

day the flag was officially adopted by the United States of America back in 1777. It was no coincidence the flag had been saved to be flown from my homeport, Pearl Harbor, to the former sailor's homeport, San Diego. The flag was torn, tattered, and covered in salt just the way my dad would have wanted it.

The material or size of a flag has nothing to do with the importance of it. The importance lies in what the flag symbolizes. It has been said that patriots express their love of a country by hoisting their flag in honor. On June 3rd, I hoisted our flag in honor of my father, fair winds and following seas old man.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH MARCH 2006

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. I would like to share with you some of the progress being made with regard to women's rights and some of the issues that I will continue to fight for. Women have come a long way since they were granted the right to vote, just 85 years ago. Women now enjoy rights to education, wages, and property ownership. It still remains, however, that not enough Americans are aware of the long struggle to obtain the rights that we take for granted today, and the rights that we have yet to guarantee and protect.

This month, I co-sponsored legislation that will help to ensure we learn more about the female heroes that fought tirelessly to secure the rights we all enjoy today. H.R. 3779, the National Women's Rights History Project Act would celebrate the accomplishments of women all year long. Specifically, H.R. 3779 would establish an auto route linking sites significant to the struggle for women's suffrage and civil rights. It also would expand the current National Register travel itinerary website, "Places Where Women Made History," to include additional historic sites. Finally, this bill would require the Department of Interior to establish a partnership-based network to offer financial and technical assistance for interpretive and educational program development of national women's rights history.

As many of you know, I lost my beloved wife Jeanne to cancer two years ago. I am acutely aware of the need for increased funding of research, prevention and treatment programs for breast and gynecologic cancers. Below is a list of legislation that I have supported during the 109th Congress that is aimed at providing this funding support:

H.R. 1245 The Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2005—This Act provides for programs to increase the awareness and knowledge of women and health care providers with respect to gynecologic cancers.

H.R. 1849 Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2005—This Act requires that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations.

H.R. 2231 Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act of 2005—This Act

amends the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

H.R. 4540 Mammogram Availability Act of 2005 This act amends the Public Health Service Act and Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for annual screening mammography for women 40 years of age or older if the coverage or plans include coverage for diagnostic mammography.

In addition to supporting this legislation, during fiscal year 2005, I was able to get funding for the Santa Clara Community Health Partnership's Community Mammography Access Project (CMAP). This will help the Community Health Partnership begin a program to offer low-income women across the county regular access to a potentially life-saving test. My office has joined the Community Health Partnership's CMAP task force as a member and will be updated regularly on the project's progress.

Access to proper healthcare is just one basic freedom women have traditionally fought for. There are several other civil rights issues that continue to limit women's participation and leadership in American culture and society:

The original Violence Against Women Act was passed in 1998. This legislation and its successors (including the 2005 reauthorization) are aimed at preventing and responding to violence against women and children. The legislation covers a broad range of services including transitional housing assistance, community awareness programs, law enforcement training, protections for immigrant victims of domestic violence, and funding for stalker and sex offender databases. I co-sponsored the reauthorization of the VAWA, significant elements of which were eventually incorporated into H.R. 3402 which passed into law on January 5, 2006.

Equity and fairness are key to our democracy. Equal pay is a critical issue, affecting all of us. Lack of equal pay makes it harder for working families to make ends meet. It also makes it harder for single mothers whose children depend on their wages for basic needs. However, more than simple economic reasons, equal pay shows women that their accomplishments and hard work are equally appreciated. Because women are equal partners in American society and deserve equity and fairness on the job and under the law, I co-sponsor H.R. 1687 the Paycheck Fairness Act and H.J. Res. 37.

H.R. 1687 would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex and to expand training for EEOC employees and affected individuals about wage discrimination.

H.J. Res. 37 proposes an amendment to the Constitution that states that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

It is clear, that even though women enjoy the kind of freedom that didn't exist for them just decades ago, Americans continue to be threatened by Republican and far-right influences on our Administration and policy mak-

ers. The President's budget sheds light on some of the ways in which basic women's rights are undermined. The President cuts funding for health, education and housing programs that provide vital services for American families and promote equal opportunity for women. The President's budget will also adversely affect women in working families and elderly women by slashing Medicare, Medicaid, housing, food stamps and child care. Services that are vital to women and their families are cut to protect the interests of the wealthiest Americans.

My sincere hope is that each of us takes the time to commemorate Women's History Month so that we may be ever vigilant of protecting the freedoms all Americans enjoy today. The current state of women's rights demands that we honor those who brought us to this point, and inspire those who will broaden the spectrum of liberties that all Americans should have access to.

TRIBUTE TO DYESS AIR FORCE BASE

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas, for becoming the first base in 4 years to receive an overall outstanding rating following an Air Combat Command Operational Readiness Inspection.

Operational Readiness Inspections are demanding examinations of our Nation's combat operations. Inspections ensure expeditionary readiness by testing combat capabilities in stressful real-world situations. They allow our Nation's airmen to face deployment with increased confidence after practicing wartime skills at home that are executed in operations around the world including Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

This outstanding rating proves that the men and women of Dyess can take the fight anywhere. They are the very best in the Air Force because they have been well-trained and are well-prepared for any task or any challenge they will face in expeditionary operations.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF GUNNERY SERGEANT LORENZO V. CHANCE, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me today to rise in appreciation of the 22 years Gunnery Sergeant Lorenzo Chance has served in our United States Armed Forces.

A native of the great State of North Carolina, Gunnery Sergeant Chance is a true patriot who has significantly contributed to the defense of our Nation. After graduating from Cape Fear High School in 1983, Gunnery Sergeant Chance entered the Corps at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, where he attended basic training.

Gunnery Sergeant Chance's assignments in the Marine Corps include:

September 1984–1986, Admin Clerk, HQMC Manpower Branch;

November 1986–December 1987, Embarkation NCO, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron-1, Okinawa, Japan;

January 1988–December 1991 HQMC Programs and Resources Division, Assistant Security Manager ensuring the personnel, physical, and information security of a division of 60 persons, hundreds of documents, and equipment;

January 1992–June 1995, Military Entrance Processing Station Montgomery, AL, Processing Specialist, interviewing and processing thousands of applicants into the U.S. Armed Forces;

July 1995–November 1997 Parris Island, SC, Senior Drill Instructor, Third RTBN, K Company and, Operations Chief/Acting First Sergeant, Support BN, Special Training Company, a direct impact in the “Making of Marines”;

December 1997–April 2002, HQMC PP&O, Current Operations Branch, Marine Corps Command Center where he served as an Assistant Watch; Team Chief, SNCOIC Marine Corps Exercises Employment Program, and Post 9/11 Crisis Action Team Operations Chief. During this period he was also assigned various other duties, including service as a Member of the Headquarters Marine Corps, Inspector General’s Readiness Assessment Team, responsibility for globally inspecting Marine Corps units for deployment capability and, in the 2000 Presidential Inaugural Committee, SNCOIC of the Street Cordon.

May 2002 through November 2005 Gunnery Sergeant Chance served the 435 Members of both the 108th and 109th Congress as SNCOIC Marine Corps House Liaison Office. He was also the Senior Enlisted service member to the U.S. House of Representatives during this period. Gunnery Sergeant Chance was responsible for directing and organizing numerous congressional and staff delegations around the world. His attention to detail in making these very important trips logically successful is noteworthy.

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of traveling several times to many different countries with Gunnery Sergeant Chance. He was a true professional at all times and my wife and I always enjoyed his company. We both wish him “Fair Winds and Following Seas” and are honored he asked us to participate in his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, few can match the dedication Lorenzo Chance has shown the United States Marine Corps and our Nation. His service has benefited so many and I cannot express enough gratitude to him. On behalf of the United States Congress, I wish to thank Lorenzo Chance and lastly, “Semper Fidelis.”

USA PATRIOT ACT ADDITIONAL REAUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of S. 2271, a bill to add civil lib-

erty protections to the conference report on H.R. 3199, the USA PATRIOT Reauthorization Act. Although I voted against the Patriot Act in December, the Republican Leadership rammed it through Congress anyway. I welcome this opportunity to eliminate some of its most egregious provisions and to further enhance civil liberties protections. I will keep fighting to improve this law so that we can find the right balance between waging the war on terrorism and protecting the rights of the American people.

S. 2271 improves civil liberties in three ways. Under the Patriot Act, libraries, bookstores, and other recipients of court orders for information are bound by a nondisclosure requirement. These organizations are unable to tell the target of the investigation that records have been obtained on the public, if they believe the search is unwarranted. As currently written, the Patriot Act prevents appropriate oversight to affirm the need for such requests for information. S. 2271 allows recipients of these court orders to challenge the nondisclosure requirement, which helps protect civil liberties by placing a check on unrestricted use of these court orders and protects against unlawful search and seizure.

As currently written, the Patriot Act greatly expands the use of administrative subpoenas, known as National Security Letters (NSLs). NSLs are equivalent to search warrants, but they are signed by government bureaucrats instead of issued by courts. These subpoenas have minimal civil liberty checks in place to ensure an investigation is warranted. Presently, the Patriot Act requires recipients of NSLs to disclose to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) the names of their attorneys who are notified of the NSL. This overzealous provision could launch investigations into attorneys trying to defend clients who received unwarranted investigations. S. 2271 removes this requirement to disclose attorney names, and I am pleased to support this change.

Finally, S. 2271 increases the burden of proof on obtaining evidence from libraries. Under the Patriot Act, an NSL could require libraries to hand over book checkout lists and Internet records for specific users, which is a tremendous violation of privacy. S. 2271 requires investigators to obtain a court order, which would prevent overzealous investigators from trying to find evidence without probable cause.

If S. 2271 does not pass, I am concerned that the Patriot Act will move to the President’s desk for signature lacking protections to prevent challenging nondisclosure requirements, increasing the opportunity for civil liberties abuses, and subjecting libraries to unnecessary and intrusive scrutiny. While I continue to oppose the underlying Patriot Act, I will vote for these improvements. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to correct other deficiencies and protect the American people from both terrorists and potential abuses of our freedoms.

POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE (PNA) OF NORTH AMERICA—LODGE 711 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize on the House floor that 2005 marked the one-hundredth anniversary of Lodge 711 of the Polish National Alliance (PNA) of North America. I’m proud to have Lodge 711 headquartered in my district in the town of Wilbraham.

PNA is the largest ethnic fraternal insurance society in the United States that offers quality life insurance and annuity products, which allows its members and families to achieve financial security. But the PNA’s involvement in the communities it serves goes beyond providing quality financial services by organizing various social and cultural programs. Whether its sports and youth programs, spelling bees, college scholarships, or Saturday Schools promoting Polish heritage and culture, PNA helps its members live more fuller and enjoyable lives.

Mr. Speaker, I’m honored to have the opportunity to represent a diverse and culturally rich constituency, particularly the Polish communities that have a large presence in Massachusetts’ second congressional district. Throughout my years of public service I have witnessed with great pleasure the Polish communities’ dedication and commitment to civic affairs. The lessons of Poland’s long and hard history of achieving independence has not been lost with the Polish immigrants who came to America or their offspring born in America.

The American and Polish people have a long and warm relationship that evolves around the love of freedom and opportunity. This bond goes back to America’s revolutionary years when the Polish patriot, Tadeusz Kosciuszko, fought in the American War of Independence and achieved the title of brigadier general. Later, Kosciuszko once again fought for independence when leading the Polish-Lithuania uprising of 1794. The American people honor Kosciuszko with a statue of the patriot in the U.S. Capitol building.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Teresa Struziak-Sherman, Director for PNA Region A, for all her wonderful work over the years that has contributed to the success of the PNA. I would also like to recognize all the other people of Polish ancestry that I have known and worked with throughout my years as a public servant and look forward to my continued relationship with them.

TRIBUTE TO HALEY SACK

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Haley Sack of Mendota has just been named one of the top honorees in Illinois