

advise, support and train Iraqi assassination and kidnapping teams. I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

TRIBUTE FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAACP BAY CITY BRANCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the Bay City Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as it celebrates 50 years as a dedicated champion of civil rights. On June 2, 2006 the members of the Bay City Branch will come together to revere its founding members and renew its commitment to justice for all.

Roy Wilkins chartered the first branch of the NAACP in Bay City in 1918. This was at a time when the NAACP was instrumental in convincing President Woodrow Wilson to publicly denounce lynching. The Branch was disbanded but it was re-chartered in 1938 by Attorney Oscar Baker Sr. and chartered a third time in 1946.

In 1955, NAACP member Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery Alabama bus and one of the largest grassroots civil rights movements was born. The NAACP was at the forefront of this struggle and Reverend Obie Matthew, Pastor of the Second Baptist Church, organized the present Bay City Branch the following year on October 8, 1956. 50 years later the Branch is still fighting for equality of all citizens.

The Bay City Branch has led the fight against discrimination in housing, education, employment, healthcare, and the criminal justice system. Some of its notable fights were the Migrant Negroes from Georgia Case, the Bay County Skating Rink Case in the 1960s, the Woolworth 5&10 Store Sit-in, the hiring of the first African American teachers by the Bay City School District, and the inclusion of a Black History Class in the Bay City Central High School curriculum. The Branch has given away more than 70 scholarships to high school students. They have supported CORY Place, sponsored a summer USDA Food and Activity program for children, and worked with other local agencies to improve the living conditions in Bay City.

The hymn, Lift Every Voice and Sing, was written by James Weldon Johnson in 1900. In it he wrote, "Sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won." Under the current leadership of President Idella White, the Bay City Branch is marching on in the fight to remove barriers to racial equality. The Bay City Branch remains committed to educating citizens about their constitutional rights, and the adverse effects of racial discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Bay City Branch of the NAACP for 50 years of commitment to social justice. The members are to be commended for their steadfast fight against racial hatred and I pray that together

we will eliminate this scourge from our nation and the world.

IRAN FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom Support Act, which has 360 bipartisan cosponsors who represent approximately 216 million Americans.

Following continued Iranian threats to develop and deploy nuclear weapons, increasing evidence that Tehran is interfering with stabilization efforts in Iraq, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's denial of the Holocaust and comments that Israel should be wiped off the map, and ongoing Iranian support of international terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah, it is time for the United States to take concrete steps to hold Iran accountable for its actions.

I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 282 because I feel it is a priority to ensure that Iran is not abusing the basic rights of its people, endangering the well-being of its neighbors, or destabilizing the region. H.R. 282 strengthens existing United States sanctions against Iran, authorizes support to democratic reformers within Iran, and calls for American investors to divest their holdings of companies invested in Iran's energy sector. The legislation is designed to deny Iran the necessary funds to advance its quest for nuclear weapons.

Iran is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has foresworn acquiring nuclear weapons. Yet, it operated a clandestine nuclear program for nearly two decades before it was exposed in 2002.

Iran's continued behavior has led to the decision by the International Atomic Energy Agency to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council. Late last month, the Security Council issued a unanimous statement reiterating calls by the IAEA and members of the international community for Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment efforts and permit U.N. inspectors to reenter Iranian nuclear facilities. Now the United States Congress must use every diplomatic and economic tool at its disposal to address this situation.

While Iran must be held accountable for its actions, I will be demanding that the President of the United States seek the consent of Congress before any military plans are considered. There is no military solution to resolving this conflict. The only solution is to use diplomacy, work with the international community, and promote change in Iran from within.

Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons threatens the stability of the entire Middle East and could spark a dangerous and unprecedented nuclear arms race. I urge all of my colleagues to act now and support H.R. 282.

FREEDOM FOR ALFREDO MANUEL PULIDO LÓPEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues about Alfredo Manuel Pulido López, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Dr. Pulido López is a dentist, an independent journalist and a member of the Christian Liberation Movement. He believes in writing and speaking the truth about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. As a dentist, trained in protecting and nurturing human life, he could not tolerate the tyrant's incessant abuse of Cuban people. He understood the human condition and he knew that freedom is infinitely superior to the ills of tyranny and repression.

On March 18, 2003, as part of the dictator's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Dr. Pulido López was arrested because of his belief in liberty over repression. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 14 years in the inhuman, totalitarian gulag.

On April 18, 2006, Dr. Pulido López's wife Rebeca Rodriguez Sauto visited him and found that his health has significantly worsened. According to the report that she filed with Cubanet, Dr. Pulido López is dangerously malnourished, deeply depressed and distraught. She reports that he is afflicted with chronic bronchitis and dark bruises of an unknown origin have appeared on his skin.

Despite his seriously declining health, Dr. Pulido López stated in the Cubanet report that he has no real reason to ask for a medical parole since he is an innocent man to begin with and what the dictatorship's officials really have to give him is freedom. He continued telling his wife, "I am more firm in my convictions every day. I am not going to renounce them. They know that my health is affected. They can do what they want."

Dr. Pulido López's commitment to freedom, in the face of declining health in the grotesque gulag, is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian gulags are full of men and women, like Dr. Pulido López, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, we must speak out and act against this abominable disregard for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom just 90 miles from our shore. My colleagues, before it is too late, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Alfredo Manuel Pulido López and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO THE VILLAGE OF BREESE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Breese, Illinois upon her sesquicentennial. The Village of Breese was formed in 1856 and will celebrate her sesquicentennial on June 2-4, 2006.

Breese was settled in 1822 by way of the Goshen Road. The first Post Office was established at Shoal Creek in 1855. Breese then continued to prosper by establishing roots into electrical generation in 1905 and water treatment in 1937.

Chief Justice Sidney Breese, for whom Breese is named, was an outstanding early National and State figure. He is recognized as a Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, and a United States Senator. A statue representing him now stands in Springfield, Illinois.

I am pleased to congratulate the citizens of Breese on 150 years of history in their community. I thank them for their contributions to our great Nation. May God bless Breese and may He continue to bless America.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING COLONEL
SHARON S. DERUVO

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize the long and distinguished career of Colonel Sharon S. DeRuvo, who is retiring after serving our Nation's military with distinction for over 20 years.

Colonel Sharon S. DeRuvo was commissioned through the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Institute of Nursing in 1989. She graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing and received a Master of Science Degree from the University of Arizona in 1992. She also earned a Master of Strategic Studies Degree in 2003 from the Army War College.

Colonel DeRuvo has held a variety of positions culminating in her current assignment as Commander, General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Past assignments include staff nurse positions at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, Denver, Colorado and Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. She also held positions as Head Nurse, Hematology-Oncology, Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Director, Quality Assurance, Brooke Army Medical Center, Texas; Assistant Chief, Department of Clinical Investigation, Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii; Chief, Medical Nursing Section and Chief Clinical Nursing at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany; and Deputy Commander for Health Services, Fort Carson, Colorado.

Colonel DeRuvo has earned numerous decorations and badges for her outstanding service in the military. Her awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters. She has received several Tri-Service Nursing Research Grants, and was awarded the Orthopedic Surgeons and Nurses National Research Award. She is a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit and the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Colonel Sharon S. DeRuvo for her exceptional service to the United States and will wish her and her family all the best in the days ahead.

LOBBYING ACCOUNTABILITY AND
TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 3, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4975) to provide greater transparency with respect to lobbying activities, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I am disappointed and regretful that I must vote against this bill, for two reasons—first, because it fails to adequately address the need for real reform of the lobbying rules, and, second, because the Republican leadership has insisted on adding unrelated, unnecessary and undesirable restrictions on political speech.

The bill does include some good reform provisions, but they fall short of what is needed.

For example, it would add some transparency regarding appropriations earmarks. I support that, which is why I am cosponsoring H.R. 4964, the Earmark Transparency and Accountability Act of 2006, introduced by Representative FLAKE. That bill would require all earmarks to be included in the texts of bills, so they would be known and could be debated and also would bar consideration of a conference report unless it includes a list of all earmarks and the name of the Member who proposed each earmark and was available to the general public on the Internet for at least 72 hours before its consideration.

Unfortunately, the earmark provisions of this bill do not meet that standard.

Similarly, the bill takes a step toward greater ethics training for Congressional staff. I also support that, which is why I have joined my Colorado colleague, Representative HEFLEY, in sponsoring H.R. 4988, the House Ethics Reform Act of 2006. That bill not only would require mandatory annual ethics training for Members of the House and House officers, it also includes provisions that would strengthen the ethics committee and enable it to carry out the job of ensuring compliance with the House's rules and standards of conduct.

So, unfortunately, here too the bill falls short of what is needed.

Similarly, the bill would do nothing meaningful to tighten the current House gift rule or curb meals from registered lobbyists. It would do nothing meaningful to curb the abuse that can come from the availability of corporate jets for Members. And it would do nothing to slow the revolving door, retaining the current 1-year period in which former Members are prohibited from lobbying their former colleagues.

Those shortcomings would have been corrected by adoption of the motion to recommit, which would have added provisions from H.R. 4682, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act, which I am cosponsoring. However, unfortunately, that motion was not adopted.

But the worst part of all is that the bill, already watered down, was corrupted by the addition of H.R. 513, dealing with so-called "527" organizations—a bill that I strongly opposed when the House considered it last month.

That legislation would bring independent groups under the jurisdiction of the Federal

Election Commission (FEC) and subject them to the full scope of federal election law regulation—even though this not necessary to remove any appearance of public corruption—and it would restrict the freedom of speech of people who band together to express themselves about federal candidates and issues of national importance. It also would lift limits on coordinated expenditures, allowing national party committees to completely underwrite individual campaigns.

I cannot support these provisions—and so I cannot support the overall bill.

HONORING MRS. BONNIE SCOTT
GENDASZEK AND MS. LOIS ELIZABETH
LYONS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mrs. Bonnie Scott Gendaszek, an eighth grade mathematics teacher at John Witherspoon Middle School in Princeton, New Jersey and Ms. Lois Elizabeth Lyons, a high school science teacher at High Technology High School in Lincroft, New Jersey. Mrs. Gendaszek and Ms. Lyons are the two New Jersey recipients of the 2005 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching program is administered by the National Science Foundation to recognize and reward outstanding mathematics and science teachers who serve as role models for their colleagues, and to encourage these talented individuals to remain in the teaching field. We must, as Members of Congress, celebrate these fine individuals.

Each of us is in Congress today because we had along the journey of our education, teachers who inspired us to achieve, to inquire, to excel, and to dream.

Teaching today is different than when we were in eighth grade or high school. It is not just the content of mathematics and science courses that is different. Additionally, there is more valid scientific research in the area of how students learn and how to integrate mathematics and science knowledge into their intellect, and into their lives. We know that students must be engaged in the learning process, actively involved in the lesson, not just listening to the teacher.

Mrs. Gendaszek's classroom is one of questioning for deeper understanding. She has created a learning community of inquisitive middle-schoolers who seek to understand mathematics in their everyday lives. This is no small accomplishment, Mr. Speaker. To create such an environment requires daily dedication to her students.

Ms. Lyons' classroom is also one of questions and exploration. She has learned how to make chemistry less intimidating to her student by connecting the concepts to her students' lives first, thus engaging their curiosity. Research into student motivation tells us that relevance is key to facilitating intrinsic motivation in students and creating life-long learners.

Teachers in our Nation do not receive enough respect or recognition for the work that they do each day of the school year for