

ROBERT W. "BOBBY" HARRELL,
SPEAKER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary South Carolinian by congratulating the Honorable Robert W. "Bobby" Harrell, Jr. of Charleston on his recent election to Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives.

Bobby Harrell was first elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1992 and quickly earned the respect of his fellow members. Bobby is a man of diligence, integrity, and ability. In 1994, he was appointed to the Ways and Means Committee, where he served as chairman of the Economic Development Subcommittee and the Public Education Subcommittee. He was elected chairman of the full committee in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, Bobby Harrell has always been a steadfast advocate for tax relief, educational opportunities, and economic development. As he begins his tenure as Speaker, I know he will continue to strive to assist all South Carolinians.

Bobby has excelled in every endeavor he has pursued, and his private life is no exception. He is a devoted family man with deep convictions. Bobby is married to Cathy Smith Harrell and is the proud father of two fine children, Trey and Charlotte. He and his family are members of the First Baptist Church of Charleston, where Bobby served as a deacon for many years. He is a successful entrepreneur, recently celebrating a quarter of a century operating a State Farm Insurance Agency and Oak Haven of Charleston, an assisted-living community. Additionally, Bobby has served as a leader in many national, State, and local civic and business organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Bobby Harrell is a good friend and I am proud to have the Speaker of the South Carolina House as a constituent. I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in congratulating him on his recent election to Speaker and wishing him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

COMMENDING THE CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. DeLAY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the United States Congress will welcome His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

His visit to the United States, and to this House in particular, is a symbol of the strong and vibrant relations between our two nations, the oldest and largest democracies on earth.

But the relationship between the United States and India is more than symbolic.

It is the natural alliance between democratic nations who value freedom, and will defend their people from tyranny and terror.

Since the Indian people achieved their independence from the British crown in 1947, their nation has become an example of political freedom and stability in a region that desperately needs it.

India's economy has become a global leader in trade, science, and health, and its education system annually produces some of the brightest and most innovative minds in the world.

India has become a valued trading partner with the United States, and a trusted ally in the global war on terror.

Internationally, the Indian people—together with Pakistan—in recent years have sought peaceful solutions to their differences, setting aside decades of open hostility.

And here at home, Indian-Americans have enriched our national culture by introducing generations of Americans to the philosophical, religious, and social traditions of their homeland.

My own district in the Houston region is home to tens of thousands of Indian-Americans, who have become an indelible part of our community in recent decades, a fact for which I and my fellow Texans are most grateful.

I am proud to sponsor this resolution commending Prime Minister Singh and his nation, and welcoming him to address the House and Senate tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT R. MANNINGS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the lifelong service of Mr. Robert R. Mannings. Serving in the armed service during the Korean War, Mannings selflessly devoted his life to his country and was honorably discharged in 1953. Thereafter, Mr. Mannings began his exemplary career in Philadelphia in 1958 as an employee of both North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and Yellow Cab Company. Subsequently, he joined the Iron Workers Local 401 and served as a journeyman worker until his retirement in 1992.

As the president of the Dewey and Race Street Civic Organization for over 20 years, he improved the quality of his Philadelphia community and consequently was awarded the Philadelphia Most Beautiful Block award. Mannings' civic engagement extends to countless organizations including his active membership in the West Philadelphia New Life Development Association and the Mount Carmel Baptist Church for over 38 years.

A survivor of two bouts of severe cancer, Mannings' loyalty to the American Cancer Society compelled him to create an educational video portraying the success of cancer survivors. This video is widely shown at medical conventions, in physician offices and seminars.

Robert Mannings' devotion to his community never distracted him from his role as a loving husband to Frances E. Thomas, father of two

children, grandfather of five, and great grandfather of seven. In recognition of Mr. Robert R. Mannings' years of service to the city of Philadelphia, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to congratulate him on his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 19, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and therefore absent for rollcall vote 384, on agreeing to House Resolution 365. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 384.

SOUTH CAUCASUS OPEN RAIL LINK ACT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, United States foreign policy toward the South Caucasus nations is one of fostering regional stability and enhanced cooperation. I rise today to bring attention to the great injustice in relations in this region.

I speak today to stress my opposition and to move forward with legislation contesting the proposed railroad connecting Tbilisi, Georgia and Kars, Turkey. The proposed railroad would systematically bypass Armenia, and push them further into isolation.

As we all know, Turkey and Armenia have their differences. Although it is counterproductive to list those differences, instead I want to highlight the fact that it goes against United States policy to be in a position that further advances the turmoil in this region. The proposed legislation would bar U.S. support and funding for a rail link connecting Georgia and Turkey, but which directly averts Armenia.

Eight years ago, the former Turkish president and the former Georgian president meant to discuss the railroad that would "open a third frontier crossing between the two countries," providing further commerce and economic opportunity for the South Caucasus region. Both countries would benefit immensely from this railroad.

While I will always support commerce-based proposals that spawn economic development around the world, this proposal initiates commerce at the cost of another country's economic development. This is unacceptable.

This railroad would cost between \$400–\$800 million to construct, while a perfectly workable and capable rail link already exists. It is evident to all that this new rail system is being proposed for the specific reason of diverting commerce around Armenia.

The construction of the proposed railroad would be equivalent to the people of Ohio building a new bridge to Canada just to avoid traveling through Michigan. The United States government would never condone this action, and we should not be in the practice of condoning the actions set forth by the Turkish government.

The existing rail would be available for use within weeks of an agreement between Armenia, Turkey, and Georgia. Furthermore, the Armenian people are willing to forego using the rail until normal relations with Turkey are established. Mr. Speaker, although normal relations may still take some time, there is no reason to further shut Armenia out of the equation.

Moreover, the building of this railroad also highlights the ongoing struggle between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Known by all, Azerbaijan's main goal is to strangle Armenia into submission of Nagorno-Karabakh. This railroad does just that.

The United States and other countries around the world, including Turkey, need to allow these two countries to agree upon a solution regarding Nagorno-Karabakh. It is necessary that third parties remain neutral. The proposed railroad not only stunts the diplomatic progress between Armenia, Turkey and Azerbaijan, it unnecessarily blocks Armenia's economic and political progress.

I encourage my colleagues to look at the facts of this situation. The existing rail link would be available essentially as soon as possible and it would take a minimal amount of funding in order to get it usable again. Whereas, a new rail link would take months if not years to build, and would cost an estimated \$400–\$800 million. There should be no question as to which plan the United States supports.

**PRAIRIE HORIZONS TRAIL
OFFICIALLY OPENS**

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the groups and individuals who made the Prairie Horizons Trail a reality for Southeastern Colorado. It has been an extremely long process, but the hard work has come to fruition with the official opening of the Prairie Horizons Trail. This trail is a part of the Trans-America Bicycle Trail.

This trail crosses the United States from Yorktown, VA to Astoria, OR and it passes through the beautiful Eastern Plains of Colorado's 4th Congressional District, with more than 100 miles of Highway 96.

Eastern Colorado communities and counties have come together to work on a plan for the trail corridor in the region, which has been named the Prairie Horizons Trail.

On July 1, 2005 Joy Lujan with the National Parks Service and Janet Frederick, Executive Director for the Kiowa County Economic Development Foundation, were met in Sugar City, Ordway, Crowley, and Olney Springs by county commissioners, mayors and community activists as the Prairie Horizons trail was officially opened.

Lujan and Frederick presented business owners with commemorative "Cyclists Welcome" signs and spoke briefly about the new brochures about the trail.

I am proud to represent Crowley County Commissioners Dwight Gardner and Matt Heimerich along with Sugar City Councilwoman Eleanor Neiffert, Ordway Mayor Nancy Moore, Wendy Pettit with the Colorado De-

partment of Transportation, Crowley County School Superintendent John McCleary, Olney Springs Mayor Deb DeVore, and the many other citizens who assisted in making this project possible. This is a wonderful addition to the Eastern Plains and to the communities in which this trail passes. It is my great honor to recognize the opening of the Prairie Horizons Trail.

**CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION
FOR THE LIFE OF MRS. IRENE
LOCKETT**

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this communication is forwarded on behalf of the constituents of Congressional District Three and myself as we pay tribute to the life of Irene Lockett.

We are all deeply and profoundly saddened by the loss of this gentle and loving spirit. Irene was a true believer in God and family. She encouraged us to be our very best in all we do, at all times. Throughout her life, her loving spirit was unshakeable, her will undaunted, her stature in the church she loved and in the community she cherished remained strong and led Pat, her daughter, and my sister, to pledge her life to public service. She was the wife of Walter Lockett, mother of Pat Lockett-Felder, a member of the Jacksonville, Florida City Council, a grandmother, a great-grandmother and a Matriarch to all, family and friends alike. She absorbed our fears and our tears with her gentle embrace. When I think of Irene Lockett, I am reminded of the words of Paul in the Book of 2nd Timothy, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept my faith".

Though our hearts ache, our tears of pain are mixed with loving memories of her smile, her touch, and that gleam in her eyes telling each of us how much she loved us, even when words would not flow. She kept her promise—to love us, nurture us, guide us, and in her own way, she prepared us for this day. Weep not in mournful pain, shed tears of joy for Irene—no more pain, no more hurt—rest now in the arms of the Father who welcomes her home and whispers gently, "well done my child".

**RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SOLIDARITY
MOVEMENT IN POLAND**

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H. Res. 328, and I rise on behalf of the more than 111,000 of my constituents who are of Polish descent to recognize the 25th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland in 1980. These strikes pressured the government to recognize the Soli-

darity Trade Union and, eventually, to enact fundamental changes in the government in Poland. It is my privilege to join with Poland, friends of Poland and people of Polish descent around the world in honoring this historic date.

The summer of 1980 was a turbulent time in Poland. Soviet domination resulted not only in political oppression but in deep economic crisis. In response to these conditions, workers were striking in several cities across the country. In 1979, the visit by Pope John II added to the hope and desire of all Polish people for change and demonstrated the possibility of mass independent movements.

The Independent and Self-Governing Solidarity Trade Union was established as a result of the Gdansk Accords signed on August 31, 1980 between striking workers and the communist government. In this agreement the government conceded to striking workers' requests and allowed them to form free trade unions, independent from the government and communist party, an unprecedented situation under the Iron Curtain.

By signing the accords the communist government hoped to appease workers while entrenching their power. To the government's great disappointment, the Solidarity Trade Union grew rapidly. By 1981, Solidarity boasted an unparalleled membership of nearly 10 million workers or more than a half of the Polish labor force and almost one third of the entire population. Employees from all sectors of economy and positions joined en masse, including workers, professionals, intellectuals, students and members of political opposition. The Solidarity Trade Union became a huge social and political movement, representing the Polish nation's aspirations for freedom, democracy and better living conditions after more than thirty-five years of communism and Soviet control.

However, the road to freedom was not easy. Seeing how popular and powerful the union was becoming, the communist government of Poland imposed Martial Law in 1981, followed by persecution, imprisonment and forced emigration of many Solidarity members, including Lech Walesa. Nonetheless, the banned Solidarity Trade Union kept aggravating both within Poland and abroad with the instrumental support of Pope John Paul II.

In 1989, the will of millions prevailed: the communist government gave in and held talks with the Solidarity Trade Union. These "round table negotiations" resulted in free elections to the National Assembly, won almost completely by candidates supported by the Solidarity Trade Union. Subsequently, the noncommunist prime minister was elected later that year, and in 1990, Lech Walesa, a former worker-electrician and the leader of the Solidarity Trade Union who had been instrumental in workers' strikes of 1980 and in the Gdansk Accords, became the first elected president of the newly non-communist Poland. Communism was peacefully overthrown.

Within a year, following the Polish example, the regimes in the Czech Republic, Hungary and East Germany had fallen. By 1991, communism was overthrown throughout Europe thanks to the inspiration of the Solidarity Trade Union.

With its long and rich history and traditions, Poland regained its rightful place among free and independent nations, first as a contributing partner in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, and last year, as a full member of the European Union. Today, Poland