

and voting upon a variety of rules changes. With so much at stake in the ethics rules for both individual Members and the House as an institution, such open, careful consideration of rules changes is absolutely necessary.

John Barry, the author of "The Ambition and Power," about ethics investigation of Representative Wright, described our Capital as the grandest building in this Nation. I believe our grandest building should also be a cathedral. A cathedral of integrity. Senator Douglas urged each member of Congress to consider the need for a deeper set of moral values. I ask each of my colleagues and the incoming Members of the House to consider the same.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
RETIREMENT OF MIKE LYNCH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valued staff member—Mike Lynch—who retired this month from the House Science Committee. As one of our Committee Counsels, Mike's legal and parliamentary expertise touched many offices and issue areas during his tenure.

He was a dedicated and long-serving House staffer. Prior to joining the Committee, Mike served in the U. S. House of Representatives from 1977–1994 in several counsel positions. Most notably, he was the Staff Director and Chief Counsel to the Subcommittee on Accounts of the Committee on House Administration from 1985–1993. In each position, Mike honed his legislative skills to become a respected and much sought after Committee Counsel.

As the Science Committee Democrats' principal liaison with the Parliamentarian, Rules Committee and Leadership on parliamentary and legislative process issues, Mike's role was an important one. His mastery of the rules and procedures of the House and his advice to Members and staff on legal and legislative issues before the Committee were vital. No one worked harder than Mike did to protect the prerogatives of Members, the Committee and the Congress.

He loved this institution and that love was evident in his work each and every day. Without fail, his careful analysis of legal issues and sound judgment in rendering opinions and advice resulted in astute answers for the Committee. He also took great pride in mentoring junior Committee counsels and in explaining the intricacies of Committee procedure.

Mike will be missed by many, but we all understand that his retirement now clears his calendar for his other great passions in life—travel and sports, particularly rooting for Notre Dame and the New York Yankees.

The Science Committee's Members and staff wish him well as he moves on to new endeavors and a relaxing retirement. Thank you, Mike, for your many years of dedicated and loyal service.

19TH ANNUAL WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on December 1, communities around the world came together to remember AIDS' more than 25 million victims and to renew our commitment to the 40 million people currently living with HIV/AIDS.

The 19th annual World AIDS Day was both an opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made combating this illness and a reminder of all of the obstacles we must still overcome. Since 1981, our battle to combat the myths associated with AIDS, the discrimination against people infected with HIV, and the virus and disease themselves have all improved. However, AIDS continues to devastate every region of the world as 6,000 people, half of which are between 15 and 24 years old, become infected with HIV every day.

This year alone, almost 3 million people have died from AIDS, while more than 4 million more were infected with HIV. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 12 million children have been orphaned as a result of AIDS. In California, 56,000 people are currently living with AIDS, making up 14% of our nation's total AIDS population. The AIDS pandemic has become so widespread in our country that it is thought to have killed more than ten times the number of American soldiers killed in Vietnam. We cannot afford to turn a blind eye as this disease takes its toll on the American public.

We must do more to address this global health crisis. Congress must increase its aid for treatment and educational programs to countries burdened by catastrophically high infection rates. The U.S. must support and implement programs that increase the public's knowledge about proper ways to protect against HIV transmission. More people must get tested and more people must receive treatment. Each year World AIDS Day is a wake-up call to the reality that we cannot be complacent with our accomplishments combating AIDS because so much more needs to be done.

That's why I have consistently supported measures to help poor nations get the medicines they need to fight AIDS, and have also joined efforts to fight for more funding for the Global Fund. We work to improve the care available to HIV/AIDS patients while ensuring that socioeconomic status does not limit a person's access to life-saving treatments. Additionally, it is essential that we continue to adequately fund the Ryan White CARE Act, which helps cities, states, and local community-based organizations provide services to HIV-positive individuals who otherwise couldn't afford medication, transportation, food or housing. The time and effort Congress spends on implementing programs that deal with HIV prevention, treatment, education, and support must be in line with the true priorities of the American people. In that respect, we still have a lot of work to do.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate World AIDS Day because I believe we must take this opportunity to honor our commitment to those who have struggled with and continue to fight against this destructive disease. As we work to improve HIV/AIDS prevention and

treatment, let us do so with the dedication and the drive that the American public demands of us. As we look forward to the new Congress, let us confront this disease head on, finally putting forward the resources we need to conquer AIDS.

H.R. 1176, NONPROFIT ATHLETIC
ORGANIZATION PROTECTION ACT
OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, today H.R. 1176, the Nonprofit Athletic Organization Protection Act of 2006, was brought to the floor on the suspension calendar. The suspension process should only be used for bills that are non-controversial. The Republican leadership has once again abused the suspension calendar in order to limit debate on divisive issues. Accordingly, I will not vote to suspend the rules.

DOWNINGTOWN WEST HIGH
SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER TEAM
2006 PIAA CHAMPIONS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Downingtown West High School Girls Soccer Team for their recent 2–0 victory over the Moon Township High School to win their second Girls Soccer PIAA Class AAA Championship in three years. In fact, this was the same score that Downingtown beat Moon Township in 2004 to become Pennsylvania State Champions.

The Downingtown West Whippets were led by five seniors: Colleen Flanagan, Katelyn Capps, Amber Werner, Christine Thurwanger and Sarah Halpin. This group of seniors boasts three District 1 titles and one Ches-Mont League title in four years.

The Whippets played the championship game against Moon Township in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and managed to shut out the opposition with their determined and aggressive play.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring all of the players, coaches, and supporting staff of the 2006 Downingtown West Girls Soccer Team. The skill, hard work, and commitment to excellence by the entire team led to this spectacular athletic achievement. Their display of character and sportsmanship brings honor to Downingtown West High School and the entire community.

The team is comprised of: Katie Bauer, Hallie Berger, Jessica Bourroughs, Rae Bradley, Laura Call, Katelyn Capps, Sarah Cardamone, Bridget Coleman, Christie Coper, Nicole Dankanich, Madison Davenport, Brynn Evans, Emily Fenimore, Colleen Flanagan, Laura Flanagan, Kelsea Fortino, Sarah Halpin, Brittney Hamil, Ashley Harrington, Devan Hibbs, Alyssa Johnson, Michelle LaBricciosa,

Amanda Marino, Stephaine Myers, Morgan Obendorfer, Kelly Peterson, Jenny Schleinitz, Katie Schneider, Courtney Scinski, Jamie Tabor, Christine Thurwanger, Tori Viscuso, Amber Werner, Christie Werner, Lauren Wilson, Courtney Wylie, Head Coach Rob Smith, Assistant Coaches Kelly Cross, Wes Davis, Meredith Markle, and Mary Schanne, and Athletic Trainers Joe Iezzi and Jessica Korn.

CONDEMNING IRAN'S COMMIT-
MENT TO HOLD INTERNATIONAL
HOLOCAUST DENIAL CON-
FERENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill H. Res. 1091, to condemn Iran's commitment to hold an international Holocaust-denial conference.

Recent reports that the Iranian government is sponsoring a Holocaust-denial conference are deeply disturbing and offensive.

Over the course of the last year, the tirades and actions of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the Iranian government have included calling the Holocaust a myth and holding an international contest for cartoons about the Nazi genocide. President Ahmadinejad has also called for Israel to be "wiped off the map," and his anti-Semitic rhetoric and this conference are clearly part of an ongoing campaign to attack the Jewish people and Israel by any possible means.

We live in a time in world history when we desperately need increased cooperation and understanding between nations and peoples in order to help reduce, not exacerbate, hostilities and tensions that can lead to deadly conflict.

There is no place for these state-sponsored anti-Israel and anti-Semitic provocations. And there is no justification, of course, for a conference on whether or not the Holocaust ever occurred. We all know that it did. To suggest otherwise is a repugnant and inflammatory action that is deeply disturbing to the Jewish people and to all people who had to endure the atrocities of World War II and all genocides that have occurred before and since.

I join my colleagues and the world community in rejecting and denouncing this effort to fan the flames of hatred.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY
BULLDOZED IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I express my deep concern about the destruction of thirteen homes in a Hare Krishna commune outside of Almaty, Kazakhstan. It is a saddening development considering that Kazakhstan is a participating state in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and has been vigorously pursuing a bid to chair the OSCE in 2009. I

am greatly troubled by the actions taken against this peaceful religious community, which is reminiscent of the "bad old days."

On November 21, 13 Hare Krishna homes were destroyed in the Sri Vrindavan Dham commune in the village of Seleksia, 25 miles from Almaty. Orders to bulldoze the homes reportedly came from the Karasai District Court, giving the residents only 24-hours notice to gather all their possessions. When the bulldozers arrived, they came under the escort and supervision of riot police. The belongings of some who refused to leave were thrown out in the snow, and their furniture and larger household items taken away to be destroyed. Families were left without a home and many others left without water and electricity in the cold of winter.

More damage could still be done—53 more homes (one of which houses a temple) could be demolished and their 116-acre communal farm could be seized. Making this outrage all the more disturbing, the Karasai District Court reportedly announced that it will charge the community for the demolition expenses! I appreciate the strong statement issued by the U.S. Embassy in Astana urging Karasai district authorities to "refrain from any further aggressive actions."

The conflict over the commune has steadily intensified since a regional court ruled in March to confiscate the farm without compensation. A special government commission was established in response to international criticism to negotiate with the Hare Krishnas, but this process was short-circuited when the bulldozers revved up. Authorities justify these heartless actions by citing legal problems with the purchase of the farm by Hare Krishnas in 1999, but most observers believe this is nothing more than a land grab dressed up as a legal proceeding.

Despite Kazakhstan's positive reputation for religious tolerance, I have been concerned by governmental actions against minority religious communities, such as the heavy fines (and sometimes arrests) during the past six months against Baptist ministers representing unregistered congregations. Also worrisome are increasingly harsh government policies toward Muslims who practice their faith independent of the government-controlled Muftiate. While President Nazarbayev's initiative to bring world religions together to promote tolerance is laudable, his government's harsh treatment of small and independent groups displays a sad absence of tolerance.

In short, I do not believe these actions befit a country that would be a leader of nations. I urge President Nazarbayev and the Government of Kazakhstan to end these practices, withdraw the court cases to seize the Hare Krishnas' land, and ensure that all individuals are compensated for their lost property.

TRIBUTE TO LOVELLA CRADDOCK

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lovella Craddock of McLeansboro, Illinois for her many years of service to the citizens of Hamilton County, Illinois. Lovella began working part-time in the Hamilton Coun-

ty Clerk's Office in 1960, full-time in 1961 and was elected as Hamilton County Clerk in 1974. She will retire December 1, 2006 after 46 years of service.

For the past 46 years, Lovella has greeted not only me, but also the citizens of Hamilton County, with a smile as they entered her office to conduct business. Her friendly and courteous service will be missed. It is with gratitude that I thank her for her service and congratulate her on retirement. I wish Lovella all the best in the years to come.

COMMENDING THE IRAQ STUDY
GROUP

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the members of the Iraq Study Group and to thank them for their dedication and service to our country.

I have been to Iraq three times, the first two times without military escort. I traveled all over the country. Upon my return I called for the creation of a high level, bipartisan panel to take an honest assessment of the situation in Iraq. To look forward, not back, and to report its findings to the American people.

On March 15, this bipartisan Iraq Study Group was established with co-chairmen former Secretary of State James Baker and former Congressman Lee Hamilton, who co-chaired the 9/11 Commission, leading the 10-member panel—five Democrats and five Republicans. Because of the importance of their task in finding consensus on assessing the way forward in Iraq, at that time, I said it was important to have as members of the group people who loved their country more than their political party.

The group undertook a serious, bipartisan, forward-looking assessment of the current and prospective situation on the ground in Iraq and its impact on the surrounding region, and its consequences on U.S. interests. It focused on political, military, security and reconstruction in Iraq.

In addition to co-chairs, the study group members were former U.S. Attorney General Ed Meese, former Clinton Administration adviser Vernon Jordan, former Clinton Administration chief of staff Leon Panetta, former Defense Secretary William Perry, former Virginia Senator Chuck Robb, former Wyoming Senator Alan Simpson, former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. The group traveled to Iraq, and met with hundreds of experts.

Yesterday the Iraq Study Group released its much anticipated report on how we as a country can come together and move forward on Iraq. The report is a tough assessment of the current situation in Iraq and a blueprint for moving forward. Not everyone will agree with every recommendation contained in the report, but it should be given full consideration by the administration, the Congress, and equally important, the American people. Rarely do we see a report that has the full consensus of such distinguished Americans, men and women of honesty and integrity. I thank them for their service and a job well done.