

his outstanding proficiency and steadfast devotion to duty.

The Purple Heart is awarded for wounds received in action on October 10, 1972."

Major Peter McArthur Cleary, the oldest of four children, was born on June 27, 1944 at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut. His parents, John McArthur Cleary and Helen Fifield Cleary lived in East Hartford, Connecticut at the time of Peter's birth. In the late 1940s, they moved to Higbie Drive in Mayberry Village in East Hartford. It is here that I first met Peter. Major Cleary had two brothers William and Tom, who were my age, as well as a sister Maureen (now known as Cleary M. Donovan). Mayberry was a small community teeming with baby-boomers, many of Irish decent. Flanagan, Grady, Kelly, Dagon, and Shaughnessey, all made up the neighborhood I recall with great fondness. In fact, John Cleary wrote a piece about Mayberry for the Hartford Times. Its focus was family life in the Mayberry neighborhood. In 1956, the family moved to Colchester, Connecticut. John and Helen Cleary lived in Colchester until their deaths in 1984 and 2001, respectfully. Major Cleary attended grade school in Colchester. He spent his high school freshman and sophomore years at St. Bernard High School in New London, Connecticut. Major Cleary then attended Mother of the Savior Seminary in Blackwood, New Jersey. Upon graduation in 1962, he began studying to be an Edmundite priest at St. Edmund's in Mystic, Connecticut. Major Cleary left after one year and transferred to St. Michael's College in Winooski, Vermont. He graduated in 1967 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. Although Major Cleary moved many times in his young life, he considered Colchester, Connecticut his hometown.

Major Cleary married Barbara Kingsley of Yantic, Connecticut in 1967. They had two beautiful children, a son Sean and a daughter Paige.

I would urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing and honoring the sacrifices of Major Cleary and his family, and in welcoming him home. It is a great honor for me to record in the Congressional Record the achievements of this American Hero, and salute his family. Arlington National Cemetery is a long way from Mayberry Village and Higbie Drive, and while Major Peter Cleary will lie at rest with the nation's heroes, we who remain will forever carry his memory in our hearts.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION ON UNITED STATES ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of legislation addressing an issue of longstanding concern to me: America's dependence on foreign sources of oil.

The resolution I am introducing tonight calls on President Bush to remind those oil exporting nations who are our allies that decisions they have made recently to restrict crude oil

supply in the world market, in accordance with requests made by the OPEC cartel, adversely affect the national security of the United States and the world economy. These countries must be informed of the affects of their oil export cutbacks.

As OPEC and non-OPEC countries collude to boost oil prices they actually harm the world economy and, in the long run, their own bottom lines. It is estimated that every 10-cent a gallon increase of gasoline at the pump in the United States costs motorists \$13 billion annually. This spring, gasoline prices have jumped from an average of about \$1.00 to over \$1.30 nationwide. This price spike alone is putting a drag on the U.S. economy. If some estimates hold true, the price Americans face at the pump may rise to an average of \$1.60 per gallon this summer. This economic burden will hit Americans in the wallet like a new \$78 million tax! Oil producers must be reminded that any slowing of the U.S. economy will simply lessen the demand for their product and will negatively impact their corporate bottom line in the end.

I am troubled most that many of the oil-producing countries that collude to boost prices at the American gas pump are actually close American allies. Countries like Mexico, Norway, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela have gotten together and collectively bargained to reduce their output to boost prices. Furthermore, these countries had the audacity to do this at precisely the time that the United States economy was struggling to recover from the effects of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. To those Arab allies we fought to defend and liberate a decade ago, we must say, "stop gouging us at the pump." Moreover, we expect you to make up any shortfall in oil exports to our country resulting from Saddam Hussein's latest political gimmick—a 30 day boycott of exports. To our non-OPEC allies around the world, such as Mexico, we say the path to your country's economic progress lies with us and not with OPEC. We also ask you to desist in oil output restrictions in which you recently engaged at the request of the OPEC cartel and that you help make up any shortfall from Iraq oil restrictions as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House of Representatives to pass my resolution in order to send a message to OPEC that this body will not accept practices that hold our economy hostage.

My resolution also urges the Senate to act and pass comprehensive energy legislation, such as H.R. 4, which was agreed to by the House of Representatives on August 2, 2001. A comprehensive national energy policy like that proposed in H.R. 4 will help make the United States more energy self-sufficient and less dependent on foreign sources of oil.

Mr. Speaker, this country's best course of action lies in becoming independent of foreign oil. The OPEC foreign cartel has operated beyond the scope of our law and has worked in contravention of free market forces for decades. The Senate can help to get us closer to the goal of energy independence by passing H.R. 4. In the meantime, our allies must become independent of OPEC. I urge our allies to recognize the fact that it is in their best interest to have a strong U.S. economy and that reducing production or boosting petroleum

prices only acts to hurt that economy. The oil-producing countries of the world have an obligation to stabilize the world price of oil so that there is a continued demand for their product. If they do not do this, their economies will suffer along with ours.

TERRORISM RISK PROTECTION ACT

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3210, the House-passed terrorism insurance legislation. As President Bush noted in a press conference yesterday, without a terrorism insurance bill, there will continue to be a significant drag on our economy.

Without coverage, the economic impact of another terrorist attack would be very serious. The U.S. could face a string of bankruptcies, loan defaults and layoffs that would intensify the blow of the attack.

One segment of the economy that can least afford to live without terrorism coverage is our public self-insured risk pools. These risk pools—more than 125 operating in forty-one states—help local governments, school districts, housing authorities, and other public entities to provide necessary insurance protection. These entities would be hurt the most by layoffs due to lack of prevention prior to an unforeseen terrorist attack.

These risk pools provide coverage to those most often at greatest risk—police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel—as well as teachers and students, municipal employees, and many others. We all know that these public entities cannot absorb the costs of terrorism risk across their membership base. I have heard from several risk pools in my state that are desperate for help. In Illinois, the Assisted Housing Risk Management Association (AHRMA) no longer has coverage for an act of terrorism. That self-insured pool covers public housing authorities across my state.

The Illinois School District Agency (ISDA), a self-insured risk pool covering public school districts in Illinois, has been told that its July 1st renewal will have a terrorism exclusion. And the Department of Insurance in Illinois is now allowing the exclusion of terrorism coverage in new and renewal policies. So my state becomes one of 45 states that are allowing such exclusions to be written into policies.

The need for Congress to act has never been greater. Large, self-insured pools and individual self-insurers such as the City of Chicago will pay as much as four times their expiring premium to buy the additional coverage necessary in the coming year. Make no mistake—public self-insured risk pools are more vulnerable than other entities. They provide enormous savings to taxpayers.

I am hopeful that Congress will pass this bipartisan legislation soon and send it to the President's desk as he has requested.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCO PANCHO MEDRANO

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the passing of a great American, a mentor and a friend, Mr. Francisco "Pancho" Medrano. The nation has lost a legendary civil rights pioneer with the death of Mr. Medrano, who dedicated his life to eradicating prejudice and intolerance in this country and fought mightily for fairness and equality for America's working men and women.

Mr. Medrano rose to great heights from humble beginnings, defying discrimination at every turn along the way. He was a native to Dallas, born in 1920 to Mexican immigrants who taught their young son the value of hard work as they headed northward to Michigan each year as migrant laborers. When Mr. Medrano was able to return to Dallas, he came back to a community that refused to let him swim in a public swimming pool or watch an evening movie in the park because he was Hispanic. At the age of 16, he was told by a school principal he was "too poor" to attend public schools, so he went to work at a rock quarry for 25 cents an hour.

Soon after, he became one of only a handful of minority workers on the line as an aircraft jig builder, where he often had to do a two-person job by himself because no one would work with a Mexican-American. And, while at the aerospace plant, he fought prejudice—literally—as a champion prizefighter who used his notoriety to integrate sporting events in Dallas.

Mr. Medrano had an illustrious five-decade career as a union organizer and civil rights representative with the United Auto Workers. During his tenure with the UAW, he became a national leader. He marched alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the civil rights movement, fought for fair labor standards on the farms of Texas and California with Cesar Chavez, worked tirelessly to advance workers' rights in the automobile industry, and spent decades promoting civic activism in the Dallas area.

Yet, for as much as he achieved in his life, Mr. Medrano never forgot the inequities of his childhood. He fought for the rights of all workers to peaceably demonstrate, broke racial membership barriers in labor unions, worked to defeat the poll tax and fostered civic participation in the minority community. His keen sense of justice caused him to work on behalf of African-Americans with as much fervor as he worked on behalf of Mexican-Americans, and his inspirational legacy is a challenge to all of us to continue to fight for social and economic justice for people of all races.

Mr. Medrano shared with me a fervent belief in the importance of voting rights and civic participation, and it is important that we strive to emulate the work that he has done in this area. Just last week, though he was desperately ill with the cancer that ultimately took his life, Mr. Medrano went to the polls and cast his ballot in the Texas Democratic Senate runoff election. He fought to get Dallas residents of all races and backgrounds more involved in the political process, and he pro-

vided support to people like me who dared to cross the color lines of Texas politics. Pancho Medrano offered his support and counsel when I decided to run for the Texas House of Representatives in 1972, he stood by my side when I ran for Texas Senate in 1986, and he was a tremendous friend to me when I made my run for Congress a decade ago. I couldn't have come this far without him.

Mr. Speaker, when we think about Pancho Medrano, we think about justice, courage and civic activism. His work to end discrimination and prejudice has had a profound and lasting effect on the lives of millions of Americans, and we will miss him dearly. His death on Thursday, April 4th, at the age of 81 is a great loss for the city of Dallas, and a great loss for the nation.

WE MUST STAND BY OUR ALLY
ISRAEL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks, columnists and pundits have taken to the airwaves to proclaim the Middle East crisis as complex and complicated. Analysts have discussed the difficulties our government has in balancing conflicting interests and equities that have polarized a historic conflict between two peoples.

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't disagree more. Indeed, I view this controversy in basic terms.

On September 11, a line was drawn in the sand.

In the sands of the Middle East and in the rubble of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The line does not divide religious groups. It does not divide cultures.

It does divide values. It divides extremists and fanatics from the civilized world.

On one side are those who deliberately and carefully target innocent civilians for death—whether they were reading memos at their desks in the World Trade Center in Manhattan; or reading from the Hagaddah at a Passover table in Netanya, Israel.

When terrorists crossed that line on September 11 and attacked our people, the full military might of the United States government was dispatched to retaliate against those attacks and prevent future attacks. We routed out terrorists in caves and tunnels. Similarly, when terrorists crossed that line on seven different days in seven different places in Israel, the same standard applied. There simply is no moral difference. Targeting innocent men, women, children and elderly for a savage attack is terrorism pure and simple. It doesn't matter where it occurs, when it occurs, or under what circumstances it occurs. It has no ethical defense. It has no other definition. In the interests of our own place in the world, in the interests of our own security, in the interest of our own defense, we must combat and work with others to combat terrorism without equivocation.

On one side of the line are those who teach their children to hate. Who feed their children a steady diet of intolerance. Who use classrooms to poison minds, to reject compromise,

to fuel extremism. Only on that side of the line do mothers celebrate the suicides of their children. Only on that side of the line did men and women cheer in jubilation when the World Trade Center towers collapsed.

On that side of the line, Mr. Speaker, are governments who embrace tyranny. On our side, are governments that cherish democracy. On one side are those who invest power in bombings, on our side are governments who invest power in voting. On one side are those who leave their people behind in squalor and despair; on our side of the lines are governments, comprised of all religions, who promote literacy, job expansion, economic development, education, technology, and an ability for their citizens to compete in a global economy.

On one side of the line are those who violently reject religious freedom, diversity, pluralism, a respect for different opinions, or room for different faiths. On the other side are those who believe that a diversity of ideas and beliefs makes us a better civilization. Indeed, America's great gift to the world was the revolutionary notion that freedom and liberty prohibits religious tests.

Earlier today, I gathered in the Capitol Rotunda with members of the President's Cabinet and our colleagues in the House and Senate, to commemorate and remember those who perished in the Holocaust. During the ceremony, Elie Wiesel said: "Those who kill in the name of their god make God a killer." He is right.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to return to basics. Through thick and through thin, we only have one truly democratic ally in the Middle East. Only one nation there shares our fundamental values of elections, education, economic opportunity, women's rights, and religious freedom.

At a critical time, our role should be to stand firmly with our ally while encouraging Arab and Palestinian leaders to resume negotiations rather than bombings to reach the ultimate goal of stability, autonomy, peace, and a place on the civilized side of the line that was drawn in the sand on September 11.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO SUPPORT
ISRAEL

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the situation in the Middle East has deteriorated dramatically in recent weeks. Secretary of State Colin Powell is now on a mission to the region. President Bush made the right decision to send him there, and now we must be very clear about the cause of the current conflict, now it its nineteenth month. As difficult and complex as the Middle East is, what's needed most is very simple: an end to Palestinian terrorism.

Despite the commitments Yasir Arafat has made to fight against terror, his actions have not met his words. Time and time again he's passed up opportunities, betraying the people he's supposed to lead. Because he has failed to join the fight against terror, Israel has been forced to fight it for him. As Secretary Powell heads to the region, he has another chance.