

It is my sincere belief that the United States needs to do a better job in nurturing and protecting the fragile democracy in Taiwan. We can do that by communicating directly with President Chen about how he sees the role of his country in promoting democracy around the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CELIA BELL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Celia Bell, a constituent and friend, who passed away just two weeks ago.

Celia Bell was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on May 3, 1915. She was born a twin and weighed only one and one-half pounds. Doctors had little faith the babies would survive, and indeed, one did not. But Celia not only survived, she thrived and went on to live a very full life, passing away on April 17, 2006 just a couple of weeks shy of her 91st birthday, which would have been today.

Celia married Max Kauffman on December 22, 1935 and they raised three children together: Fred Kauffman (spouse Bobbie), Hedy Goldberg (spouse Bob), and Brenda Hoelzle (spouse Bob). These three wonderful children blessed Celia and Mac with 8 grandchildren: Bret Kauffman (spouse Madie), Mark Kauffman (spouse Tracey), Eric Kauffman (spouse Debbie), Lee Hoelzle, Bryan Hoelzle (spouse Sharon), Karen Caltune (spouse Todd), and Lewis and Ellen Goldberg. When she passed away, Celia was the great-grandmother of 8 wonderful greatgrandchildren: Andrew, Michelle, Max, Brennan, Aaron, and Joshua Kaufman, and Matthew and Jarett Hoelzle. Max and Celia were married for 53 years until Max's passing in 1989.

Celia Kauffman never worked outside of her home, but always kept busy, sewing, knitting, and crocheting. In the late 1970's, Celia and Max moved to South Florida where she continued to be active in her community by volunteering her services. She bowled until the age of 85 when her arthritis forced her to stop. However, at the age of 89, she was still doing volunteer work as the water exercise instructor at her condominium pool and crocheting lap robes which were donated to nursing homes and children's services.

It gives me great pride today to honor this great American, whose legacy lives on in her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and friends.

RECOGNIZING 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of this country's most important allies in the War on Terror, the State of Israel. Fifty-eight years ago today, at

4 p.m., 5th day of the Hebrew month of Iyar, David Ben Gurion read the Israeli Declaration of Independence over the radio ending 2,000 years of exile and persecution and fulfilling God's promise to return the Holy Land to the hands of the Jewish people.

The Israeli government was founded to "ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex," principles we here in this country cherish as well. By holding regular free elections, Israel has been an oasis of democracy in a vast desert of theocracies, serving as a beacon of hope for oppressed people everywhere.

In less than 60 years, this open society has allowed the country to prosper economically, creating vibrant agricultural, industrial and technological sectors virtually from scratch and leading to successful foreign trade agreements. Israel has worked tirelessly to promote peace in the Middle East by achieving peace accords with Egypt and Jordan, an idea that would have seemed impossible in 1948. The Jewish State's many positive contributions to the world community exemplified by the Nobel Prizes in economics, chemistry, literature and peace that have been awarded to its citizens.

It is hard to believe that all of this has come out of a country no bigger than New Jersey and that it perseveres in the face of constant adversity. If one of the main planks of our foreign policy is to spread democracy and promote freedom around the world, then I can think of no better way to accomplish that goal than by strengthening the bond between our countries and offering it as an example to the rest of the world.

Israel Independence Day, or Yom Ha'atzmaut in Hebrew, provides Jews in this country an opportunity to demonstrate their solidarity with and strengthen their alliance with the State of Israel. It is fitting, then, that I stand here at the beginning of the very first Jewish American Jewish Heritage Month in which we will celebrate the 352 year history of the Jews' contributions to American culture.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, congratulating Israel on 58 years of independence and I look forward to building an even stronger relationship with our friends in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY ANTITRUST ACT OF 2006"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Oil and Gas Industry Antitrust Act of 2006," legislation that prohibits oil and gas companies from unilaterally withholding supply with the intent of raising prices or creating a shortage and subjects the OPEC nations to the U.S. antitrust laws. I am joined by Representatives CHABOT, LOFGREN, BROWN (OH), MEEHAN, SCHIFF, LEE, and HINCHEY.

In recent days, the price of crude oil has reached an all-time high of \$75 per barrel, more than twenty percent higher than the price at the start of the year. This increase is directly felt by American consumers, who consume over 40 percent of the world's gasoline

and are forced to pay exorbitant prices at the pump. The average price of gasoline is now near \$3 a gallon or more and is only expected to rise further during the summer months as supply dwindles.

There are two parts of this equation—the oil side and the refinery side—and both must be addressed for consumers to see a difference at the pump.

The Oil Problem: The group of eleven nations comprising OPEC is a classic definition of a cartel, and these nations hold all the cards when it comes to oil and gas prices. OPEC accounts for more than a third of global oil production, and OPEC's oil exports represent about 55 percent of the oil traded internationally. This makes OPEC's influence on the oil market dominant, especially when it decides to reduce or increase its levels of production. Just recently, OPEC ministers announced that they would not increase production or even offer their spare oil capacity to respond to rapidly increasing oil prices. While OPEC is in a unique position to respond to and alleviate this crisis, its nations will instead stand by while our oil and gasoline prices go through the roof.

The Refinery Problem: Refining costs are the second largest chunk of the cost of a gallon of gasoline. And while companies like ExxonMobil are posting first-quarter profits that are up 7 percent from a year ago, the cost of gasoline continues to rise. In this climate—and with increasing reliance on foreign oil—we must be particularly vigilant in safeguarding consumers from potential exploitation.

The Solution: This comprehensive legislation, the "Oil and Gas Industry Antitrust Act of 2006," is simple and effective, and has already been passed by a U.S. Senate Committee. It:

Amends the Clayton Act to prohibit oil and gas companies from unilaterally withholding supply with the intent of raising prices or creating a shortage.

Directs several studies, including a Justice Department/FTC study of mergers in the oil and gas industry, and a GAO study of whether government consent decrees in oil mergers have been effective.

Directs the Attorney General and FTC Chairman to establish a joint federal/state task force with state AG's to investigation information sharing among oil companies.

Exempts OPEC and other nations from the provisions of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to the extent those governments are engaged in price-fixing and other anticompetitive activities with regard to pricing, production and distribution of petroleum products. (OPEC currently claims sovereign immunity by saying its actions are "governmental activity," which is protected, rather than "commercial activity," which is not.)

Makes clear that the so-called "Act of State" doctrine does not prevent courts from ruling on antitrust charges brought against foreign governments and that foreign governments are "persons" subject to suit under the antitrust laws.

Authorizes lawsuits in U.S. federal court against oil cartel members by the Justice Department.

We do not have to stand by and watch gas prices continue to climb without taking action; we should protect consumers from any anticompetitive behavior that might be occurring. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

AN AMERICAN WORKER'S STORY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, my constituent Steve Grandstaff is shop Chairman of the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 651, which represents hourly workers at Delphi East in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

For the RECORD I would like to read an excerpt of the electronic testimony that Steve wrote for the Education and the Workforce Committee e-hearing on the impact of the Delphi bankruptcy filing:

I am the Shop Chairperson of UAW Local 651 in Flint, servicing Delphi Flint East and representing 2800 hard working people. Early on in this whole saga I had a realization what the whole issue boils down to.

I refer to it as the promise; the promise was part of the deal. The deal was that you came to work and did your job for 30 years and at the end of that time you could have the opportunity to go on your way with a somewhat comfortable pension to see you through your later years.

The workers end of the promise was that they worked the off shifts for the first decade of employment. This meant working the hot days in the summer and the cold ones in the winter. That in itself meant that you were at work when your family and your friends were working normal hours and enjoying life.

The promise meant that you worked in the grimy, dangerous conditions. You did boring monotonous jobs. You suffered the labeling by society because you worked in a factory.

You would work the extra hours so that you could get the nice things that life offered. The things that seemed to come easier to other people but in your case you had to do a little extra to get them. . . .

Over the years many of us had the opportunity to make a decision, should I stay or should I move on to something else. Many, many people stayed on because of the promise.

They made decisions not to go to a new career because they were many years into the equation of which the promise weighed oh so heavily.

The promise was always out there.

The company always reminded anyone that would listen about how they were funding our pensions and used that as a bargaining chip when our wages or benefits were on the table.

It was always figured in as a benefit cost even though now some wonder if the company ever really intended to fulfill the promise.

Now here we are near the end of our careers, not as young as we used to be, many of us broken. When so many of us are so close to being able to cash in on the promise the company is attempting to take it away from us. . . .

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has failed to protect American workers while focusing on protecting the privileged few.

It is time for these workers' stories to be heard and I am pleased to have this opportunity to share one of these stories.

RECOGNIZING THE ARMENIAN YOUTH FEDERATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues a wonderful speech made by Nanor Harutunian of the Armenian Youth Federation at a recent event that I attended in New York City to commemorate the 91st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

The speech reads:

Your eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Reverend Clergy, Government Officials and Honored Guests.

In the words of Martin Luther King Jr.: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Silence, is a spoken language in itself. Silence may often speak louder than words. Silence, verbalizes fear, ignorance, tacit agreement, carelessness, and defeat. What it does not portray is anger, persistence, perseverance, knowledge, and strength. The Armenian Youth Federation will never be silent. We will continue to speak for justice and truth.

As the Armenian Youth, the AYF was built on the endurance and determination of its ancestors. Determination to keep our nation and our country united, free and independent. It is this determination that we possess when we hold the Turkish government accountable for the Genocide of the Armenian people 91 years ago. We stand united not only as an organization but as a people to honor the memory of over one and a half million Armenians killed at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. It is by educating ourselves that we become empowered. It is through this education that we can make a difference. We are the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of those Armenians who were forced out of their homeland, of those Armenians who perished. We have worked and will continue to work with other communities to raise awareness of crimes against humanity. We have held protests, rallies, vigils and memorials in the name of justice and honor.

Dr. King also said "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." If one is afraid to stand up for what he or she believes in, then it is not worth believing in anything at all. We stand for recognition and reparations. Our ancestors had their families, homes, culture, and country taken away from them. The Armenian Youth Federation calls for the atrocities of the past to be recognized. Only by first recognizing the past, can we truly recognize our future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE ORDER OF THE SILVER ROSE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda and Luz Arellano. They are responsible for awarding the Order of the Silver Rose Medal and Award to our veterans in Nevada.

The Order of the Silver Rose was established in 1997 by Mary Liz Marchand. Her fa-

ther, Chief Hospital Corpsman Frank Davis, died from illnesses resulting from the use of Agent Orange in the Vietnam War. Mary Liz's friend brought a silver rose to Chief Davis while receiving treatment in Salt Lake City. Upon his death Mary Liz established the Order of the Silver Rose for the victims of Agent Orange.

Linda and Luz Arellano have started the Order of the Silver Rose Nevada chapter in an effort to bring honor and recognition to the veterans of the Vietnam War. On April 26, 2006, Linda and Luz, on behalf of the Nevada Chapter of the Order of the Silver Rose, honored fifteen veterans from Nevada and recognized them for their service and sacrifice during the Vietnam War. I would like to share the names of those noble veterans, they are; Ronald G. Smith, Edward Fizer, William Siebentritt, David Gilmartin, Joseph C. Marrs, William T. Anton, Dennis Sitzler, Harold Williams Jr., Carlos Cepeda, Charles E. Johnson, Donald Welchold, Robert F. McHale, George S. Nagy, Leon Walker, and Arturo Garingan.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Linda and Luz Arellano as well as the veterans they recognized with the award of the Silver Rose. On behalf of Nevada, I thank these brave veterans for their service and sacrifice.

54TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. BOBBY JINDAL

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, whereas, the historical record of the United States, as acknowledged by the highest court in our land, reveals a clear and unmistakable pattern woven throughout our Nation's history; America was founded upon the principles and truths revealed in the Holy Scriptures; and

Whereas, as a Nation with a Judeo-Christian heritage, prayer has been and remains an essential element of our national conduct as we seek divine direction and blessing; and

Whereas, our Nation's leaders, beginning with our first president, George Washington, to our current president, George W. Bush, have called upon Americans to individually and corporately pray for and seek God's divine blessing upon our Nation in both times of peace and in times of conflict; and

Whereas, in times of great crisis we have been prompted by officially proclaimed days of prayer to ask for God's guidance; and

Whereas, Holy Scripture instructs in 1 Samuel 2:30 to give God honor; and

Whereas, in 2006, on the 54th Anniversary of the National Day of Prayer, America once again finds herself in the midst of danger and uncertainty making it essential that we as a people seek God's direction through prayer so that our world might enjoy peace.

Now Therefore, I encourage all of the citizens of Louisiana to participate in honoring God by seeking His blessing both upon our State and our Nation.