Arabs for killing our sons, but it will be harder for us to forgive them for having forced us to kill their sons."

As dire as events on the ground appear, there is room for U.S. leadership. The question now is what form that leadership should take.

The administration must swiftly do what it can to create conditions in the region that will open the doors to diplomacy.

This Congress expects the President to work toward achieving this goal. Once more favorable conditions are created, it should be the administration's priority to dispatch our senior diplomatic leaders, led by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to the region as soon as possible.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution.

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#### CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 921, which, among other things, condemns the recent attacks against the State of Israel, expresses the House of Representatives' condolences to all families of innocent victims of recent violence, and holds terrorists and their state-sponsors accountable for such attacks.

On June 25, 2006, the terrorist group Hezbollah disrupted peaceful relations between Israel and Lebanon by crossing Israel's internationally recognized borders and abducting two Israeli soldiers. Let me say upfront that I know from meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora that the Lebanese government is not able to control Hezbollah. However, this incursion provoked Israel to take action to retrieve its two nationals, a response U.S. citizens would fully expect of their own government were it in the same situation. Unfortunately, escalating violence has led to the death of innocent civilians in both Israel and Lebanon.

While pundits have voiced concerns over how "measured" Israel's response was in this case, we must remember that this situation just scratches the surface of a deeply rooted conflict between Israel and a number of terrorist groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas, etc. Since Israel withdrew from Southern Lebanon

back in 2000, Hezbollah has terrorized and ravaged Israel's northern border.

Many have also called for a cease-fire. Rest assured, I welcome the cessation of all hostility, but am concerned about whether a conventional "cease-fire" is appropriate when dealing with a terrorist group that openly fires upon civilian populations. I believe that Israel, on the other hand, exercised due diligence in specifically targeting Hezbollah. However, even though many civilians have died in Lebanon, we must remember this task is extremely difficult to execute because Hezbollah hides among Lebanon's civilian population. Hezbollah is cleverly aware that this makes it extremely difficult for Israel to target it. Moreover, at the bitter cost of innocent Lebanese lives, it rejoices at the public torment that Israel receives.

There is no easy solution to this situation. However, our primary concern at this point ought to be to evacuate all U.S. citizens who wish to leave Lebanon as quickly and safely as possible. I have been personally working with a number of my constituents who have family in Lebanon to ensure their safe return back home. I ask the American people to stand in solidarity with all the families who have lost loved ones in this conflict.

Madam Speaker, in closing it is truly sad that in this day and age a terrorist group like Hezbollah does not hesitate to point their weapons at innocent civilians. We must continue to support the return of Israel's kidnapped soldiers and push for a cessation of all hostility in any way that we can. I urge for an aye vote on H. Res. 921.

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#### CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 19, 2006*

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and I rise in support of our friend and ally, Israel, during this critical period.

September 11th was a defining moment for our country in many ways. In particular, it forced Americans to confront a new reality—that terrorists could cause massive destruction on our soil and that we are all at risk. Faced with this new reality, we resolved to fight—to go to Afghanistan with the aim of destroying al-Qaeda and removing the government that sheltered it.

Israelis have been living with this reality for decades. Well-armed, well-financed and sophisticated terrorist organizations—backed by Syria and Iran—surround her. Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah have carried out thousands of attacks on Israeli soil. They have strapped bombs to teenagers and sent them on suicide missions targeting buses filled with innocent women and children. They have launched rockets at Israeli homes and stores. And, they have murdered and kidnapped Israeli soldiers. They will stop at nothing to accomplish their one common goal: the destruction of Israel.

Just as America does, Israel has a right to defend herself. Israel has a right to better se-

cure its borders, its security and its future. A secure Israel can not exist with Hezbollah controlling the territory directly north of the country. A secure Israel can not exist with thousands of katyusha rockets aimed at Haifa, Tiberius and other population centers in the North. A secure Israel can not exist with Hamas in control of the Palestinian territories.

Israel is at war with these terrorist entities and we must stand by her. We have a moral obligation to do so—to stand on the side of democracy and freedom versus terror and radicalism. We must also do so because left unchecked, these terrorist organizations will continue to destabilize the region and use it as a base to foster global instability and undermine our national security.

As the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, I will never forget what can result when the world fails to confront evil and terror. Passage of this resolution with strong bipartisan support will send an unequivocal message to the world—Hezbollah and Hamas are responsible for this violence, Israel has a right to defend itself, and the United States will stand with Israel as it confronts the evil and terror of Hezbollah and Hamas. I am confident that Israel will prevail in this fight. And, it is my hope that their strong actions against terror will ultimately lead to the peace and security that so many in the region desperately seek.

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#### SCHOMBURG CENTER HOSTS A SUMMIT FOR HIP-HOP ACTIVISM

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an article from the Volume 6 Edition of Africana Heritage magazine which highlights an event hosted by Dr. Cornel West celebrating the music genre of Hip-Hop. This panel based event, held on Monday, April 24th, 2006, was titled "A Hip-Hop Revolution?" and it featured expert panelists from the academia, entertainment, and publishing spheres who gathered to address the issue of whether Hip-Hop music had the capability to serve as a tool for revolution.

This event formed part of a four-program series, the "Leadership Forum Series: Higher Pursuits" taking place at the Schomburg Museum in Harlem, New York. This particular event that focused on the potential of Hip-Hop to serve as an instrument for social movement shed some light on contemporary perspectives on the evolution of Hip-Hop from a subgroup of African American music born to the New York borough of the Bronx, to one of the most popular genres of music around the world.

To some panelists, the answer to this question was positive. Writer Greg Tate held that Hip-Hop was just a manifestation of black people's way to transform their world. To him, Hip-Hop embodied a culture that produced leaders and prophets "to get us through the next plateau of our struggles." On the other hand, Dr. Imani Perry, associate professor at Rutgers Law School, submitted that "Hip-Hop doesn't exist as a viable social movement, but its music generates courage."

Whatever the case may be, facilitator Dr. West concluded and all the panelists agreed that Hip-Hop may perhaps offer the "sound-track" for a movement. However, one should

not look to it for a “blueprint” for a revolution when there is a great exemplar from the African-American and African Diasporan history.

[From the *Africana Heritage*, Apr. 24, 2006]

CORNEL WEST AND PANEL TALK HIP-HOP  
ACTIVISM

On Monday, April 24, 2006 the Schomburg Center held the third of four programs in its Leadership Forum Series: Higher Pursuits hosted and moderated by Dr. Cornel West. The focus of the discussion was “A Hip-Hop Revolution?” and featured guest panelists Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, Assistant Professor of Urban Education at Temple University; Dr. Imani Perry, Associate Professor at Rutgers Law School and author of *Prophets of the Hood: Politics and Poetics in Hip-Hop*; Carlito Rodriguez, Producer Consultant at BET News and former Editor-in-Chief of *The Source* magazine; Akiba Solomon, Senior Editor at *Vibe* and Co-Editor of *Naked: Black Women Bare All About Their Skin, Hair, Hips, Lips, and Other Body Parts*; and Greg Tate, author of *Everything But the Burden: What White People are Taking from Black Culture and long-time contributor to the Village Voice*.

Dr. West gave each of the panelists time to address the issue of whether Hip-Hop music has any revolutionary potential. According to Carlito Rodriguez, people often have a very romantic view about Hip-Hop and its influence, but he reminded the audience that he grew up in the Bronx during the music’s toddler years and everything about the culture wasn’t necessarily a good thing. “I don’t subscribe to the revisionist history that everybody and everything in Hip-Hop was positive. It began with acts like Run-DMC who went from looking like Parliament Funkadelic to [wearing] street gear. It soon became ‘I want that chain, that car’ and somewhere along the line, that became the norm. I think someone has to make music that caters to me—grown man rap.” Rodriguez emphasized that the lyrics today don’t really address the many issues he faces as a man in his late 30s.

Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, who is currently working on several book projects regarding Hip-Hop culture, made a very important distinction. “The question mark at the end of ‘A Hip-Hop Revolution?’ is so critical. Is Hip-Hop a revolutionary form, born out of resistance? Yes. Is it in content? I’m not sure.” Dr. Hill added, “When someone looks at a rapper like Lil’ Kim as a feminist role model, there is a [disconnect] with the message of Hip-Hop not engaging listeners in the day-to-day politics of the ‘hood.’”

Writer Greg Tate was more optimistic on what the future could bring as far as leadership. “I know it has never really been about Hip-Hop; it has always been [about] black people’s way to transform their world,” explains Tate. “The culture spits [out] the prophets, the leaders, to get us through the

next plateau of our struggles. The future of Hip-Hop is in a maternity ward somewhere. The answer to the crisis is a voice we haven’t heard before, but because we can imagine it, it probably exists.”

Dr. Imani Perry believes that a community-based approach seems more realistic than a creative one. “Hip-Hop doesn’t exist as a viable social movement, but its music generates courage. I am more interested in the community providing a social justice movement.” Editor and journalist Akiba Solomon put things rather bluntly: “my short answer to the question [about Hip-Hop being revolutionary] is ‘no.’ I’ve gone through a lot with Hip-Hop; I compare it to an abusive marriage. Every time it punches me in my face—it gives me gifts. Hip-Hop has been used as a euphemism for different things. It’s important that we define what we’re talking about and whom we’re talking about. My mid-80s view is that I think we are talking about predominately black and Latino youth who come from a certain class or struggle. But I think a major piece that is missing is that you cannot have an art form have any social change potential when it objectifies or minimizes half the population.”

Dr. West offered closing thoughts: “Latinos and blacks have so many resources, but they still don’t have total control of it. Hip-Hop is a global phenomenon and it has a different context in other countries like Bolivia and Colombia.” Unlike those countries, Hip-Hop here in the United States can often be more degrading than it is uplifting. But one thing that all the panelists, Dr. West included, agreed on is that society’s ills will not be changed by a song or a performer, but by small pockets of people doing their best to make a difference. And while Hip-Hop can sometimes provide the soundtrack to a movement, no one should look to it for a blueprint, when there is so much more from African-American and African Diasporan history that could provide that sort of guidance.

“YES” TO STEM CELL RESEARCH

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago, President Bush said that stem cell research raised “profound ethical questions.” There is no more profound or ethical question than the fate of 100 million American lives. Lives that can be saved, and lives that will be lost if we don’t move forward with this vital research.

This Congress sent the White House a bipartisan bill that ethically advances stem cell

research—a practice supported by over 70 percent of Americans. Stem cell research may one day provide a cure for Alzheimer’s, juvenile diabetes, Lou Gehrig’s disease, and spinal cord injuries.

The promise of this research is enormous, but regrettably, the President used his first veto to deny hope to millions of Americans whose lives could be improved by stem cell research. The answer to this profound ethical question is clear—yes to stem cell research would mean yes to saving lives.

32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 32nd anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus. Although this event took place 32 years ago, the situation is still one that demands attention and strong intervention today.

In 1974 Turkish military forces invaded the Greek island of Cyprus thereby disrupting the lives of its citizens. In two waves, Turkey was able to seize control of more than one-third of the Island by labeling the invasion as a “peace keeping operation.” As a result, Northern Cyprus was divided by a 113 mile barbed fence, which thereby prevented Cypriots from visiting areas and communities within their country.

Turkish presence on the island of Cyprus is in clear violation of repeated U.N. Security Council Resolutions. There are currently 35,000 Turkish troops illegally stationed in Cyprus as it continues to remain one of the most militarized areas in the world. As a result of the invasion over 250,000 Greek Cypriots were subject to ethnic cleansing in Northern Cyprus.

I would like to commend Congressman BILIRAKIS and Congresswoman MALONEY for bringing this issue to a forefront in Congress. I sincerely hope that we will see a better day when the people of Cyprus who have been disenfranchised will receive proper treatment and regard.

Again, I want to express my support for the true government of Cyprus, and I urge the United States government, the European Union and the United Nations to continue efforts in finding a solution to this unfortunate predicament.