

works of poetry and art throughout his term of imprisonment which inspired the Ukrainian people.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that a statue honoring a man who fully embraced the ideals of personal freedom and human dignity, cornerstones of our country, should stand in the United States. I congratulate the Ukrainian American community on celebrating the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the Taras Shevchenko monument.

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE INTERROGATION STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2004

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Promoting Responsible Interrogation Standards Enforcement Act of 2004" or "PRISE Act," legislation that reaffirms the United States' longstanding commitment to refrain from engaging in torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. I am joined by Representatives LOFGREN, MEEHAN, WATERS and SANCHEZ.

This nation's foreign and military policies have been substantially undermined as a result of the Iraqi prisoner and detainee abuse scandals. The PRISE Act is designed to prevent similar abuses from occurring. In doing so, the legislation takes several important steps.

First, it codifies the United States' legal and international treaty obligations with respect to the prohibition on the use of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Second, the bill directs the Secretary of Defense to issue guidelines to ensure compliance with this obligation. Third, in the unfortunate event that a member of the Armed Forces or Department of Defense contractor violates this prohibition, the bill requires the Defense Secretary to submit to Congress, in a manner that protects national security, a report highlighting the details of such violations. Finally, it closes a loophole created by the PATRIOT Act that may allow torture at U.S. military facilities overseas.

As we continue to define our values as a country, we must make it abundantly clear that we will not compromise our principles. The use of torture is not only wrong, but it is an ineffective interrogation tactic because it produces unreliable information. People who are being tortured will often lie to their interrogator in order to stop the pain.

I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF S. 2238, THE BUNNING-BEREUTER-BLUMENAUER FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 21, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2238, the Bunning-Bereuter-

Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004. This important piece of legislation not only reauthorizes the National Flood Insurance Program through September 30, 2008, but also makes much-needed reforms that will help the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) stem wasteful use of taxpayer funds on properties that flood over and over again.

By now most Members are well aware of the long road we have traveled in developing this legislation. After years' worth of discussions with floodplain managers, taxpayer groups, environmental groups, insurance professionals and the housing industry, the House Financial Services Committee passed H.R. 253 by a unanimous, bipartisan vote on July 23, 2003. The bill was subsequently passed in the House by an overwhelming margin on November 20, 2003. The National Flood Insurance Program is now set to expire on June 30, 2004; it is critical that we act on this bill today.

Thanks to the hard work of my colleagues, there should be no doubt that this legislation will receive a favorable vote once again. The Senate bill is, in most respects, identical to the one we passed here in the House. That bill, H.R. 253, authorized funds to address severe repetitive loss properties for both the existing Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program and authorized a new pilot program to address these properties. Under the House bill, this trial pilot program addressed the properties in a simple, straightforward manner: the owner of a severe repetitive loss property would be charged a rate closer to the actuarial, risk-based rates for their national flood insurance policy if certain conditions were met. Safeguards were built into the system to ensure that homeowners would be protected. Through our bill, the number of repetitive flood loss properties would be decreased because FEMA would have the money and the means to take care of them.

S. 2238 adds a title creating certain policyholder protections designed to ensure swift action for the payment of claims in the event of a flood. In addition, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be tasked with promulgating regulations outlining an appeals process for policyholders with respect to claims, proofs of loss, and loss estimates related to flood insurance policies. And at the request of FEMA, the Senate has made minor changes regarding implementation of the flood mitigation programs originally set forth in the House bill.

On a personal note, perhaps the most appropriate change made by the Senate was in naming this legislation for Congressman DOUG BEREUTER, my good friend who is retiring from the House this year. This legislation is a testament to his hard work and to the dedication he has shown throughout his career to further the interests of not only his constituents but also the Nation as a whole and to the ideal of good government. Congressman BEREUTER worked tirelessly to craft this bill with Senators BUNNING and SARBANES as well as Ranking Member FRANK and Representatives BLUMENAUER and BAKER. Mr. BAKER was also particularly helpful in crafting this legislation and in providing a voice for his constituents in Louisiana and other states particularly hard-hit by repetitive flood losses.

It is important to note once again that the National Flood Insurance Program has been

long overdue for change. The Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 addresses the problem of repetitive loss properties (buildings that flood regularly because of their location) and the threat such properties pose to the ability of the NFIP to meet obligations to policyholders without drawing on taxpayer funds. Repetitive loss properties are a problem in nearly every one of the fifty States and cost the NFIP approximately \$200 million each year, which is an unacceptable expense. One percent of all properties in the NFIP account for approximately 25 percent to 30 percent of all the NFIP losses. Repetitive loss properties have for too long exhausted the NFIP's funds and subverted the original intent of the program.

Despite the problems caused by repetitive flood loss properties, the NFIP is a program that provides important protections for homeowners who live on the Nation's floodplains. Though most of these homes have never flooded, the NFIP is a vital safeguard with a proven record of success. These much-needed reforms will enhance the program's effectiveness by requiring people living in flood prone areas to reduce their risk of flooding in a way that is not punitive and which saves the program and taxpayers money. This legislation should enjoy widespread bipartisan support in the Congress and will be welcomed by the people who work every day to control floods all across the country.

TRIBUTE TO DR. C. VINCENT BAKEMAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and legacy Dr. C. Vincent Bakeman, a co-founder of the Human Resources Development Institute, Inc. (HRDI), who devoted himself to improving our alcohol and chemical dependency treatment systems.

We are all aware of the national problem that is especially acute in inner-city areas across this great Nation. The shortage of healthcare professionals has left many underserved communities without access to healthcare, placing low- and middle-income families at even greater risk of suffering from medical conditions and disorders that could be averted.

True to its mission, HRDI has charted innovative healthcare solutions that continue to stabilize and strengthen families, neighborhoods and entire communities from Chicago to Las Vegas to Indianola, Mississippi, and points in between.

Additionally, through his efforts to empower those without healthcare, he formed partnerships with area institutions of higher learning to assist residents in acquiring the necessary skills and training central to competing in this new age of information and technology.

Many of our colleagues here in Congress have espoused the notion of expanding healthcare coverage. Dr. Bakeman lived it.

It is through community efforts as demonstrated by Dr. Bakeman and HRDI that we may be able to achieve a reality of accessible and affordable healthcare for all.

During his thirty-plus years of service, Dr. Bakeman touched the lives of many, proving that even the simplest ideas can make a big difference.

I take great pride in commending the work of Dr. C. Vincent Bakeman and HRDI on a job well done for more than 30 years.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
JOHN J. BRENNAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. John J. Brennan—Devoted father, grandfather, brother, and dear friend and mentor to countless individuals—family, friends and colleagues, whose lives have been forever enriched for having known and loved him well. My brother, Gary Kucinich and I, are better people for having called John J. Brennan friend, and we share in the deep sadness with his family and friends in knowing that he left us far too soon.

Mr. Brennan's 25-year career as an investigator with the Cuyahoga County Department of Human Services Investigative Fraud Unit, reflected honesty, ethics, and the ability to see through the complex maze of layered cases and get right to the heart of the matter. While growing up in Cleveland, Mr. Brennan's parents, the late Judge Hugh Brennan and Dorothy Brennan, instilled within him a strong work ethic, dedication and perseverance, and above all, they showed him the power of a giving and caring heart. A graduate of Holy Name High School and John Carroll University, Mr. Brennan's good natured and jovial spirit belied his strong intellect. He was quick to offer his assistance to anyone in need, and his quick wit and kind words consistently uplifted the spirits of others.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. John J. Brennan, loving father of Colleen, Michael and Ann; devoted grandfather of Anthony and Romello; loving friend of Kathy Meyers; devoted brother of Thomas and Timothy, and dear friend to many. Mr. Brennan will be deeply missed, yet today we celebrate his life, a life lived joyously. John J. Brennan embraced love and embraced life—and the love he gave to others will forever live on within the hearts and memories of all of us who knew and loved him well.

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
May the rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of His hand
—Irish Proverb

INTRODUCING THE JOBS FOR
AMERICA ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining with 25 of my colleagues to introduce the Jobs for America

Act—legislation that will help protect American workers who face job outsourcing.

Every day, more Americans watch their jobs get shipped overseas. Jobs are disappearing from every sector of the economy—from high tech call centers to health care workers—leaving hundreds of thousands of families and their communities in the lurch.

According to some estimates, 40 percent of Fortune 1000 companies are currently using some form of overseas outsourcing, and as many as 3.3 million jobs may be offshored in the next 15 years. The latest study from Forrester Research finds that offshoring of white-collar jobs is accelerating, with the number of U.S. business service and software jobs moving overseas reaching 588,000 in 2005, up from 315,000 in 2003. By 2005, the total loss of software programming, customer call-center, and legal paperwork positions will hit 830,000 jobs—an increase of 40 percent from this year.

The Jobs for America Act amends the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act to require companies to disclose and report whenever they lay off workers to send jobs overseas. It would require that when a company plans to lay off 15 or more workers and send those jobs overseas, it must:

Inform affected workers, the Department of Labor, State agencies responsible for helping laid off employees, and local government officials;

Disclose how many jobs are affected, where the jobs are going, and why they are being offshored; and

Provide employees at least 3 months advance notice.

Also, the Jobs for America Act strengthens the WARN Act by:

Requiring the Department of Labor to compile statistics of offshored jobs and report them on an annual basis to the Congress and the public;

Clarifying that WARN Act protections, including the 3 months advance notice, apply to all cases where 50 or more workers are laid off, regardless of the reason for the layoff; and

Ensuring effective remedies for workers who are injured by a company's violation of the WARN Act.

While companies export jobs overseas for cheap labor, American workers deserve—at an absolute minimum—the earliest warning of a job loss. In today's economy, with massive longterm unemployment, workers need as much time as possible to begin looking for a new job or begin retraining for a new career. This bill will expand the amount of time available to workers to adjust to the loss of a job. It will also increase penalties on employers who choose to ignore these simple requirements, providing real make-whole remedies for workers who are injured by WARN violations, including consequential damages.

Moreover, for the first time, the Secretary of Labor will be collecting and reporting large-scale data on offshore outsourcing. Such data collection will help us to better understand the scope and dynamics of this phenomenon and its threat to our standard of living, enabling us to craft more comprehensive solutions to the problem.

While this bill will not by itself solve the outsourcing problem, it does provide critical tools—such as time and information—which will benefit both workers and Congress in their

efforts to stem the hemorrhaging of jobs from this country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY
IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF
TORTURE

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, and in support of a program in my district that provides critical healing services to San Diegans who have fled torture and persecution in countries all over the world.

The greater San Diego area is home to an estimated 11,000 survivors of politically motivated torture. They have come from more than 40 countries and endured unimaginable human rights abuses. They are not strangers or anonymous victims who we will never meet. They are our neighbors, our colleagues, the families with which we attend religious services, and the children that attend schools with our children. Torture survivors in San Diego are strong, resilient, resourceful people who bring diversity to our city and have many talents and experiences to offer our community.

Torture robs strong, healthy, productive people of their vitality, identity, and dignity, often in the prime of their lives. Political torture does not just randomly occur as an act of isolated terror; it is a tool of oppression, a system of violence that targets people because of their race, ethnicity, religion, social group, gender or political affiliation. People are tortured because of who they are, what they believe and what they represent.

Torture survivors in San Diego have been tortured because as journalists they wrote the unwelcome truth, as attorneys they fought for the legal rights of unpopular minorities, as community leaders they spoke up, organized unions, or staffed clinics. Some requested the right to representation by their government, or the right to be autonomous when the government failed to represent them. Others sought healthcare, believed in religions not "sanctioned" by the government, and rejected the conscription of children into militias.

In San Diego, and in all places where they seek safety and solace, torture survivors bear out the consequences of the abuse they have endured. Anxiety, depression, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, chronic pain, head injuries, dental trauma, and nerve damage are all consequences of torture. Though many torture survivors choose not to reveal the details of what they have endured, they never forget, and without appropriate care, most will not improve. They re-live their suffering in nightmares, flashbacks and intrusive memories. Chronic physical pain, muscle weakness and an inability to trust, confide or relax are too often daily reminders of the injuries they endured.

The consequences of torture are also a significant public health concern. Not only do they impair the health of the person who was victimized, but they create anxiety, fear and depression among whole families and communities. The transgenerational effects of trauma