

lifetime, she arrives in Las Vegas with the conviction that this is exactly where she's supposed to be. At the age of 50 she uses her experience to segue seamlessly from a story about everyday life into a Bible story. And in a time when many people segregate to worship Patricia holds firm to the idea that diversity is also one of God's creations and it must be celebrated. Anyone and everyone is welcome to attend her sermons and the average crowd that gathers to hear her words attests to Patricia's love of diversity.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Rev. Patricia Spearman on the floor of the House today.

IN HONOR OF JOHN LAROCK

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to John Larock, whose work has been invaluable in forming and maintaining Miracle Workerz, a nationally recognized science and engineering mentoring program focusing on an international robotics competition.

In 1993, John began a DuPont sponsored Explorer Post which grew in 2000, to become a team. This team is affiliated with the international robotics competition, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). Each year, John recruits adult volunteers who reach out in the community and inspire young students to pursue the fields of science, technology and engineering. His success is a direct result of making learning fun.

John is also known for being a leader who encourages others to participate in community service. His positive outlook, tremendous vision, and unlimited energy create an environment where people want to contribute to the achievement of others.

John has been recognized locally as a finalist for the Delaware Jefferson Award, an honor awarded annually by the American Institute of Public Service commending outstanding public service leaders within the community. He is one of five very admirable nominees, all making exceptional contributions to the State of Delaware. No matter who is chosen as the recipient of this award, they are each deserving candidates who demonstrate that one person can truly make a monumental difference.

I congratulate and thank John Larock for all he has contributed to the State of Delaware. Hundreds of young people are grateful and I am pleased to be able to vocalize their appreciation. He is an exemplary citizen and a proud American. Thank you, John, for all you have done and continue to do for the children of our State.

IRAN: THREATS, CHALLENGES
AND PROSPECTS FOR CHANGE

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday February 15, 2006, a briefing was conducted

in the Canon Caucus room of the U.S. House of Representatives. Entitled: Iran: Threats, Challenges and Prospects For Change, the briefing was sponsored by bipartisan group of Members of Congress. During this event speakers assessed the current situation in Iran, the Iranian nuclear threat and the status of the Iranian opposition group, the MEK. I would like to take this opportunity to share with all of my colleagues my opening statement and some of the highlights from the remarks of the panelists:

I would like to begin by thanking all of the Iranian Americans who have traveled to Capitol Hill today to hear the views of our expert panelists. I also want to thank my fellow members of Congress who are here with us in support of this event. Let me start by recognizing TOM TANCREDO of Colorado, thank you for being here, and also Congressman BOOZMAN of Arkansas. Can we give them both a hand for their participation [applause]. I also want to thank our distinguished panelists for taking the time to share their insights and understanding of current events in Iran. It is critically important that all Americans understand the true nature of the grave threat posed by the radical extremists, anti American regime in Tehran. We're facing a very dangerous crisis with Iran today. The Iranian government is sponsoring terrorism, developing nuclear weapons, meddling in the future of Iraq and violating the fundamental human rights of their own people. The world community cannot afford to allow the Iranian mullahs to continue to be a regional threat or to grow into a nuclear threat. For too many years we have done nothing to help the Iranian people—inside and outside of Iran—in their struggle for democracy. For too many years we have tolerated terrorism and violence from Iranian extremists. It is time to take action. If we fail to take action against the mullahs meddling in Iraq we risk the future of the Iraqi people and we may find that the Iranian regime and not the Iraqi people were the real winners of the Iraq war.

U.S. policies toward Iran have failed to achieve our goals. While many advocate more dialogue with Tehran our time is running short. We must seize the opportunity to aid the people of Iran and it is time to give support to the Iranian people who have longed for democracy for more than a quarter of a century. I am troubled by the strategy of our government and the insistence that the Iranian government and the Iranian opposition, the MEK are equal threats to peace and freedom. There is no logic in this reasoning and it is undermining our foreign policies. The U.S. must exercise a genuine commitment to helping the Iranian people overcome the oppressive regime that despises democratic principles and denies fundamental human rights.

I commend all who are working today for the sake of human rights, peace and democracy in the Middle East. I share your vision of a free and peaceful Iranian nation.

The first panelist to address the briefing was Professor Raymond Tanter the former member of the National Security Agency and the President of Iran Policy Committee. His statement began:

Please allow me to cut to the chase and begin with my conclusions: Coercive diplomacy, military action, and regime change for Iran are three options for the international community. Rather than sliding into military action as coercive diplomacy also fails, it is time to consider regime change for Iran. Because the only possibility to carry out regime change is via the groups feared by the regime in Tehran, the United

States should remove their terrorist designation. Coercive diplomacy combines threat of force with promise of diplomacy. For several years, the European Union pursued a policy of promise without threat, ostensibly in order to bolster the fortunes of moderates like former President Mohammad Khatami relative to the likes of the Supreme Leader and President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Rather than reinforcing the moderates, however, there has been a consolidation of power under the Supreme Leader and his selected President Ahmadinejad. Professor Tanter went on to say: President Bush should issue a Finding or Presidential Directive authorizing all appropriate measures to effect regime change in Iran

The next panelist to address the conference was Ms. Lynn Derbyshire who is a representative of victims of terrorism in Beirut She recently testified in the U.S. Congress against the Mullah's regime support of terrorism. She started her remarks with the story of her brother who was killed in Beirut by the Iranian regime. Ms. Derbyshire then explained that placing the Iranian Resistance in the terrorist list was a present to the clerical regime in Iran. She said: "Ahmadinejad, not Iranian Resistance, is a terrorist." She continued on saying that "Iranian and American people basically want the same thing. They all want to put a stop on terrorism."

Lt. General Tom McInerney (USAF, ret.), former Assistant Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and an IPC Co-Chair, also addressed the briefing. He examined the military option toward Iran: and said:

The United States has the ability to target the known nuclear sites of Iran and delay its nuclear weapons program. With such capability in hand and in the context of failing diplomacy, we should leave the military option on the table. General McInerney added: However, military alternatives have risks, which suggest that choosing the military option should be a last resort. Prior to taking military action, it is important to begin a regime change clock. McInerney concluded: Regime change begins when the Great Powers remove Iranian opposition groups from so-called terrorist lists. I favor removing of the Mujahedeen-e Khalq from such lists; empowering the Iranian people by recognizing their main opposition groups; building an Arab political coalition to support these opposition groups; and eroding the legitimacy of Tehran regime to point where it collapses in face of determined efforts of the Iranian people working through dissidents and exiles.

The next speaker to address the briefing was Mr. Bruce McCollm, President, Institute for Democratic Strategies, a non-profit organization committed to strengthening democratic processes abroad. In his remarks he asked:

Can we imagine one day saying that Iran is an island of democratic stability in a turbulent region? We can if we help the Iranian people stand up and demand a greater say in their government and in their own lives.

He continued:

Since the days of the Iranian Revolution, we in the West have viewed the Iranian people as victims of a repressive regime. Some thought the period of the Khatami Presidency could usher in much-needed reforms, a little more respect for basic human rights, and possibly the day when a democracy could be established and the Iranian people could take their rightful place in the world community. The election—I mean, selection—of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as President should dispel this illusion once and for all.

He stated:

Now is the time when we should stop looking at Iranians as victims and use our considerable resources to empower this talented civilization so it can create the free, prosperous society their considerable talents are capable of.

McColm also said:

If we are serious about regime change in Iran, what can be done?

He talked about the bills passed in the Congress that are necessary first steps to send the proper signal to Tehran that there is a new day dawning and their day is ending. He explained:

Attempts by the United States and the European Union to placate the leadership of Iran by placing the MEK on the proscribed list of terrorist organizations should end. It is way past time to take back Iran's lone diplomatic victory over the past fifteen years. De-List the MEK and the NCRI now. It is the right thing to do.

He also said:

Before his recent execution, MEK activist, 30-year old Hojjat Zamani wrote Kofi Annan a letter to encourage the United Nations investigation of the status of the families of political prisoners in Iran. He was too aware that the Iranian regime has been adroit in blackmailing families of those involved in activities considered contrary to the regime. This practice continues to this day. The international community should create a fund in Zamani's name to subsidize the families of political prisoners so as to alleviate their financial suffering.

The last speaker was Mr. Nasser Rashidi who showed a picture of the Mojahedin member, Hojjat Zamani and announced his execution by the Iranian regime which took place on February 7th. He highly praised all the political prisoners and said that the people of Iran are determined to bring freedom and democracy back to their homeland no matter what price they have to pay. Mr. Rashidi said that the people of Iran have already sacrificed 120,000 of their best children who have been executed to bring freedom to their country and they will pay even more. He continued as saying:

It is a mistake to believe that only one individual in the ruling elite is aiming to wipe another country off the map. The colossal mistake is to name the enemy as the individual called Ahmadinejad and not the ideology. The rulers of Iran are representing an ideology that is called "Islamic Fundamentalism", or sometimes is called "Islamic Extremism." He said that many members of both chambers have expressed their opposition to the designation of MEK as an FTO. He thanked the many congressional advisors and staff present at the meeting for supporting the Iranian people and their resistance. He then pointed out the latest news conference held by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi in Auver-sur-Oise, France where she said:

If the West stops giving concessions to the mullahs, petro-dollars do not fill the mullahs' coffers, silence and inaction vis-a-vis the systematic human rights abuses and terrorist crimes are ended, and the terrorist list as well as other unjust restrictions on the Resistance are removed, change would be within reach.

At the conclusion of the three hour briefing reporters interviewed the panelists about the Iranian threat.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE BOULDER DAM HOTEL ASSOCIATION

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Boulder Dam Hotel Association for their work in preserving the Boulder Dam Hotel.

The Boulder Dam Hotel is an historic building constructed in 1933 located in Boulder City, Nevada. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and stands in the center of the nationally registered historic district of Boulder City. By 1934 the hotel was accommodating a steady clientele which included Hollywood celebrities, politicians, European aristocrats and Far Eastern royalty. The hotel gained a worldwide reputation, and as a result there were not enough rooms to accommodate all who wished to stay. In the summer of 1934 a southeast wing with 18 rooms was added, and in the fall of 1935 the hotel was expanded a final time with the addition of a dining room and 30 bedrooms. Since that time the only changes have been the addition of a sun room off the dining room, and an elevator and swimming pool in the early 1980's.

Throughout the 1930's and into the 1940's the Boulder Dam Hotel was maintained as southern Nevada's finest inn. As is often the case with historic structures, subsequent years were not as kind to the building and it went through a succession of owners. One of them was Senator Cliff McCorkle who attempted to restore it to its former glory. Though a significant amount of work was done, that effort was not successful and in later years it fell into disrepair and was largely unprofitable.

A number of Boulder City citizens became concerned that the community might lose this beautiful structure, so they formed a group called Friends of the Hotel and investigated the feasibility of taking the building into public ownership. On December 15, 1993, 60 years to the date after the first opening of the Hotel, a newly formed organization, the Boulder Dam Hotel Association, Inc., formally took possession of the hotel. The Association is comprised of the city of Boulder City, the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce, the Boulder City Arts Council, and the Boulder City Museum and Historical Association. It has a 12-member board composed of 2 members appointed by each of the owners and 4 additional members who were selected from the community at large by the initial 8 members.

Mr. Speaker, for more than a decade the Boulder Dam Hotel Association has worked to preserve and restore this beautiful and important part of southern Nevada's history. I am honored to recognize them on the floor of the House today.

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House and to revise and extend my remarks.

This week we conclude the celebration of Women's History Month; a month during which we acknowledged and honored those women who struggled and fought for suffrage and equal rights. As we do so, I would like to bring special attention to an often over-looked message espoused by the early heroines of our country: a message of preborn women's rights.

Susan B. Anthony, a well-known pioneer of the women's movement, was a staunch defender of the rights of the unborn. She believed that abortion violated the rights of women and children, by exploiting women and by denying unborn children the most precious of rights—the right to life. Alice Paul, author of the Equal Rights amendment, agreed and said that, "Abortion is the ultimate exploitation of women."

As we reflect upon the life and achievements of the early suffragettes during Women's History Month, let us also recognize the need to protect and value all human life.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES W. BOWSER

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great Philadelphian, Charles W. Bowser.

A respected attorney, civil rights advocate and humanitarian, Mr. Bowser has made an indelible imprint on Philadelphia's civic and political landscape. Understanding that freedom is not free, for nearly 50 years Mr. Bowser has advanced the cause of freedom and justice. His path-clearing campaigns for mayor of Philadelphia in 1975 and 1979 launched a movement that ultimately helped to elect W. Wilson Goode, the city's first Black mayor.

A man of action, Mr. Bowser utilized his legal acumen and his journalistic skills to lead the fight for justice and inclusion but also to articulate the dreams and rights of the politically unempowered. Equally comfortable in a neighborhood community meeting, the board room of his legal firm or a mayor's cabinet meeting, Charles Bowser has had the same steady and strident voice raised against injustice.

In celebration of his 70th birthday he wrote, "My generation of African Americans was guided by the belief that we had to be united to oppose racial injustice. Racial injustice was our enemy and we knew that the great hope of freedom could only begin with the end of injustice. Our unity began in our churches, in our homes, in our schools and in our dreams. We believed that ensuring the great hope of freedom was our personal responsibility."

Throughout his career Mr. Bowser has led by example and we all have benefited from his leadership, intellect and integrity. Because he understood that freedom is not free, he has consistently demonstrated his willingness to contribute his share of the price of the hope of freedom, and we are indebted and it is for these reasons that I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to honor him.