

enslaved, more than 270,000 refugees, and four million people internally displaced as a result of the policy of genocide, the regime of President Bashir must be held accountable.

As we commemorate the third anniversary of this resolution, let us not forget that this crisis is only part of a larger policy of the government led by Omar al Bashir that has been ongoing for over twenty years. This policy of arabization and islamization began with the Bashir government's war against the people of the South, which spread into Darfur, and is now moving into the Nuba Mountains.

Madam Speaker, the Bashir government has shown blatant disregard for implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which ended their civil war against the South, providing only more evidence that they do not take peace seriously and cannot be negotiated with. If the CPA fails, I have no doubt that the Bashir government will not only completely wipe out the people of Darfur, but every other part of Sudan that does not fit into their racist and inhuman agenda for the country. Madam Speaker, this corrupt and merciless regime has absolutely no regard for the intrinsic value of innocent human life, and it must be held to account if there is to be any hope for lasting peace in Sudan.

Madam Speaker, the U.S. Government has taken the leading role in resolving the conflict in Sudan, from negotiating the end of the civil war to providing more humanitarian aid than any other country, and calling the international community to seriously address the genocide in Darfur. However, without support from China which now has significant oil interests in Sudan, and from other UN and Arab League member states that refuse to hold Bashir responsible for his policies of genocide, the crisis cannot be resolved.

Today, Madam Speaker, as we once again commemorate the resolution declaring the horrific atrocities continuing to occur in Sudan, may we resolve to do everything in our ability to hasten the day when the sunlight of freedom shines on every one of those precious human souls.

P.T. WRIGHT AND US-VISIT

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2007

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary leader, public servant and person, Mr. Phlemon Thomas Wright, known to his friends as "P.T." After 34 years of outstanding service to the American people, P.T., currently the acting deputy director of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) US-VISIT program, is retiring from the Federal Government.

P.T.'s retirement is a great loss to DHS. At the same time, his many years of dedicated service are a true testament to his commitment to protecting our country.

His most recent work with the US-VISIT program has made this initiative one of the great successes in our efforts to strengthen American homeland security. It is now the world's most innovative and integrated biometrics-based program. This is in no small part due to leaders like Mr. Wright. Through his oversight and management of day-to-day

operations, the program remained focused on accomplishing its overall mission objectives and successfully deployed biometric screening capabilities to all U.S. air, sea and land border ports of entry.

US-VISIT's operational success has depended in large part on the program's ability to educate international travelers. When the program began, there was great concern about the potential effects that this biometric screening would have on the flow of travel into our country. Now, because of the program's success and the outreach of leaders like P.T., many who were early critics are now ardent supporters of the program.

Mr. Wright understood that active engagement with border stakeholders was critical in creating a foundation of trust and familiarity upon which to build positive long-term relationships. He tirelessly traveled Southwest border communities, including many in the Lone Star State, to inform and educate border constituents as US-VISIT expanded to cover a wide array of border management developments and initiatives. P.T.'s in-depth knowledge of the land border environment made him a credible voice. His candor and conviction won him respect with border community leaders. And most importantly, P.T. gave border communities a voice in Washington as US-VISIT rolled out.

In addition to his outreach efforts along our borders, P.T. has traveled across the world to demonstrate the advantages of biometrics as a powerful tool to improve the integrity of our immigration and border management system, to make us safer, and to facilitate legitimate travel and trade. Thanks to leaders like P.T., US-VISIT is on a path to continue to be a world leader in the innovative use of biometrics for identity management, transforming the world into a place in which legitimate international travel is convenient, predictable and secure, and frankly difficult, unpredictable and intimidating for those traveling for the wrong reasons.

P.T. Wright began his career with the former U.S. Customs Service in 1973, and he has served with distinction in a number of key positions at the Departments of the Treasury and Homeland Security. In his management roles with U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas; El Paso, Texas; Nogales, Arizona; and Washington, DC, P.T. was intricately involved in the development of customs policies for cargo examination and processing, drug interdiction and traveler processing.

It is fitting that P.T.'s accomplishments and leadership were recognized last year with the prestigious Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive for his extraordinary contributions to our Nation's welfare and security during his extensive U.S. border management career.

Mr. Wright has done more than manage government operations successfully; he has become beloved by his colleagues within US-VISIT and throughout the Federal Government. His sincerity, infectious sense of humor, and leadership will be missed. He leaves some big, Texas-sized shoes behind to be filled. I commend P.T. for his commitment to excellence and his dedication to our country, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3188

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will correct an inequity in our welfare system. Under the current system, married couples enrolled in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program face a penalty simply because they are married. My legislation, the TANF Marriage Penalty Elimination Act, would require that all families are treated equally.

Madam Speaker, while the welfare reforms enacted in 1996 were by and large a tremendous success, they included an unintended consequence that my legislation seeks to correct.

Under current law, States receive block grant funding to help low-income parents train for and find jobs. The States are required to engage 50 percent of single-parent families, but 90 percent of two-parent families.

This law unintentionally discourages our society's most basic institution of marriage. My legislation would require that States engage 50 percent of all families on welfare in work preparation programs, eliminating the two-parent work rate that today constitutes a marriage penalty.

My legislation follows previous bi-partisan efforts to eliminate the separate and higher two-parent work rate for welfare. In each welfare reform reauthorization bill passed by this House in recent years, language eliminating this marriage penalty was included. Democratic versions of this legislation included the same provision. But for technical reasons, this provision was not included in the welfare reform reauthorization legislation that the President signed into law in 2006 as part of the Deficit Reduction Act. The National Governors' Association and the Administration have expressed support for ending the higher two-parent work rate, as this bill would do.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation which would allow all States to provide more consistent and effective services to all families on welfare without the unintended penalties imposed on married couples.

PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S BROADCAST WARNING DESK

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, August 19, 2007, will mark 100 years since the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office issued its first broadcast of a navigational warning. This event began its mission of broadcasting information concerning hazards to navigation to ships at sea during an age when limited communication methods and the lack of an international system made receiving this information difficult. In recognition of this 100th anniversary of broadcasting safety of navigation information, we honor all who have contributed to broadcasting maritime safety information.

On April 14, 1912, the sinking of the *Titanic* focused the world's attention on navigation safety at sea. Following this tragedy, an international committee was formed to which the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office became a major contributor. This committee monitored ice conditions along the major Europe-to-America shipping routes, established specific lifeboat capacity for passengers, and most importantly, mandated that all vessels at sea maintain a 24-hour radio watch. In 1921, the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office began broadcasting navigational safety warnings worldwide for all commercial and military shipping.

In 1977, the International Hydrographic Organization and the International Maritime Organization established the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service, WWNWS, to coordinate global radio broadcast service for information about hazards to navigation that might endanger international shipping. The WWNWS divided the world into 16 Navigation Warning Areas. The United States has been designated the coordinator for the two areas along the Atlantic and Pacific Coast. As the responsible WWNWS coordinator on behalf of the United States, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, NGA, headquartered in Bethesda, MD, annually processes over 130,000 messages, guaranteeing the continuous operation of the WWNWS for the world's ships.

On this 100th anniversary, we recognize the importance of maritime safety information and the NGA for supporting safety of life at sea through the broadcast of navigational warnings. We also recognize the men and women of the NGA who carry on this legacy today.

**HONORING STEVEN FIRESTEIN
AND KIDS CANCER CONNECTION**

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Steven Firestein and Kids Cancer Connection and the American Cancer Fund for Children for the tireless work that they do on behalf of children suffering from cancer.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa proclaimed the week of December 11, 2006 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week" in the city of Los Angeles, and since then, many other cities have done the same. I am pleased to join Mayor Villaraigosa and Santa Barbara Mayor Marty Blum in thanking Steven Firestein, the founder of American Cancer Fund for Children and its sister organization, Kids Cancer Connection, for his hard work and dedication in assisting children and their families fighting cancer.

For over a decade, Steven has been providing critical services to children undergoing cancer treatments at many hospitals, including Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital in my Congressional District. American Cancer Fund for Children provides hand-made caps for children following the trauma of chemotherapy, surgery and radiation. The American Cancer Fund for Children also sponsors Courageous Kid award ceremonies and hospital celebrations in recognition of each child's bravery and determination in his or her struggle against cancer. I have been privileged to participate in these

moving ceremonies and I can say that they have a significant impact on the patients and their families.

As a nurse and as Co-Chair of the House Cancer Caucus, I understand firsthand the trauma that these children and their families suffer. I am so pleased to work with Steven as he dedicates countless hours of his time to bettering the lives of so many. He is a tireless advocate and greatly deserves recognition for his efforts. I hope that you will join me in recognizing this generous volunteer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, for the record, during consideration of H.R. 3093 on rollcall 733, I voted "no", and meant to vote "aye."

LIMITING USE OF FUNDS TO ESTABLISH ANY MILITARY INSTALLATION OR BASE IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation—which I am proud to have co-sponsored—that commits our Nation to changing course in Iraq. This House, and the American people we represent, will not allow our involvement in Iraq's civil war to continue indefinitely.

Today's bill makes it crystal clear that no permanent military bases will be built in Iraq. As such, it is proof that the new Congressional leadership is focused on ending this war. It is evidence of our dedication to the well-being and protection of our troops. And, above all else, it begins to implement a strategy to reassert our country's proper role in the world.

For these reasons, this legislation deserves the unwavering support of each and every Member of this House.

Mr. Speaker, we know that much of the strife taking place in Iraq has deep historical and cultural roots. As a result, any resolution to the conflict will be political in nature and not imposed through force. A central component of such a solution will require us to redeploy our troops from Iraq, and I am proud to have voted in favor of such a strategic shift along with a majority of the new Democratic Congress.

Unfortunately, this rational way forward has been blocked by a President whose insistence on imposing a military solution has cost the lives of thousands of coalition forces and Iraqi civilians. The President's strategy is not working, Madam Speaker. And along with a majority of my colleagues, I will continue to vote to change it.

Passing the bill before us today will help us accomplish this goal. It will send an unmistakable message to our Armed Forces that the American people will not abandon them to a faraway civil war. It will demonstrate to the

rest of the world that the United States is not bent on occupying other sovereign nations. It will signal to the Iraqi people that they must assume responsibility for their own government. Finally, it will allow our military the time it needs to re-focus on emerging threats to our allies and to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill validates what the American people have known for a long time: our presence in Iraq must end, for the good of our country and for the sake of those who have laid their lives on the line to fight for it.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH NAPPI AND THE MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION OF THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, there are few who are not familiar with the wonderful work of the Make-A-Wish-Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic, Inc.—a non-profit organization that fulfills the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich their lives with hope, strength and joy. One of the most successful Make-A-Wish chapters in the country, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter, is headquartered in my congressional district, in Kensington, Maryland.

The gentleman most responsible for this remarkable success—the Mid-Atlantic Chapter's President and CEO for 17 of its 24 years, Mr. Ralph Nappi—is retiring this month.

During Ralph's tenure, the Foundation has grown from fulfilling 40 wishes a year to more than 400, having a significant impact on the lives of children in Maryland, Washington, DC, Northern Virginia and Delaware. Ralph has set a standard of excellence that is a model for the other 71 chapters across the U.S. and the 28 around the world.

Founded in 1983, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic, Inc. has fulfilled the wishes of more than 5,600 children fighting illnesses such as cancer, pediatric AIDS, cystic fibrosis, Duchene's muscular dystrophy and heart disease. Remarkably, it has granted the wish of every courageous child referred to it since its founding. Nationally, the Make-A-Wish Foundation has granted the wishes of 150,743 children—granting one wish every 41 minutes.

A wish fulfilled creates a memorable experience for a child fighting a life-threatening medical condition and gives that child something wonderful to focus on rather than on medical treatments and hospital visits. Recent wishes granted by the Mid-Atlantic chapter include visiting Walt Disney World, taking a family vacation to Australia, receiving a home computer, having a bedroom redecorated and meeting the Backstreet Boys.

On behalf of my constituents in Maryland's Eighth Congressional District, especially those who have benefited from the wonderful work of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, I congratulate Ralph Nappi on his outstanding leadership and thank him for all that he has done. He will be missed greatly by many as he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.