

TRIBUTE TO DR. TOM BLACKWELL

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the great work of one of my constituents, Dr. Tom Blackwell. Dr. Blackwell is a credit to the medical community in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he serves as an emergency room physician and EMS specialist at Carolinas Medical Center.

In early September, Dr. Blackwell and his team took their hospital on wheels—Carolinas MED-1—to Waveland, Mississippi to care for sick and injured Hurricane Katrina victims.

This mobile medical unit is a one-of-a-kind creation, originally devised by Dr. Blackwell to respond to terror attacks and other national disasters. Its two tractor trailers transform into a 14-bed hospital with operating facilities, radiology, and pharmacy support.

More than 350 doctors, nurses, and other North Carolina medical professionals spent about 2 months in Mississippi—caring for nearly 5,000 patients in a debris-strewn K-mart parking lot. They bravely dealt with life-threatening injuries and other medical needs—from attending to heart attack patients to delivering babies.

Our mobile hospital workers were praised for their effectiveness in the Final Report of the Committee to Investigate the Response to Hurricane Katrina, released on February 15, 2006. Charlotteans and Carolinians alike can be very proud of their neighbors who participated in MED-1's mission to the Gulf Coast, and I thank them for their outstanding service to fellow Americans in need.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Tuesday, February 14, 2006, due to unavoidable circumstances in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted: Yea to H. Con. Res. 322—Expressing the Sense of Congress regarding the contribution of the USO to the morale and welfare of our servicemen and women of our armed forces and their families; and Yea to S. 1989—the Holly A. Charette Post Office Designation Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. FREDDIE HART

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Freddie Hart, a well known Alabamian who will soon have a street dedicated to him in his honor on Friday, February 17, 2006.

Mr. Hart was born Fred Segrest on December 21, 1926 to sharecropper parents in Lochapoka, Alabama. He was later raised in

Phenix City, Alabama. He taught himself to play the guitar at the age of five and only finished school past the second grade. He later pursued his musical interests by getting involved in bands, and landed his first recording contract with Capitol Records. In 1959, his first hit recording was "The Wall." In 1971, his song "Easy Lovin'" went to number one on the charts, won two Grammys, and was named "Song of the Year" for 1971 and 1972 by The Country Music Association. In 1991, he was awarded the Governor's Achievement Award, and in 2001 was inducted in the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

I am delighted Mr. Hart will soon be honored with this important recognition, and congratulate him for his many accomplishments. It is my honor to pay tribute to Mr. Hart today in the House, and wish him many more years of success.

HONORING THE UTAHNS COMPETING IN THE 2006 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, all Utahns have watched with pride and anticipation as the U.S. Olympic team began competing at the Torino Winter Olympic Games this month. I am especially proud of the Utah athletes on the team.

They are Alpine skiers Steve Nyman, Ted Ligety, and Erik Schlopy; Nordic skiers Brett and Eric Camerota, Carl Swenson and Wendy Wagner; Ski jumper Anders Johnson; Freestyler Joe Pack; Bobsled members Shauna Rohbock, Steve Holcomb and Bill Schuffenhauer; and Luge team member Preston Griffall.

Utah is home to a long and distinguished tradition of winter sports. Names like Alf Engen and Stein Erikson are two of the winter sports icons that have helped make Utah synonymous with skiing.

When Utah welcomed the world to the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, we showcased the greatest snow on earth and the finest hospitality. By building world-class winter sports venues, such as the Kearns Skating Oval and the Bear Hollow Bobsled and Luge track and Nordic ski jumps, Utah also became a vital link in our country's support and training system for young athletes.

It has been said—and rightly so—that the Olympic Games are all about the athletes—about the gifted and dedicated men and women who display the drive, the courage and the integrity to represent America on the world athletic stage. With so much tension and trouble around the world today, it is heartening to see the best and the brightest from 80 nations coming together in peaceful competition, celebrating each other's culture and contribution to their sport.

I would like to salute all the athletes, especially my fellow Utahns, who bring us this inspiring and heart-warming interval from the beauty of winter.

HONORING STEVE MESLER, U.S. BOBSLED OLYMPIAN FROM BUFFALO, NY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 2006 Winter Olympian Steve Mesler. Steve, originally from the West Side of Buffalo, is to compete in the four man bobsled race Friday, February 25. This will be his first time competing in the Winter Olympics, as he served as an alternate in the 2002 games.

Steve Mesler is truly a scholar-athlete. Born and raised in Buffalo, he graduated from City Honors High School in 1996 after participating in four consecutive city track and field championships. He also received the Buffalo Bills Academic/Community Service/Athletic Scholarship. Steve attended the University of Florida with a track and field scholarship. He graduated from the University of Florida, where he is still ranked six all-time among University of Florida decathletes with 6,817 points, with honors for a degree in Exercise and Sports Science.

After ending his track and field career in 2001, Steve traveled to San Diego for bobsled training camp. Although he was new to the sport he learned quickly. Four months after beginning the sport he was selected to travel with the 2002 men's Olympic Bobsled team to Salt Lake City, Utah as an alternate. Steve won his first World Cup medal in 2002–2003 season.

The men's bobsled competition consists of four runs, two runs per day for two days timed to hundredth of a second. The final standings are determined by the total time over the four runs; the winner is the sled with the lowest time. As a part of the nine man Olympic bobsled team, Steve Mesler is expected to push for Todd Hays, the 2002 Olympic silver medalist. Steve has much courage and determination—he and his team have come back from their four man sled crash at the November 2005 World Cup in Lake Placid, NY.

Steve is truly a member of the City of Good Neighbors. He describes himself as a kid from Buffalo having grown up playing street hockey and soccer. He is a die-hard Buffalo Bills fan; his favorite bill was Thurman Thomas, and his family partakes in Buffalo traditions such as tailgating—even when temperatures reach as low as 30 degrees.

The 2006 men's Olympic bobsled team is expected to bring home a medal, and I am proud to have Steve Mesler represent my district, my state, and our country at the 20th Olympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and missed Rollcall votes #10 and #11. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall vote #10 and "yea" on Rollcall vote #11.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, this resolution is an important first step to cut off direct aid to the Palestinian Authority now that Hamas will be in power. However, it is only one component of the dramatic overhaul that needs to take place as we redefine our relationship with the new Palestinian government.

Responsible for attacks that have murdered hundreds and injured thousands, Hamas is first and foremost a terrorist organization. Its fund raising and training operations run through the same shadowy networks as Al-Qaeda and Hezbollah. Its philosophy and practice are grounded in the spread of extremist hatred, anti-Semitism and violence.

The United States must set a strong example and be firm in urging the international community to join us in cutting off all funding and diplomatic contacts with the Palestinian Authority once Hamas takes control.

The Palestinian election may have been conducted in a free and fair manner, but it does not make the Hamas victory any more legitimate. Until it disarms, renounces violence, and recognizes Israel's right to exist, the group should continue to be dealt with as a rogue entity.

There is no room for ambiguity. Governments that wage the global war on terrorism should not be propping up a terrorist regime. International organizations that believe in the peace process should not be financing a Palestinian leadership bent on Israel's destruction. Nations that disavow anti-Semitism should not be providing assistance that would give an even greater pulp for Hamas to spew its hatred.

It is alarming that despite these realities President Putin and others have made overtures to Hamas leaders. There should be no distinction between terrorists in Chechnya who target Russian school children and those from the West Bank and Gaza who blow up Israeli pizza stores and public buses. Equivocation only emboldens their use of such heinous tactics.

If there is hope of pressuring Hamas to change, the world must unite behind a clear message: We will not support a terrorist-state, but stand ready to assist when and if a Palestinian government emerges that is ready, willing and able to embrace a peaceful future.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
REGARDING THE LABELING OF
INDOOR TANNING DEVICES**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the American people are not aware that indoor tanning is dangerous. While many people understand that tanning outside is harmful, they mistakenly believe that tanning in a salon is a safe alternative to sunbathing. It's time we examined the labeling requirements for tanning de-

vices. Today I, along with my colleague from Florida, Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE, introduce the Tanning Accountability and Notification Act, which would require the FDA to determine whether the current labeling of indoor tanning devices communicates sufficient information about the risks indoor tanning devices pose for the development of irreversible skin damage, including skin cancer.

According to a 2005 survey conducted by the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), in their quest for a sunless tan, almost 30 million Americans visit indoor tanning salons each year. Of these 70% are women between the ages of 16 and 49. The dermatologists have concluded that indoor tanning is not safe. One of the reported side effects of indoor tanning is an elevated risk of skin cancer. According to the AAD, regular tanning bed use was associated with a 55% increase in the risk of developing melanoma, especially in women between the ages of 20 and 29. FDA and numerous leading United States' and international health care organizations have expressed concerns that the consuming public is not aware that indoor tanning devices emit ultraviolet radiation that is similar to and sometimes more powerful than UV radiation emitted by the sun. This legislation will ensure Americans make informed choices about preserving the health of their skin.

TAIWAN: LUNAR NEW YEAR

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, last Spring the People's Republic of China passed an anti-secession law targeting the Republic of China on Taiwan. This law gives Communist leaders the right to use force against Taiwan if they suspect separatist activities. In addition to the enactment of the anti-secession law, Communist China's rapid military build-up has brought substantial concern to the Taiwanese people. With 700 Communist missiles posted along the coast of Taiwan, mainland China makes a bold statement that military action is a viable possibility. In response to China's unilateral change of the status quo in the Taiwan Strait, it is my understanding that President Chen has expressed concern about Taiwan's future in his Lunar New Year's Day remarks.

If China really wants to unify Taiwan, it is my hope that they will listen to the advice of President Chen who requests mainland China to relinquish the use of force, listen to the people of Taiwan, and stop obstructing Taiwan from participating in international organizations like the United Nations and the World Health Organization. It is also my understanding that President Chen has, on many occasions, stated that the development of cross-strait relations must conform to the principles of sovereignty, democracy, peace and prosperity. China has no right by the principle of self-determination to change the status quo either through the anti-secession law or military intimidation. Like President Chen, I believe Taiwan's future must be made by the free will of the 23 million residents of Taiwan.

Taiwan is a free and democratic nation and deserves to be treated properly and with respect from the international community. Exclu-

sion from the United Nations has deprived Taiwan its international identity. The Republic of China on Taiwan is content on returning to the international community and it is speculated that President Chen might even reapply to the United Nations under the new name of "Taiwan."

It is my understanding that in the last six years, President Chen has not broken any of his pledges and has, in turn, offered many goodwill gestures to the People's Republic of China. I believe President Chen's remarks deserve our undivided attention and consideration.

Maintaining the status quo is currently the peaceful alternative and it is my understanding that President Chen once again reaffirmed his 2000 inaugural pledge to maintain status quo with mainland China, not declare independence, not change the name of the government, or add any other language to the Republic of China's Constitution that promotes an independence referendum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support peace in the region and hope that the People's Republic of China will reciprocate President Chen's goodwill by renouncing the use of force against Taiwan. However, should the need arise, we must not forget our responsibilities under the Taiwan Relations Act to make sure the Republic of China on Taiwan has the military capability to defend itself and assert its free voice to the international community.

HONORING GABRIEL AND SARA
MATOS**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gabriel and Sara Matos, for their dedication to citizen activism and crime prevention. Mr. and Mrs. Matos have been dedicated to preventing crime and protecting their community for many years, and have worked to encourage and spread citizen activism through their efforts.

On September 30, 2005, Mr. and Mrs. Matos were recognized for their dedication as recipients of the Citizens Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County's top award, the "Miami-Dade County Citizens' Crime Watch Chairperson of the Year." Their hard work through this organization has protected the community by allowing them to work closely with law enforcement and politicians on zoning and crime issues.

The couple have been leaders of the Concerned Citizens of West Dade, Inc. since they created it nearly fifteen years ago. They were instrumental in the adoption of an anti-graffiti ordinance, and as chairpersons of their neighborhood crime watch, have helped to keep their neighborhood safe, as well as motivating other neighborhoods in their community to set up Crime Watch groups.

I congratulate Gabriel and Sara Matos, and on behalf of the residents of Miami-Dade County, I thank them for their dedication to their community.