

freedom of the press, arresting dissidents, and labeling religious activity as subversive. We need a bilateral relationship with Vietnam that enhances individual freedom, democracy, and freedom of speech. I will continue to work in Congress to help promote democracy and end oppression in Vietnam.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. BASIL C. MARHOFFER

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and career of Mr. Basil C. Marhofer, a good friend from my home State of Kansas. Mr. Marhofer will be retiring Monday, June 30, from a successful career as a distinguished lawyer and public servant.

Mr. Marhofer's contribution of service has spanned over six decades. After graduating from Ness City High School in Ness City, Kansas, in 1942, Mr. Marhofer served his nation in the European theater in the Second World War. After returning from Europe, Mr. Marhofer enrolled in the University of Kansas Law School and graduated in 1951. He opened his first law office that same year in Ness City.

Soon afterwards, Mr. Marhofer was appointed Ness County Attorney, a position that he held until 1959. After spending a short time in Boulder, Colorado, at the University of Colorado Law School, Mr. Marhofer returned to Ness City and to his position as county attorney, where he remained until 1968. In 1971, Mr. Marhofer was elected Mayor of Ness City where he served for 8 years.

Mr. Marhofer has been actively involved in his community, including the local Masonic Lodge and Rotary International. He has held many offices in Rotary International, including District governor and director. In 1988, Mr. Marhofer was elected vice president and represented Rotary International on five continents.

Mr. Marhofer has spent his life serving his community, State, and country. I am proud to know him and to have this opportunity to recognize him. To him, serving his community is not a burden—it is a calling and a way of life. Whenever I have the opportunity to visit Ness City, Mr. Marhofer is always there, greeting me with the utmost hospitality. He is a just scholar of law and an honest public servant who sets an example for us all. I wish him the best as he enters retirement.

TRIBUTE ON THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF WILLIAM KIDWELL

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I am submitting this statement to express congratulations and gratitude to Chief William Kidwell on the occasion of his retirement from the Geneva Police Department.

On July 1, Chief Kidwell will end a 35-year career of distinguished service to his community. He joined the Geneva Police Department in 1973 as a captain, and rose quickly through the ranks. During his 27-year tenure as chief, the department expanded from a force of 13 officers and 4 patrol cars to 8 squads of 37 officers.

Chief Kidwell is known in the department and throughout the community as a leader with high integrity. He exemplifies the devoted public service to which we all should strive.

I offer my best wishes to Chief Kidwell and his family, and I thank him for more than three decades of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 23, 2008, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall vote 438.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 438.

SCHOOL TO WATCH

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Short Pump Middle School, located in Henrico County, VA, for their recognition as a School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. This forum is an alliance of more than 60 educators, researchers, and officers of national associations and foundations dedicated to improving schools for young adolescents across the country. They have identified Short Pump Middle as a high-performing school that excels in many areas of education. Congratulations to the administration, teachers and students on this tremendous honor. National organizations recognize what we in Richmond already know—that Short Pump Middle is first rate. As the parent of 3 Short Pump Middle School alumni, I congratulate the teachers, parents, administrators and students on this outstanding recognition.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN SECURITY AND PROSPERITY ENHANCEMENT ACT"

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Afghanistan-Pakistan Security and Prosperity Enhancement Act. The legislation is a national security bill aimed at protecting our homeland and those of our allies in the fight against Al-Qa'ida and the Taliban. This bill authorizes the President of the United States to designate Reconstruction

Opportunity Zones (ROZs) in Afghanistan and in certain regions of Pakistan. These ROZs will allow qualified businesses duty-free access into U.S. markets for designated products, thereby providing significant employment opportunities where none currently exist. A ROZ program could go a long way to bolster economic development in this critical region of the world where extremists have tried to exploit the lack of economic opportunities to gain recruits for their radical agenda.

The countries of Afghanistan and Pakistan are key to the fight against Al-Qa'ida and its Taliban allies. Al-Qa'ida is the group that masterminded and carried out the deadly terrorist attacks of 9/11 that took the lives of nearly 3,000 Americans. It would have had difficulty doing so if were not given safe-haven by the Taliban, then in control of the Afghan government and much of the country.

The U.S.-led effort to topple the Taliban regime and pursue Al-Qa'ida terrorists in the aftermath of 9/11 initially weakened both of these groups but there are disturbing signs that they are regrouping and strengthening, particularly along the porous Afghanistan-Pakistan border. The declassified National Intelligence Estimate on "The Terrorist Threat to the U.S. Homeland," published in July 2007, stated: "Al-Qa'ida is and will remain the most serious threat to the Homeland, as its central leadership continues to plan high-impact plots, while pushing others in extremist Sunni communities to mimic its efforts and to supplement its capabilities. We assess the group has protected or regenerated key elements of its Homeland attack capability, including: a safe haven in the Pakistan Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), operational lieutenants, and its top leadership."

More recently, the State Department's "Country Reports on Terrorism 2007," published in April 2008, noted that "Afghanistan remained threatened by Taliban and other insurgent groups and criminal gangs, some of whom were linked to [Al-Qa'ida] and terrorist sponsors outside the country." The same report also noted that "Despite the efforts of both Afghan and Pakistani security forces, instability, coupled with the Islamabad brokered ceasefire agreement in effect for the first half of 2007 along the Pakistan-Afghanistan frontier, appear to have provided [Al-Qa'ida] leadership greater mobility and ability to conduct training and operational planning, particularly targeting Western Europe and the United States."

Enhanced security efforts by the United States, Pakistan and Afghanistan are needed to disrupt and weaken Al-Qa'ida and the Taliban, but security measures alone will not rid them of these menacing groups—terrorists who continue to want to do us harm and are a threat to democracy and the rule of law. These extremist groups exploit the poor socioeconomic conditions, such as high unemployment, in the border areas, to gain adherents to their nefarious causes. With no meaningful alternatives, young men in particular are vulnerable to their entreaties.

Creative ways must be found to give young Pakistanis and Afghans a positive vision of the future. One such way is to create sustainable jobs in these vulnerable areas so that the promise of a decent living makes more sense than following the warped ideology of the terrorists.

The Reconstruction and Opportunity Zone legislation for Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan does just that. This legislation creates, in essence, special economic zones in these regions, enabling domestic and foreign firms to establish manufacturing enterprises that will bring thousands of good-paying jobs to the people of these areas.

As these troubled regions develop economically, they will diminish the recruiting pool of the terrorists. And as the terrorists find it more difficult to find support and protection among the local populations, they will become more vulnerable to the security forces.

HONORING LIEUTENANT DANE R.
HAYWARD OF LAKE COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lt. Dane R. Hayward on the occasion of his retirement as Commander of the Clear Lake Area Highway Patrol. Lt. Hayward has served his community and the State of California honorably for over 30 years.

Lt. Hayward received his A.A. in Auto Technology from Ventura Community College, his B.A. in Police Science/Psychology at Lavern University and his M.A. in Counseling from the University of San Francisco.

Lt. Hayward has had an illustrious career in public service. He has implemented progressive solutions that have saved countless lives in Lake County, part of California's 151 Congressional District. He helped secure a 2003 Pedestrian Corridor grant which has resulted in zero pedestrian fatalities to date. He was able to get SR-53 and SR-20 controlled, which has also led to zero fatalities since, and the signal he was able to install at Highland Springs lowered fatalities by 50 percent. He has built the force by establishing a Senior Volunteer Program and an Explorer Program, supplementing his officers on patrol.

Lt. Hayward served as a motorcycle officer in the Central Los Angeles and West Valley offices in southern California. He then went on to become a Sergeant in south Los Angeles and Ventura and a Lieutenant in Baldwin Park, West Valley, and Clear Lake before earning the Commander position.

Lt. Hayward is known as a generous, diligent and committed public servant who never hesitates to answer the call of his community. Among many other affiliations, Lt. Hayward is a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the National Rifle Association, a member of Ventura County Peace Officers Association, and a member of the California Peace Officers Association. On top of all that, Lt. Hayward has been a peer support counselor for the CHP from 1990 to the present.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Lt. Dane Hayward for his years of dedication and service on behalf of Lake County and the citizens of California. He has been a role model for anyone who wants to give back to his or her community. I join his wife Phill, their son Dane Jr., and daughter Nicole in thanking Dane and wishing him a lifetime of fulfillment.

RECOGNIZING WORLD REFUGEE
DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, last Friday was World Refugee Day, a day to reflect and address the growing problem of refugee populations worldwide.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are more than 11 million refugees living outside their countries. Another 26 million are estimated to be internally displaced due to conflict alone. I urge my colleagues to address this complex and tragic issue.

Since the beginning of civilization, populations have fled to escape violence and persecution and have found sanctuary in foreign lands. In 1951, the United Nations Refugee Convention was created in order to address this issue on an international level. The Convention is the key legal document defining who is a refugee, what their rights are, and the legal obligations of states to refugees.

Since 1951, the issue of refugees has grown both in size and in complexity. While the Convention was designed to solve the problem of World War II refugees, it has broadly extended its scope as the number and nationality of refugees dramatically grew over time. For the first time in five years, the number of refugees has increased, primarily due to a large population exodus from Iraq into neighboring countries. Other significant population outflows that have contributed to this increase include: The Central African Republic, Chad, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Somalia.

As this issue grows, it becomes increasingly difficult to address it. Today, the reasons leading populations to flee are more diverse. While in 1951 the two main causes of departure were poverty and conflict, today the causes have expanded to bad governance, climate change, and competition for scarce resources. As barriers to human mobility have fallen in recent decades, protecting refugees has become even more difficult. These new challenges make it even more crucial to find adequate and efficient ways to address these issues.

Moreover, with the increased number of refugees worldwide, many countries have started to reverse their policies on granting asylum and have begun closing their doors to vulnerable populations. As a result, refugees are forced to return to the terrible situations which they were originally trying to escape.

I believe that we can alleviate suffering and save lives if the problem is addressed globally, and in cooperation with foreign countries and international organizations, such as the United Nations. The protection of refugees is an international duty. It is the United States' duty to lead these efforts.

One of the most pressing examples of a burgeoning crisis is the Iraqi refugee crisis. Today, there are millions of displaced Iraqis both inside and outside of Iraq. Since the beginning of the Iraq war, the United States has only welcomed in 8,000 Iraqi refugees while Sweden alone has taken in 40,000. The United States has a tremendous responsibility to aid these populations. Even more, we have a specific obligation to protect our allies in Iraq

who risked their lives to help our government and our Armed Forces.

As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have been deeply concerned and involved in this issue. Most recently, Senator BENJAMIN L. CARDIN (D-MD), my Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, Congressman JOHN D. DINGELL (D-MI), and I, along with 14 other Members of the House and Senate, sent a letter to President Bush questioning the Administration over delays in processing threatened Iraqis who have worked for the United States government and American organizations in Iraq. In particular, the letter urges President Bush to allow the Department of Defense to airlift Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) applicants for expedited processing to a central processing center outside of Iraq.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me to assist not only Iraqi refugee populations but refugees across the globe. The United States, a beacon of freedom and democracy, has a longstanding tradition of providing aid and protection to refugee populations. I urge my colleagues to devote to this issue of growing refugee populations the attention and resources it needs and deserves.

IN HONOR OF DEAN CARMEN
TWILLIE AMBAR

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in recognition of Dean Carmen Twillie Ambar. I join with President Richard L. McCormick and all of Rutgers University in honoring Dean Ambar for her outstanding tenure at Douglass and for her recent appointment as President of the Cedar Crest College.

During her tenure as Dean of Douglass, Dean Ambar demonstrated her commitment to the educational advancement of women by leading the fight to save Douglass College. Dedicated to women's success and leadership, Douglass is a unique institution that has enabled countless young women to receive an excellent education and fulfill their potential as leaders in public service, academia, and business.

In addition, Dean Ambar's exemplary service and dedication to Douglass was evident in her pursuit of women's global leadership. Dean Ambar spearheaded programs that showcased and promoted women's leadership skills and encouraged young women to pursue careers in math, science, and technology.

Madam Speaker, it is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring and recognizing Dean Ambar for her invaluable contributions to Douglass and the greater Rutgers University community.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SIGNING OF THE U.S.-KOREA
FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 30, we will mark the one-year