

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

2006 NATIONAL OSTEOPOROSIS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize that the 2006 National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month will be observed this May.

There are currently 44 million Americans, age 50 or older, who have osteoporosis. In addition, an estimated 1.5 million fractures are attributed to this disease every year. Although this disease has commonly been associated with women, it is prevalent in men as well. Nearly two million men currently live with osteoporosis, millions of others are at risk and one in eight men older than 50 years will have an osteoporotic fracture.

Furthermore, the risk for osteoporosis does increase with age. However, it is important to adopt good diet with calcium and vitamin D during childhood and adolescence to prevent a person from being diagnosed with low bone mass later on.

As we observe the National Osteoporosis Awareness Month, I would like to urge providers and individuals to discuss osteoporosis and carry out bone mineral density diagnostic tests when necessary.

In addition, I would like to commend the National Osteoporosis Foundation for bringing awareness to this debilitating disease, providing educational material on this issue, and supporting a search for a cure since 1984. They have entitled this year's campaign "Osteoporosis . . . it matters" and will be hosting events throughout the nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to promote the National Osteoporosis Awareness Month and honor the National Osteoporosis Foundation staff for all of their hard work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain how I would have voted on May 22, 2006 during rollcall votes #177 and #178 during the second session of the 109th Congress. The first vote was for S. 1235, the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2005. The second vote was for H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2005.

If present, I would have voted "yes" on these rollcall votes.

PALESTINIAN-ANTI TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, as someone with a great interest in Israel, Middle Eastern affairs, and world peace, I believe that we should remain cognizant of the importance of open communication, peaceful dialogue, and positive debate. I have a sincere affection and respect for both people and I pray for a peaceful resolution of deep seeded differences. We are living in historic times, and we have an opportunity to play a significant part in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

This legislation rightly calls upon Hamas to renounce terrorism, and recognize Israel as an independent, sovereign, Jewish and democratic state. I too recognize the need for a secure Israel and the need for a peaceful resolution for the Israel and Palestinian people. For many, peace is a long awaited dream and I am certain that with time, they will eventually realize this dream. I also advocate for cessation of aid to a Hamas led government of Palestinian Authority since they have refused to renounce violence and terrorism as part of their military tactics. I am certain a government that refuses to curtail their terrorist ideals can run the gamut on outrageous and purposefully unrealistic demands.

I am concerned that some of the provisions of H.R. 4681 directly undermine the goal of securing peace.

I question the prudence in ostracizing Hamas from the international community and forbidding contact with the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Legislative Council when some of its members do not belong to Hamas or any foreign terrorist organization. Many of these members have in fact renounced terrorism, recognized Israel and negotiated the prior agreements. I am concerned that these tactics will only hurt relationships with moderate Palestinian leaders whose support and cooperation are vital to ensuring peace.

I am not resigned to the notion that impoverishing a country and hence a people falls within the scope of our duties in ensuring a peaceful resolution. These people are already suffering tremendous poverty and unemployment increases.

We must find a way to punish the evil doers without victimizing their innocent neighbors. I am certain that this legislation surpasses the formation of a militaristic strategy and enters the venue of instilling punitive economic and diplomatic sanctions against the Palestinian people. We cannot restrict U.S. humanitarian aid and potentially eliminate entire U.S. aid projects, such as vital infrastructure and small business development. We cannot threaten to withhold a portion of U.S. dues to the United

Nations because it allows bodies to advocate for Palestinian human rights. I am concerned about the innocent people who will suffer the consequences in denouncing the provisions of the U.S. free trade agreement with the West Bank and Gaza.

I know that refusing visas to members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, including those who belong to political parties that the United States does not classify as "foreign terrorist organizations," will deter ensuring a peaceful resolution. I am concerned that negating visas to members of the PLO diplomats at the United Nations and threatening to close the PLO's office in Washington will close the channels of communication.

Madam Speaker, I have long been an advocate for peace and I pray for a peaceful resolution of the Arab and Israeli people. It is in that spirit, and with that faith, that I will continue to work with the administration to ensure the United States remains firm in its commitment to the security of Israel and to those principles necessary to guarantee the success of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The wording of this Resolution changed to include much of the negative language after I signed on as a co-sponsor.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOACHIM MATTHEW CHAVEZ

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Joachim Matthew Chavez, a life-long teacher and strong advocate of public education.

Mr. Chavez will retire this year from a 30 year career as a public school educator. Originally from Yuma, Arizona, he graduated from Yuma High School, home of the Criminals and later attended Arizona Western College and Northern Arizona University. He started his career teaching History and English in Parker, Arizona and later moved to Somerton, Arizona where he spent most of his professional career. He created and developed the district's first Bilingual Program where students learned to use their native language skills as a base for English instruction. He later served as the District Director of the Bilingual Programs. He was named Somerton's Teacher of the Year in 1988 and again in 1990.

His dedication did not stop at the school gate but he also committed himself to teaching Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) courses in the evenings and weekends to farmworkers in the Yuma Valley. An active member of the religious community, he taught religious education for over 25 years. As an involved parent, he was a Little League Baseball and Youth Soccer Coach, Ballet Folkloric sponsor, a parent Band Booster, and a supporter of the Cibola Thespian Group.

He and his wife Annette have become role models and mentors to many young teaching

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

professionals. Fully bilingual themselves, they provided area families an opportunity to learn about how parents can have a lasting impact in their children's education.

Mr. Chavez has been credited with elevating the district's English Language Learning program to a level of significant academic achievement among students.

I would like to personally commend Mr. Joachim Matthew Chavez for his tireless commitment to our community. His life and work are examples of service and of hope.

IN MEMORY OF MAJOR MATTHEW W. WORRELL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of MAJ Matthew W. Worrell from my hometown of Lewisville, TX, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for serving our country during Iraqi Freedom. Major Worrell died Sunday, May 14, after insurgents shot down his U.S. helicopter during a raid against Al Qaeda militants in Iraq. He was 34 years old.

MAJ. Matthew W. Worrell was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell, KY, better known as the "Night Stalkers." The 160th is an elite avian unit deployed in nearly every conflict and transports Special Forces units around the world by night in specially modified helicopters.

I would like to recognize and celebrate MAJ Matthew W. Worrell's life today. Major Worrell spent 11 years in the Army and served as a platoon leader for the special operations group after previously servicing in the 101st Airborne Division.

MAJ. Matthew W. Worrell was a dedicated soldier who earned the respect of those around him. COL Kevin Mangum, the commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, said in a written statement, "They were warriors, heroes, fellow Night Stalkers and our friends," of Major Worrell and his fellow officer killed in the battle.

Major Worrell's family said he never doubted why he was there.

Today, I celebrate the life of MAJ Matthew W. Worrell. He was truly a soldier, a husband, a father and an American who understood his duty. It was my honor to represent MAJ Matthew W. Worrell, and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and his service was greatly appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA S. WALKER

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Sandra S. Walker, principal of Rock Creek Forest Elementary School in Chevy Chase, MD, who is retiring after a long and distinguished career with the Montgomery County Public Schools.

Mrs. Walker attended Montgomery County public schools as a student and has now spent more than 30 years working for MCPS as a teacher and administrator.

For the past 18 years Mrs. Walker has been principal at a very challenging and complex school. Rock Creek Forest Elementary School has both an English community program and a countywide Spanish immersion magnet program. The school also blends a student body of great ethnic and economic diversity. Mrs. Walker has served this school with dedication and distinction.

On behalf of the students, parents, teachers and staff of Rock Creek Forest Elementary School, I am privileged to extend my gratitude and appreciation to Sandra Walker for her service to our children and our community. Congratulations on an exemplary career. You have my best wishes for an enjoyable retirement. You will be missed at Rock Creek Forest.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 22, 2006, I was unavoidably absent due to a previously scheduled official commitment. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 177: "yes" on S. 1235—Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2005.

(2) Rollcall No. 178: "yes" on H.R. 3858—Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2005.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, it is not very often that JIM McDERMOTT rises to support this President, but that is precisely what I am doing now.

The President does not want his hands tied by the passage of H.R. 4681. I couldn't agree more.

H.R. 4681, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006, will not make Israel safer, will not meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people, and will not give our diplomats the tools they need to help find a path to peace in the Mideast.

For all of these reasons, I oppose it, and I urge my colleagues to reconsider.

I believe in diplomacy as a means to correct injustice around the world. I believe gifted diplomats can accomplish as much with words and deeds as the military can with guns and soldiers.

There is no question that the United States must take all appropriate steps to ensure that terrorists like Hamas are denied access to our financial aid. Not a penny should go to those who do not renounce terrorism.

Hamas is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of innocent Israelis before coming to

power. Since then, they have neither renounced the use of violence nor recognized Israel. This is unacceptable.

By all means, we must deny Hamas dollars that would buy hatred, but we must remember that Hamas and the Palestinian people are not one and the same.

Even as we deny any and all assistance to Hamas, we must not hurt those Palestinians who are working for peace. If we fail to support them, I have no doubt that Israel will pay the ultimate price: more instability in the West Bank and Gaza, more desperation, and more terrorism.

America's leadership is on the line in the Middle East, and more instability is something we need to avoid at all cost. We still have 130,000 American soldiers in harm's way in Iraq; we can't afford to make any more poor choices related to that region.

But, that's exactly what we will do if we pass this bill. It doesn't make sense for the United States to limit political and economic aid to moderates, like Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

He and others have met our government's requirements by recognizing Israel, renouncing violence and terrorism against Israel, and accepting all previously signed Israeli-Palestinian agreements. What happens if we turn our back on leaders trying to heal a millennium of hate?

And what can we expect if we turn our backs on the real and growing humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people? It doesn't make sense to put restrictions on funding the NGOs that provide the Palestinian people with hospitals and schools.

As a medical doctor, I am gravely concerned about the fate of millions of innocent Palestinians who rely on international aid for food, health care, and for developing their economy and businesses.

Recent news reports say that international sanctions are preventing hospitals in Gaza from providing dialysis machines for patients, and they may not be able to supply immunizations to children.

The World Health Organization sees a "rapid decline of the public health system . . . towards a possible collapse." If left untreated, these conditions will nurture a breeding ground for more hatred, more violence, and more terrorism.

This bill will only increase the restrictions on aid to the Palestinians and that will make the already dire situation even worse.

As a doctor I took an oath to heal. As a nation, we took an oath to lead. Allowing innocent Palestinians to go hungry, while denying them medical treatment cannot possibly correct injustice, or lead to peace.

If passed, this bill will be seen as anti-Palestinian, and the resulting chaos and animosity can only threaten the relative calm that Israel has enjoyed for the past year and a half. This bill does not help Israel.

Many of the Israeli leaders I've spoken to, think this bill goes too far by punishing all Palestinians, not just Hamas. They understand that a radicalized population will show more support for Hamas, not less.

During a recent trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories, I saw how both sides deeply yearn for peace. And I saw firsthand how they need the United States to do all it can to help them make peace. The Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act will make this task enormously difficult.