

militants attacked a natural gas facility in Algeria, which is the third largest exporter of natural gas to Europe.

The Caspian Sea region holds significant energy resources and proven natural gas reserves. In particular, the Shah Deniz field in Azerbaijan is one of the world's largest gas fields, with over 30 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas. The Southern Gas Corridor will help our European allies diversify their energy resources by providing an alternative and reliable source of natural gas. This will bolster their energy security and help improve geopolitical stability in the region. Specifically, the pipeline will route natural gas from Azerbaijan through Georgia and Turkey to Europe.

Current and past administrations have expressed support for the Southern Gas Corridor. At the U.S.-Azerbaijan Convention in late May 2013, U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan Richard Morningstar stated:

“... Azerbaijan's importance to European energy security will remain strong, helping to guarantee that our European partners are not overly reliant on any suppliers. Azerbaijan is now in the final stages of establishing a southern corridor for natural gas.

“... our overriding interest is that Azerbaijani gas reaches vulnerable markets in Europe...”

Additionally, a December 2012 report by Senator Richard Lugar's Foreign Relations Committee staff entitled “Energy and Security from the Caspian to Europe” states:

“... the Southern Corridor would advance several U.S. and NATO foreign policy objectives: it would further isolate Iran, assist in cultivating partners in the Caucasus and Central Asia and bolster their sovereign independence, and perhaps most importantly, curtail Russia's energy leverage over European NATO allies.”

Mr. Speaker, the Southern Gas Corridor will contribute to regional energy security for our allies in Europe and Eurasia, and help to strengthen our strategic partnership.

I urge all my colleagues to support this important resolution.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN JOHN
MCLAIN FOR HIS SERVICE WITH
THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and commend Captain John McLain of Woodbridge, Virginia, on the occasion of his retirement after 25 years of honorable service with the United States Navy.

Captain McLain graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelors Degree in International Relations and English in 1987. He attended Aviation Officer Candidate School and was commissioned an Ensign in March 1988.

Designated a Naval Aviator in June 1989, Captain McLain was assigned to the Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) Forty-Three (HSL-43), where he deployed twice to the Persian Gulf, participating in Operation Desert Shield with the USS *Chancellorsville* (CG 63) and as Detachment Maintenance Officer with the USS *Paul F. Foster* (DD 964).

In April 1993, Captain McLain was assigned to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron One (VX-1) in Patuxent River, Maryland, where he served as Operational Test Director for all SH-60B programs.

In April 1996, he reported to USS *Boxer* (LHD 4), in San Diego, as the Assistant Air Officer, deploying again to the Arabian Gulf and Red Sea with the 15th MEU (SOC).

Following refresher training in the SH-60B, Captain McLain reported to the “Easy Riders” of HSL-37 in NAS Barber's Point, Hawaii. He served as Officer in Charge of the LAMPS detachment aboard the USS *Port Royal* (CG 72) with the USS *John C. Stennis* Battle Group and as the squadron Maintenance Officer.

Captain McLain reported to the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, where he graduated with honors from the College of Naval Command and Staff with a Master's degree in National Security Affairs. Following graduation, he was selected as an Associate Fellow with the Chief of Naval Operations' Strategic Studies Group (CNO SSG) during SSG XXII.

After SSG, Captain McLain was assigned to the Joint Staff in Washington, D.C. where he worked in the Directorate for Intelligence, Deputy Directorate for Intelligence Capabilities and Requirements (J2P).

He was selected for command in August 2005 and reported to NAS Whiting Field, Florida, where he served as Executive Officer of Helicopter Training Squadron Eighteen (HT-18) and as the first Commanding Officer of Helicopter Training Squadron Twenty-Eight (HT-28).

Captain McLain reported to the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) as a Federal Executive Fellow in August 2008. After completing his fellowship, he reported to the Strategy Branch, Strategy and Policy Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy (OPNAV N513) where he completed his 25 years of service in the United States Navy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise to join me in recognizing and thanking John McLain for his committed and selfless service to his colleagues and our country. We are fortunate to have among us veterans with Captain McLain's sense of duty and continued commitment to our national security. We wish Captain McLain, his wife, June, and their two sons, Jack and Finn, well during this next chapter of their lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF A LANDMARK
COURT RULING RECOGNIZING
CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORITY TO
GRANT CITIZENSHIP TO PER-
SONS BORN IN U.S. TERRITORIES

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of a landmark decision handed down yesterday by the District Court for the District of Columbia in *Tuaua v. United States*. The decision reaffirms the plenary authority of Congress to grant citizenship to people born in the U.S. territories. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit are five non-citizen U.S. nationals born in

American Samoa and the Samoan Federation of America, a nonprofit organization serving the Samoan community in Los Angeles. The defendants are the United States, the State Department, the Secretary of State, and the Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs. The plaintiffs brought the lawsuit seeking a declaratory judgment that would assert that the Fourteenth Amendment's Citizenship Clause extends to American Samoa. I submitted an amicus curiae brief in support of the defendants. The Court granted the defendants' motion to dismiss on June 26, 2013 after finding that the plaintiffs failed to state a claim.

Mr. Speaker, the plaintiffs in the Citizenship lawsuit sought to reverse years of legal precedent and usurp Congressional authority to bestow citizenship to people living in the U.S. territories. The Court correctly found the plaintiffs' arguments unpersuasive and held, “To date, Congress has not seen fit to bestow birthright citizenship upon American Samoa, and in accordance with the law, this Court must and will respect that choice.” When the people of American Samoa vote in favor of citizenship, I will work with Congress to ensure that the people of American Samoa become U.S. citizens. However, the people of American Samoa have yet to vote on whether they want to become U.S. citizens.

Mr. Speaker, in the early 20th century the Supreme Court in a series of cases known as the Insular Cases, firmly established the extent to which the Constitution applies to the territories. In these cases the Court defined “incorporated” territories as territories that are expressly made part of the United States by an act of Congress and “unincorporated territories” as territories that had not yet become part of the United States and were not on a path toward statehood. The Insular Cases established that only “fundamental” constitutional rights are extended to persons born in unincorporated territories.

The plaintiffs argued that citizenship is a “fundamental” right that applied to unincorporated territories. Recent federal court cases have not supported this argument. Similarly, Judge Richard Leon in his opinion in *Tuaua v. U.S.* correctly reasoned that the Insular Cases suggested that citizenship was not a “fundamental right” that applied to unincorporated territories. Judge Leon found the plaintiffs' evidence too speculative in the face of contrary overwhelming legal precedent and constitutional authority. The plaintiffs were unable to provide a single federal court case that has recognized birthright citizenship as a guarantee in unincorporated territories.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Michael Williams, Thea Cohen and Michael Fragoso and their law firm of Kirkland & Ellis, LLP for their generous support in working collaboratively with my office in support of the people of American Samoa.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, I thank the Court for its well reasoned opinion in *Tuaua v. U.S.* and for reaffirming the authority of Congress to grant citizenship to the people of American Samoa. This decision will allow the people of American Samoa to decide whether they want to become citizens. Once the people make a decision I can work with my colleagues in Congress to grant citizenship to the people of American Samoa.