

small businesses in their role as the engines of innovation, growth, and job creation.

Madam Speaker, in difficult economic times, we must do all we can to encourage new investment and job creation by creating certainty and predictability for America's small business owners. The Small Business Expensing Expansion and Permanency Act of 2007 will help accomplish this worthy goal. I applaud the Administration for its consistent leadership on this issue, and I look forward to working with others in Congress to enact this much-needed legislation.

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### CÉSAR CHÁVEZ'S BIRTHDAY

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#### HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, this Saturday, millions of Americans will honor a great American hero—César Chávez—on what would have been his 80th birthday.

César Chávez was a civil rights and human rights leader who learned about the importance of justice early in his life. He would often say: "The love for justice that is in us is not only the best part of our being but it is also the most true to our nature."

After graduating from the eighth grade, a young César Chávez went to work in the fields as a migrant farm worker to support his family. In 1962, Chávez and Dolores Huerta founded the National Farm Workers Association, later to become the United Farm Workers. Chávez had the foresight to train his union workers and then to send many of them into the cities where they were to use the boycott and picket as their weapon.

Chávez was able to successfully organize farm workers because of his tireless leadership and nonviolent tactics that helped pass laws which would permit farm workers to organize into unions and allow collective bargaining agreements. He also helped make people aware of the struggles of farm workers for fair wages and safer working conditions. His movement was the beginning of La Causa ("The Cause"), a cause that was supported by organized labor, religious groups, minorities, and students.

César Chávez, the founder and president of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, died peacefully in his sleep on April 23, 1993. On August 8, 1994, César Chávez was posthumously awarded the Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian honor, by President Clinton. In the words of President Clinton: "He was for his own people a Moses figure . . . who, with faith and discipline, soft spoken humility and amazing inner strength, led a very courageous life."

César Chávez left our world better than he found it, and his legacy inspires not just the 43 million Latinos in this country, but every person on this earth who believes in non-violence as a means to achieve social change. He truly was, in the words of Senator Robert Kennedy, "one of the heroic figures of our time."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CORNEL  
"CONNIE" TERECK

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#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Cornel "Connie" Tereck, whose fierce dedication to family, friends and country serves as a model for all who have been blessed by his presence.

As a member of the Greatest Generation, Connie served in the United States Navy during World War II, where he protected our country with great pride and courage. After retiring from the service, Connie carried this commitment to the security of our country into his professional life, as he went to work for the Department of Defense. He proudly worked at the Defense Contract Administration Service Region until his retirement in 1987.

Connie was known as a man of honesty, intelligence and wit, not only to friends and family but to the whole community. He took interest in and care of the people surrounding him, and his deep devotion to, and commitment for his family and friends stands as a shining example to us all. He was a beloved husband of 57 years to his wife, Laura, and his legacy will continue through three children and five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Cornel "Connie" Tereck as a true example of the spirit upon which this great Nation is built. We have lost a loving father, a faithful husband, a courageous serviceman and a wonderful neighbor, but his caring personality and loving devotion continue to inspire everyone that has crossed paths with him.

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#### THE 2006 COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES AND THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

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#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this morning the Committee on Foreign Affairs held a hearing on the recently-released 2006 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices prepared by the Department of State. Over the past three decades, we have seen a steady increase in the quality, candor, and scope of the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. In fighting the plague of human rights abuse, sunlight is often the best disinfectant. On the whole, the Country Reports shine brightly into some very dark corners. We owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women of the Department of State who work so hard to compile them.

Although we do not claim to be perfect and are ourselves subject to the universal ideals we espouse, the United States continues to be the world's most prominent champion of fundamental human rights.

This Congress, I have re-introduced the Global Online Freedom Act of 2007 which seeks to promote and defend human rights re-

lated to this increasingly influential communication medium. I am pleased to note that the State Department has already implemented one of the action items of this proposed legislation by including important additional information in the Country Reports, such as the domestic legal authority for internet restrictions and penalties imposed for the exercise of free speech via the Internet. This information is critical to efforts to address Internet repression in countries like Vietnam, China, Tunisia, and Belarus, and to convince governments that free speech restrictions are contrary to their national interests.

It is worth noting that most of the major human rights efforts undertaken by the United States Government in recent decades—including the Country Reports themselves—have been the result of Congressional mandates: The Jackson-Vanik Amendment; The International Religious Freedom Act; the Torture Victims Relief Act; the Lautenberg Amendment; the Trafficking Victims Protection Act; the North Korean Human Rights Act. These were Congressional initiatives undertaken in the face of skepticism—and sometimes outright opposition—by the Executive branch.

For example, I recall when then-Assistant Secretary Shattuck appeared before my subcommittee 10 years ago to oppose the International Religious Freedom Act. He argued that he was "particularly concerned" that the bill would "harm the very people it seeks to help" because it would "legislate a hierarchy of human rights into our laws" that could "severely damage our efforts to ensure that all aspects of basic civil and political rights . . . are protected." Not surprisingly, this doomsday prophecy did not come to pass.

To the contrary, once such issues have been forced by legislation, the Executive branch eventually internalizes, and sometimes embraces, those human rights priorities. For example, religious freedom and trafficking are now mainstream policy priorities that receive far more international attention and action than they did before the laws were on the books. Other mandates are embraced more slowly, such as the refugee title of the North Korean Human Rights Act, which has not yet been adequately implemented.

There are many countries where the seriousness of human rights violations deserves condemnation, including Zimbabwe with its recent horrific crackdown on the political opposition, North Korea, Eritrea, Belarus, Burma, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, Ethiopia and Iran. The Report provides disturbing details about how these countries in particular—though not exclusively—continue to thwart universal principles of respect for fundamental human rights. However, I will limit myself to focusing the spotlight on three human rights violators in particular—China, Sudan, and Vietnam.

This year's report repeats the assessment of prior years that the Chinese Government's human rights record "remained poor," but even when many of us thought the situation could not get much worse, it adds that the Chinese record "in certain areas deteriorated." One of those areas often ignored or downplayed by the international community is the appalling lengths to which the government will go to enforce its one-child per couple limit.

The Chinese government has a long record of oppressing its people, especially women, through its population control program. Beijing does not deny levying huge fines against people who have children the State deems illegal.