

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

contests and would spend many hours of her own time planning and leading district workshops.

Ms. Wong's work has been so important to the community that her fellow staff members, along with her students, have decided to honor her through the dedication of a Professional Research Center and a Memorial Reading Garden. Both the center and the garden will be built next to the library that Ms. Wong loved for 12 years.

It is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join with me in saluting Ms. Wong for her outstanding achievements. She was an amazing person and her memory will live on through the Cynthia Wong Research Center and Reading Garden and through the many lives she touched.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAXINE JAMES, ESSEX COUNTY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me as I rise to congratulate my Chief of Staff, Ms. Maxine James, on her induction into the Essex County Hall of Fame. This is a well-deserved honor for Ms. James, as she has been a positive force for the betterment of Essex County for many years.

Fortunately for me and the residents of Essex County, Ms. James has always been strongly committed to meeting the needs of her community. It was through her vision and insight that some of the finest public servants in Essex County have been drawn into government service. She has also been responsible for helping to establish long-term, beneficial programs in the County, including the Newark Emergency Services for Families (NESF). NESF provides a life-line for residents of Newark and Essex County who are facing challenging situations including homelessness, a lack of heat, or the need for food to feed their families. She has contributed her time and talent to numerous community-based organizations over the years.

Throughout my years as an elected official, Ms. James has been a staunch supporter, friend and confidante. She is a true professional with a creative genius that has garnered many friends from all walks of life. Before my election to Congress, I had the privilege of working with Ms. James at Prudential Insurance Company in Newark, where she impressed me with her enormous energy, intelligence and tenacity. During my tenure on the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Maxine generously volunteered her services on several committees doing work to benefit the local community.

When I was elected to the office of Newark Municipal Council in the early 1980's, Maxine joined my team and did an excellent job running my office and providing assistance to the residents of the South Ward over the course of 7 years. In 1988, upon my election to Congress, I selected Ms. James to be my Chief of Staff, and she continues in that role today. Her loyalty is admirable and her dedication is un-

paralleled. She is indeed "one of a kind" and it is my good fortune to have benefited from that distinction.

Ms. James is the mother of two children, Chris and Brian, and the proud grandmother of two, Olivia and Malcolm.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in extending best wishes to Ms. Maxine James as she is inducted into the Essex County Hall of Fame. I am pleased to congratulate her on this very special award and wish her all the best as she continues her public service.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOEL M. CARP

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Joel M. Carp who will soon retire from the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago after 28 years of service to that organization. Through the Jewish Federation, Mr. Carp has supported the organization's goals of supporting local, national and international services in regards to human welfare.

Mr. Carp is an advocate for sound public social policy and has written over 30 articles pertaining to social work, social planning and refugee resettlement. Throughout his career, Mr. Carp has collaborated with the City of Chicago Mayor's Task Force on issues from hunger to homelessness. Additionally, Mr. Carp was appointed to work with the City of Chicago on welfare reform.

Previous to his work with the Jewish Federation, Mr. Carp devoted 20 years to the Jewish Community Field Center. Mr. Carp has worked in partnership with various organizations such as HIAS, NYANA and OMB Watch to champion for societal improvements. Moreover, Mr. Carp taught as a social work field Professor at various universities in their graduate programs.

Mr. Carp is a man of integrity who keeps his word. At the request of my Chief of Staff Richard Boykin and Craig Roberts, Chief of Staff for Representative JOHN SHIMKUS, Mr. Carp organized an Illinois Chiefs of Staff delegation to visit Israel. During the visit, the Illinois Chiefs of Staff learned many interesting things about Israel and had the good fortune of meeting with the current Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Mr. Carp is highly esteemed for his social policy work and was recently presented with the Melvin A. Block Award for Professional Distinction. Mr. Carp is a pride to the Chicago community and his many years of work are incredibly appreciated. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, please join with me and the residents of the Seventh Congressional District in saluting Mr. Carp for his achievements in the Jewish community, the Chicago-land area and the United States.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I plan to publish additional thoughts elsewhere about why I voted against H.R. 4681, The Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006. I expect to be joined in these thoughts by Dr. Bruce Hoffman, a world renowned expert on the subject of terrorism. For now, however, let me simply offer the following brief observations for today's RECORD, particularly because my vote so angered a valued colleague of mine.

In my view, H.R. 4681 passed the House by an overwhelming majority earlier today because my colleagues seek the end of violent jihadist terrorism and are committed to protecting Israel and its citizens. As my words, votes and actions consistently show, I strongly share these objectives. But at this juncture, I would try a different strategy to attain them.

The storied Archibald Wavell, then a young British officer who had served on Allenby's staff in Palestine, offered this prescient bit of irony about the treaties ending World War I: "After the 'war to end war' they seem to have been pretty successful in Paris at making a 'peace to end peace'." That his prediction has come true thus far is of grave concern to the United States and Israel, two fast allies facing violent jihadist enemies with access to ever more sophisticated killing technology. Somehow we must break the cycle of hatred and violence.

Though facially counterintuitive given its history of hatred and violence, I believe Hamas' victory in the Palestinian elections offers a rare, if slim, opportunity to break this cycle, an opportunity well worth exploring given the enormous stakes and intractable nature of the problem. Unfortunately H.R. 4681 squanders that opportunity by rushing to judgment about the added danger of Hamas as a majority legislative party and by merely continuing strategies that have failed for decades to secure a lasting peace. It and the economic embargo already undertaken by Israel and the United States are apt to further radicalize the Palestinian population (and the Arab world generally), accelerating and extending the cycle of violence and broadening the opportunity for Al Qaeda in Palestine.

Hamas, in the short run, cannot credibly agree to the three preconditions set in H.R. 4681. But it can agree to a cessation of violence while diplomacy progresses. With luck, time and diplomatic skill, that might lead to a peace agreement accepted by Hamas and, hence, worth something more than the paper evidencing it. Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh has said that Hamas could redefine its position if doing so would further the interests of the Palestinian people. And polls consistently show a majority of Palestinians will accept a two state solution and recognition of Israel.

Hamas now enjoys Ariel Sharon-like strength and credibility among Arabs and Palestinians. No question its election victory at least calls for extra vigilance and caution from Israel and the West. It has committed acts of terrorism which all decent people condemn in