

former member of the Armed Forces who feels that they have suffered an injustice as a result of error or injustice in military records may apply for a correction of those military records.

My amendment will educate current and former military members about the opportunity to apply for relief from the BCMR if they have been previously punished for reporting cases of sexual assault.

Applying for relief to the BCMR could help a service member such as a current Marine who is facing an unwarranted Field Fight Performance Board following her filing of a sexual harassment complaint.

It could help an Army soldier who was denied promotion, removed from her assignment, and referred for a mental evaluation after reporting a sexual assault, and who received a series of negative evaluation reports after filing a sexual harassment complaint and initiating a Congressional inquiry into her situation.

It could help a sailor who is facing involuntary administrative separation from the Navy—which would deny her future medical benefits—because she has been diagnosed with an “adjustment disorder” after seeking mental health treatment in the aftermath of a sexual assault.

We have made excellent progress recently in dealing with this blemish of sexual assault on the proud and honorable tradition of our armed forces. I am pleased that new protections for victims are in place as a result of last year’s NDAA, and that the Department of Defense is moving forward with advanced investigative techniques that will improve prosecution of sexual assault cases.

But I am also very concerned about the issue of sexual harassment, which is so often the precursor to sexual assault. This educational campaign is simply a first step in addressing the issue of sexual harassment, and sending a message that this behavior—and certainly retaliating against victims who report it—is absolutely unacceptable in our military.

Much is asked of the men and women who dedicate themselves to the protection of our freedoms. We must continue to ensure that we earn that trust and dedication.

IN HONOR OF THE FORTUNA
FAMILY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Fortuna Family, who is being recognized by the Slovenian National Home (the Nash) at their annual Persons of the Year Recognition Dinner.

The Fortuna Family began on November 21, 1953 when Joseph and Virginia Fortuna were married. In 1958, the couple opened the Fortuna Funeral Home in Cleveland’s Slavic Village. Throughout their fifty-two year marriage, Joseph and Virginia raised four children, Joseph, Mary Ann, John and Jane.

The eldest, Joseph, was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1980 and today serves as the Pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Roman Catholic Church in Euclid, Ohio. Mary Ann married James Trzaska; the two are licensed funeral directors working at Fortuna Funeral

Home. Mary Ann and James also have two children, Sheryl and Anthony, who are both attorneys. John Fortuna works at the family funeral home and has been a licensed funeral director for 33 years. John and his wife, Roberta, have three children, Joseph, Katherine and Kristen. The youngest of the Fortuna children, Jane, married Phil DeMattia and they have raised two children, David and Rebecca. Jane works as a nurse at the Cleveland Clinic.

The entire Fortuna Family has had a long connection to the Nash. In addition to Joseph and Virginia’s wedding reception being held at the Nash, each of their children’s wedding receptions were also hosted at the venue. Father Joseph’s ordination was also celebrated at the Nash. Additionally, Joseph and Virginia began a long lasting family tradition of volunteerism at the Nash. Joseph served as President of the Board of Slovenian National Home and was named “Man of the Year” multiple times.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating the Fortuna Family as they are honored at the Slovenian National Home’s Persons of the Year Recognition Dinner.

DEDICATION AND UNVEILING OF
THE MONUMENT HONORING STEPHEN
DUBOISE II

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor and remember Stephen Duboise II, a soldier in the American Revolutionary War, along with his ancestors who can trace their lineage back to the founding of this country. Stephen Duboise II was the grandson of Isaac Duboise, who came to the United States from France. I am honored to recognize him and the entire Duboise family for their contributions to this country.

The Duboise family produced several Revolutionary War soldiers, including Stephen Duboise II. His service record speaks for itself and is documented in his application for a pension filed in Rutherford County, Tennessee, on August 24, 1832. During the war, he served under General Francis Marion (“The Swamp Fox”) and fought in several key Revolutionary battles.

Not long after his time in Tennessee, Stephen Duboise II moved to Franklin County, Alabama, which is part of the Fourth Congressional District that I am proud to represent. He is listed in the Franklin County census of 1840. Stephen Duboise II died in Franklin County on October 15, 1842, and is buried near the Duboise Cemetery in an unmarked grave.

On May 20, 2012, an unveiling and ceremony is scheduled along with the dedication of a monument at the Duboise Cemetery honoring Stephen Duboise II, along with other members of his family line from Isaac Duboise to Peter Duboise, who was buried alongside Stephen in 1910. By placing a monument at the Duboise Cemetery, with the genealogy attached, this rich heritage can be viewed and passed on for many generations to come. May God bless the Duboise family, the great State of Alabama, and the United States of America.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF
NAGORNO-KARABAKH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to remember and support the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

It is first worth highlighting the history at work in this tragic situation. Historically, the majority of the population in Nagorno-Karabakh has been Armenian, and the people have always had close ethnic, religious, and familial ties with Armenia. However, in 1921, Joseph Stalin, then the commissar for nationality affairs in the Transcaucasia Bureau of the Communist Party, declared Nagorno-Karabakh to be an autonomous region controlled by Azerbaijan as part of his strategy to divide and rule.

In 1987, as the Soviet Union teetered on the edge of dissolution, the Karabakh Armenians petitioned for the inclusion of Nagorno-Karabakh in the state of Armenia. In 1991, they petitioned for independent state status. Sadly, the situation remains unresolved.

After the Soviet Union dissolved, Armenians in Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh endured great hardship, including horrific violence in Sumgait (February 1998), in Kirovabad (November 1988) and in Baku (January 1990). These pogroms were only part of a pattern of anti-Armenian activities occurring throughout Azerbaijan, and thousands of people lost their lives and hundreds of thousands of Armenians were displaced as a result. Such targeted violence is as deplorable today as it was two decades ago—yet, tragically, the region is no closer to peace. A cease-fire agreement, brokered in 1994, remains in place, but continued incendiary actions and statements threaten to destabilize peace talks. In January 2008, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev warned Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh, “We are reinforcing our army because we must be ready to free our lands . . . at any moment and by any means.” Such rhetoric can only be poison to the peace process.

U.S. policy toward the South Caucasus states has included promoting the resolution of the conflict surrounding the independent Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh. It is more important than ever that the United States maintain a principled stand for peace in this region, show that democracy can be born from conflict, and support Nagorno-Karabakh. It is my sincerest hope that Nagorno-Karabakh’s right to self-determination can be affirmed without further loss of life.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose H. Res. 568, a resolution “expressing the