

of Khojaly, a small village in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh overrun by Armenian forces on 25–26 February. Many were killed at close range while trying to flee; some had their faces mutilated, others were scalped.”

Time Magazine stated “While the details are argued, this much is plain: something grim and unconscionable happened in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly two weeks ago. So far, some 200 dead Azerbaijanis, many of them mutilated, have been transported out of the town tucked inside the Armenian-dominated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh for burial in neighboring Azerbaijan. The total number of deaths—the Azerbaijanis claim 1,324 civilians have been slaughtered, most of them women and children—is unknown.”

Members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) from Albania, Azerbaijan, and the United Kingdom stated in May 2001 in Written Declaration No. 324 that the “Armenians massacred the whole population of Khojaly and fully destroyed the town.”

Khojaly was the first significant Azerbaijani settlement overrun by Armenian forces in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The forces next overran the Nagorno-Karabakh districts of Zangilan, Gubadli, Fuzuli, Aghdam, and Kalbajar, as well as the towns of Shusha and Lachin. Altogether, the occupied territories represent roughly 20 percent of the territory of Azerbaijan. And, altogether roughly one million Azerbaijanis were evicted from their homes over the course of the Armenian-Azerbaijan war.

On January 25, 2005 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe overwhelmingly adopted a resolution highlighting that “considerable parts of Azerbaijan’s territory are still occupied by the Armenian forces and separatist forces are still in control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region.”

Armenian Defense Minister, in an interview with British journalist Tomas de Waal openly admitted that “Before Khojaly the Azerbaijanis thought that . . . the Armenians were people who could not raise their hands against the civilian population. We were able to break that [stereotype].” Madam Speaker, the tragedy of Khojaly was a crime against humanity and I urge Congress to join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

INTRODUCING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE ACT AND THE TAXPAYER FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce two bills relating to abortion. These bills stop the federal government from promoting abortion. My bills accomplish this goal by prohibiting federal funds from being used for population control or “family planning” through exercising Congress’s constitutional power to restrict federal court’s jurisdiction by restoring each state’s authority to protect unborn life.

Abortion on demand is no doubt the most serious sociopolitical problem of our age. The lack of respect for life that permits abortion significantly contributes to our violent culture

and our careless attitude toward liberty. Whether a civilized society treats human life with dignity or contempt determines the outcome of that civilization. Reaffirming the importance of the sanctity of life is crucial for the continuation of a civilized society. There is already strong evidence that we are on the slippery slope toward euthanasia and non-consensual human experimentation. Although the real problem lies within people’s hearts and minds, the legal problems of protecting life stem from the ill-advised Roe v. Wade ruling, where the court usurped the state’s authority over abortion.

One of the bills I am introducing today, the Sanctity of Life Act of 2005, reverses some of the damage done by Roe v. Wade. The Sanctity of Life Act provides that the federal courts of the United States, up to and including the Supreme Court, do not have jurisdiction to hear abortion-related cases. Congress must use the authority granted to it in Article 3, Section 1 of the Constitution to rein in rogue federal judges from interfering with a state’s ability to protect unborn life.

In addition to restricting federal court jurisdiction over abortion, Congress must stop the unconstitutional practice of forcing Americans to subsidize abortion providers. It is not enough to say that “family planning” groups may not use federal funds to perform or promote abortion. After all, since money is fungible, federal funding of any activities of these organizations forces taxpayers to underwrite the organizations’ abortion activities. This is why I am also introducing the Taxpayer Freedom of Conscience Act. The Taxpayer Freedom of Conscience Act prohibits any federal official from expending any federal funds for any population control or population planning program or any family planning activity. To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, it is “sinful and tyrannical” to force the American taxpayers to subsidize programs and practices they find morally abhorrent.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in support of these two bills. By following the Constitution and using the power granted to the Congress by the Constitution, we can restore respect for freedom of conscience and the sanctity of human life.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE CHARLIE NORWOOD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of my esteemed colleague and friend, the Honorable CHARLES WHITLOW NORWOOD, Jr. of Georgia’s Tenth Congressional District.

Yesterday, we lost an inspiring public servant to complications from his eight year battle with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. All who knew him and worked with him recognized and appreciated his hard work. Throughout his

seven terms in Congress, CHARLIE served on the Education and the Workforce Committee as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections. He also served on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which included two terms as Vice-Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health. Fueled by a sincere interest in helping others, his colleagues knew he was not working for himself but for the people.

CHARLIE is well-known for introducing the first comprehensive managed health care reform legislation to Congress in 1995. He truly left his mark in legislation with reforms on patient’s rights, education, private property rights, telecommunications, and environmental regulations.

CHARLIE was dedicated to public service throughout his entire life, not only as a Member of Congress, but also as a dentist, a Vietnam Veteran, a small businessman, and a man of great faith. He and wife were active in their local United Methodist Church, as well as, members of the Augusta Opera Society and Augusta Symphony Guild. In every aspect of his life, he was recognized with countless awards and honors which illustrate how his contributions to his community were limitless.

We have not lost a colleague—we have lost a good friend.

The Honorable CHARLIE NORWOOD is survived by his wife Gloria, sons Charles and Carlton Norwood, and four grandchildren, all of Augusta. We will continue to hear of his service well into the future as CHARLIE’S legacy will, without a doubt, live on.

Mr. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor the life of the Honorable CHARLES WHITLOW NORWOOD, Jr. and his living legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Since the program’s inception in 2000, I have been a proud participant.

For the past seven years, 12 students from all across Australia are selected to participate in the eight-week Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, an opportunity that exposes them to the administrative and legislative processes that underpin the functioning of Congress as a democratic institution. Such experiences are invaluable opportunities for these students to gain knowledge and a deep understanding of the internal workings of the United States Government while bringing their own skills and backgrounds to their respective Congressional offices.

The Uni-Capitol Program selects undergraduates from 7 universities by exclusively matching the applicants with Members and Senators who share their views, as well as with various committee offices that relate to their interests and fields of study. The students who are selected come from a variety of academic disciplines, but all have a common interest in learning about and promoting the

U.S.-Australia relationship. These student placements are enhanced by the formation of genuine friendships and the exchange of views and ideas between the Australian interns and their respective offices. I continue to enjoy the interaction that frequently occurs between my Australian and American interns. This, my colleagues, is how we build diplomatic relationships which will ensure that the U.S. and Australia remain friends and allies for years to come.

For the past two months, my office has had the good fortune of hosting an amazing young woman from Australia, Anu Ambikaipalan, who is completing a double degree in law and international studies at Deakin University. Throughout the duration of Anu's tenure in my office, she has conducted herself admirably. Her willingness to learn and contribute to the legislative process through crafting legislation for the state of Florida as well as nationwide, has cemented a relationship indicative of the one the U.S. and Australia have shared for so many years. Anu has fast become an asset to my staff and we will be sorry to see her go.

Anu is participating with 11 other very qualified students. Emmanuel Rohan from the University of Queensland is in Representative MIKE CASTLE's office; Sylvia Gaston from the University of Melbourne is in Representative JAMES CLYBURN's office; Charis Tierney from the University of Queensland is in Senator MIKE CRAPO's office; Nicole Woodmansey from Griffith University is in Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD's office; Clare Ashby from the University of Melbourne in the office of Rep. PHILIP ENGLISH; Anna Keenan (University of Queensland is in Representative SAM FARR's office; Nisha Sundaresan from Deakin University is in Senator CHUCK HAGEL's office; Megan Bainbridge from the University of Melbourne is in Representative JERROLD NADLER's office; Stuart Broadfoot from the University of Western Australia is in Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN's office; Jennifer Grant from the University of Queensland is in Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ's office; Michael Ng from the University of Melbourne is with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's majority staff.

As we move to acknowledge the seventh successful year of this program, I would like to commend the founder and director the Uni-Capitol Internship Program, Eric Federer. Eric is a former senior House and Senate staffer of more than a dozen years, who successfully combined his experience in Washington with his extensive travels and lectures throughout Australia into an ingenious program of diplomatic exchange through cultural appreciation and understanding. I heartily congratulate him on making his vision a reality. This program is the right step in the direction of supporting our young people who have a passion for and commitment to civic engagement and public service.

Over the years, my staff and I have greatly benefited from participating in this program, as I believe it continues to provide a unique and important bridge between the United States of America and Australia in many respects, especially in the arena of promoting people to people relationships that are just as key if not more than our military and economic relationships. I have said this in years past, and I will say it again: I implore my colleagues to participate in this worthwhile program when the opportunity is made available.

IN HONOR OF MS. VINNIE MALLOY,
NEW YORK DISTRICT MANAGER/
POSTMASTER, UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I, along with Mr. RANGEL and Mrs. MALONEY rise today to congratulate Ms. Vinnie Malloy on the occasion of her retirement from the United States Postal Service.

Ms. Malloy has broken many barriers throughout her career, which has been marked by excellence. From December 1998 until her retirement on February 2, 2007, Ms. Malloy served as the 37th District Manager and New York City Postmaster, the first woman to hold that distinction. In this position, Ms. Malloy was responsible for the delivery of mail and customer service for millions of residents and business customers in New York City. She managed 62 post offices, 46 stations and 15,000 employees.

Ms. Malloy joined the Postal Service in 1969, at age 21, as a Substitute Distribution Clerk in the James A. Farley Building. In the years that followed, Ms. Malloy held several positions in the Postal Service, including the historic first female Tour Director and Mail Processing Operations Manager in the New York District, as well as first female Bronx Postmaster.

Through mentoring and training, Ms. Malloy has assisted and encouraged many of her employees to seek higher level positions. She has one son and serves on the Senior Usher Board of the Cambria Heights Community Church in Queens, NY.

We are very grateful to Ms. Malloy for her assistance with the hundreds of constituent concerns we have brought to her attention over the years. We wish every government office were as responsive as Ms. Malloy and her staff have been. No matter how big or small the issue, our constituents have always been treated promptly and courteously. During her nearly 38 year career, she has been committed to the residents of Manhattan through her work in the United States Postal Service.

Ms. Malloy paved the way for other female Postal Service employees, and is an inspiration and role model for all women. For her commitment to the Postal Service and her community, it is our privilege to congratulate Vinnie Malloy on her distinguished record of excellence and achievement and upon her retirement.

FREEDOM FOR RAFAEL BENÍTEZ CHUI

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Rafael Benítez Chui, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Rafael Benítez Chui is a father of three and a peaceful pro-democracy activist in totalitarian Cuba. Mr. Benítez Chui knows with

complete certainty that Cuba must be liberated from the nightmare that is the Castro regime in order for his children and for all the children of Cuba to be able to live in freedom, with the ability to exercise their most basic human rights. Because of his belief in freedom, democracy and a better future for his children, Mr. Benítez Chui became a target for the tyrant's machinery of repression.

As a result of the dictator's condemnable March 2003 crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Benítez Chui, along with his wife Migdalia Hernández Enamorado, went to a police unit in Guantánamo to protest the arrest of two of their fellow pro-democracy leaders, Manuel Ubals and Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta. Unfortunately, on March 19, 2003 shortly after arriving at the police unit, dictatorship thugs arrested both Mr. Benítez Chui and his wife while they peacefully protested the unjust treatment of their fellow human rights activists.

Unfortunately, their peaceful protest was justification enough for the communist regime to incarcerate Mr. Benítez. On September 18, 2003, after 7 months confinement to a hellish existence in the totalitarian gulag, 7 months after his initial detention, Mr. Benítez Chui was finally, in a sham trial, "sentenced" to 4 years for the alleged crime of "contempt".

Since his incarceration, Mr. Benítez Chui has endured an inhuman horror in the dictatorship's gulags. In 2004, he was severely beaten by regime thugs and robbed of his few personal belongings. When Mr. Benítez Chui attempted to defend himself against the brutal assault, he was placed in a so-called "punishment cell". These "punishment cells" are usually located in the basements of prisons, with continuous dark conditions, no available water, and a hole in the ground for a toilet.

Despite nearly 4 years of brutal, life threatening conditions and continued psychological torture, Mr. Benítez Chui has never wavered in his commitment to the freedom of all the Cuban people. He has never lost his hope that one day his three children will live in a democratic Cuba free of the murderous totalitarian regime that has oppressed Cuba for almost half a century. Mr. Benítez is one of the many heroes of the Cuban pro-democracy movement who are locked up in the dungeons of the dictatorship for believing in a better life for the Cuban people, all of whom are trapped in the horror of the brutal tyranny.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Benítez Chui is representative of the best of the Cuban people, their dignity and their thirst for freedom and democracy. It is unconscionable, in the 21st century, for the world to stand by in silence while valiant men and women are caged by a demented and vile oppressor simply for peacefully expressing opinions. We must demand the immediate freedom of Mr. Benítez Chui and all the prisoners of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

PROJECT BIOSHIELD MATERIAL THREATS ACT OF 2007

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Project BioShield Material Threats Act of 2007.