

territorial sea and contiguous zone of the Xisha islands (Vietnam's Hoang Sa) and that on-going operation is conducted on a usual basis at a location administered by China without any dispute"; and that China would not accept Vietnam's request of negotiation over Hoang Sa.

3. The fact that China disregards Vietnam's communication requesting the withdrawal of the drilling rig and oil service vessels out of Block No. 143 is obviously an act on purpose and an intentional and serious violation of Vietnam's sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction over Hoang Sa, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf; serious violation of the accords reached between two countries' leaders, the spirit and content of the DOC, related principles the international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. The Chinese activities have tremendously affected the political trust between the two countries, adversely impacted the bilateral negotiations over sea issues, and damaged the sentiments and feelings of the peoples of Vietnam and China.

4. The Government of Vietnam respectfully asks all Governments in the world to voice condemnation of those wrongful acts by China; demand China to recall its drilling rig HD-981 out of Vietnam's waters and respect the rights and interests and coastal nations in accordance with the 1982 UNCLOS, fully and seriously observe the spirit of the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), ensure the security and safety in the East Sea (Bien Dong); and call upon China to soon settle disputes with Vietnam through peaceful negotiations, thereby contributing to peace and stability in the region.

[As of May 7, 2014]

FACT SHEET NO. 2 ON CHINA'S LATEST ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN VIETNAM'S EEZ

1. China's provocative behavior:

To date, the number of China's supporting ships moving toward the drilling platform has increased to more than 80, including 7 military ships, 33 marine patrol boats and surveillance ships, and many other vessels.

2. China's use of force:

Videos and pictures show Chinese ships, backed by helicopters, aggressively obstructing Vietnamese ships.

The Chinese ships also sprayed water cannons, damaging Vietnamese vessels and injuring their crew members.

At around 8:10 a.m. on May 3, a Chinese ship struck the right side of a Vietnamese Marine Police vessel at high speed, smashing the windows of the Vietnamese vessel that was attempting to take evasive maneuvers.

A total of eight Vietnamese ships were rammed, hit, or sprayed with high pressure hoses.

At one point, five Chinese ships surrounded a single Vietnamese vessel.

3. China's impingement on freedom of navigation:

The Maritime Safety Administration of China (MSAC) announced on its website on Saturday that all vessels should keep one mile (1.6 km) away from the rig, called the Haiyang Shiyu 981.

Despite Vietnam's objections, MSAC on Monday expanded the prohibited area around the rig to a three-mile (4.8 km) radius.

On the ground, China uses force to drive away Vietnamese ships.

The location is right on vital international sea lanes. Consequently, China's acts are threatening maritime security and safety in the region.

HONORING PAUL MARKOWSKI

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Paul Markowski. Paul is a Behavior Detection Officer with the Transportation Security Administration based at LaGuardia Airport in Queens, NY. While off-duty, Paul assisted a man in distress, saving his life.

On the afternoon of April 13, after finishing their shifts while walking to their cars, Paul and his colleague, Michael Dougherty, spotted a man who was signaling for help. They quickly approached and found the man struggling to breathe while waving a nonfunctioning inhaler. As the man began to have a seizure, Paul and Michael caught him before he fell, and then gently laid him on the ground. Other officers noticed the situation and subsequently called for an ambulance. The man was successfully transported to a nearby hospital.

Paul's actions were nothing short of heroic. Speed, teamwork, and willingness to act all played a role in helping save the man's life. I was honored to speak with Paul on Friday afternoon to thank him for his exemplary service. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in recognition of the decisive actions displayed by Mr. Markowski.

TRIBUTE TO FELIX GAITER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to pay tribute to a longtime friend and one of the finest men I have ever known.

Felix Gaiter recently passed away at the age of 91. He was a well-known businessman in my District and owner of the Gaiter Construction Company, which was the largest African American-owned construction company in East Tennessee.

I had the privilege to be the lawyer for the Gaiter Construction Company for just about the entire time I practiced law. Mr. Gaiter was one of the kindest, hardest working, and most honest people with whom I have ever dealt.

Mr. Gaiter was also a veteran of World War II, and he easily earned his place among the "Greatest Generation" with his service and honorable life.

A member of Rogers Memorial Baptist Church in Knoxville, he always lived his life by the Golden Rule.

Mr. Gaiter is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 66 years, Mrs. Margaret Gaiter, who has always been very kind to me. Mrs. Gaiter treats everyone with love and respect. She is a very bright fixture in the Knoxville community and active in countless organizations.

My wife, Lynn, and I send our condolences to Mrs. Gaiter, her three children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Felix Gaiter was a wonderful husband, father, and citizen. I call his life and accomplishments to the attention of my Col-

leagues and other readers of the RECORD. This Nation would be a much better place if we had more people like him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during rollcall vote No. 203 on May 7, 2014. I would like the record to reflect I would have voted "yes".

HONORING AMERICA'S PUBLIC SERVANTS

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to direct the House's attention to Public Service Recognition Week, a time in which we honor the more than 20 million men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county, and local government employees.

These people are our friends and neighbors, and they perform critical work every day that is vital to our nation's welfare. They keep us safe from terrorist threats and food-borne illness, develop new treatments for diseases, protect our environment, educate our children, provide care to veterans, deliver our mail, and the list goes on. Despite the popular notion of the isolated "Washington bureaucrat", the overwhelming majority of government employees serve in our own communities in all fifty states—including 85 percent of federal employees. Yet, we often overlook or simply take for granted America's public servants.

Of course, the government's ability to effectively perform essential functions depends on a well-trained and highly-engaged workforce. According to the Government Accountability Office, nearly 30 percent of federal employees on board at the end of fiscal year 2011 will be eligible to retire by 2016, including one-third of the government's top scientists, engineers, physicians, mathematicians, economists, and other highly specialized professionals. We must redouble our efforts to identify and recruit the next generation of talented public servants to ensure government can continue to tackle our nation's toughest challenges.

At its best, government is an instrument of our common purpose. It is a powerful tool to defend the vulnerable, expand opportunity, and help our country reach its full potential. In a representational democracy, government is not an abstract idea but a living institution that is powered by men and women dedicated to promoting and protecting the common good. To all of those who have stepped up to the plate and devoted their lives to this noble calling, I thank you.

As we mark the passage of Public Service Recognition Week, I urge all my colleagues to join me in commemorating the hard work and sacrifice made by our nation's federal, state, and local government employees.