

They shall live on in the hearts of their families and friends forever, and this memorial records their loss to the university and to the community.

We will never forget the loss of those 75 lives on that hillside in 1970. We will continue to honor their memory every time the Thundering Herd takes the field and the stadium fills with the cheers of family and friends. We Are Marshall.

#### THE HARMONY OF CIVILIZATIONS AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL

##### HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, intercultural understanding is a fundamental part of peace in the global system. The understanding of intercultural and international diversities minimizes the outbreak of serious conflicts on a fundamental level. Through teaching tolerance, and through building societies that promote unity, we can work towards creating a peaceful world.

On November 2, 2007, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, Ambassador Joseph Verner Reed addressed the Beijing Forum at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing regarding the promotion of building tolerant civilizations. I have submitted the text to be entered into the RECORD.

#### THE HARMONY OF CIVILIZATIONS AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL

I send warm greetings to all participants in the 2007 Beijing Forum who have come together to study and promote harmony between peoples and civilizations.

In the ten months that I have served as Secretary-General, I have traveled to all corners of the United Nations, from Kinshasa to Kabul, from Brussels to Beirut. Everywhere I have visited, and among all the different people I have met, I have encountered one common sentiment—a universal longing for peace and an aspiration to prosperity.

But, all too often, I have discovered that people who aspire to the same things also suffer from the same prejudices. They all fear that which is different from them: the other ethnicity, the other skin colour, the other cultural or linguistic tradition and, above all, the other religion.

And yet, in today's era of global travel and instant satellite transmissions, people everywhere are encountering less of the familiar, and more of "the other". This reality has fed rising intercultural and inter-religious tensions, as well as growing alienation among vast segments of the world population.

Today, there is an urgent need to address this worrying trend. We need to rebuild bridges and engage in a sustained and constructive intercultural dialogue, one that stresses shared values and shared aspirations.

It is time to promote the idea that diversity is a virtue, not a threat. It is time to explain that different religions, belief systems and cultural backgrounds are essential to the richness of the human experience. And it is time to stress that our common humanity is greater—far greater—than our outward differences.

The Beijing Forum is ideally placed to contribute to this process. By bringing together scholars from across the globe, your discussion can become a source of new ideas and innovative approaches to promote understanding and tolerance.

Your exchange can also contribute to the UN's own initiative for an Alliance of Civilizations, which responds to the clear need for action by the international community to bridge divides and promote understanding. The Alliance has identified several priority areas for action, and is developing a strategy to promote better understanding between the world of politics and religion. Meetings such as yours can help guide this important work, and ensure the Alliance's ultimate success.

Together, we must seek to further the basic ideals of all the world's major religions. We must build societies that respect individual beliefs and practices. And we must nurture communities where people of all faiths and nationalities coexist in peace.

In that spirit, let me express my hope that this Forum will help foster harmony and understanding, and thereby advance our wider efforts for a peaceful and prosperous world.

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF CON- GRESSMAN AUGUSTUS F. HAW- KINS

##### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of former Representative Augustus F. Hawkins. Congressman Hawkins served in this chamber for 28 years, and I offer my condolences to his family and friends after his passing this past weekend at the age of 100.

Congressman Hawkins was dedicated to public service throughout his life. Beginning in 1935 as a California State Representative, he served the people of Los Angeles for 28 years. In 1962, Augustus Hawkins made a monumental breakthrough in civil rights history, becoming the first African-American elected to Congress from the State of California.

During his tenure in the House of Representatives, Congressman Hawkins continued to lead the way for the American Civil Rights Movement. In 1970, he and several of his colleagues joined together to found the Congressional Black Caucus. Then, in just his second term in Congress, he introduced and sponsored Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This ground-breaking legislation created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and outlawed discrimination in the workplace based on race.

For over half a century, Congressman Hawkins dedicated his life to our Nation with steadfast dedication, humility, and geniality. In the hearts of the residents of Los Angeles, and anyone who was ever influenced by his presence, Augustus Hawkins' legacy of leadership and courage will remain for years to come. Congressman Hawkins is succeeded by his two stepdaughters, Barbara A. Hammond and Brenda L. Stevenson, and a stepson, Michael A. Taylor. I extend my deepest condolences and gratitude to the family of Congressman Hawkins.

#### IN SUPPORT OF A STRONG AND CAPABLE SUBMARINE FLEET

##### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, yesterday President Bush signed into law H.R. 3222, the Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008. The bill contained many important provisions to support our men and women in uniform, their families and our returning veterans. The measure includes a 3.5 percent pay raise for our troops, blocks the President's proposed fee increase for Tricare beneficiaries and provides significant funding for family advocacy programs to help military spouses and children manage the difficulties associated with deployments. We all recognize that our military's strength comes from the people who serve, and this legislation demonstrates our commitment to their health and well-being.

I am also extremely pleased that the Defense Appropriations Act includes an additional \$588 million in advance procurement funding for materials that will permit the expedited construction of a second Virginia-class submarine. As co-chair of the Congressional Submarine Caucus, I know the importance of submarines to our national security. Quiet yet powerful, submarines can conduct a variety of surveillance and reconnaissance missions, protect our fleet, project U.S. force onto distant shores and support global strike operations. The ability of submarines to operate independently in unconventional locations makes them one of the most capable components of our fleet. In fact, submarines are in such high demand that the Navy can fulfill only about 60 percent of Regional Combatant Commanders' requests to use them for missions.

The Navy has estimated that we need 48 attack submarines to meet the needs of our military commanders. However, under the Navy's current 30-year shipbuilding plan, they do not expect to increase production to two subs per year until 2012, causing a perilous decline in our future sub fleet—dropping below 48 ships in FY2020–33 and hitting a low of 40 in FY2028 and FY2029. Since I came to Congress nearly 7 years ago, I have consistently advocated an increase in our build rate of Virginia-class submarines to two per year so that we have sufficient capabilities to address emerging threats. Unfortunately, the Navy has repeatedly pushed back its two-per-year target date, causing instability in the industrial base. In FY2004, the Navy expected to build two subs per year in FY2007. By FY2005, the target had moved to FY2009. That date was delayed again and again, and now stands at FY2012. Meanwhile, our defense industrial base in Southeastern New England has suffered layoffs of submarine designers and engineers, whose specialized skills would be very difficult to reconstitute if lost. Without prompt action, we risk shrinking our sub fleet to dangerously low levels, precisely when nations such as China are expanding and modernizing their navies.

The FY2008 Defense Appropriations Act demonstrates Congress's commitment to addressing this dangerous problem and will enhance our national security. On behalf of the submarine industrial base in Rhode Island, I want to thank Chairman MURTHA and Ranking

Member YOUNG for their leadership on this important issue. I would also like to thank my friend and colleague from Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, for his tireless advocacy and efforts to achieve this goal, as well as the co-chair of the Submarine Caucus, the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. FORBES, for being such a dedicated partner in this initiative.

I am hopeful that this additional funding will prompt the Navy to adjust its shipbuilding plan to begin construction of a second submarine in next year's budget. I remain committed to that goal, and I look forward to working with the Navy and my colleagues in Congress to build a more robust and capable submarine fleet.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 1082 on Suspension—H.R. 3315—Naming Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center.

I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### IN MEMORY OF NAVY CAPTAIN AND P.O.W. COLE BLACK

### HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life and memory of former Navy Captain Cole Black of Escondido, California. As a career Naval Officer, Cole's contributions to this country are impossible to quantify and the seven years he spent in captivity during the Vietnam War are an enduring testament to his character and service to America.

Last Friday, Cole was returning to Southern California after speaking to students in Oregon about his experiences as a P.O.W. when mechanical difficulties caused his plane to crash. This tragic and unexpected event came only weeks before his 75th birthday, which Cole would have celebrated on the 28th of November.

In June 1966, when he was only one week away from returning home to his family, Cole's F-8 Crusader was shot down over the skies of North Vietnam. He was captured almost instantly after ejecting from his aircraft and then forced to spend the next seven years of his life between four prison camps, including the infamous Hanoi Hilton.

Conditions in these prisons were intolerable, and the American service personnel who were held in these camps were treated inhumanely and without respect for the rules of war. Like so many others held in captivity by the North Vietnamese, Cole was confined to a 7 by 9 foot cage and fed meals of little to no sustenance—such as boiled greens and rice—only twice a day. He was also part of the Hanoi March, where prisoners were forced to march the streets of Hanoi as part of the Vietnamese propaganda effort, only to be met by people throwing rocks and other objects.

More impressive than Cole's endurance and willingness to survive his captivity was his unique perspective on the seven years he spent as a P.O.W. After his release in 1973, Cole later said that this time "changed his life for the better" and that he arrived home with a "real zest for life." Upon retiring from active military service in 1986, he attended National University and earned a master's in business and a real estate broker's license.

It was not until 1994 that Cole returned to Vietnam for a vacation with his wife Karen. While there, he visited the location of the Hanoi Hilton just as workers were tearing it down and he took the opportunity to pocket a piece of brick from the walls that once kept him confined for so many years.

Madam Speaker, President Reagan once said, "Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than a generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes once to a people. Those who have known freedom, and then lost it, have never known it again."

When President Reagan spoke these words, he was referring directly to Americans like Cole, who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for America. Not only did Cole fight to protect freedom as part of the American mission in Vietnam, but he fought tirelessly for his own freedom everyday he was in captivity. His strength and perseverance guaranteed his survival and, although he briefly lost his freedom, he was able to endure his captivity and return to a life far removed from cruelty and oppression.

Madam Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with Cole's wife Karen and his children, two of which are currently serving in our nation's Armed Forces. His contributions and service to America will forever be remembered and I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying tribute to this great American hero.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE GREATER SOMERSET COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greater Somerset County Chapter of the American Red Cross! On Thursday, November 15, 2007, this vibrant organization will mark its Ninetieth Anniversary.

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross Movement, provides relief to victims of disasters and help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Jean-Henry Dunant is credited as the original founder of the Red Cross. The International Committee of the Red Cross was formed on February 17, 1863. Operations were well underway overseas when the American Red Cross was first founded nearly twenty years later, on May 21, 1881 by Clara Barton.

The Red Cross has a long history of providing aid in emergencies. Food, shelter, and

medical assistance are offered to victims of fires, floods, and other catastrophes. In addition to disaster aid, the Red Cross sponsors blood drives; conducts CPR and first aid training; teaches swimming; provides AIDS education; and serves as a link between service men and women and their families during emergency situations.

By an act of Congress on January 5, 1905, the American Red Cross was granted a charter designating it as a nationwide agency through which the American people voluntarily extend assistance to people in need. The national headquarters, located in Washington, DC, implements policies and procedures that govern Red Cross activities, provides administrative and technical supervision, and offers guidance to its national organization, composed of local chapters and geographical regions.

The Greater Somerset County Chapter, American Red Cross evolved into its current configuration after undergoing numerous transformations and mergers. The Bound Brook Chapter was chartered in April 1917 and a few weeks later, the Somerville Area Chapter also came into being.

In March 1958, Manville was incorporated into the Somerville Area Chapter, and in June 1964, the Somerville and Bound Brook chapters merged to form the Raritan Valley Chapter. In 1994, this chapter reached its current configuration when the Raritan Valley Chapter merged with the Somerset Hills Chapter to become the Greater Somerset County Chapter.

The Greater Somerset County Chapter has historically relied on the utilization of a small staff, 428 volunteers that represent 98 percent of the chapter staffing and private authorized instructors to deliver high quality programs and services to the community. For 90 years, Somerset County has been provided continued access to 24/7 emergency and disaster services, Armed Forces Emergency Services (AFES), blood donation programs, preparedness education, health and safety training and medical transportation services.

Madam Speaker, I am privileged to honor the Greater Somerset County Chapter of the American Red Cross. I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of this valuable, dynamic organization for their ninety years of service! Again, I offer my praise and thanks to their dedicated trustees, administration, support staff, and volunteers who work tirelessly on behalf of those in need.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA FAIRNESS RESTORATION ACT

### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the IDEA Fairness Restoration Act to help parents of students with disabilities ensure that their children have access to the free and appropriate education guaranteed by this Congress in 1975. I thank Mr. SESSIONS, who joins me in offering this bill, for his work on this important issue.

Madam Speaker, when Congress passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, it recognized the vital importance of parent and school cooperation and collaboration in