

In return, we must continue to help Israel in its struggle for security by helping reach a lasting peace with its neighbors so that as future generations celebrate this day, they may do so without fear of the violence that has plagued the Jewish state since its independence.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege to visit Israel on several occasions, and have seen the struggles Israelis face daily. However, I have also seen their perseverance and determination to create a peaceful and prosperous state.

In the short but rich history of the Jewish state, the Israeli people have created one of the strongest democracies in the world, renowned for their scientific, technological, medical and agricultural innovations. Their commitment to promoting human rights, to protecting the rule of law, and to open and fair elections is unparalleled in the region and is an inspiration to oppressed people around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to congratulate the Israeli people and join them in celebrating the 57th Anniversary of Israel's independence, and look forward to working with them for years to come.

FREEDOM FOR IVÁN HERNÁNDEZ
CARRILLO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Iván Hernández Carrillo, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Hernández Carrillo is a member of the Pedro Luis Boitel Democracy Party and an independent journalist. He is peacefully striving to create an open society that recognizes human rights, freedom, and democracy. Unfortunately, the dictatorship forcefully represses those who bravely support freedom and rise in resistance to the despotic regime.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Hernández Carrillo has been constantly harassed by the nightmare that is the Castro regime. He was arrested by the tyrant in 1997, 1999, and 2002 for his pro-democracy activities. Unfortunately, on March 18, 2003, as part of Castro's heinous crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Hernández Carrillo was once again arrested by the dictatorship. In a sham trial, Mr. Hernández Carrillo was sentenced to an abominable 25 years in the totalitarian gulag.

According to Amnesty International, in 2003, while incarcerated in the inhuman gulag, Mr. Hernández Carrillo was placed in a punishment cell. These punishment cells are the very depths of depravity. According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004: "punishment cells, were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi dark conditions, no available water, and a hole for a toilet. Reading materials, including Bibles, were not allowed. . . . Prisoners in punishment cells had no access to lawyers."

In 2004, according to Amnesty International, Mr. Hernández Carrillo supported his fellow pro-democracy fighter Mario Enrique Mayo in a hunger strike that lasted from August 15th

until August 25th. Their demands were medical assistance and food.

Mr. Hernández Carrillo is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he does not waiver in his conviction that freedom and democracy are the inalienable right of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian gulags are full of men and women, like Mr. Hernández Carrillo, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear, Mr. Hernández Carrillo is languishing in the grotesque squalor of the gulag because he desires freedom for all Cubans. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Iván Hernández Carrillo and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

IN HONOR OF THE ACADEMY OF
LIFELONG LEARNING'S 25TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Academy of Lifelong Learning on their 25th Anniversary. This continuing education program at the University of Delaware allows people over 50 to continue to pursue a wide variety of academic offerings. Recent classes have included Sports History, Yoga Philosophy, and Computer Management. For 25 years, the Academy's membership has been involved in every facet of the educational process. Members also plan, organize, and even teach many of these courses.

To mark its 25th anniversary, the Academy has planned the Hi Ho Silver Jubilee at the University of Delaware. The event will be highlighted by a performance of the 50-piece Academy Band and the 75-member Academy Chorus. From its original 83 members and 18 courses, the Academy has grown to over 2,000 members who can choose from over 200 courses. This remarkable growth can be directly attributed to the dedication and hard work of the Academy's original membership.

As stated in the 1998 mission statement of the council, the Academy of Lifelong Learning seeks to, "be a premier educational program composed of a diverse membership of people 50 and older who come together and are intellectually, culturally, and socially stimulated in an academic atmosphere. Through its programs, the Academy enhances, enriches, and extends the quality of life of its members." After 25 years of outstanding work, the Academy of Lifelong Learning continues to achieve its goal.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the Academy and look forward to celebrating their future accomplishments.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS ON
YALTA—AMNESIA OR DISTORTION?

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, these days of early May mark the 60th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Last week, as we observed the days of remembrance for those who perished in the Holocaust, I noted that we need to remember history because looking back can help us to understand the world around us and to interpret events that may lie ahead.

This is important for our country and the world because our fate, and the fate of humanity, depends on our remembering and our understanding.

President Bush has been in Europe to mark the victory over Hitler. I am glad that he went, and I especially applaud him for visiting Latvia and Georgia. This was the right thing to do to demonstrate that America has not forgotten that the end of the war in Europe did not mean the end of oppression for millions of people who found themselves behind the Iron Curtain.

But learning from history depends on getting history right. And that's why I share the concerns of the Rocky Mountain News about part of the president's comments.

Speaking in Riga, Latvia, the president correctly noted that "For much of Eastern and Central Europe, victory brought the iron rule of another empire. V-E Day marked the end of fascism, but it did not end oppression." That was accurate, well put, and needed to be said.

However, regrettably, the president went on to say "The agreement at Yalta followed in the unjust tradition of Munich and the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. Once again, when powerful governments negotiated, the freedom of small nations was somehow expendable"—a statement that at best is erroneous and that at worse reflects an intentional distortion of history.

As an editorial in today's Rocky Mountain News notes, "Yalta did not leave the continent divided. The continent was already divided because Soviet armies were encamped in much of Eastern Europe and were not about to budge." In other words, the division of Europe was a fact before the Yalta conference began.

That is reality. But to somehow equate Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill with Molotov and Ribbentrop is something else entirely—either the product of a "delusion," as the historian Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. has suggested, or the revival of an intentional distortion that once was a political weapon for opponents of some of the president's predecessors.

As the historian David Greenberg, writing in *Slate* has noted, "Along with the myth of FDR's treachery in leading America into war, the 'stab in the back' interpretation of Yalta became a cudgel with which the old right and their McCarthyite heirs tried to discredit a president they had long despised. Renouncing Yalta even became a plank in the 1952 Republican platform, although Eisenhower did not support it. In time, however, these hoary myths receded into the shadows, dimly remembered except as a historical curiosity, where, alas, they should have remained undisturbed."

In short, Mr. Speaker, we should remember history but not be misled by myths.

Here is the full text of the editorial in today's Rocky Mountain News:

[From the Rocky Mountain News, May 11, 2005]

PRESIDENT GOES TOO FAR

President Bush has taken surprisingly little heat—but deserves more—for his remarks in Latvia in which he equated President Franklin Roosevelt's conduct at Yalta with Neville Chamberlain's appeasement of Adolf Hitler in 1938 and the division of Poland by Hitler and Joseph Stalin in 1939.

"The agreement at Yalta followed in the unjust tradition of Munich and the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact," Bush said. "Once again, when powerful governments negotiated, the freedom of small nations was somehow expendable. Yet this attempt to sacrifice freedom for the sake of stability left a continent divided and unstable."

But Yalta did not leave the continent divided. The continent was already divided because Soviet armies were encamped in much of Eastern Europe and were not about to budge. It is true that Yalta's promise of free elections for Eastern Europe, given Stalin's record, amounted to the height of naivete, wishful thinking or cynicism. But even so, there is a vast difference between engineering oppression (Munich and Molotov-Ribbentrop) and sugar-coating its existence on the ground.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the American Public Works Association's National Public Works Week. From May 15 until May 21, the APWA will be sponsoring the National Public Works Week in a concerted effort to highlight the importance of the United States public infrastructure and public works services. It is my intention today to honor these agencies that are essential to the well-being of our country.

Too often we take the many contributions of public works and services for granted when they are so intricately woven in to the daily fabric of our lives. From the roads we travel to the clean tap water we use for drinking, public works pervade every facet of our lives. Our communities rely upon the public works agencies that provide the water, sewers, roadways, public buildings and waste collection to ensure that the communities we live, work and play in are safe.

The public works that operate in our neighborhoods and cities require maintenance by a staff of public employees. The staff that diligently design, build, maintain, and repair the public works projects are the invisible hands, or the people behind the scenes, that have dedicated themselves to the service of our communities. These hardworking individuals deserve the greatest of respect for the commitment they have shown in serving our communities' welfare.

In my own state of West Virginia, the influential hand of the public works and services reaches deep into the foundation of our state's economy. I have advocated vigorously for access to clean water sources for citizens as

well as effective waste water treatment sites to preserve the streams of my state. The Public Service Commission's Water and Wastewater division offers seminars that trained 220 utility employees about its new Water and Sewer rules last year alone. The PSC's transportation division regulates gas pipeline safety and regularly inspects reports of weakening infrastructure and leaks. Just last year they completed pipeline failure investigations of a ruptured pipeline in Wyoming County as well as an incident at Rocky Fork, WV.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending their own public works and services employees for the duties they perform. The services they provide are essential to our nation's well-being. The National Public Works Week provides us an opportunity to do so, and we should take it.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PATRICIA COUGHLAN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the contributions of Patricia Coughlan, who is the recipient of the "Tribute to Women Award," the Suburban Republican Women's Club highest honor.

Since 1985, Ms. Coughlan has been an active member of the Suburban Republican Women, formerly known as the Livonia Republican Women and Western Suburbs Club, an august organization in which she has served in a variety of senior leadership positions. One of the major accomplishments of Ms. Coughlan's hard work has been the creation and publication of the informative and inspiring Suburban Republican Women's Club newsletter, for which she currently serves as Editor-in-Chief.

It is an honor to pay homage to Ms. Coughlan, whose participation in shaping the political process has helped ensure representative government by inspiring others to play their full parts within our Nation's continuing experiment in democracy. Her devoted, compassionate leadership in our community has advanced the cause of democracy in our country, and exemplified America's innate humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to Patricia Coughlan and hope my colleagues will join me in honoring and thanking her for her contributions to our community and country.

TOTALIZATION AGREEMENT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL ACT 2005

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, The United States entered into a Totalization agreement with Mexico on June 29, 2004. This agreement, like 20 others currently in force, is an effort to reconcile time worked in another country—under a different tax code and pension system—with time worked here at home, to

ensure workers have the proper amount of credits for their lifetime contributions to their retirement.

The Social Security Act allows for these types of agreements, but, unfortunately, it has a flawed mechanism for Congressional approval. Frankly, there are serious questions about whether the statutory approval process for Totalization agreements is even Constitutional.

Under current law, the President negotiates an agreement with another country, and then submits it to Congress for approval. Congress then has 60 days during which either the House or Senate are in session to consider the agreement and to disapprove it if necessary. The problem is that if one House of Congress passed a motion of disapproval, precedent suggests that it would be ruled an unconstitutional legislative veto.

The bill I'm introducing today will correct that. Since Totalization agreements are similar to trade agreements, I have proposed changes to the Social Security Act that will allow for an expedited consideration of any agreements for congressional approval, like we do for trade agreements. It would also require an actual affirmative vote for the agreement to take effect, rather than the current 60-day rule where if neither house acts, the agreement is deemed as accepted. A 60-day use-it-or-lose-it process does not respect the responsibilities of this House in drafting the laws of the country.

We need to protect the role of the legislative branch as the law-making body of this land. Current law does not do this, but my bill, the Totalization Agreement Congressional Approval Act 2005, will.

TERRORIST REWARDS ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Terrorist Rewards Enhancement Act. This bill will assist in our fight against terrorism around the globe. Currently, the terrorist rewards program run by the State Department assists in our hunt for terrorists by promising a cash reward or other type of reward for information leading to the arrest of some of the world's most deadly terrorists. This program has been very successful in the past in apprehending key people including Mir Amal Kansi, a terrorist who had murdered two CIA employees and injured three others in a 1993 shooting outside CIA headquarters in Virginia.

Under current law, the U.S. may not pay a reward to an officer or employee of another government. In January I traveled to Pakistan, where I meet with a number of government officials. At the strong suggestion of Pakistan's ISI and IB Intelligence and Police bureaus, I believe the President should be able to pay such a reward to anyone having information leading us to the greatest terrorists. If there is anyone, anywhere, even if they work for a Pakistani government agency, who has information about the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden, we should be doing all we can to apprehend him.