

In addition, Tracye Rawls-Martin is an entrepreneur and a top executive for one of the world's largest direct selling telecommunications providers. On a part time basis she has reached the first earned executive position in the company. She is well on her way to helping hundreds and thousands of individuals achieve financial freedom and continue to live our their life long dreams whether it be to have more time with their families or to explore the beaches of the world.

Tracye will continue to pursue her passions and would like to contribute her success to the Lord, her family and her students. She will not rest until she has fulfilled her life's long mission—to take care of children of all ages, to feed them, clothe them, teach them and love them; in the end to develop a place they can call home and a place they can always return to a "University for Children."

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DETECTIVE LESTER J. NERI

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant in Chester County, Pennsylvania, who has retired after 33 years of loyal service in law enforcement.

Detective Lester J. Neri started his career in 1975 with the Springfield Township Police Department and faithfully served the Tredyffrin Township Police Department for the last 27 years.

Detective Neri earned the respect of fellow officers and supervisors with his outstanding leadership and analytical skills over the course of his distinguished career.

He has been a tremendous asset to the department due to his wide range of skills, including crisis negotiations, homicide investigations, undercover investigative techniques and fingerprint processing.

Despite retiring in December, Detective Neri continues to serve the 42,000 men and women who pin on a badge each day in his position as State President of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Order of Police.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the outstanding service and dedication of Detective Lester J. Neri, and all those who take an oath to serve and protect their communities.

TRIBUTE TO THE GERMANTOWN BULLDOGS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a championship team from Germantown, Illinois.

The Germantown Bulldogs beat Mt. Vernon-St. Mary 35–32 to clinch the 2009 Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association Class S state championship. The Bulldogs brought home the trophy after finishing the season with a stellar 28–1 record.

To win the title, the Bulldogs built an early lead, then had to hold off an intense second-half rally, but they showed poise under pressure, and held on to get the win.

I want to congratulate Coach Gerard Alpers and his assistant coach, Jeff Lampe, on their fine work with this group of student athletes. I also want to extend my congratulations to the members of the 2008–2009 Germantown Bulldogs state championship boys basketball team: Seth Haake, Nick Hitpas, Jalen Albers, Drew Foppe, Grant Haake, Kevin Haar, Kyle Kohnen, Brandon Becker, Mitchell Langenhorst, Christian Kohnen, Kyler Scheer, Jordan Lampe and Travis Wuebbels.

This outstanding group of young men represented themselves, their school, families and community in a first-rate fashion. It is my privilege to congratulate them on a job well done.

RECOGNIZING PLIGHT OF TIBETAN PEOPLE ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DALAI LAMA'S EXILE

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, one year ago, a wave of protests began in Lhasa and swept across the Tibetan Plateau. In the time since, the Chinese government has pursued policies that demonstrate a failure to live up to its commitments to its ethnic minority citizens—commitments that are well-documented and unmistakable. Chinese law includes protections for the distinctive culture, language and identity of ethnic minority citizens. China's Regional Ethnic Autonomy Law, for example, guarantees ethnic minorities the "right to administer their internal affairs." Specifically, the term "regional ethnic autonomy," as the law itself defines it, "reflects the state's full respect for ethnic minorities' right to administer their internal affairs." Over the past year, the actions of the Chinese government have reflected neither "the state's full respect" of ethnic minority rights, nor of human rights standards recognized in both Chinese and international law.

On January 19, 2009, the People's Congress of the Tibet Autonomous Region established a new holiday called "Serfs' Emancipation Day." As the Congressional-Executive Commission on China has reported, this new holiday commemorates the March 28, 1959, Chinese government decree that dissolved the Dalai Lama's Lhasa-based Tibetan government. The Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region People's Congress said the new holiday would "strengthen Tibetans' patriotism." He also said that officials had met to "ensure that all people mark the occasion with festivities." Chinese officials have required Tibetans to celebrate the end of the Dalai Lama's government, and, by implication, his departure from Tibet fifty years ago. This is how the Chinese government demonstrates its commitment to "the state's full respect for ethnic minorities' right to administer their internal affairs."

For the last several weeks, international media organizations have reported that Chinese authorities have been closing Tibetan

areas to foreign reporters and travelers. Last month, China's Central Propaganda Bureau and State Ethnic Affairs Commission publicized a document titled "An Outline Concerning Propaganda Education on the Party and State's Ethnic Policy." As the Congressional-Executive Commission on China has reported, this document calls for resisting "international hostile forces raising the banner of such things as 'ethnicity,' 'religion,' and 'human rights' to carry out westernization and separatist activities toward our country." Let us be absolutely clear: Tibetan grievances exist not as a result of foreign influence. Tibetan grievances exist for one reason and one reason only: in spite of what the Chinese government has written in its laws, in practice it has created an ethnic autonomy system that denies fundamental rights to ethnic minorities. This could not be clearer than it has become over the last year.

The time for change is now. I repeat today what I stated in this chamber nearly one year ago: protest activity that results in the destruction of property or death of anyone, whether Tibetan or non-Tibetan, is unacceptable in any context. But the harshness with which the Chinese government has handled affairs over the last year across the Tibetan plateau and in other ethnic minority regions of China—harshness that Chinese officials have sought to justify as being necessary to preserve stability—has revealed instead a level of hostility toward China's ethnic minority citizens not seen in decades, and has heightened fears for Tibetans, Uyghurs, and other ethnic minority peoples in China.

The Congressional-Executive Commission on China has tracked policies that undercut protections for ethnic minority languages that are stipulated in Chinese law. Measures to promote Mandarin-focused "bilingual" education in schools in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, for example, have resulted in language requirements that disadvantage ethnic minority teachers. These and other job hiring and labor practices are part of a broader set of policies that restrict ethnic minority rights, and that illustrate the Chinese government's failure to abide by commitments as set forth in China's own Constitution and laws. Article 4 of the Chinese Constitution and Article 9 of China's Regional Ethnic Autonomy Law, for example, both forbid discrimination based on ethnicity. Article 12 of China's Labor Law and Article 3 of China's new Employment Promotion Law state that job applicants shall not face discrimination in job hiring based on factors including ethnicity, and Article 28 of China's new Employment Contract Law states that all ethnicities enjoy equal labor rights.

The Chinese government seems to protect some aspects of ethnic minority rights in communities that are not perceived to challenge state policies. But shortcomings in both the substance and the implementation of Chinese policies toward ethnic minorities prevent ethnic minority citizens from fully enjoying the rights that the Chinese government itself plainly and openly has said are guaranteed under China's own laws, and under international legal standards. A wide range of public policy areas today present challenges that are pressing and real, but concerns in other policy areas do not eclipse the Chinese government's abuses of law and its ongoing violations of the fundamental rights of Tibetans, Uyghurs and other ethnic minority citizens of China, and of Han Chinese citizens as well.