

that he would look into “the problems created by the behavior of certain travelers and Roma,” with a view toward the closing down Romani camps and driving out Roma. Government statements have indicated these measures would focus on finding and expelling Romani citizens from Bulgaria and Romania—two European Union countries. Despite the fact that the Romani man in the July 16 incident was actually a French citizen—Mr. Sarzkozy later spoke of stripping citizenship from nationalized French citizens convicted of serious offenses.

Not surprisingly, human rights groups have condemned the President’s remarks with one voice. Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner Thomas Hammarberg rejected the notion of holding Romani people collectively responsible if one among them commits a crime. Good for you, Mr. Hammarberg. (It is a shame that the European Union has been so utterly silent and paralyzed in the face of this downward spiral.)

Many of the reports and analyses of these events, such as last Friday’s editorial in the New York Times, rightly placed these developments in the context of French politics and President Sarkozy’s political imperatives. Understanding the current political dynamic in France, particularly the ongoing debate over “national identity” and the situation of Muslim and African-origin minorities in France, is extremely helpful in understanding the President’s expansion into anti-Roma mudslinging. But there is a wider, broader European context for his remarks that I think must be addressed.

French Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux has stated that the new measures targeting Romani camps are not aimed at “stigmatizing a community” but rather at stopping illegal activity. This sounds remarkably like the rhetoric of Hungary’s far right wing party, Jobbik, which claims it is not against “Gypsies,” just “Gypsy crimes.”

In fact, rhetoric linking Roma to criminal activity or broadly portraying Roma as criminals—traffickers, prostitutes, thieves, and so forth—is pervasive throughout Europe. In early July, in the wake of a mass expulsion of Roma from Copenhagen, Danish Minister of Justice reportedly made remarks tying Romani culture to criminal behavior. Romania’s foreign minister remarked in February about “the natural physiology of Roma criminality.” For two years now, Italy has been gripped by anti-Roma policies, included targeting Roma for fingerprinting, that are built on a perception of the Roma as criminals.

The idea of Romani people as inherently criminal is not new. In fact, it was at the very center of Nazi racial theories regarding Roma. According to these theories, Roma—as descendants of an Aryan people—we’re just fine on their own. But Nazi racial hygienists concluded that, as a result of intermarriage between Roma and non-Roma, Roma had been left with mixed, “degenerate” blood and were genetically predisposed to criminality. Moreover, Roma were “unadaptable”—that is, this condition could never be changed. These Nazi racial theories provided the rationale for the sterilization, persecution, and eventual extermination of Roma.

Unfortunately, as Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, has observed, “Even after the . . . Nazi killing of at least half a million Roma,

probably 700,000 or more, there was no genuine change of attitude among the majority population towards the Roma.” In other words, Nazi racial theories regarding Roma remain remarkably entrenched and are regularly given voice in the rhetoric about “Romani crime.”

Madam Speaker, last year Senator CARDIN and I, as Chairman and Cochairman of the Helsinki Commission, wrote to Secretary Clinton regarding the situation of Roma in Europe. In particular, we noted that “racist rhetoric directed against Roma today often uses terminology or images that have been in continuous use since the Nazi era,” and we argued that teaching about Romani experiences during the Holocaust is essential to successfully combat prejudice against Roma today. Perhaps this could start in France.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONALD A.
GRIGGS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Donald A. Griggs, a 29-year veteran of the Daly City Police Department.

Officer Griggs graduated from the Basic Police Academy at the College of the Redwoods in 1980 after earning an Associate Degree in Administration of Justice from the College of San Mateo. He was appointed as a Police Officer on March 10, 1980. He was a mentor to many recruits through his role as a Field Training Officer. In 1999 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He served bravely for many years as a member of the Daly City Police Tactical Response Team. He also served on the board of directors for the Daly City Police Athletic League. He is a dedicated police officer who forged many friendships during his career.

Sergeant Griggs received numerous department commendations during his career. Of special note, in 2003 he rushed into a burning building and evacuated the residents. He suffered smoke inhalation and was rushed to the hospital for treatment. He risked his life to save people in need. In another instance he was recognized for his professionalism by the victim of a particularly brutal sexual assault case. His professional and compassionate efforts helped restore the woman’s dignity. His actions serve as a source of pride for the entire police department.

Madam Speaker, on September 10, 2010, members of the Daly City Police Benevolent Association will honor Sergeant Donald Griggs at a special dinner and, as such, I ask that this body extends its thanks for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS GRAMS

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great leader in humanitarian aid, Dr. Thomas Grams. Dr. Grams was tragically killed last week in Afghanistan by the

Taliban. Dr. Grams was in a remote region of Afghanistan fulfilling a medical aid mission with a group of nine other volunteers from the International Assistance Mission.

Dr. Grams practiced dentistry in Durango, Colorado for many years. Several years ago, he retired from private practice so that he could dedicate his life fulltime to the assistance of residents in developing countries. Dr. Grams took countless trips to India, Nepal, and Afghanistan to provide care for the indigent residents of these countries.

In particular, he was able to provide essential dental care for thousands of children in these countries. To the children he was known as “Dr. Tom.” Many of the children he treated had suffered for years with untreated dental problems. After their treatment when he returned to the villages and towns in future years, he would be able to see the lasting smiles on the children’s faces.

The focus of Dr. Grams’ life was to provide service to others and his mission was to provide access to dental and health care in some of the most remote corners of the world. His enthusiasm and devotion to the places he visited enabled him to cultivate great trust within these communities. He leaves behind him a legacy of countless people, especially children, whose lives were made better by his service. Dr. Grams represented western Colorado and his entire nation with honor. He exemplified that which is best in our country, a strong sense of compassion paired with the will and ability to help those in need.

Dr. Grams’ passion for service will be sincerely missed in both Durango and around the world by those he helped. Our nation and our world have lost a strong voice for compassion and healing. We will remember Dr. Grams as a shining example of that which is best in humanity. My condolences and prayers go out to his family and friends during this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF JERRY W. POTTS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the life of retired Pensacola Police Chief Jerry W. Potts. Chief Potts passed away on August 6, 2010, after courageously battling cancer. He was a respected leader who spent his life serving his community and his country, and I am proud to honor his lifetime of dedication and service.

Even as a young man, Chief Potts recognized the importance of serving his country. At the age of 17, he joined the United States Army 82nd Airborne Division and served honorably for 3 years. During his time with the 82nd Airborne, he earned the Combat Infantry Badge for his active engagement in ground combat.

Shortly after serving in the Army, in 1973 Chief Potts joined the Pensacola Police Department. His commitment to excellence as an officer through his various assignments in Dispatch, Uniform Patrol, Investigations, and Traffic did not go unnoticed, and in 1995 Chief Potts was selected to serve as Assistant Chief. He continued to rise through the ranks

four years later and was appointed as Chief of the Pensacola Police Department, where he remained until his retirement in 2002. Chief Potts' positive impact on the department can be evidenced through the number of projects initiated under his leadership and through the number of improvements made in the Northwest Florida community.

Chief Jerry Potts will forever remain in the hearts and minds of those around him, not only as a cherished and well-respected figure, but as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his middle school sweetheart of 44 years, Linda, their 2 sons Jason and Justin, and their 5 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the life and deeds of Chief Jerry W. Potts. A committed community leader and loving family man—he will be missed by many, but his memory will live on through the timeless legacy he left. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our thoughts and prayers to the entire Potts family.

THE WIKILEAKS SCANDAL

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I have taken some time to review some of the previously classified documents on the war in Afghanistan that were published by the WikiLeaks.org website. Before rushing to judgment about this very large, unauthorized disclosure of information, I wanted to review some of the documents myself to determine if indeed potential human sources of information had been compromised. After reviewing some of these documents, I have concluded that their release could indeed cause real harm to real people.

I have frequently taken the executive branch to task for over-classifying documents. There have been many episodes in our nation's history where the classification system has been used to hide improper acts or to shield policymakers and bureaucrats from scrutiny or embarrassment. The Pentagon Papers episode is perhaps the most well publicized example of the executive branch seeking to keep information classified because it is embarrassing. That is not the case with the so-called "Afghan War Diary" of WikiLeaks.org.

Some of the documents I reviewed contained the names of real Afghan insurgents who turned themselves in to U.S. or Afghan government forces. Those same reports say these defectors were interrogated, and we may presume that after they are released from custody they and their families could be in danger of assassination by other insurgents. The government has a legitimate need to keep secret any sources and methods that are truly important for our nation's security. The individual or individuals responsible for the release of these unredacted documents should be prosecuted. A criminal investigation into this matter is underway.

"KEEP THE SPIRIT OF '45 ALIVE!"

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to express strong support for the Spirit

of '45 Day celebrations that will be occurring throughout our country, including at the Alabama National Cemetery in my district.

On August 14, 1945, World War II officially ended, marking a victory for the cause of freedom over tyranny in the world. The Americans who served us on both the battlefield and the home front deserve our lasting gratitude. History will forever celebrate the men and women of the "Greatest Generation" who endured the Great Depression, preserved democracy, and rebuilt the postwar world, creating examples of service that continue to inspire and sustain our nation.

Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive is a non-profit grassroots campaign to encourage Americans to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the end of World War II by holding events and inspiring young children to gather personal recollections of August 14, 1945 from family members and friends.

Their goal is to establish a permanent National Day of Remembrance to the legacy of service of the greatest generation so that their example of commitment to community and country will continue to provide inspiration now and in the future.

This commemoration will encourage our young people to learn valuable lessons from their elders about overcoming adversity through self-sacrifice, courage, perseverance and service to others. During my meetings, soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan have often told me how they were inspired by the service of their fathers and grandfathers.

It is my hope that Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive will serve as an example to Americans of how we always come together with a shared sense of national unity and purpose during challenging times in our nation's history.

Therefore, I would like to provide my heartfelt endorsement for the Spirit of '45 Day celebration at the Alabama National Veterans Cemetery on Saturday, August 14, 2010.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MOLLI JACOBS' VICTORY AT THE AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE YOUTH ASSOCIATION WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, the American Quarter Horse Youth Association held its World Championship Show July 30 through August 7 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,

Whereas, the show is the world's largest single-breed show for youth,

Whereas, Molli Lyn Jacobs, who is 17, was among the 858 exhibitors,

Whereas, Molli showed a 2-year-old bay mare, RTH Style and Grace,

Whereas, Molli's brother R.J. also won a world championship at the event,

Whereas, the event's organizers said it was so unusual for two siblings to win world championships in the same year that they were unsure if it had ever happened before,

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Molli Lyn Jacobs on winning a world championship at the American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Championship Show, and for the hard work and dedication that led to this unique accomplishment.

HONORING BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, since assuming office in January 2007, I have had the privilege of working with the Blue Star Mothers of Greater Philadelphia. That group has been in the forefront of countless efforts to support our troops engaged in two protracted conflicts. Though the "all volunteer force" has provided our nation with the most capable and powerful military in our history, it has also shifted the burden of waging those conflicts to a decreasing percentage of our overall population. As a result, the vast majority of Americans benefit from the security wrought by the sacrifice of relatively few families. In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we are blessed by the work of Marian Moran of Media, PA who leads the Philadelphia Chapter, Laurie Menges of Hanover who leads the South Central Pennsylvania Chapter, Laura Zazworsky of Camp Hill, President of the Central Pennsylvania Chapter, and Sue Donaldson of Easton PA, President of the Lehigh Valley Chapter.

For our families with serving members of the military, it has always been the case that the greatest emotional toll of sending our sons and daughters to war is borne by our nation's mothers. Since 1943, the Blue Star Mothers of America (BSMA) have stepped forward to offer support, counsel and advocacy on behalf of their children and one another. In addition to the thousands of phone calls, letters, and emails of support that flow daily between BSMA members, they are actively engaged in policy making at the highest level. Their support for H.R. 2647, "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010", which directs states to provide both electronic and mail absentee ballots in a timely fashion, is helping to right a long-standing wrong in the provision of absentee ballots for serving members of our military. For years, our men and women in uniform have been denied their vote by inefficient and often indifferent bureaucracies at the local, state, and federal levels. The BSMA is also a tireless morale builder for our troops, providing 'care packages' from home, that not only nourish them but offer essential items to mitigate the extremely harsh climates in Iraq and Afghanistan. Most noteworthy is how Blue Star Mothers rally to the side of their sister Gold Star Mothers. When a Blue Star turns to Gold our entire nation mourns. But for the Blue Star Mothers that tragedy is their call to arms. An old Spanish proverb holds that "An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy." Certainly it is a fellow mother who is best qualified to offer comfort when a child has been lost in service to our nation. For over sixty seven years, the Blue Star Mothers have been there for their children, one another, their Gold Star sisters, and our nation.

As the Blue Star Mothers of America gather in Grand Junction, Colorado for their National Convention under the leadership of President Wendy Hoffman, I request that all Americans