

our wishes regarding our destiny as free citizens.

Earlier this month, Representative JOSÉ SERRANO and I, introduced the Puerto Rico Democracy Act of 2007 (HR 900), together with 93 bipartisan co-sponsors, to provide a federally sanctioned self-determination process for the people of Puerto Rico. I encourage my colleagues in the United States Congress to support this bipartisan bill to establish a formally-recognized process that will enable Puerto Ricans to determine our future based on realistic and legally valid options, recognized by the U.S. Constitution. After 90 years of being citizens of the United States, we deserve that right.

TRIBUTE TO THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 46th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

In October 1960 then Senator John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country and the cause of peace by living and working in the developing world.

This challenge was met with enthusiasm and led to the creation of the Peace Corps less than 5 months later on March 1, 1961. Since then, over 187,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 139 countries.

Peace Corps volunteers have made significant contributions and improved the lives of individuals and communities around the world. They have impacted agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health, HIV/AIDS, and the environment.

The Peace Corps also provides short-term assistance to countries in need through its Crisis Corps Volunteer Program. These former volunteers have assisted domestically with Hurricane Katrina efforts. Internationally, they have helped with rebuilding efforts in tsunami devastated areas of Sri Lanka and Thailand, and in Guatemala after Hurricane Stan.

In addition to their invaluable work abroad, volunteers gain marketable skills for use in the United States upon returning home. Worldwide, volunteers learn over 250 languages and dialects and receive extensive cross-cultural trainings that have been put to use in Congress, the Executive branch, the Foreign Service, education, business, finance, industry, trade, health care, and the social services sector.

I am proud to be a strong supporter of the Peace Corps which has become a symbol of our nation's commitment to progress, opportunity, and development worldwide.

On this anniversary, I would also like to acknowledge the two individuals from my district who are currently volunteering in Africa: Jorge A. Gaitan who is serving in Burkina Faso and Casey L. Kohler who is serving in Togo. I commend both of them for dedicating two years of their lives to helping others abroad

and for serving as ambassadors from the United States.

RECOGNIZING ANN RICHARDS' EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO TEXAS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 42, a bill recognizing Ann Richards' extraordinary contributions to Texas and American public life.

Before assuming the Texas Governorship, Ann Richards worked as a public school teacher; raised four children; and was heavily involved in Democratic politics. She formally entered politics in 1976, first serving as County Commissioner in Travis County, Texas. In 1982, Texans elected Ann Richards as State Treasurer, making her the first woman to hold a statewide office in 50 years. Ann Richards remained in this position until her gubernatorial win in 1991.

Ann Richards navigated Texas politics with a high level of integrity, intelligence and a legendary wit as the second female governor in the great state of Texas, where she served from 1991 to 1995. During her leadership, Governor Richards emphasized ethical reform, environmental protection, and increased diversity in state agencies. She called for a "New Texas," where the faces of Texas leadership would mirror Texas' diversity. True to her vision, she made great strides in ensuring that women, Hispanics, African-Americans, and the disadvantaged shared in Texas power and prosperity.

I knew Ann Richards personally and am honored to support this bill. Ann Richards was a trailblazer in the complete sense—she won her seat at the table by hard work and perseverance; won the affection and respect of her new colleagues; and made space for historically uninvited guests. Texas is a better state because of Ann Richards, as is our Nation. I invite my colleagues in Congress to commemorate her courage, efforts, charisma and memory, by joining me in support of H. Res. 42.

NATIONAL SECURITY FOREIGN INVESTMENT REFORM AND STRENGTHENED TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 556, the National Security Foreign Investment Reform and Strengthened Transparency Act. This legislation strikes the delicate balance between the need to encourage foreign direct investment in

the United States and the ability to critically review potential investment deals that threaten our national security.

I am particularly pleased that this bill formalizes the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) membership and designates the Secretary of the Treasury as the Chair. It is crucial to our economy that we continue to encourage foreign countries to freely invest in the United States, and the legislation before us will do just that.

It is, however, equally important to ensure that in cases where potential investment deals could impact our national security, we have a stopgap measure allowing us to critically review the potential ramifications and to proceed with caution. I am therefore also pleased that this legislation designates the Secretary of Homeland Security as the Vice Chair of CFIUS. The United States has historically been open to foreign direct investment and has provided foreign investors with fair, equitable and non-discriminatory treatment, and I believe this legislation will be implemented within this context.

Foreign direct investment continues to provide benefits to our economy in terms of jobs, technology, management expertise, and capital. The legislation we are considering today will continue to encourage such investment while strengthening the process through which we can ensure that none of these arrangements hinder our national security interests. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Peace Corps Week and the 46th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

While much has changed in the world since the Peace Corps was created on this date in 1961, their goals and ideals to promote peace and friendship remain. Volunteers continue to provide invaluable services in 73 countries as educators, technology consultants, environmental specialists, and business advisors. Indeed, they're involved in a broad spectrum of activity, but they share a commonality as some of America's best diplomats.

At a time when extremism is sweeping through much of the globe, more than ever, we need these dedicated individuals.

As the former chairman of the House Subcommittee on Africa, I have had the opportunity to meet with several Peace Corps volunteers around the continent. The commitment these men and women have shown is extremely impressive and is to be commended.

Madam Speaker, I have seen the valuable work the Peace Corps is doing in Africa, and throughout the world. It deserves our recognition and support. Under the new leadership of Director Ron Tschetter, the Peace Corps is well poised to address the rapidly evolving challenges of the developing world.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
THAT SUPPORTS THE GOALS
AND IDEALS OF ANTI-SLAVERY
DAY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues' strong support of the resolution that I have introduced which supports the goals and ideals of Anti-Slavery Day. I would also like to thank Representative BURTON for his assistance with this resolution. Anti-Slavery Day is dedicated to focusing attention on the many forms of slavery that exists today as well as to highlight and commend the many efforts made by the United States Congress, along with, Free the Slaves, labor organizations, and United States Industry to eradicate slavery from the product supply chains of goods entering the United States.

This resolution is most important this year as 2007 is the bicentennial of the abolition of the British slave trade. In 1865, the United States outlawed slavery and involuntary servitude with the 13th amendment. Yet today more than 27 million people are enslaved around the world and over the last 50 years slavery has actually increased and is flourishing in situations of conflict, social disruption, political chaos, and economic crisis. Slavery is present in nearly every country and affects those—especially women and children—who are most vulnerable. Slavery is a global crime and requires a global approach to its eradication with the most powerful preventive measures being education and economic development. Slavery and involuntary servitude are inherently evil institutions and must be abolished.

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
“CHARTER 77 MOVEMENT”

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I am privileged to add my voice today to those honoring Vaclav Havel, Czechoslovakia's first post-communist President, and the Charter 77 movement which, 30 years ago, he helped to found.

Three decades ago, the Charter 77 movement was established and its founding manifesto was formally delivered to the Communist regime in Prague. The goals of the Chartists—as signatories came to be known—were fairly straightforward: “Charter 77 [they stated] is a loose, informal and open association of people of various shades of opinion, faiths and professions united by the will to strive individually and collectively for the respect of civic and human rights in our own country and throughout the world—rights accorded to all men by the two mentioned international covenants, by the Final Act of the Helsinki conference and

by numerous other international documents opposing war, violence and social or spiritual oppression, and which are comprehensively laid down in the U.N. Universal Charter of Human Rights.”

The phrase “people of various shades of opinion” was, in fact, a charming understatement regarding the diversity of the signatories. Founding members of this movement included Vaclav Maly, a Catholic priest banned by the regime; Vaclav Benda, a Christian philosopher; former Trotskyite Peter Uhl; former Communists like Zdenek Mlynar and Jiri Hajek, both of whom were ousted from their leadership positions in the wake of the 1968 Soviet attack that crushed the Prague Spring reforms; and, of course, Vaclav Havel, a playwright and dramatist. Notwithstanding the many differences these people surely had, they were united by a common purpose: to compel the Communist regime to respect the international human rights agreements it had freely adopted.

Interestingly, the Charter 77 movement was never a mass dissident movement—fewer than two thousand people ever formally signed this document. But, to use a boxing analogy, Charter 77 punched above its weight. Its influence could be felt far beyond the number of those who openly signed on and, ultimately, in the battle of wits and wills with the Communist regime, Charter 77 clearly won.

And most importantly, Charter 77—like other human rights groups founded at roughly the same time in Moscow, Vilnius, Warsaw and elsewhere—looked to the Helsinki process as a vehicle for calling their own governments to account. Although it is sometimes said that the Helsinki process helped to bring down communism, it is really these grass roots movements that gave the Helsinki process its real meaning and its true legitimacy.

Thirty years ago, a small, courageous band of people came together and said, “We believe that Charter 77 will help to enable all citizens of Czechoslovakia to work and live as free human beings.” Today, we remember their struggle and praise their enduring contributions to democracy and human rights.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF THE
BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE STUDENT
ANDRE DABNEY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, Jr.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a very accomplished young man. Andre Dabney, a record-breaking member of Bloomfield College's basketball team, deserves our recognition for his accomplishments both on and off the court. He is certainly an inspiration to young people everywhere.

A native of Plainfield, New Jersey, Andre has truly excelled at Bloomfield College. He has been named three times to the All-Central Athletic Collegiate Conference (CACC) First Team in basketball and was named CACC Player of the Year during the 2004–2005 school year. He has been recognized twice as

CACC All Tournament Most Valuable Player and was the first member of the Bloomfield College basketball team to exceed 2,000 career points. Andre Dabney received honorable mentions for All American in the 2004–2005 and 2005–2006 school years, and was awarded with a spot on the Pre-Season Second Team All American in the 2006–2007 school year.

When not playing basketball, Andre is a strong student who has been on the Dean's List for seven of the last nine semesters. He is also an active member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

Madam Speaker, Andre Dabney is a model of achievement. He truly shows how far young people can go when they are given the opportunity to succeed. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors, and I know we can expect great things from him in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE RETIREMENT OF
JERRY DIRECTOR

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement this month, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank Jerry Director, our Deputy Law Revision Counsel, as he concludes a long and distinguished career spent serving the American people in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Jerry joined the Office of the Law Revision Counsel in 1976, just two years after it was established, and we've been lucky enough to have him here with us ever since.

Throughout his career, Jerry has been an indispensable member of a small but essential group of nonpartisan professionals who prepare and publish the United States Code and draft legislation to improve the codification of federal law. He has played an important role in maintaining the Code from year to year, and Jerry has used his expansive wealth of legislative knowledge to guide and train each and every attorney that is currently charged with updating the laws of our land.

In 1997, Jerry rose to his current position of Deputy Law Revision Counsel, and his leadership, expertise and tireless efforts have been invaluable in ensuring the accuracy and quality of the volumes that govern every aspect of American life.

Jerry's easygoing demeanor, patient manner and high standards are greatly appreciated by his colleagues and those of us who have had the pleasure of getting to know him over these last 30 years. And when he thinks back on his time in the People's House, I know he will do so with all the pride and satisfaction that accompany an outstanding career of public service.

Later this month, Jerry will retire to Richmond, Virginia, where he plans to continue his love of golf and spend more time with his family. But before he goes, I want to congratulate Jerry Director on a wonderful career and wish him all the best as he embarks on the next—and hopefully, the most fulfilling—chapter of his life.