

wounded their faith in democracy. This disillusionment and alienation is a cornerstone of the current situation in the country.

Without question, conditions in the Haiti are worse since Aristide's removal, and continue to deteriorate. Since last September, more than 700 people have been killed. At the July General Meeting of CARICOM, Secretary General, Dr. Edwin Carrington voiced the organization's concern over the deteriorating conditions in the country, as it made the success of October elections unlikely.

Indeed, the electoral picture continues to be discouraging. Out of a total of 4.5 million eligible voters only 150,000 have actually registered, with supporters of Aristide's Lavalas Party—a large portion of the electorate—refusing to participate. There is also widespread criticism about the disbursement of promised aid for Haiti from international donors.

A recent editorial in the publication *CaribNews* argues that CARICOM, the CBC, and the Bush Administration should all increase their involvement in finding a solution to the Haitian crisis. While CARICOM and the CBC still remain disturbed by the removal of Haiti's democratically elected government, there is recognition that the situation in Haiti demands our increased engagement.

The Bush Administration has continuously argued that the interim government in Haiti be allowed to prepare for elections, with the collaboration of the UN MINSTAH force. The CBC and CARICOM have waited warily, but the situation is getting worse. The U.S. Administration has seemed to place the blame squarely on Aristide/Lavalas supporters, but that is neither an accurate or fair assessment of the complex mix of factors which combine to create the current Haitian reality. Many groups are responsible for the instability.

However, among most experts, there is very little disagreement that the root causes of Haiti's problems are economic. According to a recent report by the International Monetary Fund, economic conditions in Haiti deteriorated significantly during the early 2000s. The economic deterioration has been exacerbated by the political turmoil and devastating floods of 2004 which led to a contraction of 3.75 per cent of GDP. This has resulted in economic stagnation, high inflation, and widespread unemployment.

Economic and trade development is the overarching need in Haiti, and will remain so, with or without elections in the fall. CARICOM, the CBC, and the Bush Administration are all well placed to ensure that such development takes place. There has been work towards that end already.

Separately, members and supporters of the Lavalas Party must be persuaded to trust the system and participate in the transitional process. The problem is that major stakeholders such as the interim Haitian administration, the UN, and the Bush Administration have no credibility with Lavalas/Aristide supporters. The actions and positions of all three have at times been very counterproductive to national unity. This is another avenue where CARICOM and the CBC can become engaged.

CBC and CARICOM may be the only groups with enough credibility to compel Pro-Aristide supporters to enter the process. I believe there is growing recognition of this fact. In the meantime, it is my hope that the Administration will take a more balanced and objec-

tive approach in helping Haiti to find the peace and prosperity that it deserves.

[From the *CaribNews*, July 5, 2005]

WHY THE BLACK CAUCUS, THE BUSH WHITE HOUSE AND CARICOM SHOULD BECOME ENGAGED IN HAITI

The headlines rarely recall Haiti's glorious past when it defeated France's mighty army in 1804 and emerged as the first Black republic in the Western Hemisphere.

Sadly, they certainly don't call to mind the Caribbean nation's rich cultural heritage.

Instead, they draw international attention on a daily basis to what U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel in an interview with this newspaper on Monday quite correctly called the country's "pain and suffering over such a long period of time."

Some example of recent headlines: "Gunfire erupts as New Haitian Ministers Take Office in Port au Prince." Boniface Alexandre, the country's interim President was delivering a speech at a ceremony installing four new cabinet ministers when heavy gunfire erupted near the Presidential Palace.

"Foreign troops likely needed in Haiti for years." A story built on the words of United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Jean-Marie Guehono, who told a news agency "Haiti will need (UN) peacekeepers so long that there's not a credible, effective police and judiciary."

"Haitian refugees rescued from sinking Boat off St. Maarten." Authorities in the Dutch dependent territory rescued 63 migrants from Haiti from a sailboat that was sinking off the island's coast.

Each story paints its own picture of a nation in the throes of yet another disaster, a chapter of anarchy, death and a further descent into further tragic circumstances, if that's possible.

Hence, Congressman Rangel's sensible offer to use his considerable influence on Capitol Hill in a search for a solution to Haiti's apparent intent to destroy what's left of the 200 year old nation.

Yes, he is right to try to bring together the U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, and CARICOM leaders who have behaved like Pontius Pilate, washing their hands of a troubled neighbor which seems unable these day to pursue peace and prosperity.

The unfortunate and unnecessary ouster of Aristide and the installation of interim President Boniface Alexandre and stopgap Prime Minister, Gerard Latortue were the handiwork of the Bush Administration which hated Jean Bertrand Aristide with such a passion that it even sided with convicted murderers, drug traffickers and violent criminals to get rid of him.

Having put a gun to Aristide's head and forced him to flee, the President said he was "kidnapped" and taken into exile. Washington has shown little interest in helping the country out of the quagmire.

It has left the mess to the UN to clean up while starving the country of the hundreds of millions pledged by the international community to aid re-development and rehabilitation.

It's a crying shame that the Bush White House, an architect of the Western Hemisphere's Democratic Charter, would turn around and blast holes into the document, thus making the whole exercise nothing more than a sham, a public relations exercise that was empty of any real morality.

Clearly, Rangel, a decent public figure, should pursue his idea of reaching out to CARICOM and to Rice, not to mention Haitians who want to see their country move forward economically.

An astute and experienced lawmaker, Rangel is fully aware that the task would not be easy. But it is worth a try.

He also knows and was the first to point out that he couldn't achieve his goal by working alone. The Congressional Black Caucus, all 43 members in the House of Representatives and the Senate would have to bring their collective influence to the effort.

"I would be glad to get the 43 members of the Congressional Black Caucus to support anything that makes sense to stabilize the government of Haiti," was the way Rangel put it.

Yes, we, like Rangel, are aware that others have tried and failed but we have a special responsibility to be unrelenting in our pursuit of reconciliation.

For without it, we would stand accused of acting like Nero who played the fiddle while Rome was burning.

Rangel and the other members of the Congressional Black caucus have the credibility and the interest to act as honest brokers. CARICOM too must be involved in the search for peace. It may have been justified in criticizing LaTortue for his role in the tragedy now unfolding in his country. And it has already made its point by declining to reinstate Haiti into the community until free and fair elections are held.

But staying on the sidelines while the country moves closer and closer to civil war is not really an option.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FOUR CHRIS J. SCHERKENBACH TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Chief Warrant Officer Four Chris J. Scherkenbach, who died on June 28 from injuries sustained during combat operations in Afghanistan and in service to our country.

Chris was proud to serve in the United States Army for 18 years, and as a Night Stalker was a member of our Special Operations forces for the past 8 years. He had been assigned to B Company, 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia.

Chief Warrant Officer Chris J. Scherkenbach's awards and decorations include the Air Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon and Senior Army Aviator Badge. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal and an Air Medal with Valor device, the Master Army Aviator Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Chris's family describes him as a strong man who had a firm sense of justice, who believed in his mission and stood up for what he knew was right, and who perished doing what he loved.

We should all remember Chris's courage and his ultimate sacrifice for our nation—"Greater love hath no man than to give up his

life for others." The freedom we enjoy and the liberty in the world for which he fought are part of the great legacy Chief Warrant Officer Four Chris J. Scherkenbach leaves behind.

A native of Jacksonville, Chris was born in Illinois on November 3, 1964. A devoted husband to his wife Michelle, Chris was also a loving son, brother and uncle and will be dearly missed. To all of Chris's family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, because of Chief Warrant Officer Four Chris J. Scherkenbach's sacrifice for our country, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his service in our nation's Armed Forces and remembering both his life and his dedication to the United States of America.

SUPPORT OF JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY (JWOD) PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 14, 2005*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program, which has provided vocational training and employment opportunities to the blind and disabled since 1971. The JWOD Program, which brings together the Federal Government and approximately 600 non-profit organizations supporting the blind and disabled, is a model public-private partnerships for advancing the collective values of our nation.

The unemployment rate among the blind and disabled in our country is estimated at approximately 70 percent. It is troubling that we as a society have not created a system that successfully makes the American Dream a real possibility for all Americans, and particularly for those who are blind or disabled. In my many years of public service, I have become acquainted with numerous individuals with disability. I have always been impressed with their vigor and spirit and their willingness to take on any task in order to contribute positively to our community and our society. These Americans do not come asking for a handout, but rather ask that we as public officials provide them with the tools they need to achieve self-sufficiency, personal fulfillment, and full inclusion in the benefits of our society.

The JWOD Program stands as one of the most successful programs in addressing economic and social equality for blind and disabled members of our communities. The non-profits participating in JWOD have provided training and job opportunities to 42,000 individuals who are blind or disabled. The Federal Government supports these organizations through the Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled, which directs all Federal agencies to purchase certain products and services only from JWOD-affiliated organizations that train and employ blind and disabled. The net result is that the Federal Government uses its purchasing power to ensure a steady revenue stream to JWOD-affiliated organizations while at the same time acquiring products and supplies at a fair market price.

It is also important to recognize the important role played by the National Industries for

the Blind (NIB) and National Institute for the Severely Handicapped (NISH)-Creating Employment for People with Severe Disabilities. These non-profit organizations provide advice to the Federal Government as to which products or services it should include in its JWOD Procurement List, while at the same time providing technical, logistical, and marketing assistance to the 600 JWOD-affiliated organizations. These organizations also play an important role in advocating on behalf of the employment of blind and disabled individuals in traditional businesses and organizations. Needless to say, the success of JWOD would not be possible if not for the NIB and NISH-Creating Employment for People with Severe Disabilities.

As we Americans strive to form a more compassionate society and a more compassionate world, it is important that we recognize the tremendous success of the JWOD Program and the dedication of those individuals and organizations who have made this program a success. I urge my colleagues to reaffirm their support for JWOD, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on legislation in support of this important program.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2005*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Motion to Instruct Conferees by Representative CAPPS.

Our greatest obligation is to protect the people we represent. That means protecting their health and wellbeing. Therefore, it is important that we do not let those responsible for MBTE contamination of our water off the hook.

Clean and safe drinking water is vital to our health, not a luxury.

So I want to make sure that chemicals that cause cancer or other illnesses that threaten the health, even the lives, of my constituents are not able to contaminate the water we drink.

That is why I have been working hard to gain funds to pay for the removal of perchlorate from groundwater in San Bernardino County.

And that is why I am concerned about MBTE and its impact on the communities I represent.

MBTE is a dangerous chemical that has contaminated the groundwater in thousands of sites across the country.

Unfortunately, instead of holding the manufacturers of MBTE accountable for the harm their products have caused, some Republicans in Congress want to make the American people pay.

I believe in being accountable and responsible. This Administration has talked about accountability, but now Republican leaders are now trying to pass the buck.

The cost of cleaning up MBTE-contaminated water nationwide is estimated to be \$29 billion.

It is wrong to ask the county and city governments and local water agencies to pay.

Their budgets are already under a lot of stress, and they would have to raise the funds from taxpayers and ratepayers.

We must reject provisions that give corporate polluters a free pass. MBTE manufacturers must be held accountable for the harm they have caused and clean up their own mess.

COMMEMORATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONCLUSION OF WAR IN THE PACIFIC AND HONORING VETERANS OF BOTH PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC THEATERS OF SECOND WORLD WAR

SPEECH OF

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 13, 2005*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt support for the House Concurrent Resolution 191 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

We are a free and prosperous nation because the Greatest Generation defeated tyranny in World War II. We owe them many debts, including remembering and teaching new generations of Americans that freedom is not free.

September 2, 2005, will mark the 60th anniversary of the final surrender of Japan, which occurred on the USS *Missouri*. This is a date we must remember and commemorate.

We remember the 16 million Americans who served in the military during World War II. We remember 670,000 U.S. casualties including 400,000 deaths. The Greatest Generation faced some of our Nation's darkest hours and emerged victorious. We learn from their courage and selflessness. We give thanks for their resolve.

We remember the sacrifices and struggles of the American soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and members of the Coast Guard in World War II. We remember their families at home who prayed for victory and the safe return of fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and neighbors while making their own sacrifices for the war effort.

We remember those who fought in the Pacific campaigns against the Japanese Empire. We remember sea battles in the Coral Sea, at Midway, in Leyte Gulf—the greatest naval battle in history—and Lingayen Gulf, which turned the tide of the Pacific war and led to ultimate victory.

We remember Iwo Jima, where more than 7,000 Americans and 20,000 Japanese died. We remember a battle that raged for more than a month between February and March 1945, and we remember the powerful image of five marines and one Navy corpsman raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi.

We remember the Battle of Okinawa, the largest sea-air-land battle in history, waged between April and June 1945. We remember the 38,000 Americans wounded, the 12,000 killed or listed as missing, and the more than 107,000 Japanese and Okinawan conscripts killed and the 100,000 Okinawan civilians who died.

The sacrifice of the Greatest Generation inspires us today. We remember with our words, but must also remember with deeds; by fully