

our country's fiscal problems. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to act as soon as possible, in a fiscally sound way, to prevent serious consequences for current and future generations.

**FREEDOM FOR EMILIO LEYVA
PÉREZ**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Emilio Leyva Pérez, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Leyva Pérez is a pro-democracy activist, President of the opposition group Hard Front Line and a delegate of the pro-freedom coalition Assembly to Promote Civil Society. Because of Mr. Leyva Pérez's steadfast conviction in human liberty and his constant work to bring freedom to an island enslaved by the nightmare that is the Castro regime, he has been a constant target of the dictatorship.

Amnesty International classified him as a prisoner of conscience after he was arrested by the terrorist regime on February 22, 2002. He was locked in the totalitarian gulag for over 2 years, without ever being convicted of a supposed "crime."

The U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices—2005, describes the deplorable conditions in the totalitarian gulag, "Prison conditions continued to be harsh and life threatening. Conditions in detention facilities also were harsh. Prison authorities frequently beat, neglected, isolated, and denied medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, particularly those convicted of political crimes or those who persisted in expressing their views . . . Prisoners sometimes were held in "punishment cells," which usually were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi-dark conditions, no available water, and only a hole for a toilet."

Despite over 2 years in this hellish gulag, Mr. Leyva Pérez never wavered in his commitment to freedom for all Cubans. As part of the tyrant's heinous July 2005 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy opponents, on July 13, 2005, Mr. Leyva Pérez and other opposition activists were detained whilst commemorating the "13 de Marzo" tugboat sinking of 1994, when the dictatorship murdered dozens of unarmed men, women and children. Once again, the tyranny has locked Mr. Leyva Pérez in the totalitarian gulag awaiting "trial."

Mr. Leyva Pérez is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba. His bravery and courage in defiance of tyranny serve as a tragic reminder that the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Leyva Pérez is suffering in a grotesque gulag because he believes in freedom, democracy and human rights. My colleagues, it is categorically unacceptable that peaceful pro-democracy activists are languishing in the depraved prisons of tyrants.

**TRIBUTE TO FATHER BRENDAN
NALLY**

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Father Brendan Nally. I am proud to join with the members of Our Lady of the Rosary in Clinton, Massachusetts in saluting him with a special celebration of his retirement as well as the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the priesthood in the Catholic Church.

Since 1989, Father Nally has served as Pastor of "Holy Rosary," as the Church located in the Acre District of Clinton is known. As the one priest assigned to the Parish during the past 17 years, Father Nally has singularly ministered to the spiritual needs of all the parishioners—saying all the daily and weekly Masses, performing all the religious sacraments and ceremonies including baptisms, weddings and funerals, visiting the sick and elderly, as well as performing all the administrative tasks and duties required for the operation of the Church. Throughout this period, Father Nally has endeared himself not only to the many families and members of his Parish but to countless citizens of the Town of Clinton.

As a recognized community leader, Father Nally has been a strong supporter of the local youth of the town. In addition to coordinating and overseeing a strong religious education program for the children of Holy Rosary, he has ensured that a program of other youth activities be maintained. He has also been a loyal fan and booster of the local school athletic teams, attending and cheering on the town's athletes to victory. When the Clinton Public Schools needed a clergy member to participate in the Baccalaureate Exercises for graduating seniors, Father Nally was there. Whenever other organizations needed help, Father Nally was only too glad to be of assistance—as, for example, when a local Alcoholics Anonymous chapter or an Irish step-dancing group needed a meeting place and the parish hall was made available to them.

As if he didn't already have enough duties and obligations to fulfill during his busy days, Father Nally also answered the call and served for a number of years as Chaplain to the Massachusetts Department of Corrections Pre-Release Center in the nearby town of Lancaster.

Prior to his most recent assignment as Pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary, Father Nally had served as a Pastor and Associate Pastor at a number of other Parishes throughout the Diocese of Worcester in Central Massachusetts. Additionally, his priestly service included periods as a faculty member and Headmaster at several Catholic High Schools in the region.

A native of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, Father Nally attended LaSalette Preparatory Seminary and LaSalette Major Seminary in Ipswich, Massachusetts and was ordained a Priest on May 5, 1956.

The 50th Anniversary of Father Nally's Ordination as a Priest, and his remarkable record of outstanding service to the Church, certainly deserves to be applauded and celebrated. His rich legacy of religious ministry and service has touched and improved the lives of so

many people, and I am truly honored to offer my personal thanks and congratulations. I know that my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to this wonderful man of God and in extending very best wishes for a retirement blessed with continued health and happiness to Father Brendan Nally.

**NATIONAL CHILDCARE PROVIDER
APPRECIATION**

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize May 12th, 2006 as National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day. Child care providers are all too often unsung heroes. Yet early childhood is a critical developmental period for children and it takes a special person to work in this field. The contribution of childcare providers to the quality of family life is certainly deserving of recognition by this body.

Started in 1996 by a group of volunteers, National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day is appropriately celebrated each year on the Friday before Mother's Day. This recognition takes many forms, including state and municipal government proclamations, local media coverage, business and community events, and the personal acknowledgment of providers by parents.

The childcare profession not only plays a critical role in supporting healthy families and children, but is also a key part of the economy. A recent National Child Care Association study shows that there are at least 2.8 million people who earn their living by teaching or caring for young children. It is also estimated that of the 21 million children under age 6 in America, 13 million are in child care at least part-time. An additional 24 million school-age children are in some form of child care outside of school-time.

I am proud to recognize Wyoming childcare providers and their efforts to make Wyoming's bright future even brighter through their dedicated care. In a state with wide open spaces, Wyoming's daycare providers have wide open arms with which they embrace our children to help them grow and prosper.

With that, I commend our nation's childcare providers and invite my colleagues to do the same on National Childcare Provider Appreciation Day.

**STATEMENT HONORING THE TOWN
OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT ON
THE OCCASION OF ITS 200TH AN-
NIVERSARY**

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Town of Canton, Connecticut, on the occasion of its 200th Anniversary on May 20, 2006.

While the Town of Canton officially celebrates its bicentennial on this date, the community that became Canton actually traces its roots as far back as 1737, when it was known

as the First Ecclesiastical District of West Simsbury. The community officially separated from the Town of Simsbury on May 20, 1806, taking the name Canton, which means "division of territory."

Many generations of hard-working people have lived and worked in Canton throughout its 200 years. When David and Samuel Collins and their cousin William Wells sought natural waterways for factory power, they settled in Canton in 1826. Through their industriousness, they developed the world's first factory devoted to making axes, which eventually became the world's largest manufacturer of edged tools. The Collins Company also gained recognition as one of the world's most innovative manufacturers, after Samuel Collins developed the utilization of anthracite coal for factory operation—a significant step in igniting our country's Industrial Revolution.

Of course, the Collins Company would not have realized this impressive and historical success were it not for the hard-working citizens who helped establish a very solid industrial base in the region. Many generations of Canton residents have stood out and have had important roles in shaping the town's history for the past 200 years. One of Canton's most famous citizens, William Edgar Symonds, earned the Medal of Honor for bravery while fighting with the Union Army in the Civil War. After the war, Mr. Symonds became a well-known patent attorney and political figure, rising to the position of Speaker of the House in the State Legislature. Later, as a U.S. Congressman, he helped pass legislation to protect patents on an international level, and was awarded the French Legion of Merit.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Canton, Connecticut, upon achieving its 200th Anniversary. I applaud the generations of Canton citizens who have helped this town grow since its founding in 1806, and I commend today's Canton residents for everything they do to make sure that this great town will enjoy a prosperous and productive future.

CHRONIC HEPATITIS B NEEDS PRIORITIZATION AS A SERIOUS HEALTH CONCERN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues for sending so many staff members to today's "AIM for the B" briefing designed to elevate awareness of chronic hepatitis B, a serious health issue in the United States. This briefing emphasized the importance of increasing diagnosis, screening, and treatment, particularly for Asian Pacific Islander Americans who are disproportionately affected with the disease.

I joined my colleague, Rep. CHARLIE DENT of Pennsylvania, and representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), patient advocacy organizations, physicians, and patients to convey the potential consequences of chronic hepatitis B and to layout actions needed to increase awareness and address the continued progression of this infectious disease.

Rep. DENT and I have introduced H.R. 4550, the National Hepatitis B Act, which

would authorize additional resources to more effectively research, track, diagnose, treat and manage chronic hepatitis B. I urge my colleagues to recognize chronic hepatitis B as a potentially life-threatening disease and to help us enact this bill in the 109th Congress. Together, we can make a difference in addressing this national and global public health issue.

We are extremely fortunate to have vaccines and treatments available that were not available 25 years ago. With treatment, patients have a better chance at beating this disease and preventing its progression to liver disease. However, there is much work that remains to be done. We need to increase public education about chronic hepatitis B and its relation to liver disease, help infected patients and their physicians identify and manage this disease, and work to increase the length and quality of life for patients chronically infected with chronic hepatitis B. Unfortunately, vaccination rates remain low and the hepatitis B virus continues to be one of the most commonly reported vaccine preventable diseases in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am especially concerned about the tremendous impact that chronic hepatitis B has on the Asian Pacific Islander American community. As many as 1 in 10 Asian Pacific Islander Americans have chronic hepatitis B.

Today's "AIM for the B" briefing and next week's National Hepatitis B Awareness Week events in California and New York are encouraging steps in the right direction. We have the ability to stop the spread and progression of this disease and it is the responsibility to help our constituents affected by chronic hepatitis B.

THE TRUTH ABOUT HIGH GAS PRICES

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, on May 3, 2006, the House of Representatives voted on legislation, H.R. 5253, to federally prohibit price gouging in the sale of gasoline, diesel, home heating oil, and biofuels. While I am committed to working with my colleagues to enact energy policies that will lower gas prices and help out American families, I do not believe that this legislation will help.

I voted against this legislation because I believe it irresponsible to criminalize an action without defining exactly what we would be criminalizing. As my constituents in East Texas would say, this legislation simply does not pass the smell test. Not only does this legislation criminalize an action without defining the crime, but it passes off that responsibility to unelected bureaucrats at the Federal Trade Commission. Thus, this legislation could effectively criminalize profit making by companies according to some artificial and arbitrary definition determined by bureaucrats in Washington—and that's not the American way.

Additionally, at a November 9, 2005, joint hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, Fed-

eral Trade Commissioner Deborah Platt Majoras testified that federal price gouging laws would unnecessarily hurt consumers, instead emphasizing that enforcement of our current antitrust laws is the best method by which to protect American consumers. I find it interesting that not even the Federal Trade Commission believes that federal price gouging laws are an effective protection for consumers.

While I believe that price gouging may exist in limited circumstances, such as the immediate aftermath of a hurricane where market forces have broken down, I have seen no evidence that we are experiencing high gas prices because of price gouging. Instead, I believe that the following factors are responsible for high gasoline prices: (1) A huge increase in worldwide demand, especially in China and India; (2) Supply uncertainty and political instability from large producers like Iran, Venezuela and Nigeria; (3) Over-reliance on the Gulf Coast region; (4) Environmental concerns limiting domestic production and refining; (5) Failure of new technologies to yet mature. Only through increasing our domestic production and reducing excessive federal regulations will we create conditions for lower gasoline prices in the future.

In the face of high gas prices, Congress must not pass knee-jerk reaction legislation that will only worsen the problem in the future. We owe it to our constituents to pass solid, sensible legislation that will promote American energy independence in the future and address this issue in the long term. Ultimately, I did not believe this bill would do anything to lower gas prices for my constituents.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE MILWAUKEE YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, MYSO. MYSO was started in 1956, with assistance from the Junior League Children's Arts Program, the Milwaukee Art Center and later the Rotary Club. It has since grown into a valued community institution and the largest youth orchestra program in the Nation.

MYSO provides valuable education and character development for all of its young participants. Through participation in MYSO programs, young musicians develop discipline and creative problem-solving skills, and learn to work as part of a team. MYSO provides young artists with exposure to professional musicians and master teachers. Since its inception, the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra has become one of the most respected youth orchestras in the United States, serving almost 800 young musicians in a range of programs that include several large orchestras in addition to smaller and more specialized ensemble groups. MYSO alumni have gone on to distinguished careers as professional musicians, and have become accomplished and dedicated supporters of arts in the community.

MYSO has also made a significant commitment to bringing arts into the community. As