

grew out of his work as a member of the Capital Construction Committee and has helped train court personnel from across the country on how to successfully plan and build new courthouses. This innovative program encourages effective partnerships in court construction projects with a goal of reducing cost overruns.

Jack has also worked closely with the U.S. Court's Administrative Office and taken a leadership role in the court's community. In the early 1990's he was a member of the Standing Committee on Gender, Race, Religious and Ethnic Fairness. Through this committee he contributed greatly to the Early Dispute Resolution Plan adopted throughout the circuit in 1999.

As he prepares to leave his position with the U.S. District Court, Jack leaves behind a legacy of strong leadership. I and my staff have had the honor and privilege of working with Jack in the Sacramento Courthouse and know the judges of the Eastern District appreciate his hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most distinguished citizens, Jack Wagner. As his wife Milani, his children and friends gather to welcome him into retirement I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Jack, continued success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my family, I missed a series of suspension votes, the vote on the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill and votes on the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 251, "aye" on rollcall No. 252, "aye" on rollcall 253, "aye" on rollcall No. 254, "no" on rollcall No. 255, "aye" on rollcall No. 256, "aye" on rollcall No. 257, "no" on rollcall No. 258, "aye" on rollcall No. 259, "aye" on rollcall No. 260, "aye" on rollcall No. 261, "no" on rollcall No. 262.

DECLARING THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL PREVAIL IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the men and women bravely defending our country against terrorism and tyranny.

Regarding U.S. and allied actions against Saddam Hussein's Iraq, I believe it was appropriate for Congress on October 16, 2002 to authorize American military action and would vote again to provide President Bush this authority.

The question of whether Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, WMD, is a moot point and a distraction from a host of

evidence that the United States was justified in its actions against the former Iraqi regime. The facts are that Saddam Hussein had the capability to produce WMDs and had weapons in defiance of United Nations agreements to deliver nuclear, biological or chemical warheads.

In fact, neither I nor the President knew for certain whether Saddam had WMDs at the time of our actions against Iraq. Many of us suspected he did possess that capability. Let me quote a few.

"Saddam Hussein possesses chemical, biological weapons, and if events are allowed to run their course, will someday possess nuclear weapons." Sen. EVAN BAYH (D-Ind.), statement, Oct. 3, 2002.

"I believe that Saddam Hussein rules by terror and has squirreled away stores of biological and chemical weapon[s]." Sen. DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D-Calif.), floor speech, Oct. 10, 2002.

"The people of the United States and the rest of the world are at risk as long as Saddam Hussein has weapons of mass destruction. Last night, the President . . . made the most effective case to date that the risk of inaction is too great to bear." Sen. JAY ROCKEFELLER (D-W. Va.), statement, March 18, 2003.

"For the last 12 years he's [Saddam's] ignored UN resolutions and embargoes while rebuilding his illegal chemical and biological weapons. . . . He is dangerous. I believe he needs to be disarmed." Sen. BARBARA MIKULSKI (D-Md.), floor speech, March 18, 2003.

"In 1991, the world collectively made a judgment that this man should not have weapons of mass destruction. And we are here today in the year 2002 with an un-inspected 4-year interval during which time we know through intelligence he not only has kept them, but he continues to grow them. . . . The threat of Saddam Hussein with weapons of mass destruction is real, but as I said, it is not new." Sen. JOHN KERRY (D-Mass.), floor speech, Oct. 9, 2002.

"On Monday night, President Bush, I think spoke for all of us. I know of no one who really disagrees at all. He described Saddam Hussein as a homicidal dictator who is addicted to weapons of mass destruction. It is that addiction that demands a strong response. We all agree on that. There is no question that Iraq possesses biological and chemical weapons and that he seeks to acquire additional weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons." Sen. CHRIS DODD (D-Conn.), floor speech, Oct. 9, 2002.

"I believe if Saddam Hussein continues to refuse to meet his obligation to destroy his weapons of mass destruction and his prohibited missile delivery systems, that the United Nations should authorize member states to use military force to destroy those weapons and systems." Sen. CARL LEVIN (D-Mich.), floor speech, Oct. 9, 2002.

"He [Saddam Hussein] stockpiles biological and chemical weapons." Sen. Jon Corzine (D-N.J.), floor speech, Oct. 9, 2003.

Furthermore, the Saddam Hussein regime was marked by brutality, fear and terror. Over 270 suspected mass grave sites have been found by Iraqis and U.S. and allied forces. On September 23, 2004, Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said, "Like almost every Iraqi, I have many friends who were murdered, tortured or raped by the regime of Saddam

Hussein. Well over 1 million Iraqis were murdered or are missing. We estimate at least 300,000 are in mass graves which stand as monuments to the inhumanity of Saddam's regime."

The brutality of the former Iraqi regime knew no bounds. Victims of Saddam's torture chambers were subjected to vicious acts such as the gouging-out of eyes, severe beatings, electric shock, dismemberment and the cutting out of tongues. Documented chemical attacks by the regime from 1983 to 1988 resulted in some 30,000 Iraqi and Iranian deaths. Human Rights Watch estimates that Saddam's 1987 to 1988 campaign of terror against the Kurds killed at least 50,000. Saddam's ruthlessness even extended to his own family in which he had approximately 40 of his own relatives murdered.

Today there are many Monday morning Iraq quarterbacks. The U.S. did win the war against Iraq and captured Saddam Hussein. However, America and its allies have had difficulty in controlling insurgent attacks.

No one anticipated Islamic extremists would make a stand bringing in al-Qaeda, Baathists and others. No one anticipated civil conflict between the Shi'a, Sunni and Kurd populations. However President Bush, Secretary Rumsfeld and U.S. military leaders have done their very best in a difficult situation and deserve our support and continued backing.

Yes, we all want our troops home and an end to terrorism. Rhetoric and unwarranted criticism will not make that happen.

MARKING THE START OF FTA NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, the United States and the Republic of Korea (ROK) recently embarked on a new and exciting chapter in the history of Korean-American relations. June 5, 2006 marked the start of formal negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA) between our two countries. I would like to recognize this important event, which I believe will lead to significant economic opportunities for Koreans and Americans alike.

From a commercial perspective, the Republic of Korea-United States FTA (the "KORUS FTA") is the most important bilateral trade agreement the United States has negotiated in over a decade. After a remarkable recovery from the devastating effects of the Korean conflict, ROK has risen to become the 10th largest economy in the world with a GDP approaching \$1 trillion and per capita income of over \$20,000. ROK consumers have the means to purchase our goods, and ROK investors have the wherewithal to invest in our country.

The Republic of Korea is now our seventh largest trading partner, and represents our sixth largest market for agricultural exports. Two-way trade exceeds \$70 billion annually. And Korea is a growing market for U.S. service providers. The United States actually boasts a services trade surplus with ROK of \$4.3 billion.

But there is much more opportunity for growth and an FTA will serve as the catalyst for trade promotion. ROK's average tariff on goods is just over 11 percent—three times higher than the U.S. equivalent. The average tariff applied by ROK on agricultural products is even higher—52 percent.

This comprehensive trade accord will eliminate tariffs and address other barriers to trade in the United States and the Republic of Korea, thereby stimulating U.S. export growth and investment. As the U.S. International Trade Commission noted, U.S. goods exports to ROK could increase by 50 percent and U.S. agricultural exports could increase by 200 percent with a fully implemented KORUS FTA.

New Yorkers, in particular, could realize substantial benefits from the KORUS FTA as tariffs and other barriers are eliminated. In 2005, New York exported \$1.4 billion in goods to the Republic of Korea, including machinery, computers and electronic products, transportation equipment, and chemicals. And the FTA would liberalize ROK services markets, creating exciting opportunities for New York's financial services providers.

Agriculture is also very important to New York's economy. Our state is one of the top dairy producers in the country, along with apples, hay, and cattle. If we are able to lower ROK trade barriers on these goods, New York producers will increase sales as they expand their market share in the Republic of Korea. ROK, for example, applies a 45 percent duty on apple imports.

Despite our close bilateral alliance, U.S. market share in the Republic of Korea has actually decreased in recent years due to the influence of other emerging economies in the marketplace. Enhanced and preferential access to the ROK market for U.S. exporters and investors will improve our economic position in Asia and allow us to compete more effectively in the very challenging global marketplace.

Further, the Republic of Korea has FTAs with several other countries, and is currently negotiating with Canada. The KORUS FTA will level the playing field for U.S. exporters who would otherwise experience a competitive disadvantage in the ROK market.

In addition to the economic benefits an FTA could provide, it is also important to note ROK role as a long-standing U.S. ally.

The United States and the Republic of Korea have a mutual defense treaty that dates back to 1953, and ROK has supported U.S. military efforts abroad, including in Iraq and Afghanistan.

And in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, ROK pledged over \$30 million in aid for relief and recovery efforts—the fourth largest amount donated by any foreign country.

I strongly believe that this new partnership between the United States and ROK is positive development for both of our countries. As the trade negotiations proceed, I look forward to working closely with the U.S. and ROK negotiators, my New York constituents, and fellow colleagues so that we can ensure this agreement is a win-win for both countries.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to extend my remarks noting this important occasion. I hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing and supporting the KORUS FTA negotiations.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ON THE COMMENCEMENT OF ITS 101ST ANNUAL CONGRESS

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the National Baptist Convention, USA, which opens its 101st congress today in Baltimore. An estimated 50,000 members will attend this convention, making it one of the largest conventions hosted by the city of Baltimore.

The National Baptist Convention, USA, is the Nation's oldest and largest African-American religious convention, with a membership exceeding 7 million people. This convention is a great pillar of African-American tradition and history.

It is especially fitting therefore that the inauguration of this convention falls on June 19th. Today is the 141st anniversary of Juneteenth, the national celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. The convention is a prominent example of the power of faith, freedom, and compassion. I am pleased that the convention has taken a very active role in responding to the tragedy caused by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

I wish the convention a wonderful week in Baltimore. I appreciate the choice of my hometown—which has a very special role in African American history—as the site of their convention. I know that members of the convention will enjoy their time in Baltimore, and that Baltimoreans will enjoy serving as hosts.

I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in saluting the National Baptist Convention of Christian Education for its proud tradition and noble service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO GIRLS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, in the spring of 1906, veteran educators in Chattanooga, Tennessee—Tommie Payne Duffy, Eula Lea Jarnagin and Grace McCallie—boldly resolved to create an independent school to prepare girls for higher education. With indomitable fortitude and spirit, they committed their finances, time, and energy to establishing Girls Preparatory School, which they opened on September 12, 1906. This year, Girls Preparatory School celebrated its 100th anniversary, and the 2006 graduating class of 102 girls joined over 7,000 women as alumnae of the school.

In a modest, four-room schoolhouse, the three founders laid the foundation for what is now one of this Nation's great secondary schools for girls. Today, on a 60-acre site overlooking the Tennessee River, the school is an impressive complex of technology-rich academics buildings and superb athletic facilities

that serves some 750 girls annually in grades 6–12.

With an honor code that provides an environment of trust, a community service program that teaches that service to others and by providing a superior education with opportunities for personal growth to students of diverse backgrounds from 40 communities in Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia, colleges and universities across America have come to recognize Girls Preparatory School as among the best preparatory schools in the Nation.

Named the National School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education, the school has been honored by the national Character Education Partnership and received the Award of Excellence from the National Endowment for the Arts. Its students have been named Presidential Scholars, National Merit Finalists, and National AP Scholars.

I am proud to stand on the House floor today to say that Girls Preparatory School is poised for another 100 years of greatness, committed to graduating independent girls with a lifelong love of learning.

RECOGNIZING SAMANTHA MOORE

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2006

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Samantha Moore as the winner of the 2006 Original Oratory National Championship. Having a history of excellence, the McDowell Speech and Debate team continues on this path with Moore's achievement; it is my hope that they will be able to continue to succeed long into the future.

Moore is a high school senior and member of the school's speech and debate team. She recently competed in the original oratory category at the National Catholic Forensic League Championship, established in 1953. After winning out over hundreds of students to even compete in Chicago, Moore defeated 200 of the top young orators in the country to capture the National Championship. She was among over 2,300 students from 500 schools that competed at the Grand National Championship. Because of the impeccable delivery of her self-written speech, Moore was able to captivate the judges and attain a near-perfect score.

This is an unprecedented achievement for a student in Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District. It is the first time that any student from Northwestern Pennsylvania has captured a National Championship in a speech event in over 20 years.

Moore represents the talent that can be found in America's youth. The very greatness of this country is founded upon its future leaders. Moore is an example of academic excellence and leadership. For her accomplishment, she deserves congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me at this time in congratulating Samantha Moore, her family, teachers, and team on the National Championship with wishes of a successful future.