

ruthless strategy of using Russian energy assets to apply economic and political pressure on neighboring countries and the West—including the disruption of oil and gas supplies—the Congress has recognized that if the Russian Government or its subsidiary companies seek to acquire critical U.S. energy infrastructure, Russia's coercive energy policies and its potential threat to the energy security of the United States must be considered as part of the CFIUS review process.

The National Security Foreign Investment Reform and Strengthened Transparency Act of 2007 strikes the right balance. It strongly encourages foreign investment in the United States without unnecessary and reasonable restrictions by companies that engage in responsible commercial activities and practices. However, H.R. 556 also makes it clear that energy-related infrastructure is critically important to our national security, and those companies that wish to acquire our infrastructure must adhere to internationally recognized standards of commercial conduct.

IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the vast contributions that past and present African American leaders have made to our country. As February and Black History Month come to a close, it is time for us all to reflect on the crucial role that African Americans have played in this great nation.

As we commemorate the achievements of African American leaders, we must remember the efforts of their predecessors who dedicated their entire lives to opening the doors for those that followed. If it were not for the commitment of civil rights leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Medgar Evers and countless others, today's accomplishments may not have come to fruition. Their diligence and bravery paved the way for future African Americans and for that they deserve our deep recognition and praise.

Standing here today, I am honored to serve in this historic 110th Congress particularly because we have a record number of African Americans holding leadership positions. As a Democrat, I am proud to have Representative JAMES CLYBURN serving as the Majority Whip making him the highest ranking African American in Congressional history.

Additionally, we are privileged to have Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON of Mississippi of the Homeland Security Committee, Chairman JOHN CONYERS of Michigan on the Judiciary Committee, Chairwoman STEPHANIE TUBBS-JONES of Ohio on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and Chairman CHARLES RANGEL from my home state of New York on the Committee on Ways and Means. I am grateful to be serving in this body with such distinguished colleagues.

I hope you will all join me today on this the last day of February in recognizing and honoring the profound contributions of African Americans to the United States of America.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NETWORK TO FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Reauthorization Act. I would first like to thank the numerous colleagues that have joined me in prioritizing this legislation as original cosponsors, especially my colleague from Delaware, Representative CASTLE, and the National Parks Conservation Association for its endorsement of this legislation.

Our Nation's history is in peril when funding for our national parks is in peril. We must guarantee our future generations will be able to experience the critical journey of sacrifice and triumph that has empowered African-Americans and shaped the history of this Nation.

In pursuit of this charge, the National Park Service has emerged as one of the largest stewards of black history in the United States. The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom was established in 1998 and has served as a tremendous historical resource throughout our national parks. The Network to Freedom encompasses over 250 programs, sites, and partners in over 27 states and the District of Columbia. This unique network is a phenomenal national resource in its preservation of historic buildings, routes, programs, projects, and museums with thematic connections to the Underground Railroad. As the only national program dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and dissemination of Underground Railroad history, this network is a vital asset to the National Park System.

Madam Speaker, my esteemed former colleague Congressman Louis Stokes established the Network to Freedom with a bipartisan coalition to preserve American history. In 1998, his legislation passed the house with only two dissenting votes. With such overwhelming support, it is only right that we honor the congressional mandate set forth by the establishing legislation.

Honoring this legislation will require concerted action to overcome the funding challenges that threaten all national parks. In fact, recent National Park Service financial projections show the Network to Freedom budget reducing by 72 percent by the year 2011. This vital asset will diminish without adequate funding for staff and operations to coordinate efforts, as well as additional oversight of grants for site development. The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Reauthorization Act calls for a modest \$2 million in funding to resolve the financial burdens that threaten the existence of the Network to Freedom. Importantly, this legislation also maintains the \$500,000 in grants that have been previously authorized for Network to Freedom site and program development. This funding will allow Network to Freedom staff to pursue and fulfill their Congressional mandate “to honor and interpret the history of the Underground Railroad.”

Madam Speaker, I am confident that this bill will protect the interpretive interests of our Na-

tional Park System by providing the necessary support staff and oversight for the Network to Freedom to exist in perpetuity. As my distinguished former colleague Senator Carol Mosley-Braun so eloquently observed in her introduction of the companion establishing legislation in the Senate, “This bill helps to preserve the structures and artifacts of an organized resistance movement for freedom.” I urge my colleagues to join me in preserving the history of the Underground Railroad so that generations to come will understand the sacrifices endured to achieve the freedom experienced today.

HONORING ALABAMA'S AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the men and women of Alabama's Air National Guard.

The men and women of Alabama's Air National Guard are most deserving of our commendation. In the hours following the terror attacks of September 11th, members of Alabama's Air National Guard mobilized to patrol the skies above major southern U.S. cities. For the next year, these brave men and women vigilantly maintained a watchful presence in the skies.

Shortly after responding to that call of duty, Alabama's Air National Guard was again called up to active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Alabama's Air National Guard has taken a leading role in Iraq, with units completing up to three tours of duty. This high deployment level is a testament to the bravery and professional preparedness of the men and women of Alabama's Air National Guard, and confirms that Alabama's Air National Guard units are equipped with the necessary skills to meet the United States military's mission requirements in Iraq. This deployment also marked a significant first for Alabama's Air National Guard and the U.S. military; it was the first unit to ever use the GBU-38, commonly referred to as the “Smart Bomb,” in combat. This very effective weapon, which minimizes collateral damage, was effectively employed by Alabama's Air National Guard in the Battle of Fallujah.

Currently, members of Alabama's Air National Guard are deployed to Arizona and New Mexico as part of increased efforts to secure America's southern border. The highest levels of the U.S. military leadership have recognized and honored the service of Alabama's Air National Guard. The Guard has received numerous Flight Safety awards from the Air Force Air Combat Command and the Air National Guard for its safety record, and it has also been recognized by Air Combat Command and the 9th Air Force Inspector General for excellence during Operational Readiness Inspections and Unit Compliance Inspections over the last two decades.

The dedication of the men and women of Alabama's Air National Guard, as well as the vision and leadership of the officers in charge, has brought honor to the Guard, their fellow Alabamians, and fellow Americans. They and their families have sacrificed a great deal.

It is an honor for me to rise today and recognize the brave men and women of America's armed forces, and in particular, the brave men and women of Alabama's Air National Guard. May their dedication to the cause of freedom be an example to their families, friends, neighbors, and citizens throughout Alabama and across the United States of America.

**HONORING THE HARRY T. CLUNN
MEMORIAL POST 9220**

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Harry T. Clunn Memorial Post 9220 VFW in Bensalem, Pennsylvania, as it celebrates its 60th anniversary. Throughout the entirety of the Bensalem VFW's history, the Post and its members have worked tirelessly and selflessly for the betterment of the community as a whole.

The spirited efforts of the Post's members reflect the memory of Lieutenant Harry T. Clunn, who sacrificed his life for his country. The Bensalem VFW Post embodies the civic duty and patriotism that Lieutenant Clunn showed during his service to this nation. Lieutenant Clunn, a graduate of Bensalem High School, enlisted and trained as a navigator with the 409th Bombardier Squadron at Hondu Air Base in Texas. At the height of the Second World War, the squadron was deployed to the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations. On April 12, 1944, Lieutenant Clunn and his fellow airmen were tragically killed after completing a bombing mission.

Madam Speaker, the Bensalem VFW post has worked hard to honor Lieutenant Clunn and all the other men and women who have valiantly given their lives on the battlefield to protect the freedom we as Americans enjoy. In the memory of Lieutenant Clunn, members of the Post have contributed tremendous time and energy to the Bensalem community. The Post has supported local softball teams and senior citizen dinners. They have organized the "Voice of Democracy" essay contest for high school students and the "Patriots Pen" essay contest for middle school students. Each year, members of the Post contribute time and money to the Marines' "Toys for Tots" program, the St. Francis Home for the Homeless, the Delaware Valley Veterans Home and the Scotland School for Veterans' Children.

With great pride, the Bensalem VFW Post publicly commemorates our fallen soldiers and all members of the military, thanking them for their commitment and devotion to defending our country. Each Memorial Day, members assist in the placement of thousands of American flags and markers at grave sites. But more generally speaking Madam Speaker, the members of the Bensalem VFW Post exemplify the commitment to public service that is at the core of our shared American values. They serve as an inspiration to the rest of the community, and a reminder that we are all indebted to the brave men and women who gave their lives before us. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Bensalem community, it is my

honor to recognize the Harry T. Clunn Memorial Post 9220.

**CONGRATULATING ALEXANDROS
MALLIAS, AMBASSADOR OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GREECE TO THE
UNITED STATES**

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, recently Ambassador Alexandros Mallias, of the Republic of Greece to the United States, was honored by The Committee for the International Salute to the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. I would like to congratulate Ambassador Mallias for receiving the Martin Luther King Legacy Award for International Service. I would also like to insert into the RECORD the remarks that Ambassador Mallias made upon receiving this award:

It is with a spirit of humility, in the sense advocated by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that I receive today the Martin Luther King Legacy Award for International Service and serve as Co-Chairman of the committee for the International Salute to the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., A Man for All Nations.

His words and his message are timeless. They are an indelible part of the permanent and indispensable voice of our conscience. As long as these inequalities and disparities exist among peoples, nations, and continents, continue to exist, I have the right to say that there is an unfinished peace on Earth; there is an unfinished democracy on Earth. Ultimately, there is an unfinished dream.

My first recollection of Dr. King's powerful words goes back to my teenage years, living in a democratic and free society, Greece, in 1964, when he received the Nobel Prize for Peace. His words, however powerful, seemed unreal, as I could not conceive the images he painted.

I was a sophomore at the University of Athens, when, on April 4, 1968, the radio broadcast that Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis. His words came to me full circle, and sadly, I could identify with them. My world had changed, as my country, Greece—the birthplace of democracy—had come under military dictatorship.

That was part of the greatness of Dr. King. His message transcended geographic and cultural boundaries. The roar and ripple of his words stretched across oceans and seas, mountains and valleys, deserts and savannahs, and spoke to people like myself who had never met him.

In his Birmingham jail cell he wrote, "I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment . . . is in reality expressing the highest respect for law."

Aeschylus, in Prometheus-bound, describes the cry of Prometheus as follows: "I knew when I transgressed nor will deny it In helping Man, I brought my troubles on me."

Sophocles, one of Greece's greatest playwrights, put similar words in the mouth of his reluctant heroine, Antigone, who said: "I will not obey an unjust law, and if something happens because of it—so be it." A few months ago, Francoise, my wife, and I, visited Birmingham. We paid our respects to the strug-

gle for freedom and equal rights enshrined in Birmingham's central square, The Civil Rights Museum, and the churches.

The adoption of the Brunetta C. Hill Elementary School of Birmingham, Alabama, by the Embassy of Greece, is indicative of the very special affinities Greeks feel for what Birmingham represents. Today, speaking from this tribune, I very humbly wish to dedicate my remarks to this school, its students, teachers, and administration. Furthermore, very few know that AHEPA, the largest and oldest Greek-American association, was founded in 1922 in Atlanta, precisely to defend Greek immigrants from persecution and segregation.

King's words are not only relevant today, but an inspiration and guide for current challenges. In the ancient Greek tradition, an individual must partake in the responsibility and concerns of all society. So does Martin Luther King tell us that, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

Dr. King said: "As long as there is poverty in the world, I can never be rich, even if I have a billion dollars." "As long as disease is rampant, and millions of people around the world cannot expect to live more than 30 years, I can never be totally healthy." "I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the way our world is made. No individual or nation can stand out boasting of being independent. We are interdependent."

There is a moral obligation transcending continents and borders to stand united and join forces, efforts, and provide the necessary means to make it possible for our children's and grandchildren's generations to live in a better world. We see people dying of hunger. We see people dying of epidemic diseases. We see people killed everyday on religious or ethnic grounds. We see millions of innocent children as the victims of human trafficking, exploited in the most odious form of modern slavery. We see millions of women becoming victims of human trafficking.

I ask myself, where is the wealth of nations? Where is justice? Where are the policies and the measures to remedy the disparities?

Aggregate wealth estimates provided by the World Bank demonstrate that the European countries, along with the United States, and Japan, dominate the top ten wealthiest countries/nations. The ten poorest countries at the global level are in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In the twenty-first century, none of us can argue that this same message is no longer applicable. Beginning his last speech, known as "I've been to the mountaintop," on April 3 in Memphis, Dr. King said, "I would move on by Greece and take my mind to Mount Olympus. And I would see Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Euripides and Aristophanes assembled around the Parthenon. And I would watch them around the Parthenon as they discussed the great and eternal issues of reality, but I wouldn't stop there." Politics and policies will remain irrelevant if they continue missing the essence that is Man (anthropos). Only through an anthropo-centric global strategy, can we improve the plight of those in despair, and in need . . ."

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Alexandros Mallias, whose words exemplify the work of Martin Luther King, Jr.