

crowd. A few protestors threw rocks in response to the attacks, which gave state-controlled media a chance to claim that protestors started the violence and urge “honorable,” that is, Muslim, Egyptians to help the soldiers.

While I expect that kind of deception from Egyptian state-run media, I am appalled by The New York Times’ characterization of the killings as “sectarian violence.” For the Times, Christians are only victims if they endure violence without uttering the merest peep in protest. If they protest or try to defend themselves, however feebly, the Times paints them as the moral equivalent of their persecutors.

The situation in Egypt has become so dire that one Coptic bishop compares it to a “dark tunnel of violence.” Quoting the Apostle Paul, he writes that he and his flock are “hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed . . . perplexed but not lost, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed.”

While they pray for the victims and the offenders, it’s our task to make sure they are not forsaken, which is what all the euphoria over the “Arab Spring” threatens to do.

Lost in the buzz over democracy, Twitter, and Facebook, was any recognition that ousting dictators and establishing democracy are means, not ends. In other words, it doesn’t matter if you replace the rule of dictators with popular rule if, in the end, Christians and other minorities become targets for persecution and violence.

Our founding fathers, when they set out to “establish justice, insure domestic tranquility . . . [and] promote the general welfare,” knew the dangers of an unchecked majority. That’s why our Constitution is filled with checks and balances—between the people and the government, and between branches of government.

The “Arab Spring” has not resulted in greater justice and increased tranquility for Middle Eastern Christians. As John L. Allen wrote in the National Catholic Reporter, “many analysts wonder whether Christianity will be the first victim of the new order taking shape” in the Middle East.

There’s no reason, as writer Rod Dreher reminds us, to assume that democracy and religious tolerance go hand-in-hand. On the contrary, recent history suggests that what the so-called “people” often want is to mistreat the “others” in their midst.

Now, there is little standing between them and what they want. If Christians resist, they are run over by armored vehicles and blamed for their fate. While God has not forsaken them, the world that cheered on the Arab crowds last Spring seems intent on doing so.

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#### NATIONAL INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, last month was National Infant Mortality Awareness Month and was established to highlight the tragic occurrences of infant deaths across the nation and to raise awareness about those programs that can help save lives and ensure our children are healthy. As we know, infant mortality, the rate at which babies die before their first birthday, is an important measure of the nation’s health and a worldwide indicator of health status and social well-being.

Although the overall infant mortality rate (IMR) in the United States (U.S.) steadily declined for several decades, it has leveled off for the past several years. In 2009, the rate of infant deaths before age one for the U.S. was 6.4 per 1,000 live births. Unfortunately, the U.S. IMR is higher than the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) average and that of most European countries.

Though the rate for Maryland has dropped from 7.2 to 6.7, the rates throughout the state remain astoundingly high. Last year, the infant mortality rate for Prince George’s County was 9.0 or 22% of all infant deaths in the state of Maryland. Montgomery County realized a decline from 5.5 the previous year to 4.3 this year, but still had the fourth highest number of deaths in Maryland (behind Baltimore City, Prince George’s County, and Baltimore County).

In our nation, minority communities are especially affected by higher IMR. For example, across the country African Americans have higher incidences of infant mortality than do their white counterparts. In Maryland, the IMR for African American mothers was 11.8 compared to 4.1 for white mothers. These statistics bring to light the staggering disparities between race, ethnicity, age, education, and socio-economic levels.

National Infant Mortality Month gives us an opportunity to raise public awareness about the levels at which this problem continues to affect our communities, and to educate women about ways they may reduce infant mortality with good health care during the mother’s pregnancy and the early years of the child’s life. Research indicates that a number of federal programs may reduce the IMR. Programs such as the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant and Healthy Start are vital programs tasked with bringing awareness to factors that contribute to the nation’s high infant mortality rate, including low birth weight, congenital abnormalities, and sudden infant death syndrome. With the support of local organizations and clinics like the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and the Suitland Health and Wellness Center, we can advance a number of strategies to reduce infant mortality and help mothers and children live long and healthy lives.

I will continue to support and bring awareness to programs that increase access to health care and improve the quality of prenatal and newborn care to prevent the causes of infant mortality. As our nation recovers from these difficult economic times and families may experience gaps in health coverage due to job loss, transitions, and financial instability, it is especially vital that we continue to support adequate funding for these programs. We need to ensure that our babies get a healthy start to celebrate their first birthday and beyond.

I am pleased that even though the House of Representatives did not recognize National Infant Mortality Awareness Month by passing a resolution, the Senate did. By doing so, it brought much needed attention and awareness to the importance of reducing our infant mortality rate.

ROBERT B. COWDREY TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to rise in commendation of Sgt. Robert B. Cowdrey who served our country with great honor and pride. Sgt. Cowdrey gave his life for our country on October 13, while attempting a helicopter rescue of his fellow soldiers under fire.

Sgt. Cowdrey was raised in La Junta, Colorado. He graduated from La Junta High School in 1990. He was a devoted outdoorsman, who enjoyed bow hunting. Cowdrey enlisted in the Army in 2003 and was serving his third tour of duty in Afghanistan at the time of his death. Sgt. Cowdrey’s duties included flying into active combat zones to deliver medical assistance and rescue troops while under fire. He was highly decorated for his heroic service, earning the Bronze Star and two army commendations for valor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sgt. Cowdrey, a selfless American hero whose bravery and sacrifice are examples of what makes this country great. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Jill, their three sons, Justin, Jacob and Nathan, and the entire Cowdrey family.

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#### COMMEMORATING FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 27, 2011*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Filipino American History Month. We have, as a nation, commemorated October as Filipino American History month since 1988. The legislature in my home state of California also recognizes this month. California has long historical ties with Filipino Americans, and our state is home to over half of the Filipino population of the United States.

This month is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the rich culture and history of Filipino Americans, who have contributed so much both to California and to the United States. I’m pleased that recently there has been some legislative acknowledgment of their military contributions. Just this month in California, Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 199 into law, which would encourage the inclusion of the role of Filipinos in World War II in social studies curricula. Over 250,000 Filipinos fought with the U.S. in World War II. Their valiant service was largely uncompensated and unrecognized until recently.

I’m hopeful that my colleagues will take a moment to recognize the Filipino American community. This country is a nation of immigrants, and we are so much richer for the contributions that Americans of every background have made, and will continue to make as we move forward.