

about Britain's constitutional monarchy, the dire need for political reform in his country, and his yearning for a political settlement with the opposition.

He appeared genuinely contrite about the excesses of the government in Bahrain, but also convinced that the opposition has no vision of how to improve matters. "The path to hell is paved with good intentions," he said. Constantly, he referred to the need for "evolution" rather than "revolution."

Within the ruling family, he led the charge for reform last year, but was abandoned by Al Wefaq, the main opposition party, midway through discussions. The party kept changing its demands and the leaders were divided over what they wanted. This strengthened the hand of the more conservative wing of the royal family, led by the conservative, long-serving prime minister, Prince Khalifa bin Sulman al-Khalifa, 74.

The opposition wants the prime minister to resign, but neither the king nor the crown prince can dare ask a family elder to depart in ignominy.

Just as there are divisions within the royal family, there are serious splits in Bahrain's Shiite political scene. Not all the Shiites in Bahrain want to topple the monarchy. Nor is the opposition composed only of democrats who simply want to oust a monarchy.

Again and again, in villages and in meetings with Shiite opposition figures, one name kept coming up: Ayatollah Issa Qassim, spiritual leader of Al Wefaq, whose writ runs large across the Shiite opposition movement. Educated in Iran, his sermons are generally anti-American, anti-democracy and vehemently pro-Iran. When Iran's green movement challenged the mullahs in Tehran, Ayatollah Qassim accused the West of "trying to divide an otherwise peaceful country" and of "hatred toward Islam."

He is also intolerant of Shiites with divergent views back home. Three Shiite members of Bahrain's Parliament explained to me the consequences of daring to challenge Ayatollah Qassim. When they decided not to honor Al Wefaq's call to boycott elections last October, Al Wefaq-controlled mosques called on people to attack them; firebombs were thrown at their homes and their children were harassed on the streets. They live in fear for their lives, and they are not alone.

Ayatollah Qassim's supporters not only undermined the crown prince's efforts at reconciliation, but in recent weeks have taken to rioting in villages across Bahrain. In Sitra, one such village outside Manama, I spoke in Arabic with a police official, a Shiite, who said: "I am Bahraini before I am Shiite. We must live as Bahrainis and do what's right for our country, and not be controlled by Iran's clerics."

Like Bahraini Sunnis, the official felt the monarchy was not giving him the means to respond to the rioters. They have no guns, he complained, which left them at the mercy of rioters with home-made arrows and Molotov cocktails. "Last year, my colleagues in the army and interrogation units were wrong to torture protesters," he said. "But what about the attacks on us now? How are we to defend ourselves?"

Ayatollah Qassim has not called on his supporters to cease violence against the police, government and dissenting Shiite leaders. Instead, he has demanded that Jawad Hussain, one of the legislators I spoke with, and other dissenting Shiite political leaders and clerics come to the ayatollah's mosque during Friday services and publicly repent for betraying "the community."

Ayatollah Qassim's message does not justify the torture and human rights violations exercised by the government of Bahrain. The demands of the opposition for an end to discrimination in government jobs and for

greater political freedoms are valid. But calls for greater human rights must not be selective. Last year the opposition blocked bills that gave women equality and freedom in Bahrain because the ayatollahs opposed it, while the monarchy and Sunni parties supported it.

Bahrain is an important nation because it is a focal point of what is happening in the Middle East today—the battle to find a balance between preserving the best values of the Islamic tradition while the region eases its way into the modern world.

It is crucial that Western nations help the country achieve this balance, and that they not provide diplomatic cover for rioters and clerics in the name of human rights and democracy.

Instead, they should be using every pressure point to strengthen the reformist strands within the monarchy in support of political change, equal rights for women and an end to the language of Shiite sectarianism in Bahrain. Negotiations around the political table are the only way forward in Bahrain.

Ed Husain is a senior fellow for Middle Eastern Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

HONORING AWARD-WINNING
BROADCAST JOURNALIST STEPHEN DEAN

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor award-winning broadcast journalist Stephen Dean, whose dedicated investigative reporting exposes abuses of power and government missteps. Arrests and indictments tend to follow his in-depth reporting of shady dealings, including those by judges and other elected officials.

A master of the hidden camera, Stephen Dean and his team at Local 2 Investigates get results from Houston to Austin to Washington, DC. Even the venerable Washington Post has reported on one of his award-winning investigations.

From catching seven Houston law enforcement officers cheating in a traffic investigation class to reporting that Houston police were using mentally ill prisoners to practice drawing blood for DWI arrests, Stephen Dean has never been afraid to dig for information no one else will.

For nearly three decades, Stephen Dean's hard work has earned him award after award including the highest honor in broadcasting. He was honored with a Peabody Award for his series of reports on how the U.S. military used to investigate crimes. Dean's reporting documented how the armed services were ignoring crucial evidence in crimes against their own soldiers, prompting Congress to force changes with a law that was signed by the President.

For nearly two decades from radio to television, the Houston area has counted on Dean's watchdog eye on law enforcement. His dogged pursuit of M.U.D. policing led to a change in Texas law.

In addition to the Peabody Award, his national investigative reporting honors include the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi Award, the Radio Television News Directors Edward R. Murrow Award and sev-

eral State Bar of Texas "Gavel Awards" for legal reporting. In 2005, Dean was named Best Reporter by the Texas Associated Press Broadcasters for his live coverage of breaking news. The TAPB also named him the sole winner of its "Freedom of Information Award" four years in a row for his ability to overcome obstacles in digging through public records.

A nationally published author, Dean's 2011 book "PR Misfires Under the Gun", detailed costly public relations mistakes that people make in emergencies. Stephen Dean, his wife Cindy, and his precious Harley Davidson will soon ride out of Houston to start a new journalistic chapter in their home state. We wish them safe travels and we feel obligated to warn Ohio wrongdoers, he is on the way.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency that required me to return to Texas, I missed several votes during two separate vote series on April 26, 2011 and April 27, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 184, "aye" on rollcall vote 185, "aye" on rollcall vote 186, "aye" on rollcall vote 187, "aye" on rollcall vote 188, "aye" on rollcall vote 189, "aye" on rollcall vote 190, "nay" on rollcall vote 191, "aye" on rollcall vote 192, "aye" on rollcall vote 193, "nay" on rollcall vote 194 and "aye" on rollcall vote 195.

RECOGNIZING CITIZENS' VIETNAMESE HUMAN RIGHTS PETITION TO WHITE HOUSE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in honor of the 18th annual Vietnam Human Rights Day on Friday, May 11, 2012, I would like to highlight a petition that can be found on the "We the People" section of the White House's Web site. This particular petition, which collected over 150,000 signatures from across the country, urges the administration to "stop expanding trade at the expense of human rights."

Vietnam's human rights record remains disgraceful and I look forward to the day when we can gather together to celebrate true freedom in Vietnam. This administration must show the world that promotion of human rights is a priority in U.S. foreign policy.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. PEDRO R. PIERLUISI

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Chair, I rise to reinforce the comments made by our colleague from Guam, Ms. BORDALLO, regarding the importance of funding in Fiscal Year 2013 and future years for coral reef research conducted by NOAA and its external partners. I represent Puerto Rico, one of the several U.S. jurisdictions that has tropical shallow-water coral reefs located off its coasts. Additionally, last year as a result of a federally-funded mission led by NOAA deep sea corals located off the southwestern coast of Puerto Rico were discovered at a depth of 500 feet and in an area spanning 12 miles across.

These reefs are the "rainforests of the sea" and their protection is linked to the success of our ecotourism economy, the integrity of our coastlines, the quality of our water, and the health of the rich and diverse marine life that surrounds our islands. Corals are threatened by a variety of stressors. Last month, NOAA released a status review of 82 coral species currently being evaluated for potential protection under the Endangered Species Act. The report indicates that 50 coral species found in U.S. waters are likely to become extinct, with seven Caribbean corals extremely likely to go extinct, five of which are among the most imperiled species.

Simply put, corals are decreasing around Puerto Rico and elsewhere in U.S. waters. The science that stands to be funded by this bill, H.R. 5326, is important for both monitoring the health of these corals and understanding the causes of their decline. Once understood, local, state and federal managers will be able to work together on mitigation and protection strategies. The decisions made in the final bill will determine whether and to what extent NOAA will be able to engage external partners, especially in the jurisdictions where coral reefs are located, to conduct this important science. I hope that, at the end of this process, NOAA will have the resources it needs from Congress to increase its collaboration with external research partners and to fund the science needed to inform management decisions for protecting coral reefs in U.S. waters. I, too, thank the Chairman, Mr. WOLF, and the Ranking Member, Mr. FATTAH, for their commitment to work with the other body in ensuring this priority is sufficiently funded during the conference process.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
TEACHERS APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize our teachers for their dedication and tireless efforts in educating America's students. National Teachers Appreciation Week is a wonderful opportunity to honor the hard work our teachers perform daily to make a difference in the lives of students across the country.

While teaching is one of the most challenging jobs in the world, it is undoubtedly one

of the most rewarding. I strongly believe that we must give unconditional support to our educators so that future generations of young Americans will have the ability to succeed in a global economy and face the challenges of tomorrow.

On National Teachers' Day, we honor our local educators and acknowledge the crucial role each teacher plays in making sure that every child receives a quality education. Throughout my Congressional District there are stories of young people who are succeeding, not only because of test scores, but also because of a teacher who realized their talent, believed in them, and helped them to believe in themselves. It is because of these great teachers who make a positive impact on the youth, achievements gaps between poor and minority students and their non-minority peers are beginning to close.

It is also my pleasure to thank our teachers in the military community this week. More than 1.2 million school-age military children are being educated by dedicated teachers in classrooms across the country. These educators help young ones ease transitions into a different school and a new community as they relocate from a military base to another.

This week and throughout the year, I encourage parents to thank teachers for their hard work, care and sacrifice. I will continue to offer my gratitude and appreciation to our spirited teaching champions for their outstanding achievements on behalf our nation's students and their future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OVER-
DRAFT PROTECTION ACT OF 2012

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Overdraft Protection Act of 2012.

With the rise of debit cards and the constant presence of swipe terminals to use those cards to pay for everything from McDonald's to gas to candy bars, it's easier than ever for consumers to overdraw their checking accounts and incur overdraft fees.

That's how a fancy \$5 cup of coffee can become a \$35 cup of coffee faster than you can say "overdrawn"! Some institutions have responded to consumer outrage over these fees by implementing a policy of denying debit card transactions that would overdraw an account and I applaud them.

But too many financial institutions don't make consumers aware of the perils of overdrafts, and most reorder the posting of transactions in a way that maximizes their fees.

Although the Federal Reserve issued a rule requiring institutions to obtain affirmative consent from consumers to opt into overdraft coverage two years ago, it is quite clear more needs to be done in the area of consumer disclosures and to help consumers avoid multiple overdrafts.

A survey released last week by Pew Charitable Trusts highlights the need for the bill I am introducing today.

More than one-third of those surveyed—people who had overdrawn their accounts in the past year—didn't know their bank offered overdraft coverage until they incurred a pen-

alty fee, and more than half of people did not believe they had opted in. The Pew study also found that most of the people who overdraw their accounts do so more than once.

According to Moebs Services, overdraft fees brought in over \$31 billion dollars in revenue to financial institutions in 2011.

As a result of the Federal Reserve's opt-in requirement the number of overdrafts has fallen, but some institutions have responded to the drop by increasing the cost of overdraft fees and continuing to intentionally manipulate the transactions' posting order in a way that maximizes the fees they can earn from this service.

My bill increases disclosure to consumers, limits the fees' price and frequency, and bans the manipulation of transactions.

Specifically, the Overdraft Protection Act will:

Require consumer consent before banks can permit overdraft fees to paper checks, automated charges and debit card swipe-terminal transactions.

Require that fees be 'reasonable and proportional' to the amount of the overdraft.

Cap the number of fees that can be charged at one per month and six per year.

Prohibit banks from manipulating the sequence in which checks and other debits are posted if it causes more overdrafts and maximizes fees paid to banks.

Require that consumers be warned at ATMs if their withdrawals will trigger an overdraft.

Require the CFPB to study the practices of pre-paid cards and if necessary extend these provisions to those products.

The Overdraft Protection Act will ensure consumers are protected from misleading practices and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING DR. LYNDA YOUNG

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Dr. Lynda Young on her successful term as President of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Dr. Young has a long and distinguished record of activity in organized medicine. She practiced at Chandler Pediatrics in Worcester, Massachusetts for 34 years and was Chief of the Division of Community Pediatrics at the University of Massachusetts Memorial Children's Medical Center for over 30 years.

During her presidency, Dr. Young expertly and deftly represented the interests of physicians and their patients throughout the pioneering state negotiations over health care delivery and payment reform. At the national level, her expertise and leadership style have frequently been recognized as other policy-makers learn from the Massachusetts experience.

She has also served as president of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and has chaired its Committee on Continuing Education. A past president of the Worcester District Medical Society, she has held every office in the district. She has served as MMS President-Elect and Vice President, respectively, and has been a member of the Board of Trustees and House of Delegates.