

from North Korea and Iran which places the United States at risk. The administration should inform Congress of the effects of the abandoned and failed Obama administration phased adaptive approach and of their plan to complete the Bush administration's Alaska missile defense strategy.

Further, since completion of the Alaska missile field alone is insufficient for the full protection of the United States, I am calling upon the administration to support the site selection and completion of a United States east coast missile field to complement the Alaska site.

The world is not becoming a safer place. Offering to weaken our defenses in hopes of irrational nations suspending their weapons programs is not an effective strategy to protect the United States. Simply put, these offers are of greater benefit to our adversaries than to the protection of the American people. They are to the detriment of the American people.

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THE PASSING OF HELEN L.  
DOHERTY APRIL 17, 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHU. This month, the San Gabriel Valley lost a wonderful leader, the Native American community lost a true champion, and I lost a dear friend. Helen Doherty wore many hats throughout her years of public service, but one thing remained constant among them all: she fought to make life better for those around her. All people were her family; all children were her children.

Helen's actions were always guided by the needs of younger generations. An educator at heart, she spent four decades in public school classrooms. She taught where she was needed most—where the value of a lesson learned would have the greatest impact—places like the Bridges Community Day School, where she worked with young people who had worn out their welcome in the traditional school system through expulsion, drug use, or family problems. None of that mattered to Helen. What mattered was helping kids build a brighter future for themselves, one new lesson at a time.

But being an educator meant more to Helen than teaching in schools. It meant being a good colleague as well. She was a devoted member of the California Teachers Association and won their California Teacher in Politics award.

Helen's compassion for others led her to speak out and fight for those in need. Much of her activism was rooted in who she was as a member of the Cherokee Nation. She had personal insights into the needs of Native American communities, and she fought tirelessly to have them addressed. By the time she was in college at UCLA, she had personally felt the pains of intolerance directed at her and her heritage.

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Determined to change the wrong she faced, Helen boarded a bus and rode clear across the country to hear Martin Luther King deliver his "I Have a Dream" speech. That dream was her dream. His message was her message, and she fulfilled it each and every day for the rest of her life.

Helen worked side by side with the Gabrielino Tribe to help them gain recognition and joined the Morongo Nation in promoting human rights. She took those challenges and struggles that are unique to reservation life and raised awareness for solutions.

Her efforts helped ensure those facing difficult conditions on reservation land had the education to build a brighter future. She held workshops on tribal lands to help people develop the skills needed to improve their quality of life, and she worked hard to ensure that textbooks in California accurately reflected the true history of the Native people. As her advocacy led to public service, Helen was a founder and chair of the Native American Caucus for the California Democratic Party—one of the first Native American caucuses for a State party.

Helen left us not long ago, but her impact lives on. The lives she touched are forever changed for the better as are the communities she fought to empower. Her life's work provides an inspiration for all of us. So, today, I bid farewell to a friend, a mentor, and a true role model to so many.

And I say thank you for all that you've done for us, Helen Doherty.

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UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the recent actions taken by the President of the Ukraine, Mr. Yanukovich.

On April 7, President Yanukovich pardoned former Interior Minister Lutsenko, former Environmental Minister Filipchuk, and four others. These pardons demonstrate Ukraine's desire to integrate democratic policies and reform their justice system as the expanding Eastern European nation continues its transition towards democracy.

This action is a concrete step in the right direction for President Yanukovich's administration, but there remains much to be done in order for Ukraine's judicial system to be considered in line with Western standards. This would include an end to all political persecutions; and, today, I reiterate my call for the release of Ms. Yulia Tymoshenko, the former Prime Minister.

I have long been a supporter of our Nation's ability to assist new, emerging democracies as they develop the pillars for building successful and lasting governments. I am encouraged by

these recent steps and hope that Ukraine continues on its path towards full European integration. The United States Government welcomes President Yanukovich's decision to pardon Mr. Lutsenko and Mr. Filipchuk and hopes that such actions signal an end to the political persecution of other opposition figures.

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KEEP YOSEMITE TOURIST-  
FRIENDLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I rise today in strong opposition to a proposal by the National Park Service to remove longstanding tourist facilities from Yosemite National Park, including bicycle and raft rentals, snack facilities, gift shops, horseback riding, the ice skating rink at Curry Village, tennis courts and swimming pools, the art center, and the historic stone Sugar Pine Bridge.

These facilities date back generations and provide visitors with a wide range of amenities to enhance their stay at and their enjoyment of this world-renowned national park. To add insult to insanity, all of this comes with a quarter-billion-dollar price tag to American taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, Yosemite belongs to the American people, and the Park Service's job is to welcome them and accommodate them when they visit their park, not to restrict and harass them. Indeed, Yosemite was set aside nearly 150 years ago by legislation signed by Abraham Lincoln specifically for "the public use, resort and recreation for all time." This proposal fundamentally changes the entire purpose for which Yosemite was set aside in the first place.

Tourists don't go where they're not welcomed. Yosemite competes with thousands of vacation destinations; and the more inconvenient and unpleasant Park managers make it for Yosemite visitors, the fewer visitors they're going to have. Now, that might be convenient to them, but it will devastate the economy of all of the surrounding communities whose economies depend upon tourism.

The Park Service is attempting to justify this as a court-ordered response to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This is disingenuous. The settlement agreement they refer to simply requires that a plan be adopted consistent with current law. It does not mandate such radical changes in longstanding visitor services and amenities.

Former Congressman Tony Coelho, who authored the act that designated the Merced under provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, has just released a strong letter condemning the proposal, saying in no uncertain terms:

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was never intended to apply to the Merced River within