

individual and collective service of these veterans continues to play a key role in protecting our democracy, during times of peace and times of war.

American veterans of Ukrainian descent continue to be a vital source of strength in every branch of the United States military, dating back to the dawn of America. The deep dedication to justice and significant contribution to American society by Ukrainian American veterans has been, and continues to be, a vital strength within our community, and within our Nation.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the Ukrainian Veterans of America, Post #24, as they commemorate the unwavering service reflected by veterans of Ukrainian heritage; their honorable service within the United States Armed Forces will be remembered always. Let us also recognize United States veterans of every ethnic background, whose united commitment serves to strengthen our entire Nation.

CELEBRATING AND SUSTAINING CHINESE AND AMERICAN CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Festival of China taking place at the Kennedy Center. This festival is the largest in the history of the Kennedy Center and the largest celebration of Chinese performing arts ever undertaken in the United States. Indeed, the Kennedy Center is coordinating the performances of more than 800 artists from China and the United States and is hosting more than 50 events associated with the month-long celebration.

Mr. Speaker, it is well known that significant differences exist between the United States and China in some areas of current policy and practices. This is why it remains important that our government fosters cooperative artistic interaction between our two countries. I am pleased to command the Kennedy Center and the Chinese Ministry of Culture for collaborating in this vein.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to draw this body's attention to the important role that these cultural exchanges play in the overarching relationship between China and the United States. As Chairman of the US-China Interparliamentary Exchange, I know that it is important that the United States and China continue to work to understand each other on a variety of levels. Mutual cooperation, particularly through U.S.-China exchange programs and cultural events, brings about a deeper understanding and, in turn, can strengthen our bilateral relationship, so we can resolve our differences.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud this exposition as it works to deepen our appreciation for some of China's unique cultural treasures and enhance the friendship between our two countries.

URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN COTE D'IVOIRE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, democracy has begun to take hold in Afghanistan and Iraq recently, and today the United States has an opportunity to affirm democracy and democratic principles in another country—Cote d'Ivoire.

Congress, along with the Bush administration, must commit the resources that are needed to ensure that this strong U.S. ally can hold its election at the earliest possible date.

Just 5 years ago, 85 percent of the Ivorian people approved a Constitution mandating that Cote d'Ivoire's President remain in office until an election result.

Violating this critical provision of the Constitution could render the rest of the document null and void and throw the country into further chaos.

Postponing the election would also reward Cote d'Ivoire's anti-government rebels, who have waged a brutal campaign of fear and intimidation. Any peace plan must include the disarmament of these rebels.

Supporting democracy and democratic principles is of particular importance in Cote d'Ivoire, which is the economic anchor of West Africa.

I am today introducing a Sense of Congress Resolution urging the Bush Administration and the Congress to declare, unequivocally, that the United States supports a free and fair presidential election in Cote d'Ivoire at the earliest possible date, and I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this measure.

Supporting democracy, not thwarting it, must be a guiding principle of America's relations with nations throughout the world.

CONGRATULATING CRESTHILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cresthill Middle School in Highlands Ranch Colorado. Cresthill has been named an Intel School of Distinction in Professional Development. This award recognizes schools in which teachers, administrators, and staff work together to continuously improve student learning.

The Intel School of Distinction award adds to the list of honors bestowed upon Cresthill Middle School, which has also been named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. These honors reflect the school's extraordinary commitment to education and speak to the dedication of the teachers, students, and parents.

Mr. Speaker, schools such as Cresthill Middle School that foster academic excellence for its students and professional development for its teachers, deserve recognition. In its mission statement, Cresthill Middle School champions all students in the quest toward achievement and responsible citizenship. I am proud to congratulate the school both for living up to

its mission and for being recognized as an Intel School of Distinction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on September 29, 2005, I was unable to vote during rollcall vote No. 504 as I had to attend a funeral in my District. Had I been present, I would have voted against H. Con. Res. 245.

I am increasingly concerned that resolutions like H. Con. Res. 245 are being used to score political points, rather than resolutions that could be well-intended expressions of reasonable patriotism and commitment to our national identity.

Similarly, in the last Congress, we considered legislation (H.R. 2028) that would strip the Federal Courts of jurisdiction over cases involving the Pledge of Allegiance. Though the legislation was intended to ostensibly deal with the "under God" controversy, which was bad enough considering the important role that the Courts play in ensuring that our legislative enactments are permissible in light of the Constitution's protections of our citizens, it unfortunately also had broad implications on cases in which individuals, especially members of religious minorities, would seek enforcement of their constitutional right for religious practice.

I voted against that legislation because it threatened the separation of powers established in our Constitution and undermined the constitutionally established function of the Federal Courts to interpret the law, a principle established in *Marbury v. Madison* two centuries ago. I believe that H. Con. Res. 245 would similarly be incompatible with the First Amendment's religious protections and would thereby harm religious minorities for whom the recitation of the Pledge is a violation of their faith.

Mr. Speaker, it is the responsibility of Congress to protect the rights of all of our citizens and to pass laws consistent with that great document, The Constitution of the United States, not pass laws that flout its principles. I believe that H. Con. Res. 245 deviates from those responsibilities and that is why, had I been able to attend the day's proceedings, I would have voted, "no."

BROCK PETERS IN MEMORIAM

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, It was with great sadness and a deep sense of loss that word was received of the death in Los Angeles of Brock Peters on August 23, 2005, one of America's most distinguished actors of stage and screen, whose deeds in life merit the respectful acknowledgement of his community and nation; and

Whereas, he was born George Fisher on July 2, 1927 in New York City, the child of Sonny and Alma A. Fisher, following a year at the University of Chicago in 1944 and undergraduate study at the City College of New

York from 1945 to 1947, he worked as a YMCA and Parks Department instructor, hospital orderly and shipping clerk in New York while studying for the acting and singing career which was the object of his life-long dreams; and

Whereas, Brock first took the stage at the age of 15 in the 1943 Broadway production of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, sang bass with the DePaur Infantry Chorus, joined a traveling cabaret act that played in American and Canadian clubs, and was among the first African Americans to break through in television when he sang on *The Arthur Godfrey Talent Scouts* in 1953; and

Whereas, Brock's film career flowered when he breathed life into some of the most memorable roles in American cinema, playing "Sergeant Brown" in Otto Preminger's *Carmen Brown* in 1954 and "Crown" in the 1959 film version of *Porgy and Bess*, yet these villainous portrayals nearly stalled Brock's career until he garnered his most famous role in 1962, that of the innocent but falsely accused "Tom Robinson" vindicated by Gregory Peck's Oscar-award winning performance in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, henceforth Brock's film characters varied between the noble and the notorious, including "Johnny" in 1962's *The L-Shaped Room* and "Rodriguez" in 1965's *The Pawnbroker*, and more than a dozen other films including *The Incident* (1967), *Soylent Green* (1972), *Lost in the Stars* (1974), *Two-Minute Warning* (1976), *Star Trek IV* (1986) and *Star Trek VI* (1991), in between which Brock had a significant television career, playing featured or recurring roles in *Roots: The Next Generation* (1979), *Battlestar Galactica* (1979) and the musical *Polly!* (1989) as well as scores of guest show appearances and film voice-overs, yet Brock never abandoned live theater, where he starred in such hits as *Othello* (1963), *My Children, My Africa* (1990), and the stage versions of *The Great White Hope* (1971), *Driving Miss Daisy* (1989) and *Lost in the Stars*; and

Whereas, having married Delores "DiDi" Daniels in 1961, the couple sustained a tireless parallel career as advocates for African American drama and craftsmanship, together founding Delbro Enterprises which produced *Five on the Black-Hand Side* (1973), and the PBS documentary *This Far by Faith* (1975), and directing an actors studio specializing in African and African American theater, Brock also became a co-founder of the Dance Theater of Harlem; such artistic leadership garnered numerous honors for Brock Peters including Presidency of the California Arts Commission, induction in the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame, the Best Actor in a Musical Award from the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards, nomination for a Tony Award, and receipt of awards from the National Film Society and the Screen Actors Guild, and;

Whereas, Brock Peters, preceded in death by his beloved wife DiDi in 1990, leaves to cherish his memory his beloved daughter Lisa Jo Peters and a host of family, friends, colleagues and fans; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by U.S. Representative Diane E. Watson, that the outstanding artistic achievements and exemplary civic contributions of Brock Peters be Saluted and Memorialized in the Annals of the Congress of these United States of America, with most sincere condolences to his bereaved family and prayers that his soul may now rest in eternal peace.

Attested this 27th Day of August in the Year 2005.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, 2005, Taiwan's National Day, I offer my best wishes and congratulations to the people of Taiwan for building a democratic, peaceful and prosperous island. Taiwan witnessed the first ever peaceful transition of political power in Chinese cultural history in 2000.

Taiwan is also an island with a significant population and a prosperous economy. The two peoples, both Taiwanese and Americans, share a common belief in democracy, the adherence of human rights and the rule of law. I believe it is important that we maintain a free and open relationship. The United States should remain committed to stability in the region. I believe the United States must continue to play a role in guaranteeing the peaceful resolution any destabilizing issues between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China.

It is my hope that there will be enduring peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region, especially in the Taiwan Strait. It is also my hope that both Taiwan and the People's Republic of China will soon resume their dialogue, as it is my belief that negotiation is imperative to any resolution.

DAVIS-BACON SUSPENSION LEAVES LOCALS JOBLESS IN GULF

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the indefinite suspension of Davis-Bacon by President Bush has destroyed the hopes of local residents in the Gulf region—many of whom had already lost everything in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Now Gulf residents who work in construction have to contend with wages even lower than those normally prevailing in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and several counties in Florida. As documented by an article which appeared in today's *Washington Post*, the President's suspension of Davis-Bacon and clear preference for political cronies also appears to make Gulf residents last on the list for Katrina reconstruction jobs.

Despite rhetoric to the contrary, the President's actions will prove just as devastating to workers in the Gulf region as the destruction wrought by the hurricanes. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that this Post article be printed in the RECORD in its entirety.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 7, 2005]

SMALL BUSINESSES LOSE KATRINA CLEANUP CONTRACTS TO LARGE FIRMS

(By Jonathan Weisman)

When Al Knight received notice Friday that his small company's contract to help wire Louisiana's storm-damaged Alvin Callendar Naval Air Station had been abruptly canceled, he could not have known the reverberations would reach Washington within days.

But the plight of little Knight Enterprises LLP has several compelling factors: a minority owned small business in New Orleans losing out to a big, national firm; local workers, mainly African American, first devastated by Hurricane Katrina and then supplanted by out-of-state, low-wage replacements; questions over White House wage policies; and a name that has haunted the Bush administration since the invasion of Iraq—Halliburton. Little wonder that Sen. Carl M. Levin (D-Mich.) highlighted it yesterday as he grilled the Federal Emergency Management Agency's acting director, R. David Paulison, on the Bush administration's hurricane recovery contracts.

After Katrina hit, most of Knight's electricians found themselves with nothing: homeless, jobless and broke. But when Alabama-based BE&K landed a subcontract to help rebuild the naval air station, it turned to Knight for electricians—he says 75, BE&K says 59 at the peak of work.

BE&K was working for Kellogg, Brown & Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton Co., Vice President Cheney's former company.

When BE&K came to him, Knight said he was told his work would run well into the millions of dollars and stretch out as long as 20 months. His men would be paid the prevailing union wage of \$22.09 an hour, plus health benefits.

After three weeks, the initial work was 60 percent completed. Then, on Friday, Knight received a letter informing him that BE&K workers—largely from out of state and, according to Knight, earning \$14 to \$15 an hour without benefits—could take over from there.

Susan Wasley, a BE&K spokeswoman, said Knight's crew was always there merely to augment the company's own staff of 45 electricians. Knight Enterprises was let go because its work was done.

Knight did not blame BE&K for his disappointment. Instead, he pointed to President Bush's decision last month to suspend the so-called Davis-Bacon federal law that mandates that workers on federal projects be paid the average wage of an area, often the union wage. Once BE&K was forced to compete with nonunion companies for KBR contracts, they could not afford the union electricians that dominate Louisiana, he said. "I can tell you this for sure," Knight said. "If Davis-Bacon wage rates were left alone, then you'd have local Louisiana people working on local projects, and we would be working today."