

I do not think we are headed in the right direction. I am going to submit for the RECORD an article that was in The New York Times last week indicating that Florida could be Florida again. In other words, the problems that we experienced in the 2000 election have not been corrected. It is a disservice to the people that we serve that we do not straighten out the problems with the elections, not just in Florida but all over this country; and we have not properly funded the program.

Also, let me mention the coup d'etat that took place a couple of weeks ago in Haiti. It is very unfortunate that this Bush administration has chosen to go in and take out a duly elected president. Just take him out. Just take him out. The poorest country in the western hemisphere. We have to make sure that the Haitian people get the assistance that they need from the super Bush administration, after going in and taking out the duly elected president.

And I would also like to comment on the recently announced bank merger that the Federal Reserve approved of the Bank of America Corporation and FleetBoston Financial Corporation merger.

I am concerned about the recent Bank of America-FleetBoston bank merger announced today, particularly since it went through with very little public input. What concerns me even more is that although Bank of America has made significant Community Reinvestment commitments to other states, I am disappointed that Bank of America did not ensure the state I represent, Florida, that it too will receive its fair share of resources for minority communities.

On February 16, in the City Hall of Orlando, Florida, I hosted a Public Hearing so that Bank of America could better understand its responsibility to make a difference in Florida's African-American, Asian and Hispanic communities. Many minority groups and activists from across Florida attended this hearing, along with local elected officials of Florida, and Congressman EDOLPHUS TOWNS of New York. The groups testified that significant Community Reinvestment dollars were necessary for home loans for minorities, the development of affordable housing, small business loans for minorities, procurement opportunities for minority businesses, community lending for minorities, and community investment for industrial, commercial and social facilities in minority communities. The Bank of America sent representatives to this hearing, but the pleas from the minority communities in Florida fell on deaf ears, and Florida was never promised a specific dollar amount for Community Reinvestment. Bank of America has shown the minority communities of New England and California great respect, but refuses to do the same for our Florida minority communities. It is imperative that the leadership of Bank of America meet immediately with minority leaders at a general forum to discuss the specifics of a Bank of America commitment for Florida.

I am concerned about what occurred in 1994, when Bank of America publicly announced its plans to initiate certain lending programs in the state of Hawaii for Native Hawaiians on Hawaiian Home Lands. The Bank of America publicly called these programs "commitments" but did not pledge these commitments to the Federal Reserve Board, nor did Bank of America fulfill its public commitments to Hawaii. The Federal Reserve has

stated that the enforceability of this third-party pledge is a matter outside of the Community Reinvestment Act, and to this day, Hawaii has been left without redress. How are we to trust that Florida will receive its share of Community Reinvestment Act money when Bank of America could not keep its word to Hawaii?

The Federal Reserve noted in its Order Approving the Merger of Bank Holding Companies, that there were requests for state-specific goals for certain loan products and programs, but that it viewed such third-party agreements as outside of the Community Reinvestment Act. I wholeheartedly disagree. The Board focuses on existing Community Reinvestment Act performance rather than promises of future activities, and anyhow, what type of organization does not have a plan for the future? My office was told that Bank of America has no plan for future Community Reinvestment activity in Florida or how much money would be spent in Florida—but not to worry. I think that this is a poor way to do business. Noting the experience that Hawaii had with Bank of America, I am wary of trusting that Bank of America has the needs of minority communities in Florida at heart.

HONORING THE AFGHAN AMERICAN CUISINE OF FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article that appears in the current issue of VIA Magazine, celebrating the culinary contributions of several Afghan American restaurateurs in my city of Fremont, California.

These establishments deserve praise, not only for satisfying many appetites with delectable food, but for enriching our community with their enterprise and important cultural gifts that make Fremont a better place to live.

I am honored to represent the largest Afghan American community in the nation and gladly invite my colleagues to come to California to enjoy, as the author of this article exclaims, "some of the best Afghan food and goods this side of Kabul." I couldn't agree more myself.

[From VIA Magazine, Mar.-Apr. 2004]

LITTLE AFGHANISTAN: DISCOVER THE FLAVORS OF KABUL IN THE BAY AREA

(By April Thompson)

Handmade Afghan ravioli and rugs in sleepy, suburban Fremont? The Northern California city is home to the nation's largest Afghan American community and some of the best Afghan food and goods this side of Kabul. Afghanistan's cuisine has been influenced by Russia, India, China, and Persia, and its dishes star the rich, sweet, and tart tastes of cardamom, cilantro, rose water, and homemade yogurt.

The storefronts on Fremont Boulevard may look plain, but inside their shelves are stocked with pomegranate juice, sugared chickpeas, apple tobacco, and other goods imported from Bombay, Cairo, and numerous points between.

At the Pamir Food Mart, you can buy long loaves of Afghan naan warm from the oven. Bring a hearty appetite and sense of adventure to Salang Pass, one of four Afghan res-

taurants on the boulevard. Don't miss gabili pilau, Afghanistan's national dish of baked brown rice with lamb and raisins; aushak, ravioli stuffed with leeks and spices; or the burani kadu, soft pumpkin sauteed with garlic and cardamom. Across the street, carnivores should check out the De Afghanan Kabob House, where every plate features skewered meat.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker on rollcall Nos. 54, 55, 56, and 57, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JEFF FREEMAN AND NICOLE PALYA

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Jeff Freeman and Nicole Palya have decided to dedicate their lives to each other; and

Whereas, Jeff and Nicole have shown the love and commitment necessary to live a long and beautiful life together; and

Whereas, Jeff and Nicole have chosen to share their special day with friends and family;

Therefore, I join with the Members of Congress and their staff in congratulating Jeff Freeman and Nicole Palya on the occasion of their marriage.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE KNIGHTS IN THEIR VICTORY IN THE MINNESOTA CLASS AA STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the St. Michael-Albertville Knights on their victory in the Minnesota Class AA State Wrestling Tournament. This is the Knights' seventh consecutive and 14th overall state tournament appearance, and their third championship.

Coached by Gregg Greeno, the Knights finished a perfect 32-0 this season, winning all of their meets by at least 10 points. This was truly a team effort; they rose to the challenge in big meets and avoided injuries during the season.

Individually, the Knights qualified 12 of a possible 14 individuals for the state tournament. Two wrestlers, 112-pounder Mike Thorn and 160-pounder Chas Betts, won individual championships and six others finished in the top six.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the students, coaches and fans from St. Michael-Albertville on their championship season. It's a great tribute to their hard work, dedication and overall

team effort and I know everyone in Minnesota is proud of their accomplishments.

RELATING TO THE LIBERATION OF
THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND THE
VALIANT SERVICE OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES
AND COALITION FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support, and most heartfelt gratitude to our troops and their families.

It is often said that "freedom is not free," Mr. Speaker. I couldn't agree more. The price of freedom—the freedom that we enjoy here in the United States and freedom that we have helped preserve or create—is great. The cost of freedom is measured in dollars, in time lost away from family and friends, and it is measured in human lives lost on distant battlefields thousands of miles away.

Wherever you serve, in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and around the world, you rise to answer the call for freedom without reservation.

So today I rise, in support of our troops who continue to help ensure peace and freedom around the world, and to the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in pursuit of freedom.

We are grateful and humbled by your capabilities, your courage, and your commitment to the great cause of freedom. You are our heroes and our greatest hope for the future.

Thank you for all that you do. God bless the United States of America.

RELATING TO THE LIBERATION OF
THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND THE
VALIANT SERVICE OF THE
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AND COALITION FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 557 to commend the valiant service of the men and women of the United States and Coalition armed forces. One year ago these men and women were called on not only to protect the national security of the United States, but also to free the world of a ruthless and brutal dictator. I feel privileged to represent a large number of these men and women in the Fourth Congressional District of Florida.

In the beginning hours of the conflict, brave pilots of the Air Force flew bombing missions without knowing if they would be a target of Saddam's weak, but still existent surface to air missile capability. U.S. Marines stormed the port of Umm Qasr to ensure Saddam could not use his oil facilities to commit acts of environmental terrorism as he had in Operation Desert Storm. The United States Army pushed forward quickly to take Baghdad before Sad-

dam could use his own people as human shields; while the fleet of the United States Navy sat ready to launch air and Tomahawk strikes to support them. If there is one thing that Operation Iraqi Freedom has demonstrated to the American people, it is that there is no longer a dividing line between active and reserve component troops in armed conflict. The men and women of the Florida National Guard were trained and ready to deploy within 24 hours when asked by their Commander in Chief. These citizen soldiers left higher paying jobs and loving families to fight in an inhospitable and rough environment with their active duty counterparts. It was this dedication and courage that defeated Saddam and his regime. It was this dedication and courage that rebuilt schools and hospitals so the people of Iraq could receive these basic human services for the first time in three decades.

As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, I visited Iraq in August of last year. On this trip, I had the opportunity to sit down and talk with both active and reserve members of the Army, Marines Corps, and Air Force about their experiences. All of these men and women were proud of the mission of the United States and were eager to tell stories of grateful Iraqis.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting up again with an officer who I had first met on my trip to Iraq. When I asked him how he was doing, he told me the sad story of how he had just visited one of his soldiers who had lost both of his legs in Iraq. Even with this gruesome memory, he told me that both he and his soldiers would do it all over again. This officer's sentiment demonstrates the dedication and courage of our armed forces and it is this reason I rise to speak in support of H.R. 557.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY ACT OF 2004

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Halloween Safety Act of 2004, legislation to change the date on which daylight saving time ends each year in the interest of the safety of our children. This is a companion bill to S. 1803, introduced by Senator MICHAEL ENZI of Wyoming.

As we all know, the holiday of Halloween falls on October 31st, typically just a few days after the switch from daylight saving time to standard time. As a result of turning our clocks back, many young children go out to trick-or-treat around their neighborhoods or towns when darkness has already fallen by five or six o'clock in the evening. Parents are faced with the decision of whether or not to allow their children to go trick-or-treating in the dark, which creates a safety hazard for children running from house to house, and for motorists who must contend with children darting out into the streets.

Valerie Vainieri Huttie, the Chairwoman of the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and David L. Ganz, who is both a Bergen County Freeholder and the Mayor of Fair Lawn, New Jersey, have raised this issue at the county government level and have asked that I act on a federal level to address

this problem. The Halloween Safety Act of 2004 extends daylight saving time each year until the first Sunday in November, instead of the last Sunday in October, thereby ensuring that Halloween falls during daylight saving time each year.

I am proud to acknowledge that this safety problem has already been partly addressed in Bergen County, New Jersey. Fair Lawn's beloved police officer, the late Mary Ann Collura, implemented a special "glow stick" program so that young children would be adequately lit and visible as they walk the streets trick-or-treating. Since her untimely death in the line of duty last April, the glow stick program has gone countywide in Bergen County, thanks to the initiative of County Executive Dennis McNerney and his staff, Bergen County Prosecutor John Molinelli, and the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

By modestly changing the date that daylight saving time ends and that standard time begins, children in Bergen County and across the country would be safer and would have extended hours of daylight in which to participate in this holiday. I commend Freeholders Huttie and Ganz for sponsoring a resolution adopted by the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders urging the change of daylight saving time, and I thank them for their commitment to the safety of the children of New Jersey and our Nation. I urge prompt consideration of the Halloween Safety Act of 2004.

H.R. _____

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Halloween Safety Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME EXTENDED TO FIRST WEEK IN NOVEMBER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(a) of the Uniform Time Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. 260a(a)) is amended by striking "last Sunday of October" and inserting "first Sunday of November".

(b) EFFECT ON EXISTING STATE ELECTIONS.—Any law in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act which is—

(1) adopted pursuant to section 3(a)(2) of the Uniform Time Act of 1966 by a State with parts thereof in more than one time zone; or

(2) adopted pursuant to section 3(a)(1) of such Act by a State that lies entirely within one time zone,

shall be held and considered to remain in effect as the exercise by that State of the exemption permitted by such Act unless that State, by law, provides that such exemption shall not apply.

(c) ADJUSTMENT OF OPERATING HOURS OF DAY TIME BROADCASTERS.—(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or any regulation issued under law, the Federal Communications Commission shall, consistent with any existing treaty or other agreement, make such adjustment by general rules, or by interim action pending such general rules, with respect to hours of operation of daytime standard amplitude modulation broadcast stations as may be consistent with the public interest in receiving interference-free service.

(2) The general rules, or interim action, undertaken under paragraph (1) may include variances with respect to operating power and other technical operating characteristics.

(3) At any time after the adoption of general rules under paragraph (1), the general rules may be varied with respect to particular stations and areas because of the exigencies in each case.