

Reagan's director of the National Security Agency, outlined a much more sensible approach in a recent article titled "Exit From Iraq Should Be Through Iran." General Odom wrote: "Increasingly bogged down in the sands of Iraq, the US thrashes about looking for an honorable exit. Restoring cooperation between Washington and Tehran is the single most important step that could be taken to rescue the U.S. from its predicament in Iraq." General Odom makes good sense. We need to engage the rest of the world, including Iran and Syria, through diplomacy, trade, and travel rather than pass threatening legislation like this that paves the way to war. We have seen the limitations of force as a tool of U.S. foreign policy. It is time to try a more traditional and conservative approach. I urge a "no" vote on this resolution.

HONORING BLUEFIELD ORIOLES
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Bluefield Orioles, which, for a half a century has brought America's pastime to southern West Virginia. With the crack of the bats this week, the "Baby Birds" will mark the beginning of their 50th consecutive year as a Baltimore minor league affiliate. This is a historic occasion, as this span of years is believed to be the longest continuous affiliations between a minor league team and the same Major League Baseball franchise. The endurance of this franchise is a testament to the dedication of the team's fans, the support of the Bluefield community, and the strength and loyalty of the Bluefield Orioles organization. I also commend the any longtime ballpark volunteers, including Patsy Malamisura, who sadly passed away last month. These folks are truly our Most Valuable Players.

A great contributor to the Bluefield economy over the years, minor league baseball has left its strong financial imprint on southern West Virginia. But this is not where this club's influence ends. The talented young players who have gotten their start on this team, including one of the greatest players of all time—Ironman Cal Ripken—have been role models and inspirations to generations. And countless friends and families have been brought a little closer by spending an evening together underneath the bright night lights. I thank the Baltimore Orioles organization for its many contributions and commend them on this great achievement.

May minor league baseball remain alive and well in West Virginia for another 50 years.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972 AND RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO CONTINUE PURSUING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 406, introduced by our new colleague from Hawaii, MAZIE HIRONO. Following in the long tradition of her fellow Hawaiian, our beloved Congresswoman PATSY MINK, Rep. HIRONO has introduced this important resolution which celebrates the 35th anniversary and accomplishments of Title IX of the Higher Education Act.

Title IX constituted a landmark civil rights victory for equal opportunity. It has created an even playing field for women to obtain crucial scholarships to help defray the rapidly escalating costs of a college education, facilitating the steady rise in the number of female doctors, attorneys, professors and corporate executives who help keep the American economy humming. Title IX has also signaled a sea change in women's athletics, with girls' participation in high school sports skyrocketing by 800 percent and in college by 400 percent since its passage. Because of Title IX, our daughters are healthier, have higher grades, lower pregnancy rates, are less likely to use drugs and are more likely to graduate from college.

Though Title IX has been a huge success, the battle for equality is not yet won. In 2002, women made up 54 percent of college students, but they only comprised 43 percent of college athletes. Meanwhile, men received 36 percent more athletic scholarships than women. Women also receive only 20 percent of computer science and engineering-related technology bachelor's degrees and only 39 percent of all full professors at colleges and universities are women.

Girls and women have benefitted immeasurably from this critical legislation. Now is the time to praise and protect Title IX, not curtail it. I thank Congresswoman HIRONO for recognizing this important anniversary and call on my colleagues to support this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 15, 2007, and Monday, June 18, 2007, I attended events with Alabama's governor and other elected leaders to recruit significant economic development projects for my district and our state and subsequently was absent for 36 votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 491 and "yea" on rollcall 498.

HONORING SYLVESTER MYERS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a native West Virginian who found that talent and ambition together with discipline and determination was a powerful recipe for success. . . . Sylvester C. Myers, President and CEO of S.C. Myers and Associates, Inc.

Today, June 21st, Sylvester celebrates his 75th birthday. He has recently published his inspiring life story in a memoir entitled, "From Coal Fields to Oil Fields and Beyond, A Life in Pursuit of All I Could Be." The book chronicles Sylvester's humble beginnings from the coal-mining community of Keystone, West Virginia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is a story of his transformation from country youth to world-traveling businessman, a story that points the way for all who desire to craft their lives to match their potentials.

Sylvester founded S.C. Myers and Associates, Inc. in 1988 after retiring from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with 25 years of service. He spent the last 11 of those years serving as the "budget watchdog" of the Corps' \$20 billion military construction program in Saudi Arabia.

The company provides construction cost and project management services for government agencies, architectural firms, engineering firms and developers in the private sector. The company has offices in Washington, D.C., Bramwell, WV, Boston, MA and Baltimore, MD. The company currently has long standing projects with Baltimore-Washington International Airport and Washington-Dulles International Airport.

Sylvester was the former President of the American Association of Cost Engineers International (AACEI), National Capitol Section. He served as Director of AACEI Region II; Chairman of the AACEI Government Liaison Committee; member of the D.C. Building Industry Association's (DCBIA) Housing Committee; American Association of Blacks in Energy; the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Bluefield (WV) State College Alumni Association; and Chairman of the Institutional Advisory Board of Bluefield (WV) State College.

In 1999, Sylvester received the Total Cost Management Excellence Award and Fellow at the AACEI Annual Meeting. He served on the Board of the Architectural Engineering Council of Washington, D.C.; Finance Committee of the Anthony Bowen YMCA in Washington, D.C. In April 1999, Sylvester received a Presidential Citation from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), in recognition of exemplary experiences that honor Bluefield (WV) State College.

Sylvester is an alumnus of Bluefield (WV) State College and a graduate of George Washington University's School of Business and Public Management (Government Contracting and Project Management Master's Certification). Mr. Myers resides with his wife, Janice M. Myers, in Bramwell, West Virginia and they are the parents of five children. I am very proud to have Sylvester and Janice as my constituents.

On behalf of myself and the people of the great State of West Virginia, we thank Sylvester for his years of dedicated and professional service to the Nation and his contributions to the arts and wish him continued success in the next chapter of his personal and professional life. He has been, and will forever remain, a shining example of the willpower and determination that it takes to make dreams come true.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INCLUSION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, this year marks the 14th anniversary of the passage landmark legislation to help Americans balance the responsibilities of work and family, the Family and Medical Leave Act. The Family and Medical Leave Act (PL 103-3), allows qualified workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave a year to care for newborns, seek emergency medical care for himself/herself, parents, children under 18 or a legal spouse. Since becoming law, it has allowed many tens of millions of Americans to take unpaid leave without the risk of losing their jobs.

But, imagine if your domestic partner, same-sex spouse, adult child, parent-in-law, or grandparent was involved in a serious car accident and had no one to take care of him or her. Then imagine your employer telling you that you can't take a few days off work to care for your loved one because you are not covered by FMLA. This situation sounds preposterous, but there is no protection for you in current law. That is why I am introducing the FMLA Inclusion Act.

The Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act (H.R. 475 in the 109th Congress) amends the FMLA to permit leave to care for a domestic partner, same-sex spouse, parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, or grandparent if that person has a serious health condition.

I am pleased that the Human Rights Campaign has endorsed this legislation, and I am proud to introduce it with the support of original cosponsors Reps. FRANK, BALDWIN, WOOLSEY and SHAYS.

The FMLA Inclusion Act represents simple fairness, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that this fairness prevails.

DARFUR

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the situation in Darfur in western Sudan. As you know, nearly 450,000 people have been killed and over two million people have been displaced as the violence continues to rage in this region. Neighboring nations have absorbed hundreds of thousands of refugees who fled their homes to escape the car-

nage that has unfortunately become a way of life in Darfur. Even humanitarian aid workers have become targets of the violence.

I am encouraged by the recent agreement between the United Nations and the African Union on the make up of a peacekeeping force to patrol the region. This agreement is a step in the right direction, but it is vital that the peacekeeping mission begins soon and the peacekeepers are allowed to carry out their mission effectively. It is important that we support those who are working to restore peace to the millions of innocent people caught in the tragedy in Darfur.

Nearly 3 years ago, on July 22, 2004, the U.S. House of Representatives declared the atrocities in Darfur to be genocide. The vote was bipartisan and unanimous. In the 110th Congress, we have already passed resolutions addressing the situation in Darfur with overwhelming bipartisan majorities.

This issue is not one of partisan politics or ideological differences. It is a moral issue, and we in the House of Representatives are united in our efforts to stop the violence and end the suffering in Darfur.

We can still do more. It is important that we divest funds from companies that do business with the government of Sudan. Divestment is an effective policy tool that would prevent the government of Sudan from receiving financial resources it is using to fund these atrocities. In addition, divestment is the right thing to do. It does not make sense to fund indirectly the very genocide we seek to end.

The crisis in Darfur is a tragedy of our times. I am pleased that the House of Representatives has taken action to ease the suffering of the innocent people in Darfur, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the House to bring this terrible chapter of history to a close with a just and lasting peace in Sudan. May God help us all do the right thing.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER TODD UNGER

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, Father Todd Unger, who is celebrating his 25th anniversary as a Catholic priest later this month. I join the parishioners of St. Peter Church in The Dalles, Oregon in congratulating Father Todd.

Father Todd has served the people of the Diocese of Baker, Oregon with dedication and humility. He was ordained a Catholic priest for the Diocese of Baker, on June 29, 1982 in Redmond, Oregon—the town where he was born. His first assignment was as Associate Pastor in Pendleton, Oregon at St. Mary Catholic Church from 1982–1986. He rose to Pastor in 1986 when he was transferred to St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in John Day, Oregon. He served there from 1986–1990. He served the next 8 years as Pastor of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Madras, Oregon. He undertook his present assignment, as Pastor of St. Peter Catholic Church in The Dalles, in 1998.

In addition to his duties as Pastor at St. Peter Church, Father Todd administers St.

Mary's Academy in The Dalles, a pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade school. St. Mary's Academy has been in continuous operation for 142 years providing an educational faith community for students in Wasco County, Oregon. During his 9 years at The Dalles, Father Todd has twice been called upon to assume the additional duties of principal at the school, once for a few months and once for the entire school year.

In addition to all of his church-related tasks, Father Todd has also been an active citizen in every community that he has served. In Pendleton, he was a member of Kiwanis and a Red Cross Swimming Instructor. In John Day, Father Todd again taught swimming for the Red Cross and began what has been a career-long interest in serving as a volunteer firefighter for the community. In Madras, he again joined the Volunteer Fire Department, and in 1994 he was named Firefighter of the Year. He also served as a member of the Central Oregon Council on Aging, was an active member of Kiwanis, and this time he taught first aid for the Red Cross. In The Dalles, Father Todd became a Rotarian, and again joined the Volunteer Fire Department. He was named Firefighter of the Year in 2000.

Everywhere that Father Todd has gone, he has tirelessly ministered to the spiritual and physical needs of the community. He has added greatly to the quality of life in the communities he has served. Father Todd is a sterling example of what it means to be of service. I hope these words in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will serve as a small indicator of thanks from the citizens of the Second Congressional District of Oregon and our congratulations on his Silver Jubilee as a Catholic priest.

HONORING RELAY FOR LIFE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Relay For Life, held in Bridgeview, Illinois. The event, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, is considered the organization's signature activity. This year is especially significant as the June 22–23 event at the Bridgeview Park District marks the 15th anniversary of the first Relay For Life event in Illinois.

Relay For Life is an overnight event designed to bring together those who have been touched by cancer in our communities. At the event, participants celebrate survivorship, remember those lost to cancer, and raise money to help the American Cancer Society. Proceeds fund its mission of helping those who have been touched by cancer, empowering individuals to fight back, and saving lives.

Programs such as Road to Recovery, Look Good Feel Good, Support Recovery, and the American Cancer Society's Patient Navigation Services all benefit from the annual event. These programs and services assist patients with educational, technological, logistical, and emotional support, and further the search for a cure.

Through the tireless participation of families, schools, companies, hospitals, and other community groups, Relay For Life has assisted