

must continue to prioritize microbicide research and development since an effective microbicide is within our reach.

The Microbicide Development Act affirms our commitment to microbicide research and to the women whose lives will be saved by microbicides in the future. The global community supports microbicide research. Around the world, there is heightened attention to the urgency of meeting the unique prevention needs of women. For the past few years, G8 communiqués and UN declarations have listed microbicides high among key global health priorities requiring focus and support. Numerous governments and donors have provided funding for microbicide development, including Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, European Commission, World Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Within our own Nation, the Microbicide Development Act has garnered the support of over 120 community groups, including the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the American Public Health Association, the Global Campaign for Microbicides, the Guttmacher Institute, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, the National Minority AIDS Council, and the National Women's Health Network.

On this day, International Women's Day, we need to take a firm stand to validate and affirm the rights of women across the globe. This legislation recognizes the feminization of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the important role that gender inequity plays in the increasing rates of infection among women. It addresses those gender inequities by recognizing the reality of women's lives and providing women with tools to protect themselves within the context of this reality. Microbicides represent a woman-initiated and woman-controlled method of prevention that will allow women to protect themselves from HIV even in settings where negotiation with male sexual partners is difficult or impossible. This legislation demonstrates that we, as a Nation, value women and it will take the necessary steps to protect their lives and their futures.

HONORING AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 14, 2007*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three outstanding citizens from the Town of Auburn, MA, a community I am both privileged and proud to represent in the U.S. Congress. Tonight the Auburn Democratic Town Committee will rightfully recognize Patricia Bukoski with its FDR Outstanding Public Service Award, and Charles and Joan Baker with its Democratic Lifetime Achievement Award at their annual Irish Night Dinner. I regret that rollcall votes prevent me from attending the event to personally congratulate them for their remarkable contributions to the greater Auburn community.

Pat Bukoski is synonymous with the Auburn Housing Authority having directed the agency for fully 28 years. During her tenure, the Au-

burn Housing Authority received more than \$4 million in Federal funding for the construction of the 60-unit Stoneville Heights Development. Pat also presided over the expansion of the Packachoag Village Development and courageously shepherded the Pheasant Court Family Housing Project to its completion. Her constant care and compassion for Auburn's elderly and less fortunate is renowned. A woman of extraordinary faith, Pat's legacy of public service is nothing short of inspiring and serves as a sterling example of what one person can accomplish on behalf of others.

Charlie and Joan Baker are among the most devoted democratic activists the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has ever produced. Their tireless efforts on behalf of dozens of democratic candidates for local, State and national office now span more than half a century. I have personally benefited from their wise counsel and steadfast support and will forever be grateful for their loyalty. Few couples can lay claim to having helped elect as many leaders as Charlie and Joan Baker. The only reward they have ever sought was the quiet pride and satisfaction of having supported good and decent people for public office. Charlie and Joan's political activism is rivaled only by their combined record of service to the Town of Auburn. Charlie's tenure as a town meeting member, selectmen and now Town Moderator is without equal. Joan also served as a town meeting member and together they are widely regarded by many as the "first couple" of Auburn.

Madam Speaker, Patricia Bukoski, Charlie Baker, and Joan Baker are richly deserving of the recognition bestowed upon them tonight by the Auburn Democratic Town Committee. The United States of America owes each of them a debt of gratitude for their service and I humbly offer the congratulations of the U.S. House of Representatives to them on this very special occasion.

CHINA'S "ANTI-SECESSION" LAW

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 14, 2007*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, it has been two years since the "legislature" of the People's Republic of China passed the so-called "anti-secession" law. The enactment of this law by China's rubber-stamp parliament represented a clear-cut, belligerent and dangerous step toward a military attack of a peaceful and democratic ally of the United States. Moreover, it underscored once again that the government in Beijing is not sincere about resolving its differences with Taiwan in a peaceful or rational manner.

America's position is clear: Any change in the status quo between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan must have the assent of the people of Taiwan. As such, resolving the differences between these two nations can only be achieved through honest and direct state-to-state negotiations without preconditions. They cannot be resolved by intimidation, indignant bluster or threats of military force from Beijing.

Unfortunately, in the two years since Beijing created this "legal framework" for starting a war with Taiwan, little has changed. China

continues to point some 900 ballistic missiles at Taiwan and continues to ramp up its military spending and its military activities—none of this indicates that China is pursuing a peaceful settlement with its neighbor across the strait.

Madam Speaker, the truth is that Taiwan and China are not united. They are not "one country" as the communists in Beijing are so fond of asserting. If they were there would be no talk of "unification." China must accept that it does not have jurisdiction over Taiwan, and abandon this kind of counter-productive saber rattling.

I hope that the family of free nations will join me in condemning the "anti-secession law" with a unified voice, making it clear to China that any resolution of cross-strait tensions must be peaceful and above all acceptable to the people of Taiwan.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE HONORABLE WYATT BROWNLEE

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 14, 2007*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 100th birthday of a living legend from my Congressional District, Judge Wyatt C. Brownlee. Born in Hodges, S.C., one of 11 children born to James and Elizabeth Brownlee, Judge Brownlee is the last living sibling of the family which migrated to Cleveland in 1921. His life has been an example of the power of courageous determination and faith in God.

Judge Brownlee attended Cleveland Public Schools, but was forced to drop out of Kennard Junior High School to help support his family. Because of his desire for an education, he attended night school, part time, until he received his high school diploma. His quest for knowledge continued and he graduated from: "FDR" Junior College in 1936; Fenn College (Cleveland State University) in 1940; and Cleveland Marshall Law School in 1944.

During his distinguished legal career he served as an Ohio Assistant Attorney General; Cleveland City Prosecutor and acting City Law Director. In 1957 he was appointed Cleveland Municipal Court Referee, and in 1977 he was appointed Cleveland Municipal Court Judge, where he served until his 1981 retirement. Judge Brownlee continued private practice after retirement.

Judge Brownlee has been involved in his community and has been recognized in "Who's Who in the National Bar Association," "Who's Who in American Law," and he has been honored by Black Lawyers and Black Judges. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Prince Hall Masonic Organization, and is a lifetime member of the Cleveland Marshall Alumni Association.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States Congress and the citizens of the 11th Congressional District, Ohio, I extend Happy 100th birthday wishes to the Honorable Wyatt C. Brownlee. Thank you, for being friend, teacher, and role model for so many of us. Judge Brownlee made an indelible imprint on my life. As a young lawyer, he nurtured me. When I

became a judge, he mentored me. As a prosecutor, he counseled me. As a legislator, he influenced me. I count him among the people who kept the wind beneath my wings. I pray God will continue to bless him. We love you.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 14, 2007*

Mr. WELLER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present on Monday and Tuesday of this week and missed the following votes:

Rollcall No. 136, Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 85.

Rollcall No. 137, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 136.

Rollcall No. 138, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 89.

Rollcall No. 139, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 64.

Rollcall No. 140, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 228.

Rollcall No. 141, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 222.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each of these motions.

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TRIBUTE TO FERN HOLLAND

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 14, 2007*

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize a true American hero, Fern Holland. Three years ago, Fern gave her life so that others might have a brighter future. One of my staffers was friends with Fern and wrote this tribute on the three year anniversary of her death:

On March 9, 2004, my friend, Fern Holland was killed—assassination-style—in Iraq. She, her colleague, and a translator were stopped at a checkpoint where they were shot by gunmen posing as Iraqi police. These gunmen riddled their car with AK-47 bullets and took her life.

Fern wasn't killed because she was a soldier. She was killed because she was someone cared about other people.

When Baghdad fell, Fern traveled to Iraq to work for USAID and then later served on the Coalition Provisional Authority as a women's rights specialist. It was this work that made her a target by extremists. You see, Fern worked tirelessly at setting up Iraqi women's centers around the country. These centers were places women could organize, learn political skills to participate in a democracy, and learn life skills. These centers were not welcome by many extremists for a variety of reasons, and Fern was an easy target because she was white and blonde and very outspoken in her quest for women's rights in Iraq.

While she was doing this work, even more important work came to the forefront. Fern, 33 from Oklahoma, was a lawyer by trade, and she helped draft the interim Iraqi constitution. It was Fern Holland who wrote the section of the constitution that got Iraqi women 25 percent of the seats in the national assembly.

On March 8, 2004, Iraqi leaders signed the interim constitution that included Fern's provision. Women in Iraq now had more than just a seat at the table, they had a say in Iraq's future. Fern was able to see her hard work come to fruition, but only for a day. Her work on behalf of people she did not know, and who did not know her, led to her death.

In February 2003, I met Fern. I was looking for a place on the Hill as a young staffer, and I wound up subleasing her room while she went to work on projects in Africa. She had worked previously in the Peace Corps in Africa and headed back to continue the work she had started when I took over her lease. Her work in Africa led to the establishment of a legal clinic for women who had been sexually exploited. At the time of her death in 2004, the clinic had handled 118 cases including rapes, sexual assaults, wife beatings, family abandonment and sexual exploitation.

From time to time, Fern would come back to the U.S. and would stop by the house to pick up her mail, chat about what she was doing, make sure her car was still working, and then would head back out into the world to battle for what she believed. Several months prior to her death we chatted and I took over her lease and paid for her desk and other items she had left in the room that I now use. From time to time, when I get a chance to slow down, I look around and think about Fern.

Today, three years later, I don't tear up as much as I once did, but the sadness is just as real, and my heart is just as heavy, as it was when I got the call about her death from my roommate Michael. Questions still flood my mind as to why such evil would happen to such a good person. . . . I often think in deep silence about the Iraq War and the sacrifices of Fern and those who serve there. . . . I wonder why God allowed Fern and my path to cross—if only for a brief time—yet thank Him at the same time that I got to meet her.

Fern's life has taught me many things. I have learned to love people more. It is really easy to get cynical about work and life on the Hill when things move at a snails pace, or when you see that people's main motives are something other than helping people. But when I catch myself in a poor attitude or in a cycle of cynicism, I think of Fern and her sacrifices and realize there is more work to be done to help others. Fern's life also taught me my time is not my own. I constantly try to keep in contact with friends/family—and would do anything in the world for them—and I try to reach out to people in need. I have learned that the most important things in this world are the small things people often overlook. I learned that people need other people and so I take the time to speak with someone longer than I would normally, or return calls or emails when I am tired or would rather not. I invest in people because it seems friendships and helping others is the only return that makes me happy. I think that is the secret of life that Fern learned and shared with others.

Today has just begun, yet my thoughts are constantly bouncing back to Fern and to a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. that I can't get out of my head: "A man who won't die for something is not fit to live." In one of Fern's last emails she wrote, "I love the work and if I die, know that I'm doing precisely what I want to be doing—working to organize and educate human rights activists and women's groups." In a day an age where people think

only of themselves, Fern was willing to die for something she believed in; people. And because of that, her life and work means something. . . . it means others can live in a better world.

We tend to throw around the word "hero" alot these days. But I have learned that they are not on the sports field or on the TV or on the movie screen. They are the people who sacrifice for others; who die for others if need be. Fern Holland will forever be one of my heroes. And I wrote this today so that others might know the work she did, and the life she led, because Fern deserves to be remembered.

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IN MEMORY OF BOBBY HILDEBRAND

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 14, 2007*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend Bobby Hildebrand of Camden, Arkansas, who passed away February 24, 2007.

Bobby Hildebrand and his family grocery store, Harvey's Grocery Store, were South Arkansas institutions. Bobby was a businessman, a landowner and the proud owner of Harvey's Grocery in Camden, one of Arkansas's legendary political landmarks. Bobby made Harvey's Grocery a famous gathering spot for Arkansas politicians, business leaders and residents of South Arkansas who had a love of good food, heated debate and friendship.

Bobby became known for his locally famous barbecue as much as his generous heart. Each time I drove through Camden, my car always wanted to veer to Harvey's Grocery where I knew I would find good food and great conversation with a man I truly looked up to and admired. I was privileged to have witnessed first hand the effect Bobby's big smile had on visitors of his store and friends who needed someone to listen. Above all else, I am blessed to have been able to call Bobby a dear friend.

Bobby talked endlessly about how politics could be a good and noble profession and how a career in public service could positively affect the lives of thousands. His love of politics helped inspire me and many others to seek elected office and for that, I am forever grateful.

I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Pat of Camden; his brother Harvey Hildebrand of Louisiana; and his sister Dorothy Herrington of Camden. Bobby Hildebrand will be greatly missed in Camden, Ouachita County and throughout the state of Arkansas, and I am truly saddened by this loss.

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WALBERG SUPPORTS STATE, LOCAL CONTROL OF EDUCATION

**HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 14, 2007*

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Education and Labor Committee, this morning I attended a bi-cameral