

H.J. RES. 68 AND H.R. 2278

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I support limited U.S. involvement in NATO military operations in Libya because I believe it is the right thing to do. The Qaddafi Regime was threatening to show "no mercy" against the rebels and swore to go "door to door to hunt them down like rats." In contrast with our NATO allies and the Arab League, the President decided to act to prevent a massacre. Failure to act will have also sent the wrong signal to other dictators trying to snuff out the Arab Awakening.

The president assured us that, in time, leadership of military operations would be handed over to NATO and that the U.S. would then assume a supportive role. True to that pledge, the U.S. now plays a non-combat, support role comprised primarily of intelligence gathering, logistics, surveillance and search and rescue. Three-quarters of sorties, including the majority of the strike sorties flown in Libya are being conducted by our coalition partners; all 20 of the ships enforcing the arms embargo of Libya are European and Canadian; and no American troops are on the ground.

It is for these reasons that I am supporting H.J. Res. 68, a resolution authorizing limited use of U.S. Armed Forces in support of the NATO mission in Libya and opposing H.R. 2278, a bill to defund all but a specified list of U.S. actions in support of the NATO effort.

H.J. Res. 68 authorizes for one year the continued supportive role the U.S. is already playing in Libya while expressing Congress' concurrence with the language in the UN Resolution forbidding the use of ground forces in the military action.

Conversely, I cannot support H.R. 2278, a bill to defund all operations other than search and rescue; intelligence gathering; aerial refueling; and operational planning. This bill threatens the mission and the safety of coalition forces.

Under the specific set of circumstances the president faced in Libya, I believe he made the right decision. To undermine the effort at this moment would be a serious mistake.

IN RECOGNITION OF MITCH
AVALON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, Representatives GEORGE MILLER, JERRY MCNERNEY and I rise today in honor of Mitch Avalon, who has served the Contra Costa County Public Works Department for the last 32 years. As his colleagues, friends, and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, we ask all of our colleagues to join us in saluting this outstanding public servant.

Mitch Avalon began his journey with the Contra Costa County Public Works Department in 1979 as a civil engineer, where his diligent hard work was recognized and he quickly assumed the title and duties of Deputy

Public Works Director, a position which he has held to this day. In addition to his position with the Contra Costa County Public Works Department, Mr. Avalon has also served as the Deputy Chief Engineer for the Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, further demonstrating his commitment to public service.

While working for Contra Costa County, Mr. Avalon contributed to the creation of numerous county public works projects and programs, including the Capital Road Improvement Program, Clean Water Program, and the Contra Costa Watershed Forum. His work was instrumental in creating the annual Contra Costa County Watershed Symposium, which has become an incredible asset to the community. If not for his efforts, many of Contra Costa County's public works projects and programs would not have come to fruition.

Mitch Avalon's contributions have not only been an incredible asset to Contra Costa County but to the entire Bay Area. Mr. Avalon sits on the boards of directors for Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, California Central Valley Flood Control Association, and San Francisco Estuary Institute. In addition, he was the founding chair for the Bay Area Flood Protection Agencies Association.

In recognition of the integral role he has played in establishing sound public investment throughout the region, Mr. Avalon has been the recipient of many outstanding community awards over the years. In 2005 he was presented with the California State Association of Counties "Circle of Service Award" and in 2007 he was honored by the Contra Costa County Watershed Forum with the "Watershed Champion of the Year Award." His legacy will live on through the series of public works projects, programs and associations he helped create and the communities they serve.

The long-lasting benefits of Mitch Avalon's career accomplishments not only benefit our generation but will improve our communities for generations to come; they stand as a testament to what diligent work and true commitment to community can produce.

Mr. Speaker, we are truly honored to pay tribute to our friend and dedicated public servant Mitch Avalon. We ask our colleagues to join with us in thanking Mr. Avalon for his long and dedicated service to the citizens of Contra Costa County and wishing him continued success in all his future endeavors along with a happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING BRITNI, A SENIOR
AT EXCELSIOR PREPARATORY
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a student of the Month from the Sixth Congressional District of New York.

Every month I seek to recognize students for their outstanding achievements and exceptional stride.

I am here to recognize a student who warmed my heart. Britni is a senior at Excelsior Preparatory High School and is set to graduate this month. She is a very determined young lady who has served as the manager of

the soccer team, was involved in the school's talent show, and participated in other school events despite her unique needs.

Britni participated in the Upward Bound Program at Queens College, which focuses on improving academic achievement.

Britni has excelled academically, passed Regents Examinations in various subjects, received commendations for passing all her classes, and has gone above and beyond to overcome social and academic challenges.

Her family and friends have encouraged and motivated her to focus on her strengths and abilities. I am confident that she will be accepted into a college that will continue to support her academically and socially to ensure her success. Britni's Principal was extremely proud to recognize her hard work in school and the positive accomplishments that she continues to achieve. She is a great inspiration and a true example that if you work hard to achieve your goals, you can succeed.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DR. EDWARD R. CULVERT'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to join the First Central Baptist Church of Harlem and the International Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons to pay tribute and celebrate the birthday of my dear friend and ally, the Honorable Dr. Edward R. Culvert, Publisher of the Culvert Chronicles Community Newspaper.

Rev. Dr. Edward R. Culvert is a man who possesses great qualities. He is a writer, educator, and philosopher. He attended Texas Baptist University in Austin, Texas from 1950 to 1959 graduated cum Laude. Dr. Culvert obtained his Bachelor in Arts, Master in Arts, Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity degrees.

Dr. Culvert has been a professor at the City University of New York for forty-four years. He has served in many capacities including Special Assistant to the President of City College in regards my Empowerment Zone legislation and initiative, and was on the committee that helped form the Urban Legal Studies Program. He has held many positions throughout his career and lifetime, such as the Commissioner of Labor Relations from 1977 to 1983. During that time, He handled most of the labor problems, actions and strikes that occur throughout the State of New York, and was the first and only African American to hold that position.

In addition to working at City College, he also teaches Religion, Sociology, Criminal Justice, History and Philosophy at Herbert Lehman College; and is currently teaching African American Studies. He has dedicated his entire life advocating for African American Studies, particularly stressing the importance progressive education, which is not limited to the classrooms.

The Culvert Chronicles is the brainchild of Dr. Edward R. Culvert, who observed that the African American community needed a vehicle of free expression. The paper is bi-partisan and prints positive and informative news to all of the residents of the greater New York Metropolitan area. He is quick to point out that the paper does not deal with tabloid news.