

IN HONOR OF REVEREND ROMAN MISIEWICZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Reverend Roman Misiewicz, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood. Reverend Misiewicz's continued dedication to serving God, his students, and his parishioners have made him a pillar of the community.

Reverend Misiewicz was born in Drohobycz, Poland shortly before the Second World War. After the war, during which his town was repeatedly bombarded, he and his family moved to Chorzow, where he graduated from high school. He went on to attend Jagiellonian University in Krakow, where he enrolled in the seminary and was ordained into the priesthood in 1961. During his time at Jagiellonian University, one of Reverend Misiewicz's professors was Karol Wojtyla, who later became Pope John Paul II.

During the reign of Communism in Poland, Reverend Misiewicz served as a parish priest and as an academic chaplain. In addition, he lectured clandestinely on human rights despite the danger it posed to him. In 1970, he moved to America and began working as a pastor at St. Mary's Church in Lublin, Wisconsin. In 1971 he married Jolanta Machnik in Chicago, Illinois, and soon moved to Cleveland.

Fr. Roman Misiewicz served as the pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Cleveland from 1972 until the close of the parish in 2003. At that time, he became the pastor of St. Mary's Church in Parma, where he continues to preach. In addition to his priestly duties, Reverend Misiewicz teaches Information Technology and has served as a Dean of Education at a variety of institutions of higher learning in the Cleveland area.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring Reverend Roman Misiewicz, as he celebrates his Golden Jubilee. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Fr. Roman and look forward to his exemplification of faith and service in our community.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. MOORE. Madam Chair, I rise reluctantly to oppose the amendment offered by my distinguished colleague and friend, Mr. CONYERS, regarding Libya.

I share the gentleman's concerns about the prospect of U.S. troops being dragged into a

third war. Eight years after our ill-advised misadventure in Iraq and a decade after sending our troops to Afghanistan, we have extensive evidence of the many failings of a military only strategy to address the world's ills, including fanatical dictators bent on harming their own citizens as in Libya.

However, while I share the gentleman's concerns, I am also troubled that the amendment, as written, would have unintended consequences and would unnecessarily hamstring the use of the military for a host of non-combat purposes in Libya.

For example, the amendment would prohibit U.S. ground forces from being used to provide humanitarian aid to the Libyan people. Whether we like it or not, one of the things our nation's military is very good at is providing humanitarian aid to people in need around the world. We saw this after the earthquake in Pakistan in 2004 and again when massive floods hit Pakistan in 2010 and again in Haiti after last year's earthquake.

The U.N. has warned of a humanitarian crisis unfolding in Libya with hundreds of thousands of people lacking access or in danger of losing access to basic necessities. Unfortunately, the amendment makes clear that the only authorized reason for U.S. troops in Libya is to rescue U.S. military personnel that are in danger. Such a narrow exception unduly hampers the ability of the President to conduct a range of efforts well short of occupation that our military may be in the best position to undertake.

Additionally, under this amendment, our military could not be used to rescue allied NATO personnel, to help rescue U.S. citizens whose lives may be in danger in Libya or to conduct an airlift of U.S. citizens out of the country, or even to help provide aid to a U.N. or African Union peacekeeping mission should a political solution be found to remove Colonel Qadhafi from power.

Let's be clear. My vote against this amendment is not a vote for sending U.S. troops to Libya to fight a civil war. Having voted a number of times for resolutions and legislation to restrict the use of and/or remove our troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, my record is very clear that I am not in support of occupation of foreign nations. Yet, even those efforts allowed a broad range of commonsense exceptions which I think are missing here.

If the Constitution still lives, the introduction of ground troops for the purposes of combat—which my colleagues are concerned would occur in Libya—in any nation would clearly require an authorization of war by Congress. If that were to occur, Congress should and must hold an up or down vote to either authorize the use of such troops for combat or call for their withdrawal.

The U.N. Resolution authorizing international efforts to protect civilians in Libya explicitly rules out the use of foreign ground troops. The President has made very clear that U.S. ground troops will not be sent to Libya. I will take him at his word.

INTRODUCTION OF SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO COUNTER ANTI-MUSLIM SENTIMENT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the federal government should take steps to counter anti-Muslim sentiment, along with additional cosponsors. Over the last decade, the American Muslim community has confronted a festering level of suspicion which has manifested itself in hostile government policies and bias from the general public. A CBS/New York Times poll released in mid-September showed that as many as 20 percent of Americans said they have negative feelings toward Muslims because of the September 11th terrorist attacks. While Congress has confronted some of the more violent manifestations of this bias, the general climate faced by the community has continued to create barriers to full participation in public life that should be addressed by official government policy.

As a member who represents a district with one of the greatest concentrations of American Muslims in the nation, I believe that this sense of Congress is a logical step toward sending the message that this group of proud citizens should be able to enjoy the rights guaranteed under the Constitution to the same extent as all other Americans. Throughout diverse cities and small towns across the country, American Muslims have a long history of playing crucial roles in law enforcement and the armed forces, and as business leaders, doctors, lawyers, and teachers. However, there exists in our nation today a disturbing and dangerous trend of anti-Muslim rhetoric and bigotry, evidenced by attacks against individuals, religious institutions and entire communities.

The United States is a country founded on the principles of tolerance and religious freedom, as embodied in the First Amendment of the Constitution. The protection of these principles is vital to the ongoing sense of community shared by the diverse peoples and religious groups of this nation. Targeting American Muslims for scrutiny based on their religion goes against the core principles of religious freedom and equal protection under the law. Moreover, the practice erodes trust in government and law enforcement at all levels, which, in turn, undermines public safety.

The American Muslim community should be able to rely on the federal government to lead the effort in fostering an open climate of understanding and cooperation. These communities must be shielded from the threat of violence and suspicion that was at the heart of last January's thwarted attack against the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, Michigan. They should also be able to rely on law enforcement's fundamental integrity and respect for First Amendment protected rights. Only through a balanced examination of the challenges facing the nation will we establish a strong policy framework for protecting security, while respecting the Constitution and the interests of affected communities.

This sense of Congress is an attempt to set the record straight and counter the perception of growing anti-Muslim rhetoric. Congress has a solemn duty to ensure that its actions do not fuel misconceptions about, and prejudices toward, any faith community, including the American Muslim community and Islam. Scores of religious, civil rights, law enforcement, and national security leaders and organizations representing diverse Americans and areas of expertise are concerned about messages which appear to target the American Muslim community, sending counterproductive messages both domestically and internationally. It is essential that the federal government send the message that we all must work together to guarantee the security of our country and that no community should be singled out for suspicion.

CONGRATULATING ALDERMAN
EUGENE SCHULTER

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Eugene Schuler, Alderman of Chicago's 47th Ward. Alderman Schuler retired this year, and his dedication to his ward and the City of Chicago will be missed.

As Alderman for thirty-six years, Gene's accomplishments and contributions to Chicago were numerous and helped make Chicago the world class city it is today. He was a great policymaker, but he also understood the importance of focusing on his constituents' needs by keeping the neighborhoods safe and improving community schools. Gene was committed to making the 47th Ward family-friendly, and he did so by creating after-school programs, building parks and playlots, and sponsoring concerts, festivals and farmer's markets. Additionally, he helped foster small businesses and economic growth.

Another one of Alderman Schuler's achievements was affordable housing programs to keep longtime residents in the ward. Along with the Community Partnership for Affordable Neighborhoods (C-PAN) program, Alderman Schuler developed the Northcenter Senior Campus (NSC), which provides hundreds of rental condominiums for constituents above the age of fifty-five. He wanted to make sure every resident was happy with their neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Alderman Eugene Schuler of the 47th Ward of Chicago. Thank you Alderman Schuler for truly providing a community that Chicagoans are proud to call "home." I wish him, his wife Rosemary, and his children Monica and Phillip all the best on their future endeavors.

INTRODUCING HEALTH FREEDOM
LEGISLATION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce two pieces of legislation restoring the First

Amendment rights of consumers to receive truthful information regarding the benefits of foods and dietary supplements. The first bill, the Health Freedom Restoration Act, codifies the First Amendment by ending the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s efforts to censor truthful health claims. The second bill, the Freedom of Health Speech Act, codifies the First and Fifth Amendment by requiring the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to prove that health claims are false before it takes action to stop manufacturers and marketers from making the claims.

The American people have made it clear they do not want the federal government to interfere with their access to dietary supplements, yet the FDA and the FTC continue to engage in heavy-handed attempts to restrict such access. The FDA continues to frustrate consumers' efforts to learn how they can improve their health even after Congress, responding to a record number of constituents' comments, passed the Dietary Supplement and Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA). FDA bureaucrats are so determined to frustrate consumers' access to truthful information that they are even evading their duty to comply with four federal court decisions vindicating consumers' First Amendment rights to discover the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements.

FDA bureaucrats have even refused to abide by the DSHEA section allowing the public to have access to scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in treating diseases by claiming that every article concerning this topic is evidence of intent to sell an unapproved and unlawful drug.

Because of the FDA's censorship of truthful health claims, millions of Americans may suffer with diseases and other health care problems they may have avoided by using dietary supplements. For example, the FDA prohibited consumers from learning how folic acid reduces the risk of neural tube defects for four years after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended every woman of childbearing age take folic acid supplements to reduce neural tube defects. This FDA action contributed to an estimated 10,000 cases of preventable neural tube defects.

The FDA also continues to prohibit consumers from learning about the scientific evidence that glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate are effective in the treatment of osteoarthritis; that omega-3 fatty acids may reduce the risk of sudden death heart attack; that calcium may reduce the risk of bone fractures; and that vitamin D may reduce the risk of osteoporosis, hypertension, and cancer.

The Health Freedom Restoration Act will force the FDA to at last comply with the commands of Congress, the First Amendment, numerous federal courts, and the American people by codifying the First Amendment prohibition on prior restraint. Specifically, the Health Freedom Restoration Act stops the FDA from censoring truthful claims about the curative, mitigative, or preventative effects of dietary supplements. The Health Freedom Restoration Act also stops the FDA from prohibiting the distribution of scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in protecting against disease. The FDA has proven that it cannot be trusted to protect consumers' rights to make informed choices. It is time for Congress to stop the FDA from censoring truthful health information.

The Freedom of Health Speech Act addresses the FTC's violations of the First Amendment. Under traditional constitutional standards, the federal government bears the burden of proving an advertising statement false before censoring that statement. However, the FTC shifted the burden of proof to industry. The FTC presumes health advertising is false and compels private parties to prove the ads (and everything the regulators say the ads imply) to be true to a near conclusive degree. This violation of the First and Fifth Amendments is harming consumers by blocking innovation in the health foods and dietary supplement marketplace.

The Freedom of Health Speech Act requires the government actually prove that speech is false before the FTC acts against the speaker. This is how it should be in a free society where information flows freely in order to foster the continuous improvement that benefits us all. The bill also requires that the FTC warn parties that their advertising is false and give them a chance to correct their mistakes before the FTC censors the claim and imposes other punishments.

Mr. Speaker, if we are serious about putting people in charge of their health care, then shouldn't we stop federal bureaucrats from preventing Americans from learning about simple ways to improve their health. I therefore call on my colleagues to stand up for good health and the Constitution by cosponsoring the Health Freedom Restoration Act and the Freedom of Health Speech Act.

IN SUPPORT OF THE TROOPS TO
TEACHERS AMENDMENT TO THE
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Courtney, Petri, Matsui Amendment, to expand and improve our Nation's existing Troops to Teachers program.

I am pleased to introduce this amendment with my colleagues, with whom I also sponsored the Post 9/11 Troops to Teachers Enhancement Act of 2011. Our amendment would make the program more accessible to veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan by reducing the military service requirement from 6 years to 4 years.

It would also expand the number of school districts eligible to participate, and create an advisory board to increase awareness about, and participation in the program.

Finally, this amendment transfers the program from the Department of Education to the Department of Defense.

Currently, the program is operated by the Department of Defense, but funded through the Department of Education. By housing the administration and funding of Troops to Teachers in the same Department, we will be able to streamline this program for the benefit of all of its participants and the students it serves.

With their proven service, diverse backgrounds, and leadership traits our Nation's veterans can serve their country again, by serving as teachers in our country's most vulnerable schools. With more veterans returning