

SUPPORTING AMERICAN LEGION  
DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 15, 2009*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 679, Supporting the goals and Ideals of American Legion Day.

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, war-time veteran's organization, devoted to mutual helpfulness.

The American Legion has been a guardian of our national ensign, and the first "Flag Code" was drafted during a conference called by The American Legion in Washington, D.C. The code eventually was adopted by Congress in 1942. And today, the Legion is at the forefront of efforts to gain a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag from physical desecration.

The American Legion's voice has been instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, then later advocated for it to become a cabinet level department, creating a GI bill, and fighting for compensation for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange and for veterans diagnosed with Gulf War Syndrome.

The American Legion became the largest single contributor to the "Vietnam Wall" in Washington, DC—its members collectively donated \$1 Million dollars.

And today, the American Legion is a strong advocate for today's servicemen and women returning from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan—assisting combat wounded veterans receive compensation for their injuries and helping to create a 21st Century GI Bill.

The reason that we are free today is because brave men and women have answered our Nation's call in our time of need. They have sweated, bled and sacrificed for our freedom.

And as it is written on the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C, freedom isn't free—the cost is readily apparent in the rows of crosses in Arlington, where many generations of American warriors have been laid to rest.

We owe our veterans a debt that can never be fully repaid, but I personally want to thank them for your service and sacrifice. I will continue to work to ensure that our veterans get the care, help, and benefits they so richly deserve.

Let us remember our obligations to our Nation's veterans, as Abraham Lincoln said in his Second Inaugural Address, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan."

The American Legion has been there for our Nation's veterans for over 90 years, and I'm proud to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

COMMEMORATING THE HEROES OF  
THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF  
MARYVILLE, IL**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2009*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the actions of 3 men who unselfishly risked their lives in the defense of others.

At the early service on Sunday morning, March 8, 2009, an armed gunman entered the First Baptist Church of Maryville, Illinois. He confronted, shot, and killed Pastor Fred Winters as he was conducting the service. Three church members, Keith Melton, Terry Bullard, and Patrick Presson, rushed to the aid of Pastor Winters and to subdue the gunman. In the ensuing confrontation Mr. Melton was the first person to reach the gunman. He was immediately stabbed and forced to withdraw.

Undaunted, Mr. Bullard and Mr. Presson, at great personal risk, engaged the gunman and managed to physically subdue him. In the struggle Mr. Bullard was critically wounded. Once the gunman was under control Patrick's attention instantly turned to assisting his friend Terry. With the assistance of another churchgoer, Jason Shutty, Mr. Presson carried Mr. Bullard to the entrance of the church, secured transportation, and took Mr. Bullard to the emergency room of Anderson Hospital a short distance away.

The immediate, decisive, and courageous actions of these three men undoubtedly saved other lives on that Sunday morning. Mr. Presson's continued actions are credited with saving Mr. Bullard's life. These men are the embodiment of courage and heroism. They are deserving of recognition by and in the United States House of Representatives, in order that a permanent record of their individual and collective character can be preserved.

In a time when the term is often overused, these men are true American heroes, who, when faced with danger, unselfishly launched themselves into harm's way. Their actions were taken without consideration or regard for their personal well-being and unquestionably prevented a horrible situation from becoming worse. These individuals should be held up as examples of ordinary citizens whose behavior and exemplary character shined through in a most dangerous situation.

THE REAL STORY ABOUT COPTIC  
CHRISTIANS IN EGYPT**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2009*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, DC, recently sent the following e-mail to their distribution list:

"Egypt has the largest and oldest Christian community in the Middle East, and is home to 2,069 churches.

"The Coptic Orthodox Church was founded in Alexandria by the apostle Mark in AD 57, making it one of the oldest churches in the world.

"A law requiring Presidential approval for church construction was changed in 2005,

transferring that duty instead to the country's governors who are obligated to process churches' requests within 30 days.

"In 2003, President Mubarak declared Coptic Christmas, celebrated on January 7, a national holiday."

In spite of these overtures by the Egyptian government, the situation for Coptic Christians in Egypt is far from ideal. According to the State Department's 2008 International Religious Freedom Report, "The approval process for church construction continued to be hindered by lengthy delays, often measured in years. Although government officials maintain that President Mubarak approves all requests for permits presented to him, independent critics charge that delays by the MOI and/or local authorities cause many requests to reach the President slowly or not at all. Some churches have complained that local security officials have blocked church repairs or improvements even when a permit has been issued. Others suggest unequal enforcement of the regulations pertaining to church and mosque projects. Many churches face difficulty in obtaining permits from provincial officials."

On September 7, The Los Angeles Times reported that Egyptian authorities arrested 155 people in Aswan for publicly eating, drinking or smoking during daylight in the month of Ramadan, including non-Muslims.

There is clearly much that needs to be done by the Egyptian government to ensure the preservation of the Coptic community in Egypt.

## MEDIA DOWNPLAY 9/12 PROTESTS

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 22, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, The national media's coverage of the conservative 9/12 protests was scarce and antagonistic, according to an analysis by the Media Research Center (MRC).

According to MRC, the three TV networks did not offer any pre-rally coverage before the 9/12 protests.

And their coverage afterward intentionally tried to paint a negative picture of the protestors.

Furthermore, a regular commentator on MSNBC dismissed the protestors as "the fringe of the fringe," although they were everyday Americans.

And The New York Times buried its coverage of the protests on page A37 of Sunday's paper.

In contrast, the media gave significantly more—and more positive—coverage to liberal protests recently.

The national media should give fair coverage to protests on both sides, rather than downplaying conservative demonstrations.

WES WATKINS AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH LAB AND POST OFFICE

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN SULLIVAN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 16, 2009*

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor my