

allegedly opened fire and killed 8 people—vividly illustrates how disputes at home can lead to violence in the workplace. To help employers address this issue, the bill reauthorizes the National Workplace Resource Center grant program. These grants will be made available to qualified organizations to establish and operate resource centers that assist employers on how to protect all their employees as well as those who are victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

The SAFE Act also protects victims of domestic abuse by prohibiting employers from making hiring decisions and insurance companies from refusing coverage based on an individual's history of abuse.

Finally, the SAFE Act makes it possible for a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking eligible for unemployment insurance if it is necessary for an employee to leave a job to escape the abuse.

The SAFE Act is a critical step towards helping victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to become survivors by giving them the financial security they need to seek help and end their dependence on abusive partners and ultimately break the cycle of violence in their lives.

I want to thank the many dedicated advocates and organizations who work tirelessly every day to empower victims of physical and sexual abuse. They face daunting challenges as the demand for their services continues to increase even as their funding sources at the local, state, and federal levels are being slashed. Their input, expertise, and support have been invaluable in crafting the SAFE Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and Congressman TED POE in co-sponsoring and helping to pass the SAFE Act. For far too many people, the safety nets in this bill are literally the difference between life and death. The time to act is now.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TROY COMMUNITY COALITION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the auspicious occasion of the Troy Community Coalition's twentieth year of service to the residents of Troy to recognize the profound impact of its members on efforts of communities across the Nation to combat and prevent substance abuse.

Born out of grass roots organizing by residents concerned with the rising incidence of underage drinking, the Troy Community Coalition, TCC, and its sister coalitions across the country have become the chief advocates in promoting the importance of preventing substance abuse. Like many of its younger counterparts, when the TCC was organized in 1991, its members focused on the need to educate area residents on the deleterious effects of substance abuse on their community. As the TCC grew, it assembled a broad alliance of community stakeholders and gradually shifted its mission from education to changing the environment and public policy of Troy to prevent substance abuse.

As one of the first community coalitions, the TCC has been a model for coalitions across

the country. Thanks to the advocacy of its members, in 1998 federal legislation was passed creating the Drug Free Communities program, which provides important resources to seed developing coalitions. Recognizing the innovation and knowledge base created by the TCC, its Executive Director at the time, Ms. Mary Ann Solberg, was tapped to be Deputy Director of the Executive Office of National Drug Control Policy in 2002.

Being a model coalition, the TCC has been the originator of many novel and innovative programs that have been implemented by its sister coalitions. The TCC's staff has even been tapped by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, a national advocacy group, to provide instruction to coalitions from around the country. Locally, the TCC has also gone on to mentor other area coalitions that are now recipients of Drug Free Communities resources.

Mr. Speaker, as families across my state of Michigan and the Nation feel the increasing pressures of our current economic environment, the work of community coalitions, like the TCC has become increasingly important to prevent individuals in crisis from turning to illicit substances. The TCC regularly engages thousands of members in the Troy community in activities which promote the strength of families and mold our youth into independent leaders of their generations. I congratulate the Troy Community Coalition and its members on twenty years of success in the fight to save the lives of youth across our community and I know its members will continue to lead the national dialogue in this important endeavor.

IN HONOR OF MR. PHILLIP MORRIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Phillip Morris, a columnist with the Cleveland Plain Dealer, who is being honored by the Press Club of Cleveland and inducted into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

Born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, Phillip attended Ohio Wesleyan University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in journalism. After graduating in 1987, he began working as a police and courts reporter for the Dayton Daily News. He would eventually work as an editorial writer for the paper.

In October of 1990, Phillip joined the Cleveland Plain Dealer's Editorial page. His responsibilities included editorial coverage of Cleveland city government, Ohio state government, the state and federal penal systems, education and children's issues. In 1995, Phillip began writing a weekly column for the Plain Dealer's Forum page and continued to do so for eleven years. In April of 2007, he became a metro columnist and gained national recognition in this role. Currently, Phillip is working as a Knight-Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan; he will return to the Plain Dealer in the spring of 2012.

Despite being at the Plain Dealer for less than twenty years, Phillip has garnered local and national recognition based on his work on criminal justice issues. He has been awarded

a National Association of Black Journalists award, a National Headliner Award and has been a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize twice. He is also a finalist for a second Association of Black Journalists award this year.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating the Cleveland Plain Dealer's Mr. Phillip Morris as the Press Club of Cleveland inducts him into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 810, I had district work that required my presence. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

THE WORSENING PLIGHT OF EGYPT'S COPTS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record a copy of Chuck Colson's recent Breakpoint Commentary which movingly speaks of the worsening conditions facing Egypt's Coptic community.

According to an October 25 Washington Post article, "Attacks on Christians have significantly increased since the uprising. The violence on October 9 began when about 1,000 Christians tried to stage a peaceful sit-in outside the state television building." The Egyptian military forcefully broke up their protest leaving at least 21 Christians dead in the single deadliest incident since the end of the Mubarak regime.

This carnage is evidence of an ancient faith community which is increasingly under siege. Not only are Coptic Christians not reaping the promise of the so-called "Arab Spring" but as Colson writes, "It's getting clearer for parts of the Arab world, its going to be a long, cold winter."

The Obama administration must press Egypt's ruling generals to uphold the rights of the country's vulnerable minority communities. Their sustained presence in the region is crucial.

[Oct. 24, 2011]

IONIC COPTIC WINTER: DEMOCRACY AND CHRISTIANS IN EGYPT

On October 9, at least two dozen Christians were killed by Egyptian police. Their only "crime" was in insisting that they be treated in a manner consistent with what the "Arab Spring" was supposed to be about.

It's getting clearer that for parts of the Arab world, it's going to be a long, cold winter.

The killings happened during a march organized by Coptic leaders to protest a church-burning by Islamists. The military regime responded lackadaisically to this outrage, just as it has to other outrages perpetrated against Egypt's Christian minority.

The junta's response to peaceful protest was a combination of tear gas, live ammunition, and armored vehicles ramming into the