

I have been an ardent advocate for whistleblower protections throughout my career in Congress. I am the sponsor of a bill, H.R. 2588, that strengthens the original Whistleblower Protection Act. I supported passage of the NO FEAR Act, which actually came about due to the efforts of two of my constituents, Dr. Marsha Coleman-Adebayo and Mr. Leroy Warren, Jr. In addition, I am an original co-sponsor of Congressman Israel's legislation to improve whistleblower protections for national security personnel.

I also want to thank the Government Accountability Project for keeping this issue in the public eye, in particular Tom Devine, Legal Director and Doug Hartnett, National Security Campaign Director.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY ROBERTS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jerry Roberts, a giant among West Coast journalists, who after 25 years of devoted service is leaving my hometown newspaper, the San Francisco Chronicle.

Jerry Roberts has provided outstanding service to Northern California, devoting his professional life to covering San Francisco, the Bay Area and California. Throughout his career, he has consistently exhibited exemplary fairness and insight.

Over the past quarter century, Jerry has covered hundreds of elections, including my first, and has also authored a biography of my fellow San Franciscan, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN.

Jerry has served as the Chronicle's political editor, editorial page editor, city editor and for the past five years, managing editor, always displaying a passion for politics, family and baseball, not necessarily in that order.

A fellow West Coast immigrant, Jerry was born in Cleveland, moving to San Francisco in the early 1970s. He and his wife Linda Kiefer raised three daughters, Anna, Maggie and Rebecca in the greatest city in the world. San Francisco is a better place because of Jerry Roberts' professionalism and devotion to his job, his family, and his community.

I join Jerry's family and his many friends in wishing him all the best in his new endeavors. We continue to expect great things from Jerry Roberts as we thank him and pay tribute to him for his contribution to San Francisco and to the field of journalism.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM O'REE—A TRUE PIONEER

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, as we close the chapter on February, Black History Month, I want to bring to the attention of Congress a man who has had a profound impact on the sport of ice hockey and its connection to communities of color.

On last Sunday, the world turned its attention to the Olympic games to witness the

men's ice hockey gold medal game featuring Team USA against Team Canada. At the conclusion of the hard-fought battle, Team Canada emerged victorious by a score of five to two. Although I wished the score had been reversed, I was extremely proud of what that game did to increase the level of exposure for the game of hockey. I was particularly moved by the exploits of one player in that game and I believe that, over time, his participation may prove more beneficial to the sport of hockey than the gold medal game itself. The player's name is Jarome Iginla.

Jarome is an extremely talented young man who plays for the Calgary Flames. At the Olympic break, he was atop the leader board in overall points and goals and recently enjoyed his first appearance at a National Hockey League All-Star game. This past Sunday, Jarome played a critical role in Canada's victory by contributing two goals and an assist. It was truly a standout performance. However, it was not just his performance that makes him so special. Jarome is the first Black ice hockey player to ever have the opportunity to accomplish such a feat.

While the NHL is considered to be one of the most diverse sports when considering national origin, it is still a predominately Caucasian sport. Currently, there are only thirteen Black players in the NHL, but there are efforts underway throughout the United States and Canada to introduce Blacks and other persons of color to this amazing game. Leading this effort is a man who has been a trailblazer when it comes to professional hockey's quest for diversification. While Jarome Iginla has become a pioneer at the Olympic level, William (Willie) O'Ree is the pioneer when it comes to the involvement of players of color in the sport of hockey.

For those who might not be familiar with him, Willie O'Ree is the Jackie Robinson of ice hockey. Born in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on Canada's Atlantic coast, Mr. O'Ree as a youngster excelled at hockey, rugby, soccer, basketball, track and baseball. Focusing on his first love, he quickly established himself as an outstanding hockey player. He also was a courageous individual who overcame a major physical obstacle to achieve his dream of playing professional hockey. During the 1955–56 season, while playing for a junior hockey club, Mr. O'Ree was struck in the right eye with a puck. As a result of the injury he lost 95% of his sight in that eye and was advised by doctors to quit the game. Willie O'Ree decided to persevere rather than quit; the rest is history. On January 18, 1958, he became the first Black player to play for a National Hockey League team. The team, just in case you were wondering, just happened to be the Boston Bruins.

Unlike the other major professional sports, hockey was slow to embrace the idea of diversity following Willie O'Ree's emergence in 1958, and it would take another fifteen years before the next Black player made it to the NHL. All told, only thirty-one Black players have ever suited up for NHL teams. Acknowledging a need to do more in the area of diversity, the NHL recently began a worthy campaign to increase the game's exposure to communities of color. Once again, Willie O'Ree was called upon to lead the way.

Just as he did 44 years ago, Mr. O'Ree today continues to tear down barriers and create opportunities for persons of color to enjoy

the game of ice hockey. In 1996, he assisted the NHL with designing a youth All-Star game that celebrated hockey's growing diversity. Now in its seventh year, the Willie O'Ree tournament allows selected boys and girls, ages 10–12, from each of the NHL's Diversity Task Force programs across North America to take part in an all-star game of their own. In addition to the game, the young people have an opportunity to interact with NHL players, attend an NHL game and experience the culture of the host city. This year's All-Star game is scheduled to take place next month in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1998, on the 40th anniversary of his historic first game with the Bruins, Willie O'Ree formally joined the NHL as Director of Youth Development for the NHL Diversity Task Force. In this capacity, Mr. O'Ree travels around the country assisting communities and the 30 Diversity Task Force programs with their hockey programs and outreach to boys and girls from communities of color. Through the outreach efforts of Willie O'Ree and NHL today's Black NHL players like Jarome Iginla, George Laraque, Anson Carter, Mike Grier, Sean Young, Jamal Mayers, Bryce Salvador, Freddie Brathwaite, Kevin Weeks, Peter Worrell, Sandy McCarthy and Donald Brashear will one day be seen as less an exception and more the norm when considering the diversity of the sport.

IN HONOR OF DR. EDISON O. JACKSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Edison O. Jackson, President of the Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York, Board member of the New York City Board of Education, member of the Ministerial staff of Bridge Street A.M.E. Church, father, husband and outstanding community resident, in recognition of all that he does for his borough, his city and his state.

Dr. Jackson, a resident of Prospect Heights, Brooklyn, is an outstanding citizen and a pillar of our community. He was born in Heathsville, Virginia. Dr. Jackson received a B.S. in Zoology, followed by a Master of Arts Degree in Counseling from Howard University. He began his education career counseling, where he served for almost four years. In 1969, he was named Dean of Student Affairs at Essex County College, in New Jersey. He distinguished himself to the point that he was promoted to Vice President of Student Affairs. In 1983, Dr. Edison was named Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer at Essex County College. In that same year, he received a Doctorate in Education from Rutgers University. In 1989, he accepted the position of President of Medgar Evers College. He brought with him a wealth of experience and knowledge in administering the affairs of educational institutions.

Dr. Jackson currently holds memberships on a number of civic, educational and community organizations. His affiliations with professional and national organizations run the gamut from the American Association of Higher Education, to the President's Round Table and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. Dr.

Jackson has also written extensively on issues of concern to educators, with particular concentration on minority students and the community, academic preparation and student performance.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to note that Dr. Jackson is married to Florence E. Jackson, and is the proud father of two children: Eulaynea and Terrance.

Mr. Speaker, as Black History Month comes to an end it is only fitting that we honor a man who has done so much—and continues to do so much—to shape so many young lives. Dr. Edison O. Jackson is that man and he is nationally recognized as a leader in education. As such he is more than worthy of receiving our praise and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable man.

INTERNET FREEDOM AND
BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT ACT
OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

The House in committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1542) to deregulate the Internet and high speed data services, and for other purposes:

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1542, the Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act of 2001. This important and timely legislation will expedite the roll-out of high-speed Internet access across our nation, foster competition, and bridge the digital divide that separates neighbors, communities, and regions from the benefits of the information age.

Opponents of this bill argue that it will unfairly favor certain technologies within the broadband industry. On the contrary, H.R. 1542 is designed to eliminate the unfair conditions which currently exist within the industry by offering consumers an expanded and guaranteed alternative to cable and satellite-based broadband technology. This legislation simply creates a level playing field for the different enterprises which comprise the broadband industry to freely and competitively offer their technologies to the American people.

Moreover, opponents wrongly assert that by eliminating the prohibitive regulations that currently stifle roll-out of DSL broadband technology, this legislation will destroy local service providers who enjoy reduced rates and access to existing technology as set forth in the 1996 Telecommunications Act. On the contrary, H.R. 1542 does not prevent local exchange carriers from accessing any existing or future customer using the telephone network. However, to ensure local competitors are fairly and adequately protected from the change in the 1996 law, I fully support the Buyer-Towns Amendment. This amendment further protects the local competitor by guaranteeing their continued right to access high-speed data services over fiber lines as they presently do.

It is evident that H.R. 1542 is good for America. Our future competitiveness in the global market depends on our access to and utilization of data and information systems, which begins at the individual level which this legislation addresses.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to vote yes for expanded access by voting yes to this bill.

500 DAYS IN CAPTIVITY—AND
STILL COUNTING

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 500th day of captivity of Elchanan Tannenbaum—one of nine Israelis now held captive by terrorist groups and regimes that sponsor terrorism. A husband and the father of two, Elchanan is the only Israeli civilian to be counted among Israel's missing. He is being held in Lebanon and is presumed to be alive.

As we all know, Mr. Speaker, terror has many faces and takes many forms. Sometimes terror targets large numbers of people in spectacular acts of destruction as we saw on September 11th. At other times it seeks to achieve its goals by targeting a single individual. Mr. Tannenbaum was such a target, as was the American journalist Daniel Pearl, whose brutal murder has sickened and saddened us all. Mr. Tannenbaum's Hisbollah captors have proudly announced their crime, with their usual flair for the contemptuous. Although Mr. Tannenbaum has a medical condition that requires daily attention, Hisbollah has denied the Red Cross permission to visit him.

The Tannenbaum kidnapping is further proof—as if it were needed—that Hizbullah is a terrorist organization with global reach. If we ignore this case of abduction, we are granting the terrorists a cheap and formidable weapon. As long as groups like Hizbullah believe that they can commit such actions with impunity, they will be encouraged to continue to target the citizens of the world's democracies. To ignore the plight of Elchanan Tannenbaum and Israel's other missing men, would not only constitute an abandonment of our closest ally in the Middle East, but would weaken our own efforts to secure a safe future for Americans and others who have been seized by terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, I must point out that not only is it in America's interest to help in this matter, but in fact it is our obligation to do so. In 1991 Israel played a critical role in securing the release of Terry Anderson and other American hostages being held in Lebanon by releasing hundreds of terrorists from Israeli jails. At that time Israel was promised that international efforts would continue on behalf of Israeli captives left behind in Lebanon. It is now more than ten years since that promise was made, and the number of captive Israelis has only grown. It is time for us to repay our debt.

What can we do, Mr. Speaker? I believe the U.S. is well-positioned to make demands of the Syrian government, which is effectively the ruling power in Lebanon and is ultimately responsible for the fate of all Israelis captured or held there. Syria is a sovereign state and currently serves as a member of the UN Security Council. Syria, like Lebanon, can and must be made accountable for the behavior of the terrorist groups it harbors and supports. Greater U.S. resolve in dealing with the Syrians can be critical in bringing Elchanan Tannenbaum home alive.

Mr. Speaker, for too many years, Americans presumed that the terrorist actions from which our Israeli allies suffered would not be exported to our shores. September 11th has permanently shattered that notion. We should now pay closer attention to the Israeli experience with terrorism. The murder of Daniel Pearl is a warning that the ugly specter of kidnapping that has plagued Israel for so many years is now targeting Americans as well. Let us fight back. Calling attention to Elchanan Tannenbaum's plight, and working to secure his release, would be an important first step toward stopping this scourge.

HONORING SHIRLEY LASSETER

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, there are qualities in true leaders that set them apart; courage, wisdom, flexibility—just to name a few. Perhaps just as important is the quality of timing—knowing when to step to the plate. Yet another admirable quality in the test of a true leader may lie in humility; when someone has fought the hard battle, done the leg work, helped ensure the cause is just and the goal accomplished, only to hand it over when no more can be done, and accept the fact they won't be praised for their efforts.

My fellow members of Congress, today I bring before you one such individual and ask you to join me in singing the praises of Ms. Shirley Lasseter. Shirley is a resident of Duluth, Georgia and the Mayor of this beautiful city in Gwinnett County. She is involved in numerous philanthropic and business related organizations; extending from her participation on the Preservation District Board, to her leadership in the Georgia Municipal Association, and her active presence in the local PTSA's.

Shirley graduated from Brenau University with a B.S. in Elementary Education, and continued on to Georgia State University, where she received her Masters in Education. She is married to Joe Lasseter and is the proud mother of four children. Along with her official duties and extracurricular activities, Shirley is a member of Duluth United Methodist Church, where she has worshipped for 17 years. But perhaps her most proud title will be awarded soon, when her daughter Jenny gives birth to Shirley's soon-to-be-grandchild, and "Miss Shirley" becomes "Grandma Shirley."

Yet with all she has going on, Shirley made a particularly special effort for a project she coordinated for former House Speaker Newt Gingrich several years ago, for which she never received proper credit. In the summer of 1998, Speaker Gingrich spearheaded a bill that enacted a new form of protection for Georgia's Chattahoochee River. It called for a 48-mile stretch of the river's recreational area to be extended by 2,000 feet, known as a "greenway." The new boundaries eased pollution stemming from construction and storm runoff, helped control flooding and erosion, and improved water quality for Georgia residents. Land was acquired from willing sellers and paid for by a public-private campaign that included a \$25 million federal contribution. This move to help the environment came at a time when the natural resources and beauty of