

Their 55 years of marriage exemplify a loving relationship. They both are hard-working, generous, compassionate, resourceful, wise and are outstanding role models for their four children, Dianna, Karen, Jackie, and Michael and six grandchildren.

Vernon and Darlene's exceptional character is evident in their professional lives as well. Vern served the Clark County School District for 30 years, retiring as the Associate Superintendent of Facilities and Transportation. He now serves on the Boulder City Hospital Board. As a small business owner, Darlene ran the Burk Fine Arts Gallery for 25 years. Darlene not only participated in the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce, she also served as President. During her time with the Chamber of Commerce, she was instrumental in creating the Old Town Merchants Association and was named "Woman of the Year."

Both Vernon and Darlene are extremely active in Bethany Baptist Church, where Vernon is on the Board of Elders and Darlene had served as treasurer. Five years ago, the Burk Horizon Academy, an alternative high school in Las Vegas, was named in their honor. They also managed the renovation of the Boulder City Dam Hotel, a historic landmark and place to be for the rich and famous during the 1930s.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Vernon and Darlene Burk on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. They are very good, personal friends of mine, and I thank them for their continued service to the State of Nevada.

RECOGNIZING ARTURO S.  
RODRIGUEZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2006*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague from California, Mr. BERMAN, to pay tribute to Arturo S. Rodriguez, president of the United Farmworkers of America, a longtime advocate for the rights of workers and working families.

Rodriguez was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, and earned a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's University in 1971 and a master's degree in social work in 1973 from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Rodriguez learned of the farmworker movement and Cesar Chavez in 1966 from his parish priest, and became active with the farmworker movement as a college student. He first met Cesar Chavez in 1973, and soon after married Chavez' daughter, Linda.

Throughout the 1970s, Rodriguez worked with United Farm Workers to push for farm worker rights, including the pioneering Agricultural Labor Relations Act, which passed the California State Legislature in 1975. Rodriguez helped organize union representation elections throughout California, from the Salinas Valley to the Imperial Valley on the Mexican border to Ventura County citrus orchards. By fall 1979, Rodriguez was directing a UFW lettuce boycott in Michigan.

Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, Rodriguez was directly involved with renewed grape boycotts, involving pressure on business, a public fast by Chavez, and walkouts

by grape workers to try and gain the first wage increase in 8 years. The UFW-supported 1992 grape worker walkout was a part of the largest vineyard demonstrations since 1973 in the Coachella and San Joaquin valleys. The UFW organized thousands of workers at dozens of ranches to participate in the walkouts. Those efforts produced an industry-wide pay raise.

Rodriguez became UFW president in May 1993, shortly after Cesar Chavez' death. Rodriguez recruited 10,000 new farmworkers as associate union members in the year after he assumed the UFW presidency. On the first anniversary of the Chavez' passing, Rodriguez led a 343-mile Delano-to-Sacramento march retracing the steps of an historic trek by Chavez in 1966. Since then, the UFW has won over 20 union elections and signed over 20 new, or first-time, contracts with growers.

Farm workers under most UFW contracts at mushroom, rose, citrus, strawberry, wine grape and vegetable companies enjoy decent pay, complete family medical care, job security, paid holidays and vacations, pensions and a host of other benefits. Unfortunately, the majority of farm workers in California and the rest of the nation still have none of these protections. Arturo Rodriguez continues to advocate for federal legislation that would allow undocumented farm workers and their family members to earn legal status by working in agriculture.

Rodriguez lives at the UFW's national headquarters at La Paz in Keene, Calif. He has three children, Olivia, Julia and Arthur IV, plus two grandchildren, Isabella and Sofia. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring Artie for his commitment to farmworkers and their families throughout our Nation.

HONORING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN  
EDUCATION TASK FORCE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2006*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the African American Task Force for its clear record of success in encouraging and acknowledging academic achievement by African American youth in Oakland, California.

This month, the African American Education Task Force Held its Fifth Annual Awards Celebration at the ACTS Full Gospel Church in Oakland. At this celebration, almost 1,200 African American students from the 8th through 12th grades were honored for attaining grade point averages of 3.00 or above for the 2005–2006 school year.

These outstanding young people's accomplishments are especially remarkable in light of the great budgetary challenges faced by the State of California and the Oakland schools. I want to commend each and every student being honored for this outstanding accomplishment for understanding the importance of staying in school and the responsibility each individual has to take advantage of the educational opportunities available to him or her. By continuing to be the best students you can be and completing your education, you will have more opportunity to achieve your personal goals and our shared goal of world peace. Your accomplishments represent your dedication and commitment to achieving your

goals, and I am proud of you. The skills you have learned and the discipline you have developed will benefit you greatly.

I am honored to represent you in the United States House of Representatives, and on behalf of all the residents of California's 9th U.S. Congressional District, I again salute you on your exemplary academic performance. I am confident that in the years to come you will continue your record of service and success, and I wish you the very best in all of your future endeavors.

SUN WALL

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2006*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to direct the administrator of General Services to install a photovoltaic system, known as the "Sun Wall" on the headquarters building of the Department of Energy. There is no more appropriate Federal building with which to demonstrate the power and promise of photovoltaics than the Department of Energy headquarters building, known as the Forrestal Building, located in Washington, DC.

Photovoltaics reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and offer distinct advantages over diesel generators and primary batteries. Photovoltaics are highly efficient and have no moving parts, so the need for maintenance is virtually nonexistent. Over 25 Federal buildings throughout the country, from Boston, MA, to San Francisco, CA, already use photovoltaics to great effect.

Located in our Nation's Capital, the Sun Wall project will serve as a model for the entire country. The design for the Sun Wall project has already been selected after an open competition. It is an attractive and energy efficient design that can generate a maximum of 200 kW of electricity and includes a solar thermal installation for hot water and hot air. The Sun Wall would be the largest building-integrated solar energy system on any Federal building in the country. All that is left to do is to provide the funding needed to purchase and install the proper equipment.

Mr. Speaker, an identical provision to this bill was enacted as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law 109–58, last August. While the bill authorized funding for fiscal year 2006, no funding was appropriated for that year. This bill offers the same language as was included in that act, but allows funding to be appropriated in fiscal year 2007.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM  
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2006*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, the House considers H.R. 4681, legislation that I'm sad to say is both overbroad in its reach and misses the mark by penalizing the Palestinian people without compelling Hamas to abandon its anti-Israeli rhetoric, its rejectionist policies and its support for terror and violence.

First of all Madam Speaker, I want to be clear: I have always and continue to unequivocally denounce and condemn any and all terrorist acts, whether committed by Hamas or any other terrorist group.

That is why I voted for S. Con. Res. 79 in February which declared that that no U.S. assistance should be provided directly to the Palestinian Authority if any representative political party holding a majority of parliamentary seats within the Palestinian Authority maintains a position calling for the destruction of Israel.

My position on Hamas's responsibilities in light of its having attained a majority of seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council, and thus its assumption of power as the governing party of the Palestinian Authority, has been clear:

Hamas must recognize Israel;

Hamas must renounce violence and terrorism;

Hamas must abide by previous peace agreements, like the Oslo accord, and act in accordance with the Roadmap; and

Hamas must return the Palestinians to the negotiating table with Israel, and reach the mutually agreeable peace agreement that is called for in the Roadmap and the earlier agreements.

This is Hamas's responsibility of governance. I believe the United States should do everything that it can to both insist upon and

to facilitate Hamas taking up this burden of responsibility, and we should not rest until the goal of a negotiated settlement is achieved. Moreover, we should not slow the Middle East peace process by making these targets preconditions for our engagement in the process. As the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reminded us: I do not need to make peace with my friends.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to understand that engagement and negotiation for peace is a process, not an event, and it necessarily involves the belligerents to a conflict, not those whom we would aspire to put at the negotiating table.

I agree that we should not fund Hamas, but not at the expense of average Palestinians, which is the end result of this legislation. Among other things, this legislation obstructs a return to negotiations by imposing an impossible-to-achieve Presidential certification process. This legislation undermines U.S. national security interests by eliminating the President's authority to waive sanctions in the interests of national security. This legislation restricts U.S. diplomacy with moderate Palestinians by failing to distinguish between those in government and other political leaders and activists who are not affiliated with Hamas and have rejected terror, recognized Israel, and support a two-state solution. These are a few of the important reasons this legislation needs to be rewritten.

Madam Speaker, supporting the fragile Middle East peace process requires us to keep as many channels as possible open and to those who are empowered by their electorate to represent their interests at the negotiating table.

That's why we must reject counterproductive proposals like H.R. 4681 and continue working on all fronts to ensure the goal of a peaceful, two-state solution between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

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ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT,  
2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID L. HOBSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5427), making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Chairman, under general leave for H.R. 5427, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2007, I submit the following table: