

budget typically has had to come to the floor repeatedly before it passes because of attachments. Members then complain about the time and effort spent on the smallest appropriation affecting no other members. No budget autonomy bill can eliminate the possibility of attachments because there are countless ways to attach riders, but our bill reduces the likelihood that they will hold the city's local budget hostage and sometimes the appropriations process itself.

Members of Congress were sent here to do the business of the nation. They have no reason to be interested in or to become knowledgeable about the many complicated provisions of the local budget of a single city. In good times and in bad, the House and Senate pass the District's budget as is. Our bill takes the Congress in the direction it is moving based on its own experience and completes the process. Three decades of congressional interference into the vital right to self government should end this year and end first with budget autonomy for the District of Columbia.

#### TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JEDEDIAH BERMAN, BOISE, IDAHO

#### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2007*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Jedediah Berman, an Idaho native, a constituent of mine, and a proud member of the United States Military for over 15 years.

In 2004, Sergeant Berman was serving in Iraq when he was seriously wounded by an IED explosion next to his Fox vehicle. The right side of his head was badly injured. His arm was mangled, his lung had collapsed, his knee was injured, and he had shrapnel in his shoulder. He was treated first at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, then transferred to Walter Reed Medical Center here in Washington, and finally sent to Madigan Medical Center in Fort Lewis to undergo intensive treatment and rehabilitation. While his doctors were able to rebuild much of his face, they could not replace his eye or repair his hearing in his right ear. Shrapnel remained lodged in his body and his brain, his knees continued to cause him intense pain, and he had only limited use of his arm.

Despite these enormous hardships and the significant pain of his injuries, Sergeant Berman badly wanted to return to Iraq to be with his unit, the Stryker Brigade Combat Team, which had been redeployed to Iraq while Berman was recovering. Last November, he received good news from the review board that he was fit for duty and would be able to rejoin his fellow soldiers. He deployed a few days before Christmas and has rejoined the Stryker Brigade in Iraq where he continues to serve our great Nation.

Madam Speaker, Sergeant Berman is an inspiration and example to us all. He exemplifies the sort of brave and honorable military men and women that are protecting our Nation in Iraq, Afghanistan, and throughout the rest of the world. I am proud and honored to represent him and many others like him in Congress, and I am grateful for their service to our great Nation. I would also like to recognize

Sergeant Berman's family, and the many other military families throughout America, for their sacrifices and thank his mother, in particular, who brought her son's service and commitment to my attention.

As we conduct our business in Congress, I know that my colleagues and I will continue to recognize and pay tribute to the honorable men and women who are serving our country and honor the many Sergeant Bermans who willingly make such great sacrifices to protect those of us at home. To our military men and women serving at home and abroad, the American people thank you for your great service to our country.

#### CONGRATULATING IRVIN "CHOPPY" SMITH

#### HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2007*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the devoted service of Irvin "Choppy" Smith to the people of Acadia Parish. Choppy recently retired following 22 years of dedicated work as the Chief Deputy in the Acadia Parish Tax Assessor's Office.

During his distinguished service to Acadia Parish, Choppy was known as a devoted public servant who always provided a warm and welcoming environment for the many parish residents that sought the service of the Tax Assessor's Office. Choppy's vast knowledge of Acadia Parish was invaluable as he assisted countless taxpayers.

Madam Speaker, it is people like Choppy Smith that continue to inspire all of us, and I ask my colleagues to join me and the people of Acadia Parish in congratulating Choppy for his invaluable accomplishments for the State of Louisiana.

#### A TRIBUTE TO REV. JAMES MOORE, SR.

#### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2007*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Rev. James Moore, Sr. the pastor of the Second Mount Zion Baptist Church, upon the occasion of his installation as the president of Black Clergy, Inc. of Philadelphia and Vicinity.

Rev. Moore is a man of uncompromising faith and vision. His absolute devotion to church and community is recognized by his parishioners, his fellow clergy members and civic officials.

As the president of the Black Clergy I know he will take the organization to even greater heights because of his commitment to build working partnerships beyond the walls of the church to solve some of the serious problems our communities are facing.

Biblically guided by Philippians 2:5, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus," Rev. Moore, in spite of his accomplishments, walks the path of humility as he offers spiritual inspiration to those in need.

I know that all of my colleagues in the Congress join me in honoring Rev. Moore.

#### CONDEMNING ABBAS'S REMARKS AGAINST ISRAEL

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2007*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, at a Fatah party rally on January 11, 2007, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas reportedly said that Palestinians "have a legitimate right to direct our guns against the occupation [Israel]" and that Fatah's "fighting" stance is a "model for liberation."

I find it disheartening and deeply troubling that Abbas would sanction violence against Israel instead of calling upon his people to support peaceful compromise with Israel.

Palestinian leaders must understand that they can no longer support peace when speaking to Western audiences while advocating violence against Israel when addressing their people. Abbas' statements suggest that he is not the "moderate" Palestinian leader that many claim he is. Unless he renounces violence once and for all and takes steps to disarm terrorists, Abbas may not deserve additional U.S. aid.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW- ARK PUBLIC LIBRARY ON THEIR BLACK HISTORY MONTH EXHIBITION

#### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2007*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate the Director and Board of Trustees of The Newark Public Library, and Dr. Sibyl E. Moses, guest curator, on the occasion of the opening of the Library's Black History Month exhibition entitled "The Creativity and Imagination of African American Women Writers in New Jersey." As the representative from the 10th Congressional District, I am very proud of my long affiliation with the library and the valuable services they render to our community.

The exhibition at Newark Public Library celebrates the diversity and richness of published works created by African American women in New Jersey. The exhibition documents an important aspect of New Jersey's cultural history, and brings this information together in one place and at one time, for the people of Newark and for all residents of New Jersey. I applaud The Newark Public Library for interpreting their collections for all to see.

I also commend Sibyl E. Moses, the guest curator, for her achievements and many years of commitment and service to the people of New Jersey. She is an outstanding citizen, whose leadership is recognized nationally and internationally in the field of library and information science. For more than 20 years, she has identified, preserved, and promoted an awareness of books published by African American women in New Jersey. Her book, *African American Women Writers in New Jersey, 1836-2000: A Biographical Dictionary and Bibliographic Guide* (Rutgers University Press), upon which this exhibition is based,

won recognition from the American Association for State and Local History and by The New Jersey Center for the Book.

I am pleased to join all those in attendance at the opening of the exhibition, in wishing the Director and Board of Trustees of The Newark Public Library, and Dr. Sibyl E. Moses, continued success for the work they are doing to preserve and promote an awareness of African American history in New Jersey.

HONORING PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL  
OF FREEDOM RECIPIENT MRS.  
RUTH COLVIN

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2007*

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Mrs. Ruth Colvin, a 2006 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her work as the founder of Literacy Volunteers of America.

Literacy Volunteers of America is a national, educational, non-profit organization that trains volunteers to teach Adult Basic Literacy (ABL) and English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). In 2002 Literacy Volunteers of America merged with Laubach Literacy International to become ProLiteracy Worldwide, and now has 1200 affiliates across the United States and over 50 partners worldwide. Her work has made Syracuse, NY, the center of global literacy efforts.

Ruth Colvin is a literacy pioneer and one of our Nation's most effective ambassadors to the world on the importance of education. The founder of Literacy Volunteers of America, she has dedicated her life to helping the less fortunate gain the reading and language skills they need to succeed. Her work has inspired others to lead lives of service and devote their time and talents to combating illiteracy. The United States honors Ruth Johnson Colvin for her extraordinary efforts to provide hope and opportunity to people everywhere.

REMEMBERING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE HUNGARIAN  
UPRISING

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this past October, Hungary celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising. As President Bush said in his October 18 Presidential Proclamation, "the story of Hungarian democracy represents the triumph of liberty over tyranny." Like the President, I honor the men and women who struggled—not only in 1956 but for many years thereafter—for democracy in Hungary.

The following remarks were made by Istvan Gereben, a man who came to this country after the 1956 revolution, but who never forgot his homeland. They were delivered by Mr. Gereben in San Francisco on October 22, 2006, at the Remember Hungary 1956 Commemoration, at the California State Building.

REVOLUTION, REBIRTH, FREEDOM: HUNGARY  
1956

From the shadows of blood, iron bars, gal-  
lows and simple wooden crosses we step  
today into the sunshine of remembrance,  
hope, duty and responsibility. During the  
past sixteen years the ideas, guiding prin-  
ciples, heroes and martyrs of 1956 gained  
amends. The moral and political legacy of  
the Hungarian Revolution, however, still,  
even today, is misunderstood, misrepres-  
ented and waiting to be fully appreciated.

We remember . . . our friends, the Kids of  
Pest, the colleagues, the relatives, the fami-  
liar strangers. The brave Hungarians. Let's  
remember the dead here, thousands of miles  
away from their graves but close to their  
soul, grieving woefully, but full with hope.  
We pray for those who in their defeat became  
triumphant. "For what they have done has  
been to expose the brutal hypocrisy of Com-  
munism for all mankind"—declared Archi-  
bald McLeish in the Special Report of Life  
Magazine in 1957.

Why did it happen? The best answer can be  
found in Sandor Marai's poem: Christmas  
1956. Angel from Heaven.

The whole world is talking about the mir-  
acle.

Priests talk about bravery in their sermons.

A politician says the case is closed.

The Pope blesses the Hungarian people.

And each group, each class, everybody

Asks why it happened this way.

Why didn't they die out as expected?

Why didn't they meekly accept their fate?

Why was the sky torn apart?

Because a people said, "Enough!"

They who were born free do not understand.

They do not understand that

"Freedom is so important, so important!"

The fight waged by Hungarians in 1956 was  
inspired by a burning desire for freedom of  
the individual and the nation, by want for  
national independence, by thirst for full na-  
tional and individual sovereignty and by  
hunger for inner democracy. This Revolution  
against the Soviet occupiers was a defining  
moment in Hungarian history and in the na-  
tion's political culture. 1956 was one of the  
most powerful nails driven into the coffin of  
an evil and fraudulent tyranny.

Then and continuously since we witness  
the expression of praise, admiration of and  
support for the aims of this miracle that is  
called the Hungarian Revolution.

Let's refresh our memory with some of the  
more striking observations by our friends  
here in America and elsewhere in the World:

President John F. Kennedy: "October 23,  
1956 is a day that will forever live in the an-  
nals of free men and free nations. It was a  
day of courage, conscience and triumph. No  
other day since history began has shown  
more clearly the eternal unquenchability of  
man's desire to be free, whatever the odds  
against success, whatever the sacrifice re-  
quired." (Statement, October 23, 1960)

President Ronald Reagan: "The Hungarian  
Revolution of 1956 was a true revolution of,  
by and for the people. Its motivations were  
humanity's universal longings to live, wor-  
ship, and work in peace and to determine  
one's own destiny. The Hungarian Revolu-  
tion forever gave the lie to communism's  
claim to represent the people, and told the  
world that brave hearts still exist to chal-  
lenge injustice." (Excerpt from the Presi-  
dential Proclamation issued on October 20,  
1986.)

President George W. Bush: "On the 50th  
anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution, we  
celebrate the Hungarians who defied an em-  
pire to demand their liberty; we recognize  
the friendship between the United States and  
Hungary; and we reaffirm our shared desire  
to spread freedom to people around the

world." (Excerpt from the Presidential Pro-  
clamation issued on October 18, 2006.)

Milovan Djilas: "The changes in Poland  
mean the triumph of national Communism,  
which in a different form we have seen in  
Yugoslavia. The Hungarian uprising is some-  
thing more, a new phenomenon, perhaps no  
less meaningful than the French or Russian  
Revolutions . . . The revolution in Hungary  
means the beginning of the end of Com-  
munism." (Excerpt from "The Storm in  
Eastern Europe," "The New Leader," No. 19,  
1956.)

The New York Times: "We accuse the So-  
viet Government of murder. We accuse it of  
the foulest treachery and the basest deceit  
known to man. We accuse it of having com-  
mitted so monstrous crime against the Hun-  
garian people yesterday that its infamy can  
never be forgiven or forgotten." (In an edi-  
torial in the paper's November 1956 issue.)

I could continue with Statements made by  
Albert Camus, President Richard Nixon, Sir  
Leslie Munroe, Henry Kissinger, Leo Chern,  
Pablo Picasso, Nehru and I could read hun-  
dreds and hundreds of pages from the Con-  
gressional Record listing the praising re-  
marks of hundreds and hundreds lawmakers  
uttered in the past 50 years. All the words  
were saved for posterity, everyone can find  
and savor them.

October 23, 1956 happened when two power-  
ful ideas—tyrannical communism and the  
eternal human principles of democracy—met  
and clashed in the middle of Europe, in the  
small and defenseless Hungary. In this inher-  
ently uneven conflict blood was shed and  
lives were lost. Imre Nagy and his colleagues  
were arrested, tried and most of them along  
with countless Freedom Fighters were exe-  
cuted on June 16, 1958.

Since their death, the political and human  
challenge has been to find the rationale for  
their supreme sacrifice. This rationale is the  
indestructible dignity of every human being.  
By refusing to beg for his life, Imre Nagy re-  
pudiated his personal past for a more hopeful  
future of Hungary and the world at large.

The significance of his and countless other  
Hungarians' sacrifice is etched onto the po-  
litical map of the 21st century. The invented  
hope of the Hungarian Revolution is taking  
shape in the recent developments throughout  
the world. That is the real miracle of the  
events of 1956 and the subsequent human sac-  
rifices of Imre Nagy and his fellow Freedom  
Fighters.

The Revolution was brutally and unavoid-  
ably defeated.

Why was the fate of the Revolution pre-  
determined? Why did it happen so that when  
we in the last days of October and the early  
days of November in 1956 enthusiastically  
and full with hope sensing victory strolled  
the streets of Budapest and the cities and  
villages of Hungary not suspecting that our  
fate, independently from us, already has  
been determined. The deadly sentence was  
delivered by the powers of the world? And if  
it is so why was the verdict such as it was?

Even after 50 years there is still no answer.

The questions are not new. The lack of an-  
swer frustrated many historians, political  
scientists but none had the determination,  
the skill, the objectivity and patience to pro-  
vide an authentic answer.

Robert Murphy, who, in the absence of Sec-  
retary of State John Foster Dulles from  
Washington, attended to the day to day busi-  
ness of the State Department during the  
Hungarian Revolution, summarized his frus-  
tration caused by not being able to find a  
satisfactory answer to Hungary's demands in  
his autobiography, *Diplomat Among War-  
riors*, published in 1964 this way:

"In retrospect, world acceptance of the  
Russian aggression in Hungary is still in-  
credible. For sheer perfidy and relentless