

funding that some Palestinians unfortunately rely on to survive. But none of us here want to see the Israeli people suffer either. Hamas wants to and will take every opportunity to kill Israelis and Jews of other nationalities. It says so in their charter. And it was demonstrated just weeks ago in the bombing of a Tel Aviv restaurant, in which a close relative of my good friend ERIC CANTOR was murdered.

Leading the world by example is not easy, Mr. Speaker. It requires hard choices, it requires moral courage, and it requires standing on principle. Some of our closest friends overseas may try to take the easy way out by offering incentives to an unreformed Hamas government. But today the House stands with Israel, as we always have, against terrorism. We encourage the Administration to stand firm; and today we give them legislation to help them do just that. I look forward to working with colleagues from the Senate to get this bill to the President's desk. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 4681.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I missed the following votes because I was traveling on a congressional delegation to Egypt: S. 1235, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act, as amended (No. 177). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye." H.R. 3858, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (No. 178). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during yesterday's rollcall votes on S. 1235, the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act, and H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both bills.

LOUISIANA SCHOOL RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

HON. BOBBY JINDAL

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, recently more than 1,200 students from across the country participated in the national finals competition of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution. This is one of the most extensive educational programs in the country developed specifically to educate young men and women about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The program is administered by the

Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education. It is my distinct pleasure to announce the competition's Unit 5 Award winner: Grace King High School from Metairie, LA.

The national finals are an arduous 3-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which the students testify before a panel of judges on constitutional topics. Students from many schools demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. This year's winner, Grace King High School, is an educational institution known for high standards of academic achievement that has produced many talented students. The winners of this competition have proven through their hard work and meticulous study of our Constitution that they are no exception.

Mr. Speaker, the names of these outstanding students from Grace King High School are as follows:

Aaron Baer-Harsha, Patrick Berrigan, Jaime Bruno, Lily Chen, Caitlyn Clarke, Paulius Donauskas, Janice Fan, Rebecca Felix, Jeremy Finnegan, Alice Ho, Tony Huang, Thomas Lambert, Krysten Le, Donald Levenson, Ali Mahbod, Elise Murphy-Mejia, Jacob O'Neil, Sean Olsen, Veronica Oro, Anna Plaksiy, Rachelle Ross, Olivia Saito, Sara Sands, and Murielle Telio.

I also wish to commend Jamie Staub, the teacher who was responsible for preparing the student class for the national finals competition. Also worthy of special recognition is John Alexander, the State coordinator, who is among those responsible for implementing the program in my district.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues in the House, please join me in congratulating these young constitutional experts from Louisiana for their outstanding achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Monday, May 22, 2006, due to unavoidable circumstances in my congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" to S. 1235—The Veteran's Benefits Improvement Act of 2005 and "yea" to H.R. 3858—The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2005.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, the January victory of Hamas in parliamentary elections in the Palestinian territories was a shock to observers worldwide and to the many of us in the United States and abroad who have repudiated violence be-

tween the Palestinians and the Jews and have repudiated attacks on the state of Israel.

The election was a shock to the peace efforts in the Middle East because its outcome resulted in the Palestinian government being controlled by a party that was legitimately elected by the voters of the Palestinian territories but that also is a party that sponsors terrorist acts against the Israeli people and whose doctrine is based upon the notion that the existence of Israel is an affront to Islam.

For there to be any progress towards peace under a Hamas-led Palestinian government, Hamas must immediately acknowledge Israel's right to exist; uphold all previous agreements including the Roadmap for Peace; rid itself of all terrorist ties and dismantle its terrorist infrastructure; ensure the continuation of democratic institutions; and how fiscal transparency. If they do not, Hamas cannot expect the support and recognition of the United States and other governments.

However, any actions carried out by the U.S. Government against Hamas must address Hamas specifically and not the Palestinian people generally and must not undermine our goals in the Middle East. The bill being voted on today by the House would undermine the U.S. Government's ability to further the peace process and it would clearly hurt the Palestinian people. It could also lead to chaos in the Palestinian territories, which would be counter to both American and Israeli interests.

I am not alone in saying that denying all aid, except in the most isolated of instances, to the Palestinian people runs counter to both American and Israeli security interests. If we provoke a humanitarian crisis there, it may very well lead to the collapse of the Hamas government but not without potentially severe costs to both law abiding Palestinians and the peace process at the same time. And it could also erode civil order.

We do not and must not ever support terrorists in the Palestinian government. However, the United States must continue to support programs providing the Palestinian people's basic needs such as food, water and medicine; programs supporting democracy, human rights, freedom of the press and non-violence; as well as peaceful co-existence with Israel.

That is why I voted against H.R. 4681. The United States has already cut off direct aid to the Hamas government. This bill would not have brought additional penalties directly to Hamas. That objective has already been achieved. But it would penalize the Palestinian people and greatly limit the Administration's diplomatic options in pursuing peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

I hope that a conference committee with the Senate might produce legislation that addresses my concerns and the concerns of my other colleagues and of many well-regarded organizations and individuals who are deeply pro-Israel and who are great supporters of humanitarian efforts in the Middle East. I look forward to being able to support a revised bill that will send the proper message to Hamas that its violence toward Israel will never be supported and to the Palestinian people that the United States stands ready to work with them to resolve this most difficult and important conflict in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS OF HUMBOLDT
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County, California.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that has worked since 1920 to improve our governmental systems and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy. A grassroots organization, working at the national, State and local levels, the League's enduring vitality is a testament to its member's commitment to their communities.

The League of Women Voters of Eureka, California was organized in 1956, and in 1981 became the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County. It has influenced public policy through education and advocacy including supporting local efforts to increase affordable housing and the development and maintenance of a high quality public education system. Additionally the League has advocated for responsible stewardship of the Humboldt Bay and has aided in improving public library facilities in the Humboldt County Library District.

From its inception the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County has provided a comprehensive nonpartisan Voter Service program to the public, including live and televised candidate forums, printed information concerning State ballot measures, voter registration booths and online resources. Since 1980 the League has published and updated "A Citizen's Guide to County Government," an excellent source of current information about local government, distributed to the public free of charge.

Since 1992 the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County has honored 18 individuals and 8 organizations at its State of the Community Luncheon, with Civic Contribution Awards for the recipients' efforts in making democracy work in Humboldt County.

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County is committed to the mission of encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government and has declared 2006 "The Year of the Voter" to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the organization's existence.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize and commend the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE JOURNEY FOR
FREEDOM RIDE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of our U.S. Veterans and the men and women motorcyclists of America, many of whom are veterans, whose

ride across America in support of our troops overseas and in honor of the service and sacrifice of our U.S. Veterans, is reflected in the rumbling wave of bikes soaring across the highways of America's heartland, echoing the universal sound of freedom, support, unity and peace.

The "Journey For Freedom Ride" began on May 17, 2006 in Tacoma, Washington, and will end in a celebration of nearly half a million riders just outside Washington, DC, on May 26. Conceived by U.S. Veterans and organized by Harley Davidson enthusiast and entrepreneur Dan Harris, founder of Global Biker Films, the "Journey For Freedom Ride" is supported by Harley Davidson Dealerships throughout the Nation, veterans groups and private businesses. The mission of the Ride is as simple and powerful as taking to the open road: To support our enlisted military women and men around the world, until they come home safely; and to ride in tribute of our veterans, especially those who've made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our entire Nation.

The "Journey For Freedom Ride" will be captured on film and sent overseas for free distribution to our troops. Global Biker Films is also planning the establishment of the "Journey for Freedom Foundation," an initiative that will provide college scholarships to the loved ones of our fallen servicemen and service-women. On May 25, 2006, the band of American freedom riders will roll into Cleveland, Ohio, at the Harley Davidson Sales Company, located on Lorain Avenue. Company owner Dan Schmidt and General Manager Joe Cervelli have offered a warm welcome to the freedom riders and veterans from our community and from the across the country.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the riders and organizers of the "Journey For Freedom Ride." Their volunteer journey of support will serve to honor our veterans and active military personnel as they rocket down the highways of America, the chrome soul of our Nation shining like a beacon of hope, roaring with the wind, blue sky, and rolling highways, and held aloft by a spirit of unity, freedom and the endless quest for peace, here at home and around the world. Ride on.

CHILDREN'S TRANSPLANT CENTER
OF PITTSBURGH CELEBRATES 25
YEARS

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues in the House that June 3 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Children's Transplant Center at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

The Children's Transplant Center was the first pediatric transplant center in the entire Nation when it was established in 1981. For 25 years, the unprecedented efforts of the surgeons and staff at the Center have continually raised the bar for pediatric transplant surgery and recovery, both nationally and around the globe.

Twenty-five years after the establishment of the Children's Transplant Center under the guidance of transplant pioneer Thomas E.

Starzl, MD, PhD, the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh today is widely recognized as a leader in developing strategies to manage organ rejection. From the first and most successful series of small intestine transplants to its breakthrough work in pediatric multi-organ transplants, Children's has repeatedly achieved major advances in the operating room and laboratory.

I commend the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh for its commitment to taking on the most challenging and difficult cases—which, by the way, has not prevented its dedicated and hard-working doctors and staff from achieving survival rates that repeatedly exceed national and international averages. I am so very proud to say that these people are the caregivers for my young constituents and for desperately sick children from around the world.

I want to extend my warmest congratulations to the Children's Transplant Center, the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and all of the surgeons and staff that are part of the Center and wish them continued success in the future.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4681, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act, PATA, which passed the House earlier today. PATA denies all direct aid to the Hamas-run Palestinian Authority until it renounces violence and recognizes Israel's right to exist.

Hamas is a terrorist organization responsible for killing hundreds of innocent men and women, including over two dozen Americans. In fact, in April, a suicide bomber killed 9 and injured over 60 civilians in Tel Aviv, but Hamas has not disavowed the act nor denied complicity.

If Hamas will not agree to fight terrorism, recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, or accept previous agreements between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, then Hamas is not a partner of the United States, let alone a partner worthy of funding from American taxpayers' hard earned dollars.

Madam Speaker, let me be clear, no one wishes to harm Palestinians or to deny them humanitarian aid. In fact, this bill ensures that humanitarian aid is still able to reach the Palestinian people, while keeping taxpayer dollars out of the hands of terrorists. Unfortunately, since its election 3 months ago, Hamas has consistently made a choice; faced with the option of peace, negotiation, and a path forward, or continued violence and the status quo, Hamas has chosen the latter. As long as Hamas continues to make that decision, the United States and her allies will continue to isolate Hamas and to deny funding to a terrorist group.

I appreciate that so many of my colleagues share my support for PATA.