

I have visited Gitmo three times.

Each time, I asked hard questions about how the men detained there were being treated, how long they would be held there, and what efforts were being made to ensure that the innocent were released. By the third visit, it became very clear that I was getting the run-around.

The truth was that the Administration was adrift in what I call the "fog of law." Guantanamo was built on a legal fiction. The Administration claimed the authority to detain any person it deemed appropriate, to deny that person the protections of U.S. and international law, and to do so indefinitely—so long as that person was held outside U.S. soil.

The claim was extraordinary, and the Administration seemed unconcerned that it was without sound legal parameters to guide its actions.

At Gitmo, the Administration effectively discarded the procedures that we have used for centuries—in civilian and military tribunals alike—to separate the innocent from the guilty and ensure fair punishment for those that deserve it.

Hundreds of men were detained at Guantanamo for years, without access to an independent court in which to argue their innocence, without access to the evidence against them, and without protection of the Geneva Conventions.

These are rights that the United States has long pressed developing countries to adopt, arguing that they are fundamental to any just legal system.

It should be no surprise that the Administration's ad hoc procedures appear to have resulted in the improper detention of many individuals whose only crime was being in the wrong place at the wrong time, or having the wrong name.

The Supreme Court brought the curtain down on the Guantanamo legal fiction in its Hamdan decision.

And now it is time for the Congress to act.

Madam Speaker, the United States is engaged in a long struggle against al Qaeda and other jihadist terror organizations. These groups are successfully exploiting the antipathy that many in the Arab world—and, increasingly, not just the Arab world—feel toward the West, and toward America in particular.

In order to erode al Qaeda's appeal and dry up its recruiting base, we have to win the battle for the hearts and minds of the next generation of would-be terrorists.

Guantanamo has become a liability. The real and perceived injustices occurring there have given our enemies an easy example of our failures and alleged ill intent. The prison is so widely viewed as illegitimate, so plainly inconsistent with America's proud legal traditions; it has become a stinging symbol of our tarnished standing abroad.

Defense Secretary Gates has admitted as much, arguing the facility should be closed because its "taint" would render any trials held there illegitimate in the eyes of the world.

I agree with Secretary Gates. It is time to shut the prison down.

That is why I am proud to introduce, together with my friend and member of the Armed Services Committee Mr. ABERCROMBIE, legislation to require the closing of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. Senator FEINSTEIN has introduced a similar bill in the Senate.

The bill requires the President to close the facility within one year of enactment, and gives him a range of choices for dealing with the detainees. These options include transfer to a detainee's country of origin (so long as that country provides certain assurances regarding treatment of the detainee); transfer to a facility in the United States to be tried before military or civilian authorities (like the first 1993 World Trade Center bombers and John Walker Lindh); transfer to a qualified international tribunal; or, if appropriate, outright release.

Make no mistake: this legislation is not about setting terrorists free. Many of those held at Gitmo are the worst of the worst—hard-core haters who cannot be rehabilitated. This legislation is about being true to America's most fundamental values and legal norms.

Closing Guantanamo alone will not heal America's moral black eye. But it is a necessary first step.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH PETERSEN

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of a great American and one of my constituents, the late Joseph Petersen of the Bronx, New York. I wish to recognize Mr. Petersen for the lifetime he spent in the service of his country as a Tuskegee Airman and I thank his loved ones for the sacrifices they made as well on behalf of this nation.

Mr. Petersen passed in December 2006 at the age of 97. Though he died too soon to see his unit awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest decoration of bravery that Congress can bestow, his life and spirit exemplify the heroism upon which the award was founded. Mr. Petersen and his unit fought gallantly and throughout four years of war they lost almost none of the bombers charged under their protection. Mr. Petersen was a soldier in combat in the truest form, striving against both enemy planes and domestic racism, and the courageous example he set will remain an everlasting inspiration to us all.

Madam Speaker, I join with my colleagues in saluting and honoring the memory of Joseph Petersen and in mourning his passing.

HONORING NEWTOWN HADASSAH

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Newtown, Pennsylvania Chapter of Hadassah on its 20th anniversary. The Newtown Hadassah should be commended for its remarkable efforts as both a women's organization and an advocate for the Jewish community.

Hadassah was founded in 1926 by Henrietta Szold and has since grown immensely in membership. With chapters in all fifty states and Puerto Rico and with more than 300,000

members in the women's Zionist organization, Hadassah has bridged the divides among religions, creeds, races, and political beliefs through its presence in more than thirty countries worldwide.

Its primary focuses are in five areas: health, Jewish growth and community, partnerships with Israel, social action and advocacy, and life skills. Through these different areas Hadassah shows its allegiance to the improvement of society, by all and for all.

The Newtown, Pennsylvania Chapter of Hadassah, founded in 1987, celebrates this year their 20th anniversary. It has more than 500 members and these women work to educate themselves and the community about Judaism and Israel. They help others to understand their connections to history and to life in the United States. The members are active in local Jewish and secular communities and reflect the national and international efforts of the greater Hadassah organization.

Madam Speaker, the Newtown Hadassah has spent the last 20 years showing their devotion to our community, enriching our society and strengthening our values. Today, they are working to usher in a new era of Hadassah's growing membership. It is with great pride that I honor and thank the Newtown Chapter of Hadassah for their tireless work in the past and urge them to continue their great work in the future.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINA PORRELLO

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize an outstanding individual, Christina Porrello of Kansas City, Missouri, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Art, a double major, from William Jewell College, on May 5, 2007.

The commencement ceremony was held at the Mabee Center for Physical education shortly after the graduating class observed the campus tradition of the last walk around the quad at approximately 1:45 p.m.

Christina has been very active in pursuing her degree, while also participating in many Delta Zeta sorority activities. Christina intends to teach art or special education classes. Also, I want to acknowledge the support of her parents, Joe and Sandie Porrello, and her siblings Andrea, Connie Jo and Joe Jr.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Christina Porrello on her achievement and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. It is an honor to represent her in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING VANDEN HIGH SCHOOL'S STATE CHAMPION ACADEMIC DECATHALON TEAM

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vanden High School's Academic Decathlon Team for winning the Division II State Academic Decathlon Title.

Over 500 schools from 42 counties in the state participate in the California Academic Decathlon, which promotes education and teamwork.

The championship team from the Travis Unified School District in Solano County was led by Head Coach David Kenyon and included Team Members Erin Campos, Aleena Syed, Abdul Hassan, Nicolai McCrary, Elise Campos, Julieanne Cunningham, David Crowell, Adrian Bullock, and Tanya Campos.

Not only did the Vanden High School's Academic Decathlon Team win the State Title, becoming the first Solano County School to achieve such a feat; they broke the Division II scoring record by amassing a grand total of 45,372 points. The Team also won the State Super Quiz Title.

Prior to competing statewide, Vanden High School's Academic Decathlon Team won the first ever North Bay Regional Competition and also won the regional Super Quiz Title.

The theme for the statewide competition was climatology and China. The students were required to answer questions relating to math, art, music, and history.

The Vanden High School Academic Decathlon Team and coach put in numerous hours, including their lunch periods, to prepare for the regional and statewide competitions. This speaks volumes of their dedication to learn and work as a team.

While several of the members will be graduating and moving on to college, they should take pride in the solid foundation they help build and the standard they set.

Again, I would like to congratulate the Vanden High School Academic Decathlon Team for their monumental achievements and for bringing the State Academic Decathlon Title to Solano County. They represented their school and community extremely well. Go Vikings!

TAIWAN'S WHO MEMBERSHIP

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, the government of Taiwan recently submitted a membership application to the World Health Organization. Since the objective of the WHO is "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health," Taiwan's 23 million people must be considered. For years now, Taiwan has had no representation in the World Health Organization, which is a gross injustice due to Taiwan's health needs and Taiwan's potential contribution to the global health network.

I support Taiwan's bid for membership and urge my colleagues to openly voice their support for Taiwan. At a minimum, Taiwan should be granted observer status at the World Health Assembly this May.

Though Taiwan is now applying to the World Health Organization under the name of "Taiwan," it does not mean there is any change to Taiwan's national status. Taiwan continues to be the same country as before and its Constitution has not changed. The use of the name "Taiwan" represents a fresh start for the people of Taiwan and is commonly used around the world. Applying for WHO

membership under the new name is consistent with Taiwan's past campaign for observer status in the World Health Assembly.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to lend their support to Taiwan's WHO application. No country should belittle Taiwan's sincere intent to be included in the global health network. Taiwan's bid to become a WHO member is too important to be sidetracked by political disagreements because disease knows no boundaries. It is time for China to drop its objections to Taiwan's bid and welcome the 23 million Taiwanese people to the World Health Organization. Taiwan has much to contribute to the health system in China and to all the countries in the world. Taiwan looks forward to fulfilling its obligations as a responsible global citizen and working with international health institutions through medical cooperation and emergency humanitarian work.

A TRIBUTE TO OPRAH WINFREY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I heartily join in congratulating Oprah Winfrey, who has been named the recipient of the Humanitarian Award from the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, a venerable institution that combats indifference, intolerance and injustice through international dialogue and youth-focused programs.

Oprah Winfrey is such a visible figure in popular culture that her first name alone is iconic. The recognition she has earned through her talk show, acting, writing and various media enterprises has made her one of America's most recognizable people. And to her everlasting credit, she has put this visibility to good use in support of worthy causes.

A high-profile public figure who dedicates herself to helping the less-fortunate, Oprah sets an example for those of us in the public eye. She provides an inspiring model of the pursuit of meaning, hope, and fulfillment to millions. And as someone who has chosen children as the main focus of her philanthropy and her public service, she sets an example for all adults: Children are the bedrock foundation of our society, our chance for a more peaceful and healthy society, but because they are the least able to help themselves, they need and deserve our greatest efforts. As a grandfather of 17 wonderful grandchildren, I believe the message Oprah sends about kids is the most profound of all.

Motivated by this desire to help children in need, she founded The Oprah Winfrey Foundation in 1987. Since then, the foundation has made grants to organizations that support women and children around the world, providing education, training, and access to crucial resources. I laud Oprah's decision to focus the foundation internationally, not just in the United States. With our resources and our technology, we have a solemn responsibility to lift up the destitute in the rest of the world.

And The Oprah Winfrey Foundation demonstrates that private U.S. interests can combine with both governments and non-governmental organizations to foster that goal. I am particularly impressed that Oprah has also

used an inspirational partnership model in raising money. Oprah's Angel Network leverages her audiences as potential donors, with all the money they give going to NGOs that build schools, youth centers, and homes around the world. Her devotion to schoolgirls in South Africa is simply amazing. She has given so much money and time to the construction of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls to ensure that it will succeed, that those girls will succeed, and that South African society will improve from their education.

On a personal level, I am touched and grateful that Oprah has partnered with Elie Wiesel never to let us forget the Holocaust, the most horrible and harrowing moment in history and one to which Elie and I were witnesses. It speaks to Oprah's singular empathy that someone whose focus is often on modern-day trauma and travesty can so adeptly shine a light on the past. Simply the act of choosing Wiesel's classic "Night" for her book club spoke volumes. But her televised visit to Auschwitz with Wiesel last year made it real for everyone.

Indeed, Oprah has that uncanny and unparalleled ability to not just bring human experience in front of our eyes, but to make us feel it. And her desire and commitment to translating into public service the human capacity to feel for others is deserving of the deepest honor.

HONORING FAIRFAX COUNTY VIRGINIA POLICE DETECTIVE VICKY ANNE OWEN ARMEL AND MASTER POLICE OFFICER MICHAEL E. GARBARINO

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize two police officers from nearby Fairfax County, Virginia who served their community with great honor and distinction. Today marks the first anniversary of when Detective Vicky Anne Owen Armel and Master Police Officer Michael E. Garbarino were shot in the line of duty during a shooting incident at the Sully District Police Station in Chantilly, Virginia.

Detective Armel was killed while engaging and exchanging gunfire with the shooter. Master Police Officer Garbarino succumbed on May 17, 2006 to injuries sustained when the shooter opened fire on him in the Station's parking lot. Despite being shot five times, Master Police Officer Garbarino managed to get on the police radio to notify and warn fellow officers. The two line-of-duty slayings were the first in the 66-year history of the 1,364-member Fairfax County Police Department.

Detective Vicky Armel, badge 2806, spent 17 years as a dedicated law enforcement officer, eight years with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, and the last nine with the Fairfax County Police Department. Detective Armel is remembered for many things, including her devotion to family, faith, and an upbeat and positive attitude.

Master Police Officer Michael Garbarino, badge 1417, spent 23 years as a dedicated law enforcement officer with the Fairfax County Police Department. MPO Garbarino, also