

program was terminated in 1986 and it is time that VA once again became a leader in promoting veteran-owned businesses.

It is not right that some set-aside programs get a competitive advantage over veteran-owned businesses, so my bill also includes provisions to have veteran-owned small business evaluated and awarded contracts under the same rules as 8(a) businesses.

If this bill is enacted it will be a win-win for all Americans, as it will provide a valuable boost to our veterans who want to start a business, while stimulating the economy at the same time. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor and support this measure.

PORT JEFFERSON VOLUNTEER
AMBULANCE CORPS' 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the Port Jefferson Volunteer Ambulance Corps in celebrating 50 years of dedicated service to our community. An historical shipbuilding town renamed in honor of our third President, Port Jefferson is now a thriving village of nearly 8,000 residents, growing in the summer with the arrival of tourists from Connecticut on the Cross-Sound ferry.

In the fifty years of its existence, the Port Jefferson Volunteer Ambulance Corps has expanded to meet the growing needs of the wider community, including the villages of Belle Terre and Mt. Sinai. Starting with a single ambulance, the Corps now operates three ambulances and a first-responder car, with 120 volunteers ready to answer the call 24 hours a day.

Madam Speaker, ambulance volunteers embody the best aspects of the American spirit and play a vital role in keeping our communities safe and healthy. I am proud to represent the membership of the Port Jefferson Volunteer Ambulance Corps and to join them in marking fifty years of service to their neighbors. I wish them the best as they continue their important, frequently life-saving mission.

THE TURNABOUT RANCH IN
GARFIELD COUNTY, UTAH

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would correct a drafting error that involves a 25-acre parcel of Bureau of Land Management, BLM, land, and land that is part of the Turn-About Ranch, which rehabilitates troubled youth.

An erroneous survey in January 1999 was the cause of this trespass conflict when Congress approved a major land exchange, P.L. 105-335, between the State of Utah and the border of the Grand Staircase Escalante, GSE, Monument. This legislation makes a minor boundary change to resolve the trespass conflict. It would grant the owners of the ranch to purchase the erroneously surveyed

land at a fair market value, enabling this important and effective program for troublesome youth to continue unimpeded.

The Turn-About Ranch has graduated approximately 500 troubled and at risk teenagers through an intense program of training and rehabilitation. The ranch also employs about 35 Garfield County residents. The Turnabout Ranch has strong support from the local community, and the Garfield County Commission, as well as approval from the parents of the troubled youth.

The Government-owned land administered by the BLM surrounds the congressional action by passing this legislation in Congress. The land was historically used for agriculture and grazing purposes. The Townsend family purchased the ranch and then leased the land to the Turn-About Ranch, Inc., for the sole purpose of rehabilitating the troubled youth, and restoring the values and self-esteem to these wayward teens.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is a fair resolution to a technical problem. I hope Congress can implement this legislation and resolve this problem to continue helping our troubled adolescent teens.

SITUATION IN GAZA

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I strongly support Israel's right to defend itself against the rocket attacks by Hamas—attacks which have killed and injured many Israeli citizens. Israel's actions are understandable. We must stand by our ally and be involved in any negotiations. I'm heartened to learn of a possible cease fire proposal. However, any cease fire must ensure an end to the terrorist attacks by Hamas.

ADDRESSING THE SITUATION IN
GAZA

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to express my concern about events in Israel and Gaza, and my support for Israel's right to defend itself against rocket attacks launched from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip. The region must have a meaningful resolution that will permanently end these rocket attacks and open a pathway to alleviate civilian suffering and develop a secure and prosperous Palestinian society. Hamas' rocket attacks targeting civilians triggered the current crisis. Any country is compelled to defend its civilians against attack.

The situation in the region has reached a new level of violence, and each civilian death is tragic. The images of suffering innocents, especially children, in both the Gaza Strip and Israel are a stark reminder that it is long past time for this region to know peace. The United States must be deeply involved in the peace process while vigorously working for short and long term solutions that will provide security to

Israel and the means for a better future to Palestinians.

HONORING MADELINE DELOACH
FRANKLIN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Madeline DeLoach Franklin. A loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, and compassionate soul, Madeline will be dearly missed by all who knew her. Madeline passed away on December 21, 2008, at the age of 94, less than 1 month short of her 95th birthday.

Born on January 17, 1914, Madeline had a long and fascinating life. She not only witnessed the most transformative periods in our Nation's history, she actively participated in them. Madeline Franklin was a vanguard of the pre-civil rights era and an inspiring political mother to many activists from the civil rights movement up until the present.

Madeline was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her parents, William and Dora C. DeLoach, moved the family from New Orleans to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during World War I. In Philadelphia, Mr. and Mrs. DeLoach founded St. Philip's Lutheran Church and raised their children in the spirit of community service. Growing up during the first decades of the 20th century, Madeline shared a simple and happy childhood with her nine older siblings. It was during this time that Madeline developed her strong social values, faith in God, and belief in the necessity of justice and human dignity for all people. She would carry these values with her and teach them to those fortunate enough to know her for over 70 years.

After graduating from the prestigious Philadelphia Girls High School, Madeline returned to New Orleans to attend Dillard University, where she pledged as a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She graduated in 1939, and by that time had already fulfilled one of her dreams by becoming an accomplished pianist. Madeline was living in Pass Christian, Mississippi, and it was during this period that she decided to formally pursue a career in education and become politically active in the most important efforts of her time—actions that would serve as the precursors to the civil rights movement in America. Even before Rosa Parks' famous refusal to give up her bus seat to make room for White passengers in 1955, Madeline DeLoach was refusing to sit on wheel covers or wait for the next bus to come in the 1930s in Jackson, Mississippi.

During that same period she met her future husband, Dr. Charles L. Franklin, who was living in New York after graduating from Columbia University in 1936 at the age of 25. At that time, Dr. Franklin was one of the youngest PhDs in the country, and the only African-American with a doctorate degree in his field. A specialist in social legislation, labor economics, and statistics, Dr. Franklin was an energetic intellectual at the forefront in the struggle for employment integration in the Federal government. On his own merit he received the highest average of all of the competitors in the

New York State Civil Service Examination, bringing mass attention to the issue of inequality. Madeline and Charles were wed on May 24, 1943.

Although not related by blood, Madeline was part of my extended family who I loved dearly. She was a wise woman who inspired me and supported me in all of my efforts. For that, I am deeply grateful.

Madeline was an incredibly intelligent, sophisticated, and talented individual. She was an African-American woman born in the American south at the turn of the century, a teenager and young woman of the Great Depression, an adult of the pre-civil rights era, and a mentor of the civil rights movement. Undoubtedly, Madeline faced every conceivable challenge of her generation, gender, and as a person of color. However, not only did Madeline survive these difficult and tumultuous times, she triumphed and brought countless others up behind her.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes Madeline DeLoach Franklin, honoring her incredible life and inspiring legacy. We thank her family for sharing this amazing spirit with us, especially her three children, Charles L. Franklin, Jr., Dolores Mercedes Franklin, and Estelle Diane Franklin, her grandchildren, Sharath Smith and Michelle Franklin, Lynnette Franklin and Charles Franklin, her great-grandchildren Brian and David Smith, her daughter-in-law Alexis M. Herman, her grandsons-in-law Jeffrey Smith and Christian Duffus, and a host of additional family members and friends. May her soul rest in peace.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 295, MORE
JOBS FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the More Jobs for Veterans Act of 2009. Madam Speaker, having the right skills is critical to finding good-paying employment in today's job market. The Assistant Secretary of Labor administers the Veterans Workforce Investment Program, VWIP, a grant program to State and local governments, private, not-for-profit organizations including community based and faith based organizations to fund a wide range of employment and training programs for veterans. Eligible veterans are those with service-connected disabilities, significant barriers to employment, veterans who served on active duty during a war or a recognized campaign or expedition, and recently separated veterans.

It makes no sense to spend millions on State employment placement systems if veterans lack relevant job skills. Unfortunately, funding for training programs such as VWIP, which directly targets veterans, is severely underfunded. This legislation would change that by authorizing \$20 million annually, almost triple today's funding level.

Madam Speaker, the current \$7 million appropriation is a small drop in the bucket towards meeting the skills-improvement needs of today's 651,000 unemployed veterans. This bill would significantly improve education and training opportunities for those who have worn the uniforms of our armed forces.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support the measure.

HAMAS IS TO BLAME FOR MOST
RECENT CONFLICT IN GAZA

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, today we are saddened by the loss of innocent lives in Gaza; people being killed and wounded, bodies of children torn apart, all of this is a horror story. If we are serious about ending this tragedy we must be brutally honest, and not give in to ignoring hard truths. In this case the hard truth is that the real blame for this carnage in Gaza is traced to actions taken by Hamas, radical Islamists, and those who supply them with rockets and other weapons.

There was a tremendous opportunity for peace when Israel withdrew its troops from Gaza in 2005. Instead of moving forward and building a Palestinian homeland, irreconcilables have launched nearly 7,000 rockets and mortar rounds into Israel since Israeli troops left.

The hate-filled radicals who launched missiles into Israel—Hamas triggermen, not Israeli pilots—are the ones who are really responsible for the horrible mayhem we are witnessing in Gaza. The radical Islamists ruthlessly and without any remorse did what they knew would bring retaliation and result in the slaughter of their own people. The hatred of Israel in the hearts of these Hamas radicals clearly outweighs their commitment to the safety and well being of their own people. That's a hard fact. And that after shooting rockets into Israel, they hide among and behind non-combatants—women, and children—makes their actions even more despicable.

An honest assessment leads to the conclusion that Hamas doesn't want peace with Israel and has no desire for a two state solution. Hamas wants a war that will destroy Israel. This commitment is the real cause of the current bloodshed in Gaza. Once Israel left Gaza, Hamas should have used its resources, their money, our money, on health care, education, roads and economic development in Gaza. Instead they have chosen death and destruction.

Recently China's representative to the U.N. Security Council voiced concern about, "large-scale Israeli air attacks against Gaza." Now, that takeschutzpah! Many of the rockets fired into Israel "were manufactured in China. These Chinese rockets were smuggled into Gaza after the Sinai border wall was blown up by Hamas in January." Making matters worse the State Department and the White House hasn't mentioned a word about the China connection to the turmoil in Gaza, just as they're mum about Chinese complicity in crimes elsewhere.

Yes, the bloodshed is horrible, and yes, Israel is doing what any other sovereign nation would do. It is protecting its people by retaliation when attacked. Those who shoot rockets into Israel know there will be retaliation, thus they are the responsible party for the bloodshed we are now witnessing. It's the hard truth we can't ignore if we are to someday end this terrible heart-wrenching violence.

THE ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I have been closely following the troubling events and escalating violence in the Middle East. We in the United States must continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in support of our friend and ally Israel as it defends itself against Hamas' unrelenting rocket attacks from Gaza.

I'm encouraged by the recent cease-fire negotiations underway in the region. The talks must seek to end the intolerable rain of rockets on southern Israel and stop the violence and killing of Israelis and Palestinians. Until a cease-fire agreement is reached, I hope that every effort and scrupulous care continues to be taken to avoid the death of innocent civilians.

I've long believed that the only route to a sustainable peace in the Middle East is through diplomatic means, not military might. The United States must once again take a leadership role and actively engage in the multilateral effort to build a permanent path to peace between the Israeli and the Palestinian people.

HONORING ARTHUR HILL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague from California Mr. COSTA to commend and congratulate Captain Arthur Hill (U.S. Army retired) upon being honored with the Citizen Soldier Award. Mr. Hill was honored on November 7, 2008 at the Fresno City College Veterans Day 2008 Memorial and Dedication Ceremony.

Mr. Hill was born on July 16, 1916. Shortly after the bombing at Pearl Harbor he began volunteering for the Army Engineers, he was 27 years old. He has a background in construction, so in 1942 he was sent to Camp Claiborne, LA to a Special Service Engineer Regiment. On December 23, 1942, Mr. Hill graduated from O.C.S. and the Heavy Equipment School at Fort Belvoir, VA as a Second Lieutenant. At Camp Swift, TX, he was assigned to the 146 Engineer (C) Battalion as the Headquarters Company Commander with the additional duty of Battalion Motor Officer. He held this command, as a Captain, with various additional duties until the end of the war.

During the war his battalion moved to England's North Coastal area of Saunton Sands. They helped build and operate an assault training center of enemy fortifications duplicated during their time overseas. These fortifications were from secret aerial reconnaissance photos of the landing beaches and Siegfried line defenses. This led to the spearheading of the Omaha Beach "D Day" landing at the "H" hour plus 3 minutes across the English Channel on June 6, 1944. The five European campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe followed.