

with the skills to guide him through the ranks of the Tennessee Highway Patrol. As a testament to this young man's character over 1,110 people attended his funeral service.

Through this senseless tragedy, I hope the people of Tennessee will reflect on how much we actually owe the law enforcement officers who risk everything for the sake of protecting us. I will continue praying for their safety and that of their loved ones.

At this difficult time I doubt many words will comfort his wife, mother, father, brothers, sister and extended family during this time of profound loss. They should know that the State of Tennessee is deeply saddened by their loss and will forever appreciate Trooper Jenks's service. As Horatio said in Shakespeare's Hamlet, "Now cracks a noble heart. Good night, sweet prince and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

MOURNING THE PASSING OF
PRESIDENT GERALD RUDOLPH
FORD

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Madam Speaker, last week, Congress received the body of the late President Gerald Rudolph Ford, our 38th President, to lie in State in the Rotunda. He was the second President for whom I felt such an endearment that it felt as if I'd lost a friend.

I first met President Ford along with President Carter several years ago when I called on both men to support legislation I had introduced to give those who had been incarcerated, paid their debt to society, and had become productive citizens a restoration of their voting rights. In speaking with him, I found him to be very sensitive and understanding of that important issue. He said that it was the decent thing to do and signed a letter (along with President Carter and myself) asking President George W. Bush to submit a proclamation to all States to ensure these citizens' voting rights.

Two years later, I had the opportunity to meet with him and his beloved wife, Betty, at Rancho Mirage along with Governor Schwarzenegger and others to discuss federal legislation for California. We continued our discussion on voting rights, and I became further impressed with his modesty despite the fact that he had served at the highest level in this country.

Gerald R. Ford was a man of character and integrity, with many accomplishments to his credit. He was a Boy Scout, and the only President who has ever attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He was a football star for the University of Michigan where he majored in political science and economics while leading his team to two national titles. He studied at Yale Law School and opened his own law practice in Grand Rapids, Michigan before joining the Navy where he served as an officer during World War II and earned several medals.

In 1948, Gerald R. Ford was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where he served until 1973. He was the Republican Mi-

nority Leader from 1965–1973. During his years in the House, Ford was, as the New York Times described, "a negotiator and a reconciler." On October 12, 1973, Ford was appointed Vice President of the United States after Spiro Agnew resigned. He became President after the resignation of Richard Nixon on August 9, 1974. President Gerald R. Ford is the only person to ever serve as both Vice President and President without being elected to either office.

As President, one of Ford's first actions was to pardon President Nixon, allowing the nation to heal and move on. Although this action was highly criticized at the time and may have cost him the election in 1976, it helped to restore Americans' faith in the office of the President. President Ford successfully addressed high inflation and unemployment while ending American involvement in Vietnam and pursuing international human rights through the Helsinki Accords, helping end the Cold War.

President Ford's legacy extends far beyond his accomplishments, however. More than anything else, President Gerald R. Ford will be remembered for his character, integrity, and humility. Gerald R. Ford was a very decent and humble human being. As Americans, we mourn more than the loss of a former President—we mourn the loss of a truly great American.

IMPLEMENTING THE 9/11 COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1 which will carry out the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

In 2002, Congress passed and funded a distinguished bipartisan panel to investigate and report on the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on our country. In spite of the urgency and critical nature of the panel's report and recommendations, the Bush administration and the Republican-led Congress failed to implement key recommendations that would improve the defense of our Nation such as enhancing homeland security and developing strategies to prevent the spread of Islamic terrorism and the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists.

Putting into action only a few of the Commission's carefully thought out recommendations did only half the job. And we all know that protecting America is a full-time job requiring full-time vigilance and full-time protection. This is especially true in today's post-9/11 world.

For the past 4 years, I have had the privilege of serving on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. As a member of that subcommittee, I heard testimony and attended briefings from officials at the Department of Homeland Security that brought to light the shortcomings of this Department and its failure to meet its mandate to secure our borders and protect our country. The then Chairman of the committee even withheld funding due to the Department's unresponsiveness and apparent lack of urgency about its mission.

Mr. Speaker, protecting our country must be our government's number one priority. If that mission lacks urgency by the very agency created to protect us, we will continue to remain dangerously vulnerable to those who would harm us.

I believe that putting into action all of the Commission's recommendations is urgently needed to help protect our country against a terrorist attack. And under our new Democratic leadership, which will be vigilant in its oversight and in holding the administration accountable, I am confident Democrats will push this agency beyond its bureaucratic lethargy to take the steps necessary to secure our homeland and protect our fellow Americans.

While I endorse the entire package of recommendations in the bill under consideration, I am particularly pleased to note that it includes several of the issues I addressed in hearings before the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. These issues are critically important to our Nation and the communities I represent in Los Angeles.

First among them is interoperable communications. Our country lost many heroic first responders on that fateful September morning because they were unable to receive the message to evacuate the Twin Towers. Incredibly, 5 years after 9/11, this serious problem of interoperable communications continues to plague our emergency responders. This is particularly true for first responders in districts like mine, where various communities are covered by multiple jurisdictions of police, sheriff, and fire departments.

I am very pleased that included in this bill is the 9/11 Commission's recommendation to create a grant program for interoperable communications with a dedicated stream of funding. This will greatly enhance the ability of our first responders to close this critically serious communications gap.

Another issue of great concern to my constituents is currently being addressed at Los Angeles world airports. It is the installation of in-line detection systems for checked baggage on commercial airliners. The Commission's recommendations in this bill call for accelerating the installation of in-line explosive detection systems at all major airports.

The cargo hold of airplanes, filled with baggage, has often been called the "soft underbelly" of our aviation transportation system. By placing state of the art detection systems in our Nation's airport, we will harden that vulnerable soft spot and protect the flying public. And by consolidating the handling of baggage and screening equipment we will accelerate the movement of goods, passengers, and cargo.

In committee I have also consistently raised my concerns about the security of cargo containers entering ports such as the Ports of Los Angeles-Long Beach. I am very pleased that this bill goes beyond the Commission's recommendations by requiring, within 5 years, 100 percent scanning of U.S.-bound shipping containers.

We are very fortunate there has not been a port-centered attack on our Nation. As we saw during the 2002 labor dispute that closed the Ports of LA-Long Beach and cost the national economy \$1 billion per day, any long term disruption of our national maritime trade would have a devastating effect on our Nation's economy as well as the rest of the world.

While some critics may complain about the cost involved in scanning these cargo containers, we cannot afford to be penny wise and pound foolish when it comes to our security. We must make the necessary investments. The added cost of security in our post 9/11 era is the price we must pay to protect American lives and our Nation. If we do not make this investment, the cost could be much higher not just in dollars but in lives.

And finally, among other critical needs addressed by the 9/11 Commission, is the need to significantly increase the number of state homeland security grants and award them on the basis of risk. While it is true we must make every effort to protect all parts of our country, given our limited funds, we must prioritize our security weaknesses and allocate these scarce funds first to the areas most at risk of an attack.

It was therefore welcomed news that late last week the Department of Homeland Security has announced it will commit more than 55 percent of urban area grant funds to the six urban areas facing the highest threat of terrorist attacks.

Mr. Speaker, as the former Homeland Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman HAL ROGERS often stated, "those who seek to harm us have to get it right only occasionally, while those of us working to protect America have to get it right 100 percent of the time. Fully implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission is a critical step toward "getting it right" and moving our Nation forward to our 100 percent goal of protecting our United States of America.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this important legislation.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
MIRIAM AYLLON

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, today I rise, along with Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, to honor the life and contributions of Mrs. Miriam Aylion, who recently passed away. Miriam is survived by her son, Huascar Castro, and her loving husband, Marvin Castro. She will be sorely missed by her friends and by the people she helped. Today, I honor her energy, her determination, and her lifelong service to many communities here in the United States and in Bolivia.

Miriam Aylion was born in La Paz, Bolivia, on June 14, 1959. At the age of 13, she began volunteering at a nursing home across the street from her school reading to elderly patients. Miriam grew up wanting to make a difference in the lives of the poor and the underserved.

Miriam moved to the United States in 1977 to live with relatives. She attended both Foothill and De Anza Colleges in California. Later, she moved to Houston, where she studied economics at the University of Houston. Soon after graduation, she moved to New York where she met her husband, Marvin Castro. In New York, she helped start an English as a Second Language school.

In 1988, Ms. Aylion and her husband relocated to San Jose, California, where they later

had their son, Huascar. In San Jose, she joined the Mexican American Community Service Agency (MACSA), where she helped senior citizens find affordable housing and worked to build a youth center. Later, she worked at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (SCVTA). At SCVTA, she helped coordinate transportation for the poor, especially those in East San Jose. She also managed to earn a Masters of Science degree in Transportation Management from San Jose State University.

Ms. Aylion also served her community through personal volunteerism and community projects. Miriam's community advocacy included empowering others to advocate for themselves. She co-founded the Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley and served on its board, as well as the School Site Council of Noble Elementary School, and the Board of MACSA.

Though the United States was her home, Miriam never forgot her Bolivian roots. In 2001, she founded an orphanage for homeless girls in Cochabamba, Bolivia, called Casa de la Alegria ("House of Joy"). The girls are provided with room, board, health care, clothing, and education until they graduate from high school.

Ms. Aylion had the vision to address broader issues, yet she remained grounded enough to respond to the needs of those immediately around her. When an SCVTA co-worker's home burned down, Miriam immediately dedicated her time and effort to raising money and collecting necessary supplies for the family that had lost so much.

Miriam always made time for family and friends. Despite her important work in so many different professional and community arenas, her most important role was being a mother to her 15-year-old son. She loved to go dancing with friends and set up family dinners on Sundays.

Miriam was a gentle and loving soul, committed to justice for all. Her involvement in so many projects, which focused on access for the underserved, was a reflection of that commitment. Miriam's compassion was equaled only by her strength. She left a lasting impression on anyone she came across and was a strong champion of women's leadership development.

Miriam Aylion died at the young age of 47 in a tragic accident while vacationing in Bolivia. When she passed away, the San Francisco Bay area lost one of its most dynamic leaders. Miriam was an advocate for women and the underserved from San Jose to South America. She will truly be missed by all those who had the opportunity to benefit from her generous service and those of us who were inspired by her commitment to community.

STEM CELL RESEARCH
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD my support for the H.R. 3, Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007. This bill will enable continuing scientific research on embryonic stem cells that will pro-

vide enhanced treatments and potential cures for the millions of Americans afflicted with chronic and debilitating diseases.

The benefits that stem cell research promises can dramatically enhance the quality of life for people suffering from spinal cord injuries, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, stroke, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, among many others. It will allow these Americans and their families the opportunity to enjoy healthier and more fulfilling lives.

Stem cell research has the support of over 100 million people suffering from these diseases, medical professionals, and the American people. With over 200 health organizations, research universities, advocacy groups and scientific societies supporting stem cell research, it is the responsibility of the United States government to listen and actively ensure progress in the field of medicine in saving people's lives.

In the Republican controlled 109th Congress, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005 was passed in the House, later to be vetoed by President Bush. This administration cannot continue to impede the efforts of sound scientific research based on ideological beliefs. In an age of tremendous technological and scientific advances, we must allow the medical community to engage in research that will benefit all Americans.

This legislation provides strict ethical guidelines for the usage of embryonic stem cells to further medical research. The stem cells will be donated from in vitro fertilization clinics that have an excess of stem cells from individuals no longer needing fertility treatment. Individuals that sought fertility treatment were consulted before the donation of stem cells, and it was determined that these stem cells would never be used in future treatment and would thus be discarded. In addition, individuals donating stem cells did so with written informed consent and were not paid any monetary compensation or given any other incentives to do so.

These individuals have offered their support in enhancing further research through their donations, and we ought to follow by ensuring that their contribution to stem cell research help those who suffer.

The medical and science community see the potential of this research to treat people with damage to the spinal cord, heart, brain and skeletal muscles. Those who suffer from genetic diseases, those whose life depends on organ transplants, and those who are ravaged by the affects of degenerative diseases will benefit from the research performed on embryonic stem cells.

It is our responsibility to support legislation that will provide the resources to improve the lives of Americans who suffer everyday. I commend my colleagues for readdressing this issue, and urge you to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COLLEGE
STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the College Student Relief Act of 2007, a bill that will deliver much needed relief for students and families.