

Azerbaijan and Turkey will immensely contribute to energy security in Europe by exporting Azerbaijani natural gas to the European markets.

On a security front, Azerbaijan has been a key ally in a post 9/11 era, emerging as one of the first countries to offer strong support and assistance to the United States. Actively participating in joint operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has also extended important overflight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights and provided key supply routes to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities. The transit route through Azerbaijan accounts for roughly 40 percent of the Coalition supplies bound for Afghanistan.

As the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 95th anniversary of Republic Day and to recognize the valuable bilateral relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan. I also encourage my colleagues who are interested in supporting Azerbaijan to join me as a member of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, a bipartisan group of more than 40 Members of Congress working to help foster the growing partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan and to advance U.S. interests in this pivotal region.

THE GREATEST GIFT IN HONOR OF  
THE FALLEN THIS MEMORIAL  
DAY THE ONES WHO GAVE THAT  
LAST FULL MEASURE

**HON. CORY GARDNER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in gratitude, for all of the fallen and their families this Memorial Day. I submit this poem penned in their honor by Albert Caswell.

THE GREATEST GIFT

The . . .  
The Greatest Gift!  
As such as this,  
is a many splendor thing!  
To lay down ones life,  
is but the brightest of all bright!  
To go off to war,  
all for your Nation . . . to so insure!  
Our freedom to so bring!  
As throughout the years . . .  
As have so come here!  
All of our most precious of all Daughter's  
and Son's,  
who have so persevered!  
With courage clear,  
as the face of death upon them so appeared!  
And for all of their lost loves,  
we now hold so very high above so very dear!  
The ones who so went off to war,  
all for our freedoms to so insure!  
To do what must so be done!  
For these are the ones,  
who so lived and so died and did so not ask  
why!  
As the Angels up in heaven all for them so  
cried!  
And, all of those families who so now live  
without!  
As their pain and their heartache so seems  
to mount!  
Until, up in Heaven again they all so meet  
on this you can count!  
As all of their loved ones tears now so fall to  
the ground!

The Mother's! The Father's! The Sister's!  
The Brother's!

The Son's and The Daughters!  
Who together no longer so remain!  
Who so gave all that they so could!  
But For The Greater Good!  
The Ones Who So Heard The Call!  
The Ones Who So Stood So Very Tall!  
To Do What Must So Be Done!  
On Earth as it is In Heaven,  
In Thy Kingdom Come!  
To take up that flight,  
in The Army of Our Lord to so overcome!  
To so watch over us all day and night!  
And This Is Their Blood,  
that which now so runs!  
And these are the tears,  
that which your families have now so begun!  
And these are all of their dreams that which  
will so never become!

For this is The Day . . .  
that which so all portrays . . .  
America's very heart to so everyone!  
So give thanks,  
to all of those Yanks who lie now deep in the  
cold dark ground!  
On This Memorial Day,  
forget not what they all so gave!  
And the families who with their tears will all  
so pay!

As on your knees,  
I bid you please to so say a prayer for all of  
these!  
Who but with their fine lives so bought us  
peace!

The ones who so lived and so died,  
while all of their families so cried . . .  
Who so fought all of those Wars which were  
waged!

With but their fine lives that they gave,  
was but the high price of Freedom paid!  
Sadly,  
for any Nation to so live free!

For any Nation to so find her most blessed  
peace!

Her most precious of all Son's and Daugh-  
ters,  
must lay down into the ground so very deep!  
Is but the cruel and high cost of most pre-  
cious liberty!

North, South, West, and so East!  
On This Memorial Day,  
please . . . please . . . Remember All of  
These!

And so say a prayer!  
Amen!

**ROBERTO MAESTAS**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Roberto Maestas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Roberto Maestas is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Roberto Maestas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Roberto Maestas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedi-

cation and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.)  
CHARLES CURRIE, RET.

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, there are citizens making up this great country who never cease in offering themselves to their communities while improving the quality of our lives. They are the lights of our neighborhoods and families that bring hope long after they are gone. I rise today to celebrate one such glorious light and honor the legacy of Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles Currie, Ret.

Chaplain Currie dedicated his life to the calling of the Almighty and in service to the country he loved. During World War II, Currie played the trombone in the 11th Airborne Division Band. He returned to the Army as a Chaplain after graduating from Dallas Theological Seminary with a Master's Degree in Theology. He preached of the goodness and hope of the Almighty at Ft Bragg, Ludwigsburg, Germany, Fort Campbell, Pajori, Bayreuth, and Nuremberg, Germany, Vietnam, and Fort Knox. He retired as a Lt. Colonel with more than 20 years of service and began to travel the world serving and leading mission trips to more than 38 countries.

From all of Judea to the ends of the Earth, Chaplain Currie's legacy will be long remembered. Mr. Speaker, the Tennessee 7th Congressional District is better for his lasting goodwill. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the life and service of Chaplain Charles Currie.

HONORING CAPTAIN EMERY BURK

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the valiant services of Captain Emery Burk and thank him, as he retires, for serving Wayne State University and wider Detroit communities for 36 years.

Captain Emery Burk is retiring from the Wayne State University Police Department after 36 years of dedicated service. Born in Detroit, Michigan, Emery Burk attended Hamtramck Public schools and then attended Michigan State University, graduating in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. Mr. Burk was hired by the Wayne State University Department of Public Safety on June 21, 1976, and started the Detroit Police Academy the same month. Upon his completion of the Police Academy, Emery was assigned to patrol, often leading his shift in arrest and other related statistics. During his patrol operations, Emery was a Field Training Officer and trained many of the officers who came through the department.

Mr. Burk was the recipient of the Valor Award for heroic service as a patrol officer. At the time, he was only the second officer in the department to receive this high award. As an