

While President of N.O.D., Alan built the coalition of disability groups that successfully fought for the inclusion of a statue of former United States President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his wheelchair at the FDR Memorial in Washington, DC. He also spearheaded the critical survey research with Harris Poll Surveys that tracks the progress of Americans with disabilities in key areas of life.

In addition, Alan is the founder and Chairman of the World Committee on Disability, the international arm of N.O.D., which further underscores the worldwide reach of his contributions. He is a founder of the World Committee's Franklin D. Roosevelt International Disability Award, which recognizes nations for progress toward the United Nations' goals for disabled persons. I should add, Mr. Speaker, that my wife Annette and I are honored to be members of the World Committee on Disability.

A graduate of Dartmouth College, Alan has also had a distinguished career in both private business and government. Alan served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs. In this position, he developed international exchange programs to further mutual understanding. He also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for East-West Trade and Director of the Bureau of East-West Trade, where he was credited with the expansion of U.S. commercial relations with the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe. Prior to his outstanding career as a public servant, Alan was an executive in manufacturing management and corporate long-range planning with Polaroid Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, in many ways, Alan has changed the world's attitude and approach to disability issues and made groundbreaking contributions to uniting the disability movement. Our entire Nation is profoundly saddened at the loss of this outstanding leader. We join in expressing our deep condolences to Alan's family, and express our sincere gratitude for his outstanding achievements.

ABUSE OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER:
THE WAR ON TORTURE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise my voice against the use of torture by the United States of America against any human being for any reason. I believe torture in any form, including cruel and inhuman and degrading interrogation of human beings in the custody of the United States of America violates everything we stand for as Americans.

The Senate recently passed the McCain amendment to a military appropriation bill by a vote of 90 to 9. The McCain amendment is very telling in terms of whether the United States has been battling terrorisms or fighting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in lawful ways. The McCain amendment bans "cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment of persons under the custody or control of the United States Government." This amendment has passed the Senate twice; the first vote was 90 to 9. The second time it

passed was after the disclosure of the secret CIA prisons. Senator McCain made a strong anti-torture speech. He said the CIA should not be running prisons. The second time the McCain amendment passed the Senate it did so by a voice vote.

I support the McCain amendment and will vote for it when it reaches the House of Representatives for a vote.

I find it unbelievable that the President in a speech today, November 8, 2005, in Panama City, Panama stated: "We do not torture." The evidence of torture in Abu Ghraib and the prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba has been documented by the International Committee of the Red Cross, Amnesty International, eyewitness testimony of American Military officers and photographs and tapes, some of which the Department of Defense is still attempting to keep from the public.

This should not be shocking to me, but still it shocks. The statements of President Bush are a natural outgrowth of the unnatural power he was given by his lawyers and Justice department lawyers because of their willingness to overlook or disregard the United States Constitution on the grounds that this war and this enemy was "special." Congress was lied to, about the reasons for the war; but Congress gave away its Constitutional Power under Article 1, Section 8 when it authorized the President to declare war, a power reserved solely to the Congress by the Constitution.

Less well known and just as ignored is that Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, gives Congress and only Congress the decision of how to treat prisoners.

Just as the President declared a preemptive war on a country not involved in the attacks of 9/11, this President and Vice President decided how prisoners, even those "suspected" of being terrorists, were to be treated. This President has abused his power, ignored the Constitution and misled the American people.

The policies on treatment of prisoners which have included torture and interrogation techniques that are "cruel, inhuman, and degrading" were born with the Bush Administration. President Bush asked his Justice Department, then run by John Ashcroft and a man of ideas named John Woo; his trusted Counsel, Alberto Gonzales who gave him the answers he liked when President Bush was Governor of Texas. President Bush asked these lawyers for guidance on whether the United States had to afford protections of the Geneva Accords to Taliban and al Qaeda prisoners. He also asked his civilian advisor in the Pentagon, Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, how far American military and intelligence personnel could go in questioning these prisoners. The answer from these civilians, people who had never served in the military, was the prisoners did not need to be afforded any of the protections of the Geneva Conventions. John Woo, who worked directly for John Ashcroft took the position that the President could do anything he wanted. This was a very popular position and the one Alberto Gonzales passed on to the President.

Within the Bush administration, the advisor who knew the most about the Military, Colin Powell was against these policies. President Bush decided the military advice was not what he wanted to hear or follow. The professional military people who disagreed with the "war president" found themselves silenced or "retired."

On November 7, 2005, the Washington Post reported "Over the past year, Vice President Cheney has waged an intense and largely unpublicized campaign to stop Congress, the Pentagon and the State Department from imposing more restrictive rules on handling terrorist suspects." Before the news of Vice President's secret CIA prison system was disclosed by the Washington Post, Mr. CHENEY had offered a "deal" to Senator MCCAIN. He would stop opposing the McCain amendment the amendment did not include the CIA from torturing non-Americans. Senator MCCAIN turned the Vice President down. In light of what we now know about America's secret CIA prisons and Vice President CHENEY's insistence that the CIA should be exempt from any ban on torture, I am very concerned about what has happened and is still happening to prisoners in the custody of the CIA.

I doubt whether anyone who has experienced war would have to be convinced to support an anti-war amendment proposed by my noble friend JOHN MCCAIN, a veteran subjected to torture for more than five years in a North Vietnamese prison. So I take issue with Vice President CHENEY, a man who received five deferments during the Vietnam War, who has lobbied fiercely and shamelessly against the McCain amendment.

I take issue with President Bush that because we have an enemy he thinks "lurks and plots and plans and want to hurt America again," we can disregard the concerns of the human rights organizations, the European Union and the millions of Muslims who view Americans through the lens of Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay and the Hooded Man attached to electric wires.

The practices approved by the President, the Vice President, Porter Goss and whom ever knew in the Senate and the House; anyone complicit in the torture of prisoners in the custody of the United States has shamed us all. Richard Cohen got it right when he said in an opinion piece in the Washington Post today entitled "Torture, Shaming Us All." We in the United States not only have our torture and humiliating interrogation practices on the internet, but we have had to reassert 200 years of U.S. principles. The real shame is that the President of the United States has threatened to use his veto for the first time if the McCain amendment comes to his desk as part of a bill.

There are compelling reasons to support the McCain amendment. The first is that torture results in bad intelligence; second it endangers our troops; and third; it is causing us to lose the war of ideas. According to President Bush and his supporters in Congress, this war in Iraq is about bringing democracy and freedom to Iraq. Muslims around the world see handcuffed naked men at Abu Ghraib and the orange jump suit hooded men of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba when they see the United States. This abuse of Muslims is what they see of "democracy" American style.

The people throughout the world know that prisoners in the custody of the United States have been tortured even if President Bush denies it. As Richard Cohen points out, many countries torture prisoners but none admit to the practice. The United States has never had to consider a ban on torture before because this country has never tortured prisoners as a matter of policy. The Uniform Code of Military Justice is clear about how prisoners in the

custody of the United States should be treated. This country has signed the Geneva Conventions and in 1994 ratified the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which prohibits such treatment under all circumstances including "a state of war." According to David Cole, the legal affairs correspondent of The Nation, the Bush Administration argued that the ban does not apply to foreign national being held and interrogated abroad. According to Mr. Cole, this interpretation runs against the central purpose of the Torture Convention, which is to protect all human beings, regardless of location and nationality.

Because of the Bush Administration and its abuse of power, we must, for the first time in our history, ban torture. And for the first time in our history, we have a President who is threatening to veto the ban and further shame us all.

HONORING JOSEPH P. LOFTUS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Joseph P. Loftus Jr. who lived in San Antonio, Texas and passed away recently on September 4th, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Loftus Jr. was a fine American citizen who served in the aviation and space activities division of government for 47 years. He wasn't always in the spot light, but he was behind the scenes on the Mercury capsules and the Apollo lunar missions. Because of his efforts, NASA created the Orbital Debris Program Office. He had an international reputation for his expertise on orbital debris research and he was awarded NASA's Exceptional Service Metal twice and upon his death, the Distinguished Service Metal. When Mr. Loftus retired, NASA lost a smart, dedicated employee whose talents were in many fields. Eric Hoffer, an American author once wrote, "Our passionate preoccupation with the sky, the stars, and God somewhere in outer space is a homing impulse. We are drawn back to where we came from" Joe Loftus Jr. has returned to where he came from and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the time to address the House on this somber but momentous occasion.

HONORING DR. DENZIL L. DOUGLAS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, this coming weekend, between November 10 and 13 I and more than twenty of our colleagues in the House will be meeting and participating in the 10th annual Caribbean Multi-national Business

Conference sponsored by the New York Carib News in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands where we will be enjoying the hospitality of Carib News publishers Karl and Faye Rodney and Delegate DONNA CHRISTIAN CHRISTENSEN. Over the last decade the conference has brought together elected officials, civic leaders, entrepreneurs, and executives of major corporations to explore opportunities for growth and expansion in the emerging markets and developing economies of the Caribbean. The conference has significantly contributed to the building of closer working relationships and personal ties between Caribbean leadership and the Members of Congress who have participated. As we approach this year's conference, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to an outstanding Caribbean leader, Dr. Denzil L. Douglas, the Prime Minister of St. Kitts-Nevis by placing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the text of a proclamation to be awarded at the conference:

A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. DENZIL L. DOUGLAS, PRIME MINISTER, ST. KITTS-NEVIS

Whereas, It is an established and honorable tradition for elected officials to recognize the outstanding contributions of those persons whose leadership and life's work have made a substantial difference to the lives of people everywhere, especially in their own countries; and

Whereas, Such committed leaders are like beacons that show the way to a better life for those persons at the lowest rungs of the economic and social ladder and are therefore an Inspiration to people at home and abroad; and

Whereas, Dr. Denzil L. Douglas, a national and Prime Minister of the independent Federation of St. Kitts-Nevis, is surely one such leader and dedicated public servant; and

Whereas, Dr. Denzil L. Douglas, a physician, is being cited and honored at the annual Caribbean Multi-National Business Conference 2005 in St. Thomas In the U.S. Virgin Islands for his service to his native land, the wider Caribbean community and developing nations generally, serving as head of Government in St. Kitts-Nevis at a time when the United Nations placed his country on the list of the World's top 50 states where the quality of life is high; is the Caribbean Community, Caricom, lead Prime Minister on health issues, championing the fight against HIV/AIDS infection in the Caribbean; and

Whereas, The Prime Minister has led his country with distinction for the past 10 years while Demonstrating to the world that a small nation can be an international model of development, an example when it comes to adherence to the rule of law and parliamentary democracy; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That we salute and commend Dr. Denzil Douglas for his distinguished and unblemished record of service to humanity and for his leadership on the national and international stages, within Caricom and the countries which belong to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLDING INSTITUTE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 125th anniversary of the Holding In-

stitute. The Holding Institute is a training facility that helps young Hispanic women, children and families improve their ability to read, write and speak English. Since Miss Nannie Emory Holding, a Methodist missionary teacher from Kentucky, helped a small group of Laredo women organize a school for girls on the north bank of the Rio Grande back in the early 1880's, the name Holding has meant educational opportunity to the residents of Los Dos Laredos.

In 1987, Holding became a community learning center offering learning opportunities for adults, offering day and evening classroom instruction to women and men above 16 years of age who wanted to learn English as a second language, improve their Spanish, obtain their GED, gain work skills including computer literacy, or get ready for entry into college.

Today, Holding is recognized for future projects that will take learning at Holding to another level for the 21st Century.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the Holding Institute, an invaluable learning center for many people in Laredo, for their 125 years of ministry and teaching.

HONORING DAME BILLIE ANTOINETTE MILLER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, this coming weekend, between November 10 and 13 I and more than 20 of our colleagues in the House will be meeting and participating in the 10th annual Caribbean Multi-national Business Conference sponsored by the New York Carib News in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands where we will be enjoying the hospitality of Carib News publishers Karl and Faye Rodney and Delegate DONNA CHRISTIAN CHRISTENSEN. Over the last decade the conference has brought together elected officials, civic leaders, entrepreneurs, and executives of major corporations to explore opportunities for growth and expansion in the emerging markets and developing economies of the Caribbean. The conference has significantly contributed to the building of closer working relationships and personal ties between Caribbean leadership and the Members of Congress who have participated. As we approach this year's conference, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to an outstanding Caribbean leader, Dame Billie Antoinette Miller by placing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the text of a proclamation to be awarded at the conference:

A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DAME BILLIE ANTOINETTE MILLER

Whereas, It is a long and honorable tradition for elected Officials to recognize the outstanding contributions of those individuals