attack. By the 1790s the hill was called Fort Nonsense, as a legend had grown that Washington ordered the construction as a means to keep his troops busy.

The historic landscapes, structures, objects, and archeological and natural resources at Morristown are tangible links to our nation's history. The vast collection in the Morristown National Historical Park library and archives reflect the convergence of two collections. With the founding of the park, they acquired the collection of the Washington Association of New Jersey. Later, in 1955, collector Lloyd W. Smith bequeathed his immense collection to the park, enabling them to boast a library collection of nearly 50,000 volumes, and an archive of nearly 250,000 manuscripts, journals, diaries, account books, letter books, military orderly books, and other Revolutionary War related documents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Morristown National Historical Park as it celebrates its 80th anniversary.

INTRODUCING THE PREVENT ALL SORING TACTICS ACT OF 2013

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, in 1970, Congress passed and President Nixon signed into law the Horse Protection Act (HPA) for the purpose of ending ''soring'' that was occurring in Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse, and Spotted Saddle Horse shows. The term soring refers to the application of blistering or burning agents, lacerations, sharp objects, or other substances or devices to a horse's limb to produce an exaggerated high-stepping show ring gait, by making it painful for the horse to step down.

Since the passage of this legislation more than forty years ago, the act of ''soring'' has continued at an alarming rate. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has lacked the resources to send agency officials to every Tennessee Walking Horse, Spotted Saddle Horse and Racking Horse show. As a result, USDA gave Horse Industry Organizations (HIOs) the responsibility to train and license their own inspectors, commonly known as Designated Qualified Persons (DQP's), to conduct inspections at these events.

The USDA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) recently conducted an audit of the Horse Protection Act Program, finding that trainers in the industry often go to great lengths to evade detection rather than comply with federal law and train horses using humane methods. The OIG made several recommendations, including stiffer penalties and abolishing the self-policing practices currently allowed under regulations, where HIOs are able to assign their own inspectors to horse shows. More recently, an undercover investigation showed that trainers continue to sore horses and enter them into shows undetected, even while the trainers are on federal disqualification. HIOs' inspectors are turning a blind eye to the soring of horses, despite the fact that they are licensed to enforce the 1970 law that prohibits this practice. These and other investigations show massive abuse throughout the Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse, and Spotted Saddle Horse industries, demeaning the once highly-regarded sport and threatening jobs in these industries, as well as the economic activity associated with their shows that is so important to communities in my state and elsewhere.

Therefore, the bill that I am introducing today, the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2013, amends the Horse Protection Act of 1970 to direct USDA to license, train, assign, and oversee persons who are to be hired by event managers to inspect horses at Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse, and Spotted Saddle Horse events for evidence of soring. The proposed amendment is narrow in scope and affects only a small number of horses belonging to one of three breeds that are subjected to soring. There are three components to the amendment. First, it will end the failed system of industry self-policing by having the USDA assign licensed inspectors to oversee the shows if requested by horse show management. Secondly, for the three breeds specified in the bill that have been subjected to soring, it will ban the use of certain devices associated with soring, but the bill exempts pads and boots used for therapeutic purposes. Lastly, it will strengthen penalties for those violating the law. The bill carries the support of the American Horse Council, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Humane Society of the United States, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, several walking horse organizations, and others.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this common sense piece of legislation.

HIGHLIGHTING VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I recently chaired a hearing to examine the human rights situation in Vietnam.

The Vietnamese government continues to be an egregious violator of a broad array of human rights. Our distinguished witnesses provided a detailed account; I would like to highlight just a few areas of grave concern.

Despite the State Department's decision in 2006 to remove Vietnam from the list of Countries of Particular Concern as designated pursuant to the International Religious Freedom Act, Vietnam, in fact, continues to be among the worst violators of religious freedom in the world. According to the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom's 2012 Annual Report, ''[t]he government of Vietnam continues to control all religious communities, restrict and penalize independent religious practice severely, and repress individuals and groups viewed as challenging its authority.'' I agree with USCIRF's conclusion that Vietnam should be designated a CPC country.

I met courageous religious leaders during my last trip to Vietnam who were struggling for fundamental human rights in their country. Unfortunately, many of them, including Father Ly and the Most Venerable Thich Quang Do, remain wrongly detained today. There are disturbing reports that Father Ly is suffering poor health. Leaders of religious organizations are not the only ones victimized by the Vietnamese government; individuals and small communities are also targeted by the regime. One of our witnesses, Mr. Tien Tran, spoke of the brutality that he experienced as a member of the Con Dau parish that was violently repressed in 2010 when they tried to have a funeral procession.

The State Department's upgrade of Vietnam from Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2 with respect to the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking also needs to be critically examined. The Department's 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report states not only that Vietnamese women and children are being sexually exploited, but that there are severe labor abuses occurring as well–with the government's complicity. The Report acknowledges that state–licensed labor export companies engage in fraud and charge illegal commissions for overseas employment, and that there are documented cases of recruitment companies ignoring pleas for help from workers in exploitative situations.

As the sponsor of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, I am deeply disturbed that the Tier Rankings are not being better utilized by our State Department to pressure Vietnam to correct the trafficking abuses occurring within its government, not to mention those in the private sector.

We heard from Ms. Hui Danh who testified about the ordeal that her sister has endured as a victim of human trafficking. I am deeply disturbed by her story because her sister's situation actually got worse when she asked for help from the Vietnamese embassy. I greatly admire her courage and the Subcommittee is most appreciative of her willingness to speak out and bring attention to this issue.

Despite the dismal status for human rights in Vietnam, we can exert pressure on the Vietnamese government to cease these abuses. I will be reintroducing the Vietnam Human Rights Act soon; swift Congressional action on this bill will send a strong message that Congress will not tolerate continuing human rights abuses in Vietnam.

It is imperative that the United States Government send an unequivocal message to the Vietnamese regime that it must end its human rights abuses against its own citizens. This message however, should not be confined to the Human Rights Dialogue; it must be raised at each opportunity that we have talks with the Vietnamese government.

I thank all of our witnesses for appearing before the Subcommittee, and we look forward to hearing your testimony.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF PLANTATION, FLORIDA

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Plantation, Florida, a beautiful city in my district. Since its incorporation April 1953, Plantation has grown into a vibrant city in Broward