

staffs. He earned the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his contributions to OLA.

In May 1999, he earned the rank of chief petty officer and received orders to Commander, Military Sealift Command, Europe, COMSCEUR, in Naples, Italy. He served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor, Administrative Officer and Command Chief to COMSCEUR. He was entrusted with the health, morale, and welfare of all COMSC enlisted sailors assigned to the European Area of Responsibility. Chief Scott earned the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (Second Award) for his noteworthy contributions. In November 2005, he accepted orders as the Leading Chief Petty Officer in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

The citizens of the State of Mississippi, particularly the 4th Congressional District, are proud of Chief Scott's service. They join me in thanking him and his family for their contributions to the Navy and the Nation, and in wishing them all the best both now and in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ORVAL ALLEN
KELSO

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Mr. Orval Allen Kelso.

Today, deeply engaged in a war on terror, thousands of American civilians are working and serving in harm's way. Like the brave men and women serving in uniform, these patriotic citizens risk their lives everyday in an effort to rebuild a stronger future for the people of Iraq. However, they are not alone. American civilian contractors have been operating in combat theatres since as early as World War II, and I am here today to tell you about one of those.

Orval Allen Kelso was a civilian working on Wake Island during the early 1940s. Hailing from Emmett, Idaho, Orval worked as a baker in his father-in-law's bakery before going on to pursue better wages working overseas. Mr. Kelso worked as a heavy machine operator throughout the Pacific until April 8, 1943, when he was captured and taken as a POW to Camp 18, Sesabo, Japan. Orval later died in that camp. His remains were claimed by his son in 1949, when they were brought back to rest on U.S. soil at the National Memorial Cemetery, Honolulu, Hawaii.

It is fitting that we honor Mr. Kelso for his sacrifice and also be reminded of the many others who were taken prisoner or who paid the ultimate sacrifice working in harm's way. We often forget about the non-military Americans who gave their all for the freedoms we cherish in our great Nation. Let us help remedy that today by recognizing Mr. Kelso and the civilian POW's taken during World War II. They are an exemplary example of the selflessness displayed by Americans in an effort to bring peace and freedom to millions, and we thank them for their sacrifice.

COMMENDING MRS. PATRICIA CASSELL ON HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY.

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LOBIONDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mrs. Patricia Cassell on her long and distinguished service to her community, and congratulate her on her upcoming retirement after 48 years of teaching.

As a first grader, Mrs. Cassell knew her future lay in the field of education. However, coming from modest means, Mrs. Cassell understood that she would have to work exceptionally hard to achieve her dream. At a very young age, she began saving her money in order to pay for her college education. After graduating sixth in her high school class of 308, she earned two academic scholarships to Millersville State Teachers College, where she earned her degree in elementary education in just 3 years.

Her first job teaching started just over 48 years ago, in Myerstown, Pennsylvania, and she has been teaching since. After moving to Atlantic City, NJ, in 1973 with her husband, Daniel, Mrs. Cassell soon accepted a position at Atlantic Christian School where she has taught for 29 years.

Throughout her 48 years of teaching, Mrs. Cassell has remained a steadfast example of exemplary service, guidance, and dedication to her students. For this, she was awarded the Career Service and Achievement Award from the Association of Christian Schools International. I would like to personally congratulate Mrs. Cassell on behalf of the students she has taught over the years and ask that she thoroughly enjoy her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HILDA
MCDONALD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of former Milton City Councilwoman Hilda McDonald. Following a battle with cancer, Hilda left us Thursday, May 17, at the age of 83.

A native Floridian, Hilda pursued a degree in research biology from Florida State's College for Women. However, she gave up her studies during World War II to teach under an emergency teaching certificate. This kind of selfless behavior was prominent throughout Hilda's life.

In 1984, Hilda began serving on the City Council for the city of Milton and remained on the board for 16 years. During these years Hilda founded Blackwater Baptist Church and the Benevolent Association of Santa Rosa County. She also became the first President of the Women's Advisory Council for Santa Rosa Hospital and led as Chair for the restoration of Milton's City Hall. Mayor Guy Thompson who knew Hilda for 30 years explained, "She had a heart for helping people, and that reflected in the life she led."

It is certain the people of Milton are mourning the loss of Hilda, who played an important role in over 15 community organizations. However, her legacy is sure to continue through the generations of her family she nurtured and guided. My thoughts and prayers remain with her 9 children, 13 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and her brother.

Hilda's daughter, Mary Golden, has said of her mother "the one thing I would like my mother to be known for was that she was a giver. She gave to others constantly throughout her life. And she was such a good mother, a wonderful Christian mother."

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with no small amount of sorrow that I tell of the passing of Hilda McDonald from this world. Hilda will be remembered as a leader, a giver, and an adamant philanthropist. May God rest her soul and continue to bless her family.

BURMA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the attached report describing the attacks by the brutal military dictatorship against the ethnic peoples of Burma. The situation facing the internally displaced is dire. The international community needs to step up its assistance to refugees and displaced persons. In addition, the international community must act immediately to stop the ethnic cleansing and other horrific acts by the dictatorship against the people of Burma.

REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL—BURMA: MILITARY OFFENSIVE DISPLACING THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS

The worst Burmese military offensive in 10 years has displaced at least 27,000 people in eastern Burma's Karen State since November 2005. The displaced are civilians who have been targeted by the army and are living in exceptionally vulnerable conditions. An estimated three million people have been forced to migrate in Burma as a result of conflict, persecution, human rights abuses, and repressive government measures that prevent people from earning a livelihood. Instead of fulfilling its responsibility to protect its citizens, the Government of Burma, known as the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), is the biggest perpetrator of violations in the country.

Ethnic groups, comprising one-third of Burma's 52 million people, have borne the brunt of the government's repressive policies. The pattern of the Burmese military or the Tatmadaw has been to eliminate all opposition and take full control of ethnic areas. As part of its strategy to curb the support of ethnic insurgent armies, it targets civilians it perceives as backers of the insurgent groups.

In the course of Tatmadaw operations at least 3,000 villages have been destroyed along the eastern Burma border since 1996. Villagers have been forced to flee to hiding sites in jungles, move to government-controlled relocation sites, or travel to relatively more secure ceasefire locations. Today Burma is estimated to have the worst internal displacement crisis in Asia. More than 500,000 civilians are displaced in eastern Burma, with those in hiding being the most vulnerable. People unable to care for themselves

and their families have fled to Burma's neighboring countries of Bangladesh, China, India, Malaysia and Thailand in search of asylum. Burma's refugee crisis has a regional impact and the number of refugees from the country is believed to be more than one million.

As the military takes control of new territory in ethnic areas, it initiates development projects and exploits natural resources, which displace more civilians. The forced migration of civilians is ongoing even in ethnic states, such as Mon and Kachin, where political leaders have signed ceasefire agreements with the central authorities. According to a Burmese asylum seeker interviewed by Refugees International in Thailand, "The outside world thinks that just because a cease fire has been signed between the Mon and the SPDC, it is safe for us to live in Burma. But we continue to face abuses on a daily basis. The military confiscated all my orchards and my family could barely survive. We still tried to stay but had to leave when the military tried to recruit my teenage son."

The Karen National Union, the indigenous political leadership in Karen State, has not entered into a ceasefire agreement with the SPDC and conflict and displacement are not new phenomena there. However, the intensity and spread of the Tatmadaw offensive in recent months are estimated to be the worst in more than a decade. The attack is linked to the military's attempt to consolidate its control over parts of Karen State and the districts of Toungoo, Papun and Nyaunglebin have been particularly hard-hit by the offensive. According to a community-based organization assisting the internally displaced, the recent attacks differ from previous ones in that the military did not withdraw during the 2006 rainy season but continued to attack the same areas repeatedly.

In order to protect themselves, Karen communities have been trying to establish early warning systems. Villagers are constantly on watch to be able to anticipate Tatmadaw attacks and whenever possible, the Karen ethnic army has been warning villagers ahead of an attack so they can go into hiding. At present there remains a lack of an adequate number of communication tools for advance warning.

The military has planted a large number of landmines in and around villages so people are unable to go beyond a certain area, and at the time of harvesting many do not have access to their crops. In some parts of Karen State the army has set rice fields on fire. According to the estimates of a community-based organization assisting the internally displaced, 25,000 people have lost their harvest for the entire year, and in Lerdoh Township alone, 2,800 civilians are believed to have been taken away from their villages and fields by the Tatmadaw to relocation sites where they are being forced to dig trenches and build fencing. Since 2006, the military has also placed a prohibition on trading in some areas of Karen State and prevented villagers from selling or buying certain products around harvest time. After harvest time, villagers are allowed to sell their products, but at half the normal price and only to the military, contributing to food insecurity.

Besides food, the displaced are in urgent need of shelter and medicines. The displaced in Karen State are being assisted largely through cross-border assistance, coming from agencies based in Thailand, and a few community-based organizations inside Burma. This aid is helping people cope with their situation and preventing large numbers from fleeing to Thailand as refugees. Although in recent years donors have allocated more funds for aid to internally displaced people, both for cross-border operations and

those inside Burma, the number of vulnerable people has gone up significantly with the latest offensive in Karen State and it is critical that donors respond accordingly.

In terms of medical assistance, Karen internally displaced people are relying largely on traditional curative techniques or on mobile teams, back pack health workers, and Karen medical units who may be able to access them only after navigating their way through heavily militarized territory.

Organizations based in Thailand and Burma that are assisting the internally displaced from across the border and inside the country have improved communications in recent months, but there remains a need to strengthen information sharing on the activities being undertaken by both sides.

Many of those displaced in the recent attacks in Karen State who have been able to reach the Thai-Burma border are living in settlements on the Burma side. One of these, the Ei Tu Hta camp, set up in April 2006, is home to 3,000 persons mostly from Toungoo district. Approximately 5,000 recently displaced Karen have also crossed the border into Thailand. Some of them have entered refugee camps, are recognized as asylum seekers, and are awaiting approval from the Provincial Admission Boards, the Thai Government's entities for processing new arrivals. This has largely been the case in Mae Hong Son Province. In Tak Province's Mae La camp, however, none of the new arrivals are recognized and they are living unofficially in the camp.

The Thai Government is concerned that recent efforts to resettle Burmese refugees in third countries is drawing recent arrivals to camps. The Governor of Tak Province has announced that no food or accommodation would be made available to new arrivals in the camps in that province. Further, the Provincial Admission Boards are not fully functional in each of the provinces, and there remains a void for processing new arrivals in certain areas.

The Burmese internal displacement and refugee crises are linked to the regime's policy of targeting civilians. All regional and local initiatives to urge the SPDC to stop attacking civilians and protect its people have failed. The non-binding Security Council resolution introduced by the U.S. in January 2007, which included a call to the SPDC to cease attacks on the country's ethnic minorities, was vetoed by China and Russia. Until such time that all members of the UN Security Council acknowledge that the SPDC must be held accountable, and develop a united approach to address the government's failure to protect its people, the worst internal displacement crisis in Asia will persist.

Refugees International, therefore, recommends that:

The Burmese military immediately halt all attacks on civilians.

The UN Security Council members reach consensus on a strategy to pressure the SPDC to stop its abuse of civilians and hold it accountable for its failure to protect Burma's people.

Donors support initiatives to assist internally displaced people by agencies doing cross-border work and agencies operating inside Burma, with funding directed to the most vulnerable.

Donors support initiatives to enhance IDP protection through early warning systems.

Agencies based inside Burma and organizations operating out of Thailand continue to improve coordination and collaboration through regular meetings and information sharing forums.

The Government of Thailand allow new asylum seekers from Burma official access to all camps and ensure that the Provincial

Admission Boards are functioning consistently so the new arrivals can be processed.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF HELEN BRADLEY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Helen Bradley, a woman who spent a lifetime giving back to the community she loved dearly through her dedicated service as Jefferson County clerk. She was a true treasure to Pine Bluff and Jefferson County, and her honorable service will never be forgotten by the State of Arkansas. She passed away May 11, 2007, in Pine Bluff, AR, at the age of 59.

I am grateful to have known Helen Bradley and to have had the privilege to call her a personal friend. She spent her life and career making her community a better place for all who called it home.

Mrs. Bradley's lasting impact on Jefferson County will be remembered forever. Her selfless and devoted career began after graduating from what is now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, when she was hired as deputy county clerk for Jefferson County. She held that position for 22 years before she was elected to serve as Jefferson County's first African-American county clerk. During her career, she also served as secretary for the Jefferson County Quorum Court and the Equalization Board. Mrs. Bradley was also a member of the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers, the West Pine Bluff Rotary Club and she was a proud member of the Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. As a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, she received the distinguished Pine Bluff Branch NAACP Dove Freedom Award in October 2006.

My deepest condolences go to Mrs. Bradley's husband, Sylvester Bradley, Sr., of Pine Bluff; her two sons, Sedgwick McCollum of Flint, MI, and Brandon Bradley of Piano, TX; her daughter, Tarnisha Gibson of Columbia, SC; her two brothers, James Edward McClinton of Flint, MI, and John Albert McClinton of Pine Bluff; her sister, Cecile Blade of Pine Bluff; and to her 9 grandchildren. Mrs. Bradley will be greatly missed, and her contributions to the city of Pine Bluff, Jefferson County and the State of Arkansas will never be forgotten.

INTRODUCING THE CHARITABLE REMAINDER PET TRUST ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today, Representative RAMSTAD and I are introducing legislation that revises the Internal Revenue Code, IRC, to treat pet trusts in a similar manner as charitable remainder annuity trusts, CRATs. It will allow estates and donors with CRATs with a pet, or its guardian as