

FREE THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for the immediate and unconditional release of Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev, Israeli soldiers who, as of today, have now been held captive by Hezbollah terrorists for a full year.

On July 12, 2006, a month-long military conflict between Israel and Hezbollah was instigated when the armored humvee Ehud and Eldad were riding in was bombarded by Hezbollah rockets.

Ehud and Eldad were captured during the course of this unprovoked attack and have been held hostage ever since.

In February of this year, I had the pleasure of welcoming Ehud Goldwasser's energetic wife, Karnit, to the U.S. Capitol. She told me how trying it has been to live without the "the love of her life" and how her once bright hopes of raising a family with Ehud are now in peril due to the cowardly and illegal acts of a terrorist organization whose only goal is the destruction of her homeland. It is my hope that when I meet with Karnit again in August, Ehud will once again be by her side.

Terrorist acts like the kidnapping of Ehud and Eldad are not military actions between warring nations. They are despicable crimes that tear families apart and shroud entire communities in grief and suffering. As the leader of the free and democratic world, the United States has a responsibility to condemn such attacks whenever and wherever they occur, and to help advance peaceful solutions to ongoing crises whenever they can be reached.

To that end, I stand by Karnit Goldwasser, I stand by Israel, and I stand by like-minded activists throughout the world in calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev—courageous individuals who answered Israel's call to serve and who have sacrificed greatly in fighting for the democratic principles for which our two countries stand.

DIRK PAUL HUDSON FOR THE
AWARD OF EAGLE SCOUT**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dirk Paul Hudson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dirk has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Dirk has been involved in scouting, he has earned 40 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Scribe. Dirk is also a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Dirk constructed a 270-foot walking trail at Green Hills of Platte Wildlife Preserve. His project consisted of preparing the ground for the trail, pruning trees, removing brush, spreading mulch, and lining the trail with rocks.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dirk Paul Hudson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD "DICK"
SMITH**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 16, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I recognize the achievements of one of my constituents, Richard "Dick" Smith, who has generously contributed to the preservation and continuance of jazz music and culture. With deepest honor, I am proud to present this tribute to Mr. Smith, a contributor of our American culture.

For the past 8 years, Mr. Smith has diligently worked as music coordinator for Jazz Night located at a Southwest Washington church. The mission of Jazz Night is to present, preserve, document, and perpetuate the original art form of jazz as it has been practiced for over 75 years. Jazz Night provides a venue for local jazz legends and contemporary musicians throughout the D.C. Metropolitan area to perform for people of all ages, experiences and backgrounds.

Mr. Smith dedicates his life to jazz, and his involvement and participation in such programs as Jazz Night reflects his sincerity and devotion to his cause. In collaboration with Jazz Night Mr. Smith works to provide outreach by presenting jazz musicians and hosting jazz performances in community centers, senior citizen facilities and nursing homes. Music education is also provided for young people through a program designed to develop and nurture emerging musicians. This program serves often neglected sectors of our community by supporting and developing the youth. By doing this Mr. Smith hopes to erase as much of the negativity and violence that threatens many communities.

Furthermore, Mr. Smith wishes to bridge the gap between the youth and the jazz tradition by recognizing the youth as a vital part of our jazz community, and by exposing them to music other than hip hop which often saturates their environment.

Mr. Smith has tirelessly and unselfishly devoted his life to the conservation of jazz. He is one of the founding members of Letturm Play, an organization formed in the 1950s that gave musicians a venue to perform. Mr. Smith serves as a mentor to many emerging musicians in the Washington area. Without the incessant efforts of Mr. Smith, D.C. jazz as we know it would cease to exist.

In addition to being a vocalist, the former Washington Redskin is truly a legend in the D.C. area. His mission, to ensure that the history of jazz in Washington, DC is preserved

for generations to come, is commendable. As a performer, Mr. Smith has had the privilege to perform with such greats as Shirley Murdock, and notable jazz musicians like the late Keter Betts, Buck Hill and the late Ronnie Wells. For more than 5 years, Mr. Smith was a featured male vocalist for the East Coast Jazz Festival.

Mr. Smith has spent years enriching the cultural and musical life of District residents. I am pleased to join the Washington area in recognizing Mr. Smith's service and contributions to our community as he celebrates his recent birthday.

COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007. A classic Democrat bait and switch proposal.

What the Democrats propose is a historic investment in student aid—what they deliver is massive new entitlement spending on programs controlled and run by their friends.

These new entitlement programs, which are exempt from annual congressional review, are replete with layers of bureaucracy, rules and regulations, and require virtually no accountability to the American taxpayer.

If the Democrats were serious about stemming the dramatic rise in college education costs, they would not use a reconciliation bill—a vehicle meant for deficit reduction—to push their agenda.

Yes, the legislation provides cuts to student loan providers estimated at \$18.58 billion over 5 years, but instead of using that money to lower the deficit as is custom, this legislation actually spends \$17.13 billion (almost 92 percent) during that same period on multiple programs—including 9 new areas of mandatory Federal entitlement spending.

This bill will not improve access to higher education for low and middle-income Americans. In fact, it has the potential to cost student borrowers and their parents thousands of dollars more in interest on Federal student loans by wiping out the interest rate discounts currently available to borrowers. Furthermore, this legislation could lead to the elimination of consumer choice and lender competition, making it a boon to the Direct Loan Program.

In recent years, the Direct Loan Program's market share has fallen to 22 percent because schools have chosen to participate in the FFEL Program instead. Cutting the successful FFEL program is a back-handed way to increase the competitive position of direct lending, a program that up until now has been withering on the vine through the voluntary attrition of colleges.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 2669. Our students deserve more from us than to play politics with their college education.