

security guards hostage. These shameful acts had the potential to do great harm to the hard-won 1979 peace treaty—a treaty penned barely a generation after the Holocaust and in the wake of the blatant 1973 attacks by Egypt and Syria that opened the Yom Kippur War.

Yet even in the face of evidence that the rioters seek an end to the peace treaty, Israel remains dedicated to it. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu paid rich tribute to the ultimate actions of Egyptian authorities to quell the riot and rescue the embassy guards. He pledged that the ambassador and the embassy's staff will return to Cairo when security can be better guaranteed. Israelis well know that peace with Egypt is in the best interest of both nations and the entire region.

As Prime Minister Netanyahu said in his May address to Congress, Israel is "the one anchor of stability" in the Middle East. Unwavering, self-sustaining, and yet faced with threats to its sovereignty from many sides, Israel has taken every chance to secure peace over its six-plus decades of existence. The prime minister has repeatedly said that Israel is willing to make "painful compromises" to achieve a two-state solution and quell violence in Gaza and the West Bank. In response, Israel is vilified in the United Nations, mocked for its attempts to survive, and met with open calls for its elimination.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel, a vanguard against the terror states of the Middle East. Our two nations share a strong, long-lasting partnership based on mutual democratic values and freedoms. We must remain united against all threats to Israel's peace, stability, and its very existence—which, as we were reminded just days ago, cannot be taken for granted.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM REFORM AND REAU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2867, a bill to reauthorize the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

Around the world, millions of people suffer persecution merely because they practice a different religion than other people around them. No one should be made to feel that the practice of their religion is a crime or a source of shame. Such persecution violates their inalienable human right to practice the religion of their own choosing and promotes political instability. The historical record is replete with incidents of violence and conflicts that have their source in sectarian and religious differences and rivalries.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom is an important advocate for the freedom of religion and helps promote the issue as an integral part of the U.S. foreign policy and national security agendas. Additionally, by providing data analysis and assessment of conditions in affected areas, USCIRF enables the U.S. to impact acts of religious re-

pression and intolerance in countries around the world.

USCIRF helps to advance the visibility of religious freedom as a priority of U.S. foreign policy and helps to address the challenges of religious extremism, intolerance, and repression throughout the globe.

I support the USCIRF and its mission and I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 2867.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. JOSEPH
LECZNAK, SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Joseph Lecznar, Sr., a dedicated leader of Greater Cleveland's Polish community.

Joe was born to Anthony and Mary Lecznar on July 25, 1921 in the southern province of Lancut, Poland. After attending elementary and junior high school, Joe began working on his family's farm. He served in the Polish Armed Forces, 2nd Corps during World War II and was wounded in action. He fought in many battles throughout the War and was honored with many medals and commendations for his bravery. He transferred to England and was honorably discharged in 1947.

Following the War, Joe immigrated to Toronto, Canada and later Cleveland, Ohio to join his siblings. He attended the Westside Technical Center to study to become a tool and die maker. He worked for the Chrysler Corporation for 30 years, where he was awarded with a citation and plaque for excellence.

Joe was an active member of his community; in particular the Greater Cleveland Polish community. He was a member of the Polish Army Veterans Association of America, Alliance of Poles, Polish National Alliance, Polish Legion of American veterans, Association of Polish Women, Polish American Congress, Parma Polish American League, Foundations and Center of the 2nd Polish Corps and the Chopin Singing Society.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mr. Joseph Lecznar, Sr. I offer my condolences to his wife, Irene; four children, Joseph, Barbara, Daniel and Nancy; and nine grandchildren, Joseph III, Julie, Jessica, Nicholas, Lindsey, LeAnn, MacKenzie, Morgan and Macy.

HONORING CHRISTIAN CHURCH
HOMES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of Christian Church Homes of Northern California (CCH). Since its debut in 1961, CCH has provided quality, affordable housing in creating caring communities for low-income seniors, as well as assisting its residents with accessing critical services to maintain their well-being.

It was the vision of church members in 1959 that led to the start of a committee that explored innovative ways to take action to the issue of fewer housing choices for seniors in northern California. In 1961, the committee moved forward to incorporate, and three years later, they received their first U.S. Department of Housing and Development (HUD) loan and began construction on Garfield Park Village in Santa Cruz, CA.

Today, CCH serves more than 6,000 residents in over 60 properties in six States—California, Colorado, Florida, Missouri, Oregon, and Texas. CCH employs around 450 experienced people and works with 350 dedicated volunteers to keep and maintain a high quality of life for its residents through community events, activities, and services such as fresh produce markets, "feel good bingo," computer labs, wellness clinics, exercise rooms, and education workshops.

CCH takes pride in its Service Coordination Program that provides resident assessments and referrals to services that match the needs of the residents. Through the guidance of service coordinators, residents can access the resources available in the greater community, which ultimately can allow for extended ability to remain in their CCH community.

Moreover, CCH has been leading the "Aging in Place" movement that blends health and human service provisions into affordable senior housing. These features allow for our senior citizens to live comfortably and become better acquainted with their community, while maintaining dignity and independence.

As a private non-profit corporation, CCH has benefitted from leveraging public and private resources for affordable housing development. By accessing all available funding on the Federal, State, local, and private levels, it allows CCH to provide additional services and benefits to its residents. In addition, a majority of its communities are funded through HUD, and many communities offer Project-based Section 8 or other subsidy programs which allow residents to pay 30 percent of their income in rent.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, I want to extend my congratulations on this important milestone. I want to thank all of the many people who have contributed to the continued success of Christian Church Homes of Northern California. I wish you the very best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed three votes on September 12, 2011, which included roll call votes 699, 700 and 701.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 699, H.R. 2076, the Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act of 2011.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 700, H.R. 2633, the Appeal Time Clarification Act of 2011.

Finally, if I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 701, H.R. 1059, to protect the safety of judges by extending

the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports, and for other purposes.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
LEVERETT JOHNSON HISTORICAL
MARKER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Leverett Johnson Historical Marker being dedicated in Westlake, Ohio's Evergreen Cemetery on September 15, 2011.

Leverett Johnson became the City of Westlake's first settler in 1811 at the age of sixteen. On August 15, 1814, he married Abigail Cahoon, marking the first marriage in the City of Westlake. Leverett and Abigail raised nine children together in a cabin that he built.

Leverett was an active and dedicated member of his community. He served as the township trustee and treasurer for Westlake from 1815 through 1847. Additionally, he was Westlake's Justice of the Peace from 1822 through 1833. He continued his political career and served as the Cuyahoga County Commissioner in 1829 and was elected to serve in the Ohio State legislature five times between 1837 and 1856.

In 1820, Leverett generously donated a piece of his land to the City of Westlake for the purpose of creating a cemetery, the Evergreen Cemetery. The Cemetery now serves as the final resting place for many of Westlake's early settlers, including the Johnson family. It is one of Westlake's most historic locations. Now, 200 years later, the Ohio Historical Society is honoring the City of Westlake's founder, Leverett Johnson, and his legacy, with an Ohio Historical Marker.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the dedication of the Leverett Johnson Historical Marker.

COMMENDING TEXAS CITY, TEXAS
ON ITS 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Texas City, Texas on its one hundred year anniversary. Located alongside Galveston Bay, this city has made significant contributions to both the Houston and Texas economies. Congratulations to Texas City for a wonderful century of contributions to the Great State of Texas!

September 16th, 1911 marks the founding of Texas City. This city has grown from a sleepy town of 3,500 people in 1925, to a vibrant city of more than 45,000 people today.

Texas City plays a critical role in our state's economy with its contributions to the shipping and petrochemical industries. The Texas City Industrial Complex is a leading center of the petrochemical industry.

The history and economic efforts of Texas City bring pride to our state. Congratulations

to Texas City for one hundred years of excellence and to a bright future ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded votes for rollcall 700 and 701. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" and "yes" for these measures.

Bill	Rollcall No.	Vote
H.R. 2633—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended	700	Yes
H.R. 1059—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass	701	Yes

HONORING ALFRED L. PELOQUIN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sympathy to commemorate the life of a tremendous journalist and friend Alfred L. Pelouquin.

Mr. Pelouquin enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943, where he was a 1st lieutenant and later promoted to captain in the U.S. Army Reserve. After a stint in Europe during WWII he became a reporter at The Bay City Times in 1946. He was later named city editor of The Times in 1959. In the 1970s he was named metro editor of The Saginaw News until 1981 when he was named editor of the Flint Journal, a job he held until his retirement in 1989.

During his time in journalism, Alfred Pelouquin remained deeply involved in each community, serving as chairman of Bay City's Planning Commission, Commodore of the Bay City Yacht Club, a member of the Bay City Ski Club, Bay City Industrial Development Committee, the Bay City Community Concerts Association and Chairman of the United Fund Campaign. In Flint, he helped establish the former Alliance for Greater Flint and the community-wide World of Difference anti-prejudice program. He also created a high school workshop for minority journalists.

Shortly after his retirement, he joined the Flint AARP chapter and held a variety of posts with the local and Michigan AARP. Mr. Pelouquin was active in AARP from April 1990 until December 2005 and his positions include Chairman of the AARP Michigan State Legislative Committee and member of AARP's Executive Leadership Council. In the 90s, he was also vice chairman of the Bay City Planning Commission, director for Jennison Hardware Co., a member of the Steering Committee for the Bay County Civic Arena and a member of the Community Round Table on Care for the Patient with Dementia. He sponsored numerous seminars and public forums addressing civic responsibility and good government and he continued to share his wisdom and knowledge to aspiring journalists throughout his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my deepest sympathies to the Pelouquin family and my

gratitude for having met Alfred. I am a better person for knowing him and our community is better because of his tireless and dedicated work.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S MODERN INDEPENDENCE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of Ukrainian independence. Twenty years ago Ukraine succeeded from the Soviet Union and on August 24, 1991 asserted its independence. For the first time since 1921, Ukraine was once again free. The Western world and in particular the United States welcomed Ukraine's sovereignty and its pursuit of democratic ideals.

Ukraine as a new nation has achieved much in the short time. Ukrainians enjoy the ability to share with the world their language, culture, history, and heritage without fear of persecution. During the Orange Revolution of 2004 the world saw Ukrainians united to uphold the sacred belief that in a democracy the will of the people must be fulfilled.

As we look back, we must remember that the path to democracy faces difficulties. Ukraine still struggles with its past, both inside and outside its borders. Legacies of the Soviet Union can still be seen in Ukrainian politics today. Political opponents have been intimidated and journalists harassed. Ukraine struggles to maintain civil liberties and the national identity of Ukraine has been endangered. Russia continually attempts to subjugate Ukraine by threatening Ukrainian territorial integrity, attempting to create Ukrainian reliance on Russian energy, and threatens Ukraine's pro-European ambitions. There are many challenges in democratization, but with the will of the Ukrainian people and the support of the world they can be realized.

On this twenty-year anniversary of independence I would like to offer my best wishes to all Ukrainians around the world who join us in celebrating this great milestone. It is important that we all reaffirm our strong commitment to Ukraine's independence as well as our tireless efforts to help democracy live strong in Ukraine.

IN RECOGNITION OF COGSWELL
HALL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cogswell Hall, a permanent housing residence for low income adults facing critical life challenges.

Founded by Mrs. Benjamin Cogswell in 1889, Cogswell Hall evolved from her earlier advocacy work as leader of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). In 1878 Mrs. Cogswell formed the Missionary Committee of the Open Door to provide young