

outline some key principles for NATO's new Strategic Concept and to urge delegates to remain committed to the mission in Afghanistan. On the new Strategic Concept, Secretary General Rasmussen emphasized the importance of adopting a document that explains in clear terms how the Alliance is enhancing security in the 21st century. He argued that NATO must remain committed to deterrence and collective defense, that the Alliance must cooperate with non-NATO member states such as Russia, and that NATO's approach to security must be comprehensive and must complement actions taken by other international organizations such as the European Union and the United Nations. The Secretary General added that in order to realize the strategic goals agreed by the Alliance, NATO headquarters must function efficiently and that NATO member states must develop more flexible and deployable military forces and capabilities.

In sum, Madam Speaker, the 2010 spring session of the NATO Parliamentary session in Riga, Latvia was a great success. As President of the Assembly, I took pride in the deliberations and the informed engagement of the delegates from all NATO member states and our associate and observer members. For Members of the House and Senate interested in reading the committee reports or transcripts of the presentations mentioned in this statement, they are available on the NATO PA website at www.nato-pa.int. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Ambassador to Latvia, Judith Garber, and her staff for the excellent job they did assisting the delegation during our stay in Riga.

On Tuesday, June 1, after the conclusion of the NATO PA meeting, our delegation travelled to Podgorica, Montenegro, on the invitation of Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Djukanović. Since achieving its independence in 2006, Montenegro's key foreign policy goals have been European Union (EU) and NATO integration. Montenegro has moved quickly to advance its NATO membership candidacy and in December 2009, the Alliance invited Montenegro to join the Membership Action Plan (MAP), a critical step on the road to possible NATO membership. The United States strongly supported Montenegro's effort to gain independence from Serbia and continues to support its efforts to gain membership in NATO and the European Union. During one-and-a-half days of meetings in Montenegro, our delegation observed first hand the steps being taken by the Montenegrin government to advance its NATO membership prospects and to ensure that membership will lead to a stronger Alliance and enhance stability in the Western Balkan region. We also took the opportunity to urge the Montenegrin leadership to continue to advance reforms in the area of democratic governance, to combat corruption, and to enhance the rule of law in the country.

Over the course of our visit, the delegation met with numerous Montenegrin government officials, including Prime Minister Djukanović and President Filip Vujanović, and had the opportunity to observe Montenegrin troops as they trained in preparation for upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. We were also fortunate to meet with representatives of non-governmental organizations and media outlets, including several outspoken critics of the current Montenegrin government. Shortly after our arrival in Podgorica, we received a comprehensive briefing on U.S.-Montenegrin relations

from our Ambassador to Montenegro, Roderick Moore, and his excellent staff. Ambassador Moore highlighted the record of strong U.S. support for Montenegro and emphasized the work he and his staff are currently doing to enhance democratic governance in the country. Our meetings with Prime Minister Djukanović, President Vujanović, Foreign Minister Milan Rocen, and Speaker of the Montenegrin Parliament Ranko Krivokapić focused primarily on the country's prospects for NATO and EU membership and on the government's democratic reform efforts, particularly in the rule of law area. The Montenegrin leadership stressed the importance of Euro-Atlantic integration not only for the country but for the Western Balkan region. Each of our interlocutors believes strongly that NATO and EU integration represent the best hope to bring lasting peace and stability to the region.

Our delegation also had the opportunity to observe first hand the advances being made by the Montenegrin armed forces. Since gaining independence, Montenegro has had to create a military virtually from the ground up. The size and capabilities of the Montenegrin armed forces remain limited, but the government has made some notable strides in modernizing the military and creating more deployable units. Our delegation was especially impressed to learn of Montenegro's contribution to NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. In March of this year, Montenegro deployed a 31-man infantry unit and a medical team to Afghanistan. One of the highlights of our trip was being able to meet with Montenegrin soldiers preparing to deploy to Afghanistan and to express to them our sincere appreciation for their efforts.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Ambassador Roderick Moore and his staff, who went out of their way to organize an excellent visit for the delegation. The embassy team in Podgorica deserves high praise for the work they have done advancing U.S. policy in Montenegro and the Western Balkan region. As always, members of the United States military also contributed greatly to the success of this NATO PA trip. The logistics of such a trip, compressed into a tight time frame, are complicated and require lengthy and detailed preparation. Our military escorts were from the Air Force Legislative Liaison Office and the aircrew was from the 201st Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Andrews, MD. They did an outstanding job and I thank them for their hard work and dedication to duty.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF JAMES R. LEAMAN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James R. Leaman, retiring President of the Virginia AFL-CIO, for his leadership and service to union members and working families across the Commonwealth.

Throughout his distinguished career, Jim Leaman has strived to protect the health, safe-

ty, and quality of life for all of Virginia's workers. Whether they were white collar or blue collar, industrial or agricultural, public sector or private sector workers, Jim Leaman fought for them all.

Jim Leaman dedicated his life to ensuring Virginia's working men and women received a fair wage, had access to affordable health care, and worked in a safe environment.

He carried the banner of Virginia's working families to the halls of Virginia's General Assembly, the U.S. Congress, to the counties, cities and towns of the Commonwealth, and within Virginia's Democratic Party.

Throughout his many years of service to the AFL-CIO and Virginia's workers, Jim Leaman never wavered from his principles. He was, and is, a steadfast advocate for fairness, equality, and justice for all Virginians.

Jim Leaman was a true public policy advocate. Along with his work to protect the interests of Virginia workers, he also pushed broader issues that affected the lives of all Virginians, such as opposition to the usurious rates charged by payday lenders to those who could least afford such costs.

As a result of his efforts and leadership on non-partisan voter registration campaigns, thousands of Virginians became voters and participated in our democratic process.

Prior to his four-year tenure as President, Jim Leaman served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Virginia AFL-CIO from 1990 to his election as President in 2006. He was a proud 35-year member of the Communications Workers of America and is currently a member of the Iron Workers. Jim has advised several Virginia governors and other elected leaders and has served on boards and commissions dealing with labor and employment issues in the Commonwealth.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the accomplishments and distinguished career of my friend and one of Virginia's great labor leaders, Jim Leaman. I thank him for his service and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LATE CARL HAYNES, PAST PRESIDENT OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL 237

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the late Carl Haynes, former President of the Teamsters Local 237 City Employees Union, former Vice President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and beloved husband and father. A lifelong advocate for working men and women, Mr. Haynes passed away in April.

Carl Haynes was born Carroll Edwin Haynes in West Virginia on June 2, 1933, the second of three children. He attended West Virginia State College and married his sweetheart Janice in the campus chapel two days after graduation. The newlyweds moved to New York City to begin a long and fruitful life together.

Haynes began working in the city's youth services industry in 1956 at Youth House in the Bronx. In 1960, he assumed a position as a Housing Assistant in the New York City