

small businesses in their role as the engines of innovation, growth, and job creation.

Madam Speaker, in difficult economic times, we must do all we can to encourage new investment and job creation by creating certainty and predictability for America's small business owners. The Small Business Expensing Expansion and Permanency Act of 2007 will help accomplish this worthy goal. I applaud the Administration for its consistent leadership on this issue, and I look forward to working with others in Congress to enact this much-needed legislation.

CÉSAR CHÁVEZ'S BIRTHDAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, this Saturday, millions of Americans will honor a great American hero—César Chávez—on what would have been his 80th birthday.

César Chávez was a civil rights and human rights leader who learned about the importance of justice early in his life. He would often say: "The love for justice that is in us is not only the best part of our being but it is also the most true to our nature."

After graduating from the eighth grade, a young César Chávez went to work in the fields as a migrant farm worker to support his family. In 1962, Chávez and Dolores Huerta founded the National Farm Workers Association, later to become the United Farm Workers. Chávez had the foresight to train his union workers and then to send many of them into the cities where they were to use the boycott and picket as their weapon.

Chávez was able to successfully organize farm workers because of his tireless leadership and nonviolent tactics that helped pass laws which would permit farm workers to organize into unions and allow collective bargaining agreements. He also helped make people aware of the struggles of farm workers for fair wages and safer working conditions. His movement was the beginning of La Causa ("The Cause"), a cause that was supported by organized labor, religious groups, minorities, and students.

César Chávez, the founder and president of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, died peacefully in his sleep on April 23, 1993. On August 8, 1994, César Chávez was posthumously awarded the Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian honor, by President Clinton. In the words of President Clinton: "He was for his own people a Moses figure . . . who, with faith and discipline, soft spoken humility and amazing inner strength, led a very courageous life."

César Chávez left our world better than he found it, and his legacy inspires not just the 43 million Latinos in this country, but every person on this earth who believes in non-violence as a means to achieve social change. He truly was, in the words of Senator Robert Kennedy, "one of the heroic figures of our time."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CORNEL
"CONNIE" TERECK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Cornel "Connie" Tereck, whose fierce dedication to family, friends and country serves as a model for all who have been blessed by his presence.

As a member of the Greatest Generation, Connie served in the United States Navy during World War II, where he protected our country with great pride and courage. After retiring from the service, Connie carried this commitment to the security of our country into his professional life, as he went to work for the Department of Defense. He proudly worked at the Defense Contract Administration Service Region until his retirement in 1987.

Connie was known as a man of honesty, intelligence and wit, not only to friends and family but to the whole community. He took interest in and care of the people surrounding him, and his deep devotion to, and commitment for his family and friends stands as a shining example to us all. He was a beloved husband of 57 years to his wife, Laura, and his legacy will continue through three children and five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Cornel "Connie" Tereck as a true example of the spirit upon which this great Nation is built. We have lost a loving father, a faithful husband, a courageous serviceman and a wonderful neighbor, but his caring personality and loving devotion continue to inspire everyone that has crossed paths with him.

THE 2006 COUNTRY REPORTS ON
HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES AND
THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this morning the Committee on Foreign Affairs held a hearing on the recently-released 2006 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices prepared by the Department of State. Over the past three decades, we have seen a steady increase in the quality, candor, and scope of the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. In fighting the plague of human rights abuse, sunlight is often the best disinfectant. On the whole, the Country Reports shine brightly into some very dark corners. We owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women of the Department of State who work so hard to compile them.

Although we do not claim to be perfect and are ourselves subject to the universal ideals we espouse, the United States continues to be the world's most prominent champion of fundamental human rights.

This Congress, I have re-introduced the Global Online Freedom Act of 2007 which seeks to promote and defend human rights re-

lated to this increasingly influential communication medium. I am pleased to note that the State Department has already implemented one of the action items of this proposed legislation by including important additional information in the Country Reports, such as the domestic legal authority for internet restrictions and penalties imposed for the exercise of free speech via the Internet. This information is critical to efforts to address Internet repression in countries like Vietnam, China, Tunisia, and Belarus, and to convince governments that free speech restrictions are contrary to their national interests.

It is worth noting that most of the major human rights efforts undertaken by the United States Government in recent decades—including the Country Reports themselves—have been the result of Congressional mandates: The Jackson-Vanik Amendment; The International Religious Freedom Act; the Torture Victims Relief Act; the Lautenberg Amendment; the Trafficking Victims Protection Act; the North Korean Human Rights Act. These were Congressional initiatives undertaken in the face of skepticism—and sometimes outright opposition—by the Executive branch.

For example, I recall when then-Assistant Secretary Shattuck appeared before my subcommittee 10 years ago to oppose the International Religious Freedom Act. He argued that he was "particularly concerned" that the bill would "harm the very people it seeks to help" because it would "legislate a hierarchy of human rights into our laws" that could "severely damage our efforts to ensure that all aspects of basic civil and political rights . . . are protected." Not surprisingly, this doomsday prophecy did not come to pass.

To the contrary, once such issues have been forced by legislation, the Executive branch eventually internalizes, and sometimes embraces, those human rights priorities. For example, religious freedom and trafficking are now mainstream policy priorities that receive far more international attention and action than they did before the laws were on the books. Other mandates are embraced more slowly, such as the refugee title of the North Korean Human Rights Act, which has not yet been adequately implemented.

There are many countries where the seriousness of human rights violations deserves condemnation, including Zimbabwe with its recent horrific crackdown on the political opposition, North Korea, Eritrea, Belarus, Burma, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, Ethiopia and Iran. The Report provides disturbing details about how these countries in particular—though not exclusively—continue to thwart universal principles of respect for fundamental human rights. However, I will limit myself to focusing the spotlight on three human rights violators in particular—China, Sudan, and Vietnam.

This year's report repeats the assessment of prior years that the Chinese Government's human rights record "remained poor," but even when many of us thought the situation could not get much worse, it adds that the Chinese record "in certain areas deteriorated." One of those areas often ignored or downplayed by the international community is the appalling lengths to which the government will go to enforce its one-child per couple limit.

The Chinese government has a long record of oppressing its people, especially women, through its population control program. Beijing does not deny levying huge fines against people who have children the State deems illegal.

In fact, at a hearing that I chaired several years ago, Secretary Dewey testified that "couples who give birth to an unapproved child are likely to be assessed a social compensation fee, which can range from one-half the local average annual household income to as much as ten times that level." Indeed this is a horrific government that decides which children are legal and which are illegal—that is, which children will be allowed to live and which will not.

These acts are truly a crime against humanity executed in conjunction with the UNFPA. The UNFPA has funded, provided crucial technical support and, most importantly, provided cover for massive crimes against humanity of forced abortion and involuntary sterilization. Tens of millions of children have been slaughtered—their mothers robbed of their children by the State. This barbaric policy makes brothers and sisters illegal, and makes women the pawns of the population control cadres.

This barbaric policy has now given rise to a new problem for China. An article published in the *Guardian* several years ago, stated that China could find itself dealing with as many as 40 million single men by the year 2020 because of the one child policy. According to the article Li Weixiong, a population advisor to the Chinese government, said a cultural preference for boys was creating an artificial disparity between the number of boys and girls representing "a serious threat to building a well-off society." He also said that the lack of women in China will lead to a dramatic rise in prostitution and the trafficking of women. "This is by no means a sensational prediction," he stated.

On that point Mr. Li is right. In fact, the combined effect of the birth limitation policies and the traditional preference for male children resulted in the disproportionate abortion of female unborn children at a rate of 116.9 to 100 overall, and a shocking 151.9 to 100 for second pregnancies. As a direct result of these ongoing crimes against humanity, China today is missing millions of girls—girls who were murdered in the womb simply because they are girls. A couple of years ago, the State Department suggested that as many as 100 million girls of all ages are missing—that is to say, they should be alive and well and are not, a direct consequence of the government's one-child policy. This gendercide constitutes one of humanity's worst blights, and a far greater peril to peace and security than is being credited at this time.

The world is all too aware of the continuing genocide in Sudan, appropriately identified as such in the Country Reports. Current reports estimate that the conflicts in Darfur and in Southern Sudan have resulted in the deaths of close to 2.4 million people and left over 4 million others either internally displaced or as refugees. When confronted with such numbers, one must also take into account the attending human rights violations, including the abuse of children, extensive trafficking in persons, and the acts of torture and violence against women.

Just two weeks ago, on March 14th, I introduced a House resolution calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release several political prisoners and prisoners of conscience who have been arrested in a recent wave of government oppression. One of those individuals specifically mentioned in the

resolution is Father Nguyen Van Ly, who has already spent over 13 years in prison since 1983 for his advocacy of religious freedom and democracy in Vietnam. Tomorrow, Fr. Ly will be given a kangaroo trial for exercising his fundamental human rights, and he faces 20 years in prison in the likely event that he is convicted.

This is a case worthy of our particular attention as the Vietnamese Government audaciously resumed its past oppression of human rights after Congress agreed to Vietnam becoming an official member of the World Trade Organization in December 2006. A focus of today's hearing was the promotion of human rights in U.S. foreign policy, and it is important to keep in mind that those of us in Congress play an important role in our country's foreign policy. While substantial criticism was leveled during the hearing at the Administration for its shortcomings in promoting and defending human rights, those of us in Congress should also look in the mirror and ask what priority we give to human rights, both individually and as an institution.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DELORES TERRANO

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Delores "Dee Dee" Terrano and congratulate her for her well-deserved recognition of her work with the United States Postal Service.

Dee Dee began her career with the United States Postal Service in 1984 as a distribution clerk. After showing extraordinary capability and exemplary leadership skills, she was promoted to Manager of Consumer Affairs/Claims for the Nevada-Sierra District. Under Dee Dee's leadership the Nevada-Sierra district was the top-ranked office in the country for processing customer claims. Dee Dee worked tirelessly with the Nevada Congressional Delegation for the Nevada-Sierra District as a representative of postal issues. In this post, she was knowledgeable and very capable at her job. However, what distinguishes Dee Dee is the care and sensitivity she showed towards the needs of my constituent and my staff. Moreover, Dee Dee was also selected to work on the inaugural team that developed the first national call center for the Postal Service.

Dee Dee currently serves as Emergency Preparedness Manager, the job which Dee Dee sees as extremely important to Nevada and she is excited to have the opportunity to gain knowledge. In this role she has distinguished herself by developing and executing evacuation drills in Las Vegas and Reno.

Over the course of her long and distinguished career, Dee Dee has received numerous accolades; including, a Postmaster General Award for Automation Readability Leadership, two national communication awards, a national best practice award, and an outstanding merit award for media and communication.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Dee Dee Terrano. Her dedication to the USPS is commendable and I wish her continued success with her future endeavors.

RETIREMENT COMMENDATION FOR MRS. M. JEAN BUTLER

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to extend my most sincere "Congratulations" to Mrs. M. Jean Butler on her retirement from JCB Construction, Incorporated. I wish to join with her many friends, family members and admirers in recognizing Mrs. Butler on this special occasion.

The years of dedicated and productive service she has demonstrated have set a standard in the construction industry that will not soon be surpassed. In an industry dominated by men, Mrs. Butler established ICB Construction, Inc. to be the largest African American female owned firm in Central Florida. Expanding on a family legacy of entrepreneurship in the construction industry, Mrs. Butler has developed a reputation as a savvy businesswoman who's professional and quality work within the last 20 years have been modeled by other organizations. I commend her for her setting an example and remaining true to her vision.

Mrs. Butler is the recipient of many honors and awards of which she is most deserving. She is a leader in this community who takes pride in giving back. Her wisdom and words of encouragement to everyone she encounters has endeared her to us all. It has been said, "To whom much is given, much is required." I extend my best wishes for continued happiness and abundant blessings during her retirement. It is my tremendous honor to recognize Mrs. Butler for her years of service and for being a productive citizen in this community. Her valuable time, efforts and accomplishments are greatly appreciated and will never go unnoticed.

HONORING THE NORTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL RED REGIMENT

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, today I am delighted to honor the NorthWood High School Red Regiment for being the only Indiana high school invited to march in the Washington, D.C., Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 28, 2007.

The NorthWood High School Bands, under the expert direction of Mr. Barry Houser, have enjoyed unparalleled success over the last six years. Their accomplishments have gained regional and national prominence, and include the following: Chosen to represent the State of Indiana in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C., May '07; Chosen as one of Indiana's bands to partner with the great Purdue University Bands in 2007; 74th Annual Hollywood Christmas Parade, Hollywood, CA, 2006; Disneyland Main Street Parade, CA, November 2006; Hollywood Bands at the Bowl, Hollywood, CA, November 2006; Indiana Music Educator's Association State Convention Wind Ensemble Performance, January 2004; Outback Bowl Halftime Show, 2500 students nationwide, Tampa, Florida '04; Outback