Furthermore, this requirement is a solution in search of a problem. According to the Congressional Research Service, only about two hundred and twenty acts of Congress have been held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court since 1789. In the past ten years, the Court has struck down laws a mere seventeen times. The number of acts courts have upheld is surely in the thousands. So I ask, what is the Constitutional crisis this requirement addresses?

The rule itself demonstrates the lack of urgency here. It requires a perfunctory statement without explanation. Committees need not consider the statement, no Member will ever vote on it, and Senate bills can be considered without one. By omitting any teeth, the rule clearly indicates that Members are already capable of ensuring that bills comply with the Constitution. In the rare instance we go too far, the courts are perfectly capable of correcting us.

Sometimes, the Constitution itself must be corrected. For example, the original Constitution expressly allowed for slavery and counted slaves as three-fifths of a person. Certainly, I would not be here to make this statement if no one had challenged those provisions. Without the Fourteenth Amendment, the Constitution would not guarantee the rights to due process and equal protection that are now fundamental principles throughout American life. For over one hundred years, until 1920, it failed to ensure that women had a right to vote. Imagine a country in which only white, land-owning men could vote—that is the world we would live in if we were bound by the words of the Constitution as written.

Finally, while we respect the Constitution's limits on governmental action, we must remember that the framers purposely created a living document and intended it to grow and change with the country. The Constitution is a work in progress and what we do in Congress can help push it forward. Clauses we cite now may not exist or may be understood differently in the future. Pretending otherwise through empty (and costly) formalities does a disservice to its spirit and the causes of freedom and justice.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KATHERINE C. KELLY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great American, Katherine C. Kelly, a lifelong champion of human rights and universal health care, who died on the morning of January 6, 2011 at the age of 86.

Katherine was a good friend and supporter for more than 40 years. Over the course of her life, she and her late husband, Edward M. Kelly, were prominently active in the civil rights movement, the fight for women's rights, gay rights, and every progressive movement in the United States. Katherine dedicated her life to the Democratic Party, serving as State Committeewoman from Palm Beach County for 26 years.

Additionally, she was named to the Electoral College and served as a delegate to five Democratic National Conventions.

She also served as the Legislative Director for Florida NOW, as Vice President of the Florida Women's Political Caucus, as a Board member for NARAL, and as Development Director of Women Leaders Online. Her continued dedication to political and progressive causes led to recognition as the Outstanding Feminist 2001 by Florida NOW and Woman of the Year in 2008 by the Democratic Women's Club Palm Beach County.

Mr. Speaker, Katherine was deeply loved and widely respected by everyone who knew her. Today, our nation has lost someone who represented all that is good in the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PANPAPHIAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the PanPaphian Association of America for its tremendous contributions to our cultural and civic life. Founded more than two decades ago by Hellenic Cypriot Americans of Paphian ancestry, the Association has carried out its vital educational, cultural, charitable, and humanitarian mission while helping promote peace, unity, and understanding on the occupied island of Cyprus.

The PanPaphian Association of America held the Ninth Evagoras Pallikarides Award of Merit dinner-dance last month. The Evagoras Pallikarides Award of Merit was bestowed upon Mr. Alkinoos Ioannidis for his dedication to promoting Hellenic culture through music and song. Born and raised in Nicosia, Cyprus, Mr. Ioannidis studied classical guitar at the European Conservatory, moved to Athens, and was signed by Universal Music at age 23. He went on to pursue a successful career in acting and music, eventually focusing his efforts as a thriving musical performer and composer with many successful recordings. Influenced by traditional Cypriot music, the Greek composers of the last decades, and classical, jazz and rock genres. He often performs with orchestras and ensembles. Above all, he remains devoted to the Cypriot people, their culture, and their struggle for justice, donating his time and talent to numerous concerts and performances benefitting various Hellenic organizations and causes associated with justice for Cyprus.

The PanPaphian Association awarded the Distinguished Fellow Cypriot Award to Mr. Polys Kyriacou, a distinguished poet and lyricist who has distinguished himself in his passionate commitment to justice for Cyprus and his love for Hellenic culture. Born in Nicosia, he served in the Cyprus National Guard before his studies at Pantios University in Athens. He came to New York City in 1982 to earn a Master's Degree in Communication and Graphic Design at the Pratt Institute and then worked as an Art Director at the Proini daily newspaper. He served for many years on the board of the Cyprus Federation of America and the Justice for Cyprus Committee, published two volumes of poetry, including Sximata, which won First Prize for a Young Poet from the Cyprus Ministry of Education. A Member of the Board of Directors of Cosmos FM Radio, he hosts his own program every Sunday morning and remains deeply involved in New York City's vibrant Hellenic community.

The Member of the Year Award was given to Mr. George Kouspos. Born and raised in Paphos on Cyprus, he came to the United States in 1984 after serving as an officer in the Cyprus National Guard. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the City College of New York and an M.B.A. degree from Adelphi University while working his way through school. He became a principal at CY Electric Corp. Throughout his studies and his subsequent professional success, he has remained extraordinarily devoted to the cause of justice for Cyprus; to the PanPaphian Association, which he has served as Vice President, Cultural Officer, and Treasurer; and above all to his beloved family, Nancy (Nafsika), who was born in Asgata, Cyprus, and his beautiful daughters, Demetra and Maria.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in paying tribute to the PanPaphian Association of America, the recipients of its awards, and all its many contributions to the civic life of our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY SUZANNE WAUGHTEL HOPPER

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, today I will be traveling back to Ohio to express my sympathy to the family of Clark County Sheriff's Deputy Suzanne Waughtel Hopper. Deputy Hopper's funeral will be at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 7, 2011.

Deputy Hopper was killed in the line of duty on New Year's Day while responding to shots fired in a local community. Because of her decisive action, courage and bravery lives were saved. She is a true American hero.

IMAN ABBASI

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in just a few days, on January 9, Iraqi authorities will deport the Abbasi family to Iran where they face certain persecution.

The Abbasis are political refugees. Their father got in trouble in Iran because he dared to write that Iranians actually deserve freedom. He wrote that every man should be able to have a say in who governs them. This simple idea is the very foundation on which our great Nation was built and the fundamental, universal human right of all mankind. But the tiny tyrant of Iran did not like that. He saw Mr. Abbasi as a threat to his power.

The regime, having tasted power, is doing whatever it can to keep it. That includes imprisoning, torturing, and murdering anyone who so dares speak against it. But these are desperate actions from a desperate regime.

When a regime loses respect for its own people, its days are numbered.

As he has done with thousands of other Iranian freedom fighters, Ahmadinejad came after Mr. Abbasi. So Mr. Abassi fled to Sweden. But when he did, Iranian authorities started going after his family still in Iran. So they fled too, but could only get to Iraq before being imprisoned by Iraqi authorities for not having their immigration papers. Now the Iraqi government wants to deport his daughter, Iman Abbasi, back to Iran, which is all but a death sentence for her. I talked to the State Department about Iman today and they are working on making sure that Iman is allowed to remain in Iraq until they can sort out her refugee status.

We have seen enough of Iraqi authorities doing favors for its neighbor to the East. At Camp Ashraf, a camp in the middle of the Iraqi desert full of freedom fighters from Iran, Iraqis and their Iranian buddies psychologically torture the residents. They put up dozens of loudspeakers surrounding the camp and shout at residents around the clock, telling them to go home to their motherland and stop being traitors.

We must send a clear message to Iraq: as long as it is ruled by the tiny tyrant and his henchmen, Iran is not a friend you can trust. If you side with them, then you side with oppression and tyranny. So stop imprisoning political refugees and stand up for the freedom that so many of our countrymen and yours have given their lives for.

RECOGNIZING THE ACTIVISM OF MS. YOLANDA DE VENANZI IN RAISING HIV/AIDS AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Yolanda De Venanzi and her efforts to raise HIV/AIDS awareness and education within the Hispanic community in South Florida.

Yolanda De Venanzi is an outreach worker with the Comprehensive AIDS Program of Palm Beach County, working within the Hispanic community to help promote HIV/AIDS awareness, testing, and prevention. Among her many activities, she organizes discussion groups and distributes literature throughout the County. Her efforts indeed reach far and wide, including barbershops, the El Sol migrant labor center in Jupiter, and the Caridad Center in Boynton Beach, which provides health services to Hispanic farm workers.

Furthermore, Yolanda also trains volunteers to spread information about HIV/AIDS prevention. One of her ideas that has proven extremely successful is recruiting drivers who work for the Golden Cab Company to distribute packets containing condoms and brochures about the disease. As with all volunteers, they are trained to discuss and promote behavior that helps prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. This creative approach is truly a stroke of genius.

A native of Venezuela, Yolanda has had a varied career, working as a psychology teacher and a mental health counselor. This experience has no doubt benefitted her in her work with the Comprehensive AIDS Program. In addition, she still teaches online classes in stress reduction and coping for Empire State College.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. De Venanzi's compassion, concern, devotion, and brilliance are to be lauded. Moreover, her efforts represent the kind of community activism that is key to addressing the serious public health challenge that is HIV/AIDS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 8, I was unavoidably detained due to celebration of the Greek Orthodox Epiphany. Had I been present, I would have voted, ''yes.''

IN RECOGNITION OF PETER PAPANICOLAOU

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Mr. Panayiotis (Peter) Papanicolaou, the distinguished President of the Cyprus Federation of America. Last month, Mr. Papanicolaou was being honored by the Asgata Association at its annual Dinner at Towers on the Green in Floral Park, New York.

Peter Papanicolaou was born and raised in Nicosia, Cyprus, where he received his primary and secondary education. Following two years of service with the National Guard of Cyprus, he came to the United States to pursue a higher education. He attended the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), enrolling in a special program for honors students. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Construction Engineering and Construction Management.

He launched his business career with a research position at NJIT, where he developed new technology for industrial sites and military bases for the cleanup of soils contaminated by toxins. He is now a principal of J.F. Contracting, a Brooklyn-based construction and engineering firm. He is professionally affiliated with the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and he is a member of the Civil Engineering Honor Society.

Peter Papanicolaou is the Supreme President of the Cyprus Federation of America, an umbrella organization for all Cypriot Americans. He is also president of the Archdiocesan Metropolitan Youth Choir, a member of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council, and a member of the Advisory Board of Queens College, the Saint Basil's Academy, the Albert Dorman Honors College at NJIT, and the Harvard School of Public Health. He is a member of the board of the Cyprus—U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Vice President of the Cyprus Children's Fund.

Peter is widely recognized as a leader with significant civic and humanitarian achievements. In 1995 he was named Businessman of the Year, Borough of Bronx and in 1996 he was presented with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for his contributions to our national identity while preserving the distinct values and heritage of our ancestors. In 1998 he became an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, an honor conferred upon individuals for their services and dedication to the Greek Orthodox Church. He is a member of Leadership 100 and a founding member of the Faith Endowment of Orthodoxy. Peter was honored by various Greek American organizations, churches and professional associations.

Peter continues to serve tirelessly various causes of the Greek American community. He resides in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife Nasia. They have two daughters, Elizabeth and Elena.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise and join me in honoring Mr. Panayiotis ''Peter'' Papanicolaou, a great New Yorker and a great American who has made outstanding contributions to the civic life of our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning, Thursday, January 6, 2011, I was unable to record my presence on the Floor of the House at the quorum call, rollcall No. 7, because I was unavoidably detained in a meeting related to my role on the House Armed Services Committee.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTO ALOMAR

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the greatest players in the history of baseball, Roberto Alomar. This week, Alomar was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, a recognition for the many years he played the sport at its very highest level.

To many, being a 12-time All-Star, a 10-time Gold Glove recipient and a four-time Silver Slugger and batting over .300 nine times would suffice, but for Roberto Alomar, these were simply milestones along his route to the Hall of Fame. Induction into the Hall of Fame is a time-honored tradition in America reserved only for the game changers. It is not merely that these men played the sport with superior skill, it is that they so often transformed the game and our conception of what is possible. Roberto Alomar revolutionized the position of second baseman. He combined offensive power and consistency with a range and fielding ability few had ever seen and fewer still have been able to emulate.

Roberto is part of a Puerto Rican baseball dynasty that deserves recognition, too. His father and brother, Sandy Alomar and Sandy Alomar Jr. had distinguished careers in Major