

pamphlets which advocated democratic change in Vietnam. One of those five is an American citizen, Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, who continues to languish in prison despite numerous appeals by the U.S. government for his release.

According to the Human Rights Watch, since mid-2006, 40 peaceful activists have been arrested. They join the over 350 religious and political prisoners sentenced since 2001. Vietnam it not progressing, it is regressing. Government officials continue to harass religious groups.

Religious institutions are required to apply for permits; but many of these applications are ignored or denied leaving congregations without protection of the law and vulnerable to abuse. In the Central Highlands, provincial officials have been trained to deny medical, educational, financial and other government services to religious families. Local police beat a Protestant man in Phu Yen province for refusing to renounce his religion; he later died of internal injuries from the beating. The activities of the United Buddhist Church of Vietnam are actively banned.

I was disappointed when the State Department removed Vietnam from its list of Countries of Particular Concern in regard to religious freedom. I have asked the State Department that Vietnam be added back onto the list.

Trafficking in persons also remains a major problem. Vietnam was listed as a Tier Two country in the State Department's 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report. Poor women and teenage girls in rural areas remain most at risk of being trafficked, primarily for sexual exploitation.

I was very disappointed when I read of an exchange U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Michael Michalak had with journalists and he only mentioned human rights one time. I have written to Ambassador Michalak several times and urged him to make promoting human rights his top priority.

The U.S. Embassy in Vietnam should be an island of freedom and work to promote human liberty and dignity. Regrettably, it is not. Several of my colleagues have joined me in writing Ambassador Michalak and asking that he invite all Vietnamese dissidents to the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi on July 4—America's Independence Day. I look forward to his response.

I will continue speaking out for the Vietnamese people who want to see their government turn away from violence and repression, and embrace the universal principles of human rights and religious freedom.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE 145TH BIRTHDAY OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 145th birthday of my home State, West Virginia.

The most violent conflict in the history of our Nation, the Civil War, gave America a new definition of freedom, strengthened the role of the Federal Government, and ultimately reconciled our fractured Union. For West Vir-

ginians, the 1861–1865 conflict remains significant for another reason: Virginia was rendered in two, east and west, and a new State, West Virginia, was born.

This June 20th marks the 145th birthday of the State of West Virginia. I ask all West Virginians—the hardest working, most hospitable, and most patriotic people in the United States—to join me in celebrating how far our State has come.

West Virginians have long known their uniqueness and celebrated it. As the only State to be formed by seceding from its parent State, West Virginia blazed a trail of independence of mind and spirit in a country that was tearing itself apart. West Virginia is the only State to achieve Statehood by the proclamation of a President on the provision that West Virginia would support the gradual abolishment of slavery in its newly formed constitution. On June 20, 1863, West Virginia became the 35th State.

On this West Virginia Day, I reflect upon the treasures of our State—truly one of the most beautiful in the Nation. With its majestic mountains, rolling hills, awesome gorges and rivers, picturesque towns, hospitable people, and a “wild and wonderful” atmosphere, I thank God for the opportunity to call it home.

Many historic figures have lived and traveled through the Mountain State on their way to shaping the course of our Nation's history. Daniel Boone settled and lived in present day Kanawha County. Stonewall Jackson, the stalwart Civil War general, was born in Clarksburg and Pearl S. Buck—Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize winning author was born in Hillsboro, Pocahontas County.

Many modern-day heroes and stars also hail from the hills of West Virginia. Jennifer Garner, who received a Golden Globe for her performances on ABC's hit television drama “Alias,” is a Charleston native. Chuck Yeager, who broke the sound barrier and has used his influence to promote scholarship and development opportunities for the State, was born in Myra. The mining town of Coalwood, in McDowell County is now world-renown as the home of Homer Hickam, best-selling author of Rocket Boys, upon which the award-winning 1999 motion picture “October Sky” was based.

In addition to celebrities, both historical and modern, West Virginia's elected leaders have brought vision and opportunity to our State. Most notable, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, the “Big Daddy” of West Virginia politics, is the longest serving Senator in history and has secured billions of dollars for the future of our State. He remains a force to be reckoned with in the Senate with his longevity and leadership.

Home to an abundance of natural resources, West Virginia has helped feed and power our Nation. West Virginia's “Coal Keeps the Lights On.” Our agricultural industry provides dairy, poultry, and feed crops for our State and beyond. The lumber industry makes use of the bountiful forests that cover 75 percent of our beautiful terrain.

Lastly the greatest gift and most precious resource our State has nurtured are West Virginians themselves—honest, hard-working people who are very the lifeblood of our State. Today West Virginians thank the Lord for our bountiful blessings, bound together in loyalty and love for our State as we remind ourselves that, yes—John Denver was right, West Virginia is truly almost Heaven.

Happy Birthday West Virginia.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON as he honors our elders for their inspiration in our lives by honoring and remembering his own parents, Ed and Julia Isakson, at the 6th Annual Thanks Mom & Dad Celebration on June 20, 2008.

A loving son, Senator ISAKSON credits his parents for instilling in him his strong work ethic, his love of family and his respect for others. A good father in his own right, Senator ISAKSON's children credit him for teaching them through his example, not just words.

Senator ISAKSON has long championed the rights of older adults and supports programs and services that promote healthy living, employment services and other programs vital to both active and homebound older adults.

The Thanks Mom & Dad Fund® honors parents, grandparents and mentors by supporting programs and services for older adults, and each year asks someone in the community each year to honor their parents, grandparents or mentors. Senator ISAKSON was selected to honor his parents and is also being honored because he has inspired the lives of his children and so many others in the community.

I know well the power of his work in Georgia and here on Capitol Hill where he has demonstrated the ability to inspire members and staff alike to respond to the needs of the elderly.

I rise to honor Senator ISAKSON's contributions and to express my gratitude that he continues on in service on behalf of his constituents.

#### HONORING IRENE MOORE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19th, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Irene Moore of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Irene is a student at Benton High School and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Future Leader Award.

Irene is an academic leader who has challenged herself with rigorous classes and ranks in the top 10 percent. She is the editor and a chief writer of the school newspaper and was business manager for two years, as well as Vice President of her junior class and President of the senior class. Irene was one of the founding members of Students Everywhere Encourage Diversity (SEED), a group that promotes respect and tolerance among students. As a 3-year member of the Fellowship for Christian Athletes, she has helped the group grow to as many as 15 students. She is on the FCA Leadership Crew and often prepares the lesson for the meeting. Her school honors

include Citizen of the Quarter, National Honor Society, academic letter and pins, a drama award, and even Rookie of the Year for volleyball. Starting as a freshman, Irene joined activities such as volleyball, PTSA, choir, theater, JROTC, and peer helpers.

Her positive nature is cherished by her pastor: "As I have heard her speak in front of crowds at youth events and on mission trips to the Dominican Republic, I have heard her encourage many people, both her peers and the adults who work around her. She is a shining example of what teachers, leaders, and bosses want to have their students behave like. In many ways, she shows maturity beyond her years."

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Irene Moore. She is an outstanding member of our community and I wish her the best in her bright future. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

ON THE PASSING OF BRYAN  
JOHNSTON

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Bryan Johnston—a man the capital city's daily newspaper, the Statesman Journal, referred to as "Salem's Mr. Fix-it." Bryan Johnston didn't just fill the needs of Salem, but of the entire state of Oregon as well.

He was, as the Statesman Journal so aptly put it, the "go-to guy": "Need someone to fill in as Willamette University president? Call on Bryan. Need someone to give a commencement address? Call on Bryan. Need someone to run a state agency? Call on Bryan. Need someone to lead a school bond-measure campaign? Call on Bryan. And much, much more."

Bryan's reason for getting up in the morning was to serve others: to raise a family; to love and support a wife; to bring his neighbors together; to achieve results; to help resolve issues and disputes.

Bryan had a deep and unabashed belief in public service.

He deeply believed that education was the key to a bright future. He was co-chair of the Salem Keizer School Construction Bond Steering Committee and the Pass the School Bond Committee. He knew that a family provided the backbone to a youngster's life and so worked for the Family Building Blocks Capital Campaign. He also knew that as a family served to nurture growing kids, so a community could serve to nurture local families. He served on the Salem Community Development Corporation and Chamber of Commerce as well as worked with Marion Polk Legal Aid and the Neighbor-to-Neighbor organization. Last, but certainly not least, Bryan Johnston's faith was important to him as was his service for his faith community.

Bryan knew how to work hard, work effectively, work with humor and work with warmth. He was kind at the right times and witty at other right times.

Mostly, I will remember Bryan for always looking forward and moving forward—no obstacle was too great and no odds were too long.

Bryan's passing comes as he was about to start his "dream job" as president of St. Martin's College outside Tacoma. But he did Oregon's "dream job" all along.

A poem by Hafiz that aptly describes Bryan's generosity:

Even after all this time  
The sun never says to the earth,  
"You owe me."

Look what happens with a love like that.  
It lights up the whole world.

And Bryan lit up our world for his brief time in it—without expecting anything in return. We can all learn from Bryan's example and live to pay the debt forward.

He is survived by his wife of over 29 years, Anne, and their four children, and the thousands of Oregonians whose lives he touched through his service.

REGARDING THE INTRODUCTION  
OF H.R. 6298, TO RESTRICT NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH THE  
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I was proud to join as an original cosponsor of H.R. 6298, restricting nuclear cooperation with Saudi Arabia, authored by Congressman ED MARKEY of Massachusetts and Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida. However, I do not believe Congress should permanently close the door on nuclear cooperation with any state, even a state that has large petro-carbon and other energy resources, provided that the country make, as part of any agreement providing for nuclear cooperation, permanent commitments that will enhance U.S. nonproliferation goals.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regarding potential nuclear cooperation could lead to the transfer of nuclear technology from the United States without such commitments on the part of the Saudis, and would otherwise not advance our nonproliferation goals.

The restrictions on nuclear cooperation set forth in H.R. 6298 can be modified by future legislation. Even after enactment, Congress should review any proposal by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for nuclear cooperation which contains unambiguous, permanent, enforceable and verifiable commitments by the Kingdom to prevent proliferation, including especially a binding commitment by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to never develop sensitive aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Nuclear cooperation is an important aspect of commercial relations between countries, and Congress must more effectively exercise its Constitutional authority in this area. The current mechanism for Congressional review of nuclear cooperation agreements laid out in Section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act does not serve us well in that regard. Currently, the Administration may negotiate an agreement and put it into force simply by laying it before the Congress for 90 continuous session days. Congress, if it disapproves of a proposed "123 Agreement" would have to pass a resolution of disapproval, and would have to override a

presumptive veto of such a resolution by a 2/3rds vote.

There is no reason for us to impose on Congress the requirement to achieve a supermajority in order to prevail in a dispute with the Executive Branch on an issue where Congress clearly has the Constitutional prerogative, namely international commerce (see Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3). I look forward to efforts to overhaul the Atomic Energy Act to require affirmative approval by Congress before a nuclear cooperation agreement can enter into force.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND  
SPACE ADMINISTRATION AU-  
THORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 2008*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6063) to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment to H.R. 6063 submitted by my good friend from Texas, Congressman NICK LAMPSON.

The Lampson amendment will enable NASA to meet its energy needs by clarifying language set forth in Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

Section 526 prohibits Federal agencies from purchasing alternative or synthetic fuels for mobility-related use other than for research or testing, unless the purchase contract specifies that the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions are less than that of conventional petroleum-based fuels.

The Lampson amendment will enable NASA to continue to contract for generally available fuels as long as the fuel is not predominately made from non-conventional sources. Without the certainty of this amendment, NASA may not have been able to procure fuels that may have been mixed with Canadian oil sands, no matter how small the mixture.

North American oil sands are vital to United States oil supplies. Oil sands represent approximately 5 percent of the total U.S. oil supply and are mixed in with fuel derived from other sources.

With the price of energy skyrocketing, our nation needs to diversify our fuel supplies, not restrict them. America should also encourage increased supplies of North American energy and decrease our dependence on oil from hostile countries.

I applaud Congressman LAMPSON's amendment and urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support it. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NON-  
NATIVE WILDLIFE INVASION  
PREVENTION ACT

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 2008*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to protect the United