

the confidence of the citizens of Kenya. In doing so, the government can slowly start to rebuild the trust of its citizens.

Therefore, I urge Kenyan officials to do everything humanly possible to end the unprecedented bloodshed and violence. It is unsettling to hear that over 1,000 people have lost their lives and more than 300,000 have been displaced.

Kenya was hailed as a great example of democracy for other African nations to emulate. I look forward to the day when Kenya returns to its pursuit of democracy.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I applaud the Kenyan people for standing up for democracy and their right to a democratic government.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 29 H. Res. 867—Commending the Houston Dynamo soccer team for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup, I was attending a funeral for a soldier killed in Iraq.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

CALLING FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CURRENT ELECTORAL CRISIS IN KENYA

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize House Concurrent Resolution 283, calling for a peaceful resolution to the current electoral crisis in Kenya.

As a result of the elections held on December 27, 2007 chaos has erupted in Kenya. It was suspected that the administration police were used to rig elections in favor of Part of National Unity aligned to President Kibaki. During the announcement of the results from different polling stations, it was discovered that there were serious inconsistencies between results released at the polling stations and those that were announced by Electoral Commission of Kenya.

Since then, Kenya has been experiencing civil war and people are suffering. As the people of Kenya face ongoing violence, they stay strong in proclaiming, through electoral process, their country deserves a fair democracy. I praise the courage and commitment of the Kenyan citizens towards democracy. We must support their efforts towards liberty and justice by persuading the international community.

With passage of this legislation, the international community, United Nations aid organizations, and all neighboring countries are called upon to assist those affected by violence and asked to use diplomatic means to persuade relevant political actors to commit to a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

On behalf of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to support passage of House Concurrent Resolution 283.

TORNADOS THAT AFFECTED ARKANSAS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to offer our thoughts and prayers to the victims of the recent tornados that have devastated many parts of Arkansas and the surrounding region. On behalf of the Congress I especially extend our sympathies to the families who have lost a loved one in this terrible tragedy.

As we move to rebuild our State, I commend all those who have reached out to their neighbors to provide assistance in this time of need. As families and businesses begin the cleanup process, I am committed to helping these individuals get the resources they need to rebuild their lives and communities.

Arkansans are great people who exemplify Southern hospitality and I have great faith our communities will persevere and prevail through this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, on February 6, 2008, I missed rollcall votes 29–31. My flight from California to Washington, DC, did not get me back in time. Had I been here, I would have voted “yes” on all three votes.

Rollcall Vote 29: On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 867, Commending the Houston Dynamo soccer team for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup;

Rollcall Vote 30: On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 942, Recognizing the significance of Black History Month; and

Rollcall Vote 31: On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 943, Remembering the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster and honoring its crew members, who lost their lives on January 28, 1986.

CONGRATULATING LEE MYUNGBAK ON ELECTION TO PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I want to commend Mr. ROYCE on sponsoring H. Res. 947, a resolution congratulating Lee Myung-Bak on his election to the Presidency of the Republic of Korea and wishing him well during his transition and inauguration on February 25, 2008.

The United States and Korea share a long-standing and special relationship. Our strong alliance is rooted in the common principles of freedom and democracy. Today that relation-

ship has blossomed into a strong economic partnership in which the Republic of Korea has become one of the United States' major trading partners. In my State of California, Korea is the State's fifth largest trading partner and the Los Angeles Custom District's third largest trading partner, with \$18 billion in two-way trade annually.

In my congressional district in Los Angeles, Hollywood, and Culver City, ethnic Koreans have built a thriving business and cultural area known as Koreatown. Many maintain close cultural, business, and family ties to their homeland. Accordingly, it is my hope that the Republic of Korea will be fully admitted into the Visa Waiver Program in the very near future so that we may share even closer people-to-people exchanges between our two countries.

H. Res. 947 is also timely and important due to the ongoing Six-Party Talks and current attempts to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program. President-elect Lee has pledged to make the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula a priority of his administration. In order to achieve the goal of a nuclear free Korean Peninsula, the Republic of Korea will need the full support of the United States.

Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus of Korea and the U.S.-Korea Inter-Parliamentary Exchange and as a member of the House Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and Global Environment, I am committed to ensuring that the rock-solid U.S.-Korea alliance remains relevant, resilient, and enduring.

For these reasons, I again congratulate President-elect Lee on his electoral victory and am certain that I speak for all of my Congressional colleagues in wishing him the best.

IN MEMORY OF JUNE IMPSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember June Impson, longtime professor for Texas Women's University and beloved local artist to the citizens of North Texas.

Ms. Impson was on the faculty of the Texas Women's University Department of Family Sciences from 1976 until her retirement in 1998. During her career in academia, she continued to pursue art and was an active member of the Denton, Texas-based Visual Arts Society of Texas. She served as an officer in the society, and Ms. Impson also taught workshops and learned alongside her fellow members.

Ms. Impson was known for her paintings and collages of flowers, especially the wildflowers of Texas. “I love nature,” Ms. Impson once said. “All of it. Rocks, and dirt.”

Her work was described as “immediate, bold, and beautifully painted.” She was thought by many to be inspirational, gentle, imaginative, encouraging, and inclusive and she will be greatly missed in the art community as well as the North Texas and Texas Women's University communities.

She was so loved by the art community around her that the Visual Arts Society of Texas established a scholarship fund in Ms. Impson's name before her death.

I extended my thoughts to her husband, Billy Roy Switzer, and her two sons, Loren and Keiller, as well as a long list of family members and friends. June Impson will be greatly missed by the many that are fortunate enough to have known her, and I am certain that her artwork will continue to inspire others for years to come.

HONORING THE COPPELL FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, a golden anniversary is indeed a special milestone, and today I am proud to recognize the Coppel Fire Department's 50th anniversary. This exemplary and dedicated group of firefighters continues a proud 50-year long tradition of excellence.

As emergency responders for the City of Coppel, Texas, the Coppel Fire Department prides themselves on building a safe community through exceptional services. The Coppel Fire Department provides fire prevention, fire suppression, transport emergency medical services, and technical rescue to the City of Coppel and the North Texas Region. The Department also offers special community services such as a Smoke Detector Program, Fire Extinguisher Training, Fire Safety Training, CPR Training, and Child Safety Seat Installation, just to name a few.

The Coppel Fire Department includes 92 highly trained members operating from four facilities strategically located throughout the city. Each member is fully committed to continuing the traditions of providing a level of public service that is second to none.

Chief Kevin Richardson and his department will be celebrating the 50th anniversary all year long. In honor of the occasion, a special commemorative helmet shield has been designed, restoration of the department's first fire engine is complete, and a commemorative album will be used to honor the department's 50 years of service to the community.

The Coppel Fire Department's 50 years of hard work and commitment to the citizens of Coppel is worthy of recognition. I offer my sincere congratulations on their golden anniversary, and I am most honored to represent this outstanding department in the 24th District of Texas.

CONGRATULATING THE 2007 WEST VIRGINIA BOYS SOCCER STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2007 West Virginia Boys Soccer State Champions, the George Washington High School Patriots of Charleston, West Virginia.

The West Virginia State Tournament took place in Beckley on November 3, 2007. The Patriots played defending champions, Hurri-

cane High School in the final game of the tournament.

Head Coach Tom Hopper, who was named 2007 WV Soccer Coach of the Year and assistant coaches; Dave Nelson, Kevin Cushing, Dan Thistlethwaite and Gordon Green led the young men to victory winning overall 18-4-3 season. The Patriots made George Washington High School history, as the first soccer team to win a state championship.

The players include captains; Connell Green, Sam McElwee, Yale Tiley, and Zack Claudio and Tyler Chirtas, Adam Bolland, Jesse Dreyer, Christopher Power, Luca DiPiero, PJ Wolfe, Jake Stevens, Ian Thistlethwaite, Evan Loflin, Charlie McElwee, Andrew Robey, Kurt Suter, Thomas Edens, Blair Suter, Paul Stroebel, Shahir Amin, and Adeeb Derakhshan.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to acknowledge the George Washington High School Patriots as the 2007 West Virginia Boys Soccer State Champions. Again, congratulations to these talented young men.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH ST. CLAIR

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a man of action and principle, Mr. Joseph St. Clair. Joe and his wife, Maria, came to the United States from Hungary in 1939. When this country entered World War II he was required to take his family back to Hungary. As a civilian English and history teacher in German-occupied territory, he was assigned to monitor American prisoners of war. He refused to cooperate with the Germans and had to go into hiding. The 6-week long winter siege of Budapest by the U.S. was a particularly difficult time for his friends and family, living in a bomb shelter and coming out at night to butcher frozen horses to feed themselves. Living through these experiences shaped his character and priorities: devotion to family, service above self, and leadership.

After the war he was again in danger, this time from the Communist Party. As friends and colleagues disappeared, he realized that he needed to get his family out of Hungary. With the help of Americans, Joe was able to get them all to Switzerland, and eventually back to the United States. He changed his family name to St. Clair and moved to Monterey, where in 1948, he became the founding chairman of the Hungarian Department in the newly formed Army Language School, now known as the Defense Language Institute. In 1970 his department was given the Abraham Lincoln Award of the American Hungarian Studies Foundation because "... never before nor anywhere else in the world has the Hungarian language and culture been taught so effectively to so many students of non-Hungarian background as it has been by the Hungarian Department of DLIWC."

Joe and Maria met during their college days at the University of Budapest where he was the leader of the Catholic men's service organization, and she was the head of the Catholic women's organization. They had four sons, Joseph Jr., Akos, George, and Robert, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Joe spent many years as a Boy Scout leader and won special awards and citations from that organization.

Joe's life was one of service to his community. In addition to being his sons' scoutmaster, he was active in Kiwanis and the Knights of Columbus. At one time he held the record for donating more blood than anyone else on the Monterey Peninsula. After retirement he moved to Scotts Valley in Santa Cruz County. He volunteered with the Red Cross and became chairman of the board of directors of the California Gray Bears, a pioneering self-help organization of senior citizens. With the Gray Bears he harvested vegetables, distributed the food to home-bound seniors, and operated the largest recycling center in Santa Cruz County. For one of his awards, it was estimated that he had clocked over 10,000 hours of community service.

When Joe retired after 30 years at the Language School, he was given the Department of the Army's second highest civilian award for meritorious service. The wording on the citation in part sums up the man who was Joe St. Clair: "Mr. St. Clair understood the responsibility of the manager as being primarily one of leadership in the highest sense of the word. In whatever position or assignment he received, Joe St. Clair was invariably an enlightened guide, a relentless, demanding, but inspiring leader both to his students and his faculty."

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring the life of this admirable man, and we are grateful that he chose to become a citizen of our country.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF SINGER, SONGWRITER, ACTIVIST, AND INSPIRER BOB MARLEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in reverent celebration of the birthday of Robert Nesta Marley, a man whose musical genius provided the soundtrack to the politically awakening times of the '60s and '70s. Through song, he attempted to forge a new world order, infusing his calls for nonviolence, unity, and faith with an enthralling reggae beat that propelled the sound of Jamaica internationally.

On this day, the anniversary of his birth, the world rejoices in the myriad contributions his unique voice made to reggae music, to Rastafarian religion, to social justice and peace. He serves, still, as an ambassador for the Jamaican essence, personifying through his undying image and legacy the diverse people of that island and its rich culture.

His sound sprung from the slums of Kingston. But—surrounded by economic devastation, political violence, and the intolerance of his mixed-race heritage—he clung to optimism, instead. The sanguine anthems of "One Love" and "No Woman, No Cry" gave voice to the oppression of poverty and its effect on the human spirit, captivating a generation and spanning the globe in its power and scope.

For this, we honor him—stirred, touched, inspired by his cause.