

MST passengers live in a household without an automobile. For the more than four thousand riders who depend on public transportation every day to get to work, the safe and reliable bus system that MST operates is a necessity for their economic independence.

In addition, MST is at the forefront of mixed-use TOD—transit oriented development—promoting community livability and sustainable development along bus routes. Connecting housing and transportation will be the key to retaining the unique quality of life for residents and visitors to the beautiful Monterey Peninsula. It was my privilege earlier this month to help MST mark a milestone in its history and operations with the opening of the new Marina Transit Exchange. The first phase offers customers and staff expanded amenities, electronic signage, and other customer information services and the second phase will provide MST developed housing.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to commend Monterey-Salinas Transit for providing 35 years of exemplary public service to the central coast of California, and ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to wish them well on the next 35 years.

TORTURE POLICIES UNDERCUT U.S. LEADERSHIP ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to two events last week that, taken together, illustrate the damaging effect that this administration's policies have had on America's credibility as a global leader on human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

First of all, on Friday, the 56 OSCE participating States concluded their annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw, Poland. This meeting is Europe's largest regional human rights forum where governments and nongovernmental organizations gather to take stock of how countries are implementing the commitments they have undertaken in the Helsinki process relating to human rights and democracy. As such, this meeting provides an important opportunity for the United States to raise and express concern about serious instances of noncompliance and negative trends in the expansive OSCE region stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

Separately, on Thursday of last week—just as the Warsaw meeting was drawing to a close—the New York Times ran an article revealing the existence of two classified legal memos authorizing the use of interrogation techniques that, to many reasonable minds, rise to the level of torture, or at least cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment—both categories of treatment prohibited under the United Nations Convention Against Torture, to which the United States is a party. These memos have already been dubbed by some as “torture memo 2.0” and “torture memo 3.0,” and were reportedly authored by

Steven G. Bradbury, who has headed the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel since 2005.

Madam Speaker, 3 years ago the world was shocked—and the United States was shamed—by pictures showing detainees standing on boxes with hoods over their heads and electrical wires attached to their fingers. But perhaps even more shocking and more shameful was the surfacing of the so-called “torture memo,” adopted by the Department of Justice in 2002 and leaked to the public in 2004. The very existence of such a memo was rightly and widely understood to mean that abuses did not just occur by rogue elements or as an aberration, but stemmed from a government policy to effectively authorize the use of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The 2002 memo was so scandalous that shortly after it was leaked, it was disavowed by the Department of Justice itself.

For many people, the existence of “torture memo 2.0” and “torture memo 3.0” will not come as a surprise but rather as a confirmation of what they suspected to be the case. Certainly, when one looks at the statements issued by the President when he signed into law the 2005 Detainee Treatment Act and the 2006 Military Commissions Act, there was every indication that he considered himself in no way bound by those laws as passed by Congress.

There are, of course, enormous implications for the United States when the President considers himself beyond the reach of the Congress and outside the scope of the Constitution. The President's policies on torture have seriously undercut American credibility on the very issues this administration purports to hold dear—human rights and democracy promotion.

Can you imagine being at a meeting—like the one that has just concluded in Warsaw—where the United States is supposed to express its concern about a whole range of human rights issues, including the issue of protecting human rights while combating terrorism, when this latest revelation about this administration's torture policies hits the front pages?

Regrettably, American credibility as an advocate for human rights and democracy has continued in free fall in the face of this latest revelation and attendant implausible denials. Beyond the victims of abuse themselves, U.S. interests are being seriously undermined, including the campaign to win hearts and minds around the globe.

Not surprisingly, the administration's dissembling denials cannot repair the damage that has been done. It will take considerable time to restore the good name of our country—time, and concrete action by this body.

In such circumstances, actions speak louder than words, and two steps must be taken to help restore America's tarnished reputation, help clear out the thicket of legal cases created by the President's disastrous policies, and position the United States to build more effective alliances in our counterterrorism operations.

First, I urge my colleagues to restore habeas corpus—and the sooner, the better. The Military Commissions Act of 2006 was a travesty of justice, but perhaps no part of that legislation departed so sharply from our legal heritage as the decision to deny individuals the

most basic right recognized since the Magna Carta: the right to challenge their detention. If we are to convince the world that we do not routinely torture terrorism suspects, providing these detainees one of the most basic legal safeguards is a good place to start.

Second, we must close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay—a measure I called for at a hearing on Guantanamo I chaired in June. To this end, the United States should release or transfer detainees elsewhere and, for those whom we believe we must hold and try, detainees should be transferred to the United States. Terror suspects can be tried by our Federal courts; they might be tried by military commissions under the Uniform Code of Military Justice; I'd even consider the establishment of special domestic terror courts, as in Spain. But it is time for the President to listen to his own senior officials, including Secretaries Gates and Rice, and close the GTMO camp.

Madam Speaker, while these two steps are not the only ones necessary to fully restore America's credibility and respect for the values we proclaim abroad, they would represent an important start. It is time for this great country to resume its rightful leadership role on human rights, democracy and rule of law, but first, it will need to lead by example.

HONORING DR. ALVAN E. FISHER

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Dr. Alvan E. Fisher, a pioneer in treating those affected by AIDS in Rhode Island, who distinguished himself with an extraordinary career as a courageous physician and leader in my home state and throughout the Nation. Dr. Fisher passed away on September 28, 2007, after dedicating over 25 years of service to the treatment of people with AIDS.

As a man with deep conviction and tremendous spirit of public service, Dr. Fisher in the early 1980s ventured into the care of patients who other doctors feared, and I am deeply honored to pay tribute to this outstanding Rhode Island native who spent 22 years in clinical practice in Rhode Island treating and advocating for patients with HIV/AIDS. AIDS Project Rhode Island recognized him with its first “Red Ribbon Community Service Award” in 2002, among many accolades he had received in his lifetime.

Dr. Fisher was a specialist in infectious diseases and a founding member of AIDS Project Rhode Island, where he was instrumental in establishing standards of care for patients with HIV and helping patients find doctors who would treat them. He served as chairman of the AIDS task force at Rhode Island Hospital and helped start the Brown University AIDS Program. More recently, Dr. Fisher continued his work in the field of HIV/AIDS treatment as senior director of medical affairs for Gilead Sciences, a biotech company in Foster City, California.

Dr. Fisher was ahead of the times and was someone who understood very well that through acts of bravery and by deeply caring, he worked every day to ensure that patients in

our State of Rhode Island and nationally would have a chance to maintain dignity and live a full and healthy life with HIV/AIDS.

Today, I praise Dr. Fisher and thank him for all of his contributions to our country and I assure his family that we are inspired and sustained by his example.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DISCOVERY MUSEUM'S CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 10-year anniversary of the Challenger Learning Center at the Discovery Museum of Sacramento's Science and Space Center. For a decade, the Challenger Learning Center has been a vital educational resource for the Sacramento community. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in acknowledging the 10 successful years of the Discovery Museum's Challenger Learning Center.

On January 28, 1986, the United States lost seven astronauts aboard the Challenger Space Shuttle. It was a tragedy that we will never forget. To memorialize the lives and the commitment to education of the astronauts aboard the Challenger, their families founded a nonprofit known as the Challenger Center for Space Science Education. Utilizing realistic and interactive mission scenarios, Challenger Learning Centers aim to give students an educational experience that incorporates the importance of math and science. The simulated space missions offered at the Discovery Museum's Challenger Learning Center combine the joy of learning with the unbridled enthusiasm of space travel. Whether students want to "Voyage to Mars" or "Rendezvous with Comet Halley," the missions allow them to experience the excitement of discovery that the astronauts aboard the Challenger surely would have felt.

Since 1997, the Discovery Museum's Challenger Learning Center has been the premier

field trip destination in Sacramento and has proved to be a vital resource tool for teachers. Increasingly, the Challenger Learning Center's space missions have become a favorite of local businesses; as the center offers a unique team-building opportunity and allows employees to enhance their communication skills.

In July, the Smithsonian Institution, our Nation's premier museum and research organization, named the Discovery Museum as a Smithsonian Affiliate. Under the leadership of the Discovery Museum's Executive Director Evangeline Higginbotham, this designation will allow their Science and Space Center, as well as the Gold Rush History Center, to share in the Smithsonian's unmatched wealth of resources and artifacts. It was a distinct honor, as the Discovery Museum was the first museum in California's Central Valley to be named as an Affiliate.

Madam Speaker, as the Sacramento community and the Discovery Museum's supporters gather tomorrow, I am honored to recognize the 10 years of educational insight provided by the Challenger Learning Center. Their work has inspired countless Sacramento residents over the last decade to embrace the wonders of science. As the Challenger Learning Center embarks on 10 more successful years, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing them continued successes.

RECOGNIZING THE MODERNIZATION OF T.C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the grand reopening of T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, VA. T.C. Williams, which serves Alexandria City Public Schools students in grades ten through twelve, recently completed a massive renovation and modernization project in time to open for the start of the 2007–2008 school year.

The modernization of T.C. Williams High School has brought a state-of-the art, 21st-

century learning experience to 1,997 Alexandria City high school students. The entirely new building includes computers in more classrooms, a fully-integrated fiber optic network, a new media center, and a completely automated library, making T.C. Williams among the best technologically equipped schools in the country.

In addition to vastly improving the educational experience of Alexandria's high school students, the T.C. Williams school modernization project has won awards for architectural excellence and environmentally-friendly building features. The school was honored by an independent jury of architects, engineers and general contractors in the local building community as Educational Project of the Year in Mid-Atlantic Construction magazine's Best of 2007 awards program. This year, Mid-Atlantic Construction had a record number of entries for its Best of 2007 awards, and honored T.C. Williams along with 45 other projects in 16 categories.

The T.C. Williams reconstruction was also honored with a Green Innovation Award from the Virginia Sustainable Building Network, which named it the Best Institutional Project of the year. The building, which adheres to the standards and principles of the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED 2.1 Green Building Rating System, includes a number of environmentally innovative features, such as an advanced storm water management and reuse system, water conservation measures and energy-saving air conditioning operations, and a permanent measurement and verification system to track water and energy usage at the facility.

Madam Speaker, I commend the leadership of the Alexandria City Public Schools and T.C. Williams High School, along with the architects and builders involved, for all their work to make the modernization of T.C. Williams a reality, and for their dedication to renovating the school in a way that was both architecturally and environmentally innovative. I am proud to have such a state-of-the-art facility available to educate the students of Virginia's 8th Congressional District.