

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.

TRIBUTE TO THE 14TH AIR SERVICE GROUP AND THE 987TH SIGNAL COMPANY, U.S. ARMY

### HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2006*

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Memorial Day, a day to remember those who have given their lives to preserve democracy in this great Nation, I rise today to honor the heroes of the 14th Air Service Group and the 987th Signal Company of the United States Army. These two units represent the only all-Chinese American units serving in World War II.

Chinese-American servicemembers of World War II primarily served in integrated units, in every branch of the military, and in every theater of war, including Europe, the South Pacific, the North Atlantic, and the China Burma India Theater. The members of the 14th Air Service Group and the 987th Signal Company were exceptions. Serving in segregated units, with a mix of White and Chinese-American officers, they were organized for service in China as part of a war aid package for Chiang Kai-Shek's Chinese Nationalist Government.

Several surviving members of these two units are visiting Washington this week to commemorate Memorial Day, but also to share with me their stories. Both on and off the battlefield, their life histories are a part of our Nation's fabric.

Like all of those who served, these units performed an invaluable service to this country on the battlefield. Under difficult circumstances, these units supported the aerial operations in China and enhanced communications between American and Chinese military organizations, contributing to the Allied victory in World War II.

Off the battlefield, these units and their families represent Chinese America in the 1940's. Half were American born and half were immigrants from Hong Kong and China, some as young as high school and others as old as 36 years of age leaving behind families and established businesses and careers. None foresaw leaving what had become home, returning to the country from which they came and joining a fight to protect the freedoms of their new life in America.

To the members of the 14th Air Service Group and the 987th Signal Company, I thank you for your sacrifice, steadfast bravery and love of country and for coming to share your story.

I extend my deepest gratitude to those of the 14th Air Service Group and the 987th Signal Company who did not return home or who are not with us still today. Their memories will live on through us and all servicemembers who have or will answer the call to serve. I call upon this Congress to join me today in thanking these great Americans.

TRIBUTE TO THE DES MOINES VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL 4 BY 400-METER RELAY TEAM

### HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2006*

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by Iowa students at the Iowa High School State Track Meet held at Drake stadium in Des Moines this past weekend.

I congratulate the Des Moines Valley High School 4 by 400-meter relay team for topping a 36-year-old State record on Friday, May 19. The team of Bryan Collins, Zac Sandvig, Ryan Keairnes, and Brandon McSkimming set the new record finish in 3 minutes 13.8 seconds, crushing the old record of 3 minutes 16.6 seconds. I am proud to say this time is the fifth best high school mark in the Nation for 2006.

Special recognition also needs to go to Brooke Dinsdale from North Tama High School. Brooke, a sophomore from Traer, broke the State's 25-year-old 800 meter record in 2 minutes 9.6 seconds. Only one high school girl in the United States has run a faster 800 meter race this season.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of the athletic and academic excellence of these young people from my district. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team said it best: "If you believe in yourself, have dedication and pride, and never quit, you'll be a winner. The price of victory is high, but so are the rewards." These students have felt victory on the track, and I am confident they will continue to feel victory as they go through life.

### PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I strongly oppose the manner in which H.R. 4681 was brought to the floor of the House. To bring a bill of this importance up under suspension of the rules, without the opportunity for amendment or full debate, was an unfortunate decision and is a bad way for this body to be legislating. The process should be open, with every chance for members to deliberate and offer substantive and positive change to what is a very complex bill.

H.R. 4681 is well-meaning legislation. Unfortunately, it implements a foreign policy that could potentially reduce future diplomatic options for the U.S. Department of State. While the legislation should specifically target the terrorist group Hamas, it unnecessarily includes nearly all members of the Palestinian Authority—PA—Government, and will punish the entire Palestinian people.

There is no doubt that Hamas firmly believes in terrorism as a means to achieve their goals. The U.S. must continue to denounce the group's ideology. However, H.R. 4681 includes provisions which I believe will make it even more difficult for the PA to find its way back to the roadmap and to achieve peace.

This includes expecting Hamas to reach specific benchmarks—benchmarks that no other PA government has been able to achieve—before receiving aid from the U.S. It includes expanding travel restriction and economic sanctions to include all members of the PA Government and all Palestinians, not simply those who are members of Hamas. Also, it includes no national security waiver which would allow the President the flexibility he needs to diplomatically deal with the situation.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is opposed by many non-governmental organizations, including those who are providing health, education, and humanitarian aid throughout the Middle East. It is also opposed by the Bush administration, which believes the legislation to be unnecessary. U.S. Secretary of State Rice has repeatedly spoken of the need for the U.S. to do all it can to be a leader in promoting peace in the Middle East, and she believes that this legislation is not the appropriate way in which to continue that leadership. This opposition from the very individual who is implementing and creating U.S. foreign policy should give us pause, and should give us even more reason not to be bringing this legislation up under suspension.

There is no question that the terrorist actions of Hamas necessitate action by the U.S. and that every Member of this body opposes Hamas. With passage of H.R. 4681, and passage of similar legislation in the Senate, I hope that a conference report takes into account all of the concerns that have been raised and substantively alters the content within this bill to ensure the Palestinian people do not unnecessarily suffer. We must enact smart foreign policy that is strong enough to bring about change, but which does not tie the hands of the President or marginalize moderate Palestinians who desire positive change.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2006*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on May 18, 2006 and missed rollcall vote 172, H.R. 5386. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for 172.

### TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA WONG

### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2006*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cynthia Wong who recently passed away. Ms. Wong served as a Pacoima middle-school librarian since 1994 and was an active member and officer of several professional organizations, including the California School Library Association.

Ms. Wong possessed an enormous passion for books and through this passion inspired many students. The hard work she put in as a Pacoima librarian has paid many dividends to the community. She was known to engage students through her bookmark and reading