

godchildren Ralph Holt, Barbara Rosellini, and David Holt. She left a legacy of benevolence and exemplified the true meaning of service. Throughout her life, Barbara advocated for those that others overlooked. We are forever grateful for her commitment to enhance public resources, and her contributions are proof that one person can make a positive impact on a community.

HUMAN RIGHTS AT STAKE IN EL SALVADOR

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a disturbing human rights violation currently taking place in El Salvador under the guise of stopping terrorism, a situation brought to my attention by a dedicated group of Philadelphians that has just returned from that nation.

Philadelphia maintains a U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities connection to the rural village of Las Anonas, where most residents live in poverty and must still deal with the after-effects of the devastating civil war and a 1992 ceasefire that ended the bloodshed but brought little real change. This Sister Cities program is one of 20 that link U.S. communities and groups with rural El Salvador under the sponsorship of CRIPDES, a Salvadoran group for rural community development, and the Archbishop Romero Interfaith Center, which is based in Philadelphia and its suburbs.

About 27 men, women and teenagers from the Interfaith Community Building Group in Northwest Philadelphia, including Catholics, Jews, Protestants and Muslims, were hard at work laying the foundation of a new community center in the village of El Milagro last week. They were shocked to learn that the president, vice president and two other members of CRIPDES, their sponsor, were seized on July 2 by police on the highway on their way to join a peaceful demonstration in the town of Suchitoto.

The charges were originally "creating public disorder," even though they had not even arrived at their destination. When supporters rallied outside the police station and demanded the release of the CRIPDES leaders, 10 more people were arrested and the ARENA government quickly escalated the charges. Now the prisoners have been charged with "acts of terrorism" under a new anti-terrorism law that went into effect last November. The law even created a special court to try such suspects. CRIPDES leaders, including President Lorena Martinez, who has visited Philadelphia, and a Salvadoran journalist covering the events, face up to 60 years in prison under this so-called "anti-terrorism" law in what is a clear attempt to stifle and silence dissent.

The ARENA government, ruling with a bare majority and looking toward the next election, is counting on almost a half-billion dollars in U.S. aid that is dependent upon adherence to human rights principles. El Salvador is also the only nation in Latin America to maintain troops in Iraq as part of the "Coalition of the Willing." Meanwhile ARENA presides over a country so desperately poor that an estimated two million Salvadorans have emigrated to the United States, most of them undocumented.

The Philadelphia group was warned that if members raised their voices in protest to the arrests at Suchitoto, they could be immediately deported and barred from future trips. All this was occurring in the days immediately before and after the celebration, by fellow Philadelphians back home in the Cradle of Liberty and Birthplace of Independence, of the Fourth of July.

The arrests led to a massive protest demonstration in San Salvador, the capital, on July 7. I am pleased to learn that Amnesty International has taken up this case, and that friends of CRIPDES, the United States-El Salvador Sister Cities Program and the Romero Interfaith Center are all raising the alarm. The Philadelphians, who have made six trips to El Salvador in the past decade, are not alone. Delegations of community builders, educators and citizen witnesses from Sister Cities across the U.S. continue to travel to El Salvador, to join the cause of rural development and empowerment with their hands and hearts.

The ARENA government needs to know that the citizens of the United States and the world are watching what happens to CRIPDES and other peaceful, effective community development groups in their midst. Those in El Salvador's government who look to the United States for model behavior need to look beyond the shameless quick-fix of crying "terrorism" under cynically created laws. Instead they must heed the principles forged in Philadelphia two centuries ago.

CELEBRATING FRANKLIN COUNTY, TENNESSEE'S BICENTENNIAL

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, it was over 200 years ago that Major William Russell and Jesse Bean reportedly traveled in search of a ripe landscape to settle the Franklin County we know today. The county was named for one of our Founding Fathers, Ben Franklin, and finally took its place amongst Tennessee's other counties when recognized officially by the Tennessee Assembly in 1807. Since then, statesmen and sportsmen, farmers and craftsmen, war heroes and great scholars alike have represented the culture of Franklin County to the State and the country. I am proud today to recognize the successes and history of Franklin County, and to wish upon its people a future as blessed as the inception of the county they call home.

Named for a soldier of the American Revolution and the first Speaker of the Tennessee Assembly, the town of Winchester was designated as the Franklin County seat in 1809. Winchester today offers visitors a host of curiosities, festivals and other Tennessee fun. From the Dogwood Festival to the yearly Jamboree, Winchester gives plenty of reason to visit and more than enough for Franklin County residents to stay and make their home.

High atop the Cumberland Plateau and not far from Winchester, Franklin County offers another great treasure in the town of Sewanee, and the University of the South. Since it's founding in 1860, Sewanee has produced writers and theologians, and 25 Rhodes scholars to make Tennessee and Franklin

County proud. The school has undergone a series of name changes, too, finally settling on "Sewanee: The University of the South." Plenty of us in Tennessee and Franklin County just call it "The Mountain," but whatever the name, it's a fine piece of the Tennessee tradition.

Construction of the University came to a halt when the cornerstone was destroyed by Union soldiers in the Civil War. In the midst of its 200 year history, like so many Tennessee counties, Franklin County endured the hardships of that difficult time in our Nation's history, and today still commemorates those lost to the Civil War so many years ago.

From its first settlers to the friends and neighbors who live their today, Franklin County has honored its namesake and our forefather, Ben Franklin, with its history and the traditions they will maintain for years to come. As Franklin himself advised, "wish not so much to live long as to live well." This month, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the continuing story of Franklin County, a 200 year history lived long and well in Tennessee.

EXPLAINING VOTE FOR THE EMANUEL AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2829

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to clarify for the record my vote on June 28th in support of the Emanuel Amendment to H.R. 2829, the "Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act".

During consideration of H.R. 2829, Rep. EMANUEL offered an amendment that would strip funding from the Office of the Vice President.

I voted in support of this amendment for two reasons. First, I believed that it was important to send a strong rebuke to Vice President CHENEY for inappropriately claiming that his office was not in fact a part of the Executive Branch, a claim made as part of a flimsy effort to reject compliance with an executive order relevant to safeguarding classified national security information. Additionally, it was apparent that the amendment did not have the requisite votes needed for successful passage and consequently my vote would not result in the actual denial of funding for operations within the Executive Branch, but my vote would help strengthen the rebuke.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, July 11, 2007, I was unable to vote on Roll No. 615. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."