

being too cozy with industry and pressuring maintenance personnel to reduce the number of violations they cite among the carriers, we need to know that so we can stop it. If the FAA is trying to implement a dangerous and inadequately tested national air traffic pattern change and air traffic controllers believe people will die as a result, we need to know that so we can stop it. This legislation would help us to do that.

Among its provisions, H.R. 6493 would create an independent office of Aviation Safety Whistleblower Protection within the FAA. This office would be responsible for receiving complaints and information from FAA and airline employees about possible violations of safety regulations, federal laws, and standards. This office would allow FAA and airline employees to disclose anonymously their safety concerns without fear of retaliation.

RECALLING THE INFAMOUS ANNI- VERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recall the brutal invasion of Cyprus that occurred thirty-four years ago on July 20, 1974.

The people of Cyprus continue to suffer the consequences of that contemptible invasion. Even now, Turkish troops continue to illegally occupy Cyprus. The island remains torn by a militarized fence that slices a 113-mile line across the island.

I encourage both sides to fully comply with the guiding principles of the July 8, 2006 agreement. This agreement seeks to establish working groups that can operate together to reunify Cyprus into one bizonal, bicomunal federation. The July 8 agreement is an important achievement which gives us great cause to remain optimistic that a resolution is possible.

While we can mark the significance of the July 8 agreement, we cannot celebrate until the goal of a unified Cyprus is fully and finally realized. We cannot celebrate until the anniversary of the July 20 invasion is no longer a source of pain for Cypriots, and barbed wire fence no longer splits Cyprus into two disparate sections. The United States, the European Union, and the United Nations have all expressed their support for a solution that will reunify Cyprus. With the steadfast determination of the international community and the people of Cyprus, we will persist until the goal of a free, undivided Cyprus is realized at last.

Madam Speaker, I remain hopeful that Cyprus will once again be free and undivided. After thirty-four years of division, illegal occupation and oppression, the long-suffering Cypriot people deserve to live in freedom and unity today.

HONORING AN ACHIEVEMENT OF THE UCWIP INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one achievement of my former intern, Anu Ambikaipalan who participated in the Australian Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program, UCWIP. After an experience in Washington, she returned to Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia where she will soon graduate and pursue a career in law at a prestigious local firm.

Ms. Ambikaipalan was recently distinguished as a leader in her academic pursuits and was asked to deliver a keynote speech at a breakfast reception honoring "Women in the Law." I commend to your attention the insightful text of her speech to reiterate the importance of providing professional development opportunities for youth on Capitol Hill and how these experiences can translate into successful contributions to communities, even on the other side of the world. As Members of Congress, we must continue to support initiatives like the UCWIP which not only improve the lives of our constituents, but engage the global community. The text of her speech follows:

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. It's great to see so many people here today, and especially university students. Being able to sleep in till 12 noon is one of the prized possessions of a university student, so I'm glad you could all make it.

It is indeed a privilege to be able to speak in front of so many accomplished women and men in the law here. I'd like to thank the Victorian Council of Law Students' Society and the convener of today's breakfast, Katie Elder, for asking me to speak to you this morning on my experience as an Intern in Congress in Washington, D.C., through the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program or the UCWIP.

In the summer of 2007, I along with 11 other Australian university students, were fortunate enough to receive the opportunity to work as Interns in the U.S. Congress.

As exciting as this was, I was brought back to reality when the response given by my friends to my impending internship was—'So, is it like the West Wing?' or 'An Intern?' . . . Like Monica Lewinsky?'

The UCWIP is a program run by Mr. Eric Federling, who directs and manages the program pro bono. It is now in its tenth year and includes 8 participating Australian universities from around Australia with approximately 60 applicants a year.

Applicants are required to choose from 13 Congressional offices which participated in the program. My first preference was an African American Congressman, Mr. Alcee Hastings, who represented the 23rd district of Florida. I chose Congressman Hastings because of his strong stance on racial equality and social justice. Having been in Congress for almost 18 years, the Congressman is an important member of the Democrat party's leadership and often champions the rights of minority groups.

When I arrived in Washington, D.C., in January 2007, I had no idea that the next two months would be a life changing experience.

I remember walking through the hallowed halls of Congress on the first day, nervous but also in complete and utter wonderment. As the weeks went on, I tried not to become too complacent as to where I was. Every

morning I would take the long route to my office so I could see the Capitol Building and remind myself that I was working at the centre of global politics.

When we arrived on Capitol Hill, the U.S. was witnessing monumental changes, with the Democrats regaining the majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The highlight for me personally, was when my Congressman gave me his only ticket to the historical swearing in of the first female Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi.

The biggest talking point in Congress with the change in power was the Iraq War and the troop surge.

We were fortunate enough to see both Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright give testimonies before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in relation to the troop surge.

As my Congressman sits on the Intelligence Committee, I was lucky enough to attend one of the very rare open Intelligence Committee hearings with Hon. John Negroponte, Director of National Intelligence and General Michael Hayden, Director of the CIA as witnesses.

However, the UCWIP was not all about work and serious political issues. The program is established to allow participants to gain a well-rounded appreciation of American culture and history. We were given a guided tour of the battlefields of Gettysburg, visited Philadelphia and met extraordinary individuals such as Mr. Joe Ichiuji, a Japanese-American who fought for the U.S. army in World War II, while his family were detained in concentration camps in America because of their Japanese descent.

We also attended major social events such as the inaugural ball for the new mayor of Washington, D.C., Adrian Fenty and the annual Roe v. Wade dinner run by the National Abortion Rights Action League, Pro-Choice America.

The most significant part of my internship was the opportunity to develop legislation to combat gang violence which the Congressman could introduce into this Congress.

This issue came to the forefront after the rapid increase in deaths resulting from gang violence in the Congressman's district. By the 5th January 2007, 8 people had been killed from gang violence. That was more than one person a day. One of those killed was a 2 year old boy who was left in the car as his parents fled from a drive-by shooting.

Since I had very little knowledge of gang violence, I decided to put my years of researching for law assignments into good use. I jumped onto Google. As I scrawled through pages of information, I realized that I had just opened Pandora's Box. Gang violence in America is one of the deadliest and most dangerous activities on the streets, and its scourge has permeated into mainstream American culture through music, movies and television.

Through my research, I discovered that the two problem areas were: (1) trying to deter youths from entering gangs and (2) the high rate of re-offending by youths once they were released from juvenile detention.

Looking through the limited legislation that had already been put through Congress, it was evident a fresh new approach was required. Clearly, the problem will never be solved by middle-aged, college educated, men and women from privileged backgrounds sitting on Capitol Hill, who are so far dissociated from the unemployed, impoverished and generally black young men who roam the streets, searching for drugs and money in order to survive. A connection has to be established between those making the law and the young people on American streets who live day by day in fear of their lives and in the shadows of gang violence.

So, it was a stroke of luck when a group called 'Exhoodus' was holding a briefing on the Hill encouraging Congress to take action combating gang violence. The forum was hosted by Bill Cosby with a panel made up of ex-gang members who had all spent time in jail for murder and drug related crimes. The group traveled around America to speak to youths and deter them from entering gangs. They informed us that gangs were now recruiting from primary school, with gang members being as young as 8 years old.

Inspired by the work of this group, I figured that the only way to find out what to put in the legislation was to ask those directly affected by the issue. As such, we organized to visit the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Home to have a tour of the facilities and speak to some of the children incarcerated there.

It was the most significant part of my internship and one of the most confronting experiences of my life. Some of these kids were 10 or 11 and had already spent 2 or 3 years in detention. As we spent time with these kids, I realized that they were just normal kids who had made one mistake. Most of these children came from broken homes, with violent, alcoholic fathers or mothers prostituting themselves to support their drug addiction. Being in a gang not only provided them with a family unit, but also provided them with money to support their families. They too had dreams of becoming a chef, journalist or an NBA basketball player, but were victims of the streets and of a society that couldn't provide the security and safety that they felt came from being in a gang.

When we told these kids that we wanted them to help us create this piece of legislation to combat gang violence, their reaction was something I can still picture today. They were bursting with ideas on how to improve their local communities and get gangs off their streets and kids back into school.

As we continued to work on the legislation, I was given the opportunity to travel to Florida to visit the Congressman's district and finally experience some resemblance of a summer.

I visited both of the Congressman's district offices—in Ft. Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. His staff took me around the streets of Ft. Lauderdale and I couldn't believe my eyes. I was driving through the ghetto. There was rubbish littering the streets, police officers outside houses questioning people and young men dealing drugs openly on street corners.

Actually seeing the district and understanding where the Congressman came from made me fully appreciate his fight against racial discrimination and injustice. His policies began to make more sense and I gained a lot more motivation for my gang violence work.

After discussing the issue of gang violence with local officials and police, it became evident, and quite frustrating, that nobody wanted to take responsibility for fixing the problem. It was only when we visited a community university that we discovered a possible idea for legislation that would assist with gang violence.

We organized for community colleges to work with local prisons to create reintroduction programs for those who had spent time in juvenile detention. Our purpose was to deter them from falling back into gang activity. The legislation, entitled 'Path to Success' promotes initiatives to provide at-risk youths with counseling and academic and vocational training. Ultimately, this program is based on a principle that is a central tenet of law all over the world reintegrating offenders as a means of rehabilitation.

Last week to my delight, I received an email from the Congressman's office. It was

to inform me that the Bill had passed through Congress and the Senate. The 'Path to Success' program was finally becoming law in the United States.

My experience in Congress has made me realize that we should never feel too small or powerless to make a difference. Upon reflection, after working with people like Congressman Hastings and Eric Federling, if we all took the most valuable commodity we have—our time, and use that for the benefit of others, in a personal way, imagine what a difference we could make.

Although, throughout the internship, I was acting as an Ambassador for my university and Australia, at times we felt like we were acting as ambassadors for those kids who were stuck on the streets of America. Helping the Congressman to produce this piece of legislation was one of the most rewarding and proudest moments of my life.

Being a final year law student from Deakin University, I was given the chance to make a small, yet tangible contribution in the most powerful Government in the world. Through this, I discovered that the opportunity to make a difference is out there for each and every one of us. As the playwright, George Bernard Shaw once wrote, 'Dream things that never were and say, why not?'

COMMEMORATING THE 24TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate once again the anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus, beginning in 1974, lasting up to the present time. The division of Cyprus has wreaked havoc on the island nation and left its Turkish-occupied section in disarray. It is cruel that the Cypriot people should continue to be subjected to this conflict.

Two summers ago, we were all pleased to see the two sides reach a major breakthrough in the troubled history of this divided island. After years of conflict, both sides committed themselves to the reunification of Cyprus based on a bizonal, bicomunal federation and political equality. By agreeing to these principles, they recognized the status quo is unacceptable and that continuing it only hurts Turkish and Greek Cypriots.

Now, the two parties have set up working groups and committees so they can begin implementing the agreement they reached in 2006. In just a few days, Cypriot President Christofias will meet with his Turkish counterpart, Mr. Talat, when they will review the progress of these working groups. It is my hope—and I believe my colleagues share in my feeling—that the two sides will soon be able to begin full-fledged negotiations, leading to a final status agreement and the removal of all Turkish troops from the island. Last fall, this House expressed its support for these efforts by unanimously passing H. Res. 405, of which I was a proud cosponsor.

Madam Speaker, we urge the two parties to move forward in their discussions and, at the same time, we urge the international community to step back and allow the Cypriots—and the Cypriots alone—to make the decisions affecting their future. No one can force an agreement on them.

TRIBUTE TO DR. YUHUA WANG

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Yuhua Wang, who has been recognized as a great artist and sculptor.

Dr. Wang was born in Sichuan, China, and permanently resides in the United States. Since 2000, she has worked as a visiting professor of oriental arts in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, where she has received several commendation certificates for excellent work performance.

In August 2008, Dr. Wang's book entitled *World's Highest-Level Color Paintings and Ink-Wash Paintings* will be published and distributed worldwide by International Arts Publishing. Dr. Wang has meticulously and delicately applied fine-brushwork and oil colors on hand-sculpted coral and cobblestones which have become treasures of the world.

In the history of Chinese art, her lotus flower paintings are unsurpassed and are extremely valuable. In addition to being proficient in Chinese paintings, she is a highly talented sculptor whose themes are nature's mountains, rocks and plants. Dr. Wang's skills in the creation of colors, paintings and sculptures have reached the acme of perfection in their exquisiteness, elegance and beauty.

Dr. Wang, who takes great pleasure in helping others, is a selfless person whose moral character is noble, which is evidenced by the numerous awards and honors she has received. She has made great contributions to the development of cultural exchange between the East and West. Through her practice of Buddhism, Professor Wang benefits humanity and all living beings.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Yuhua Wang, an outstanding artist and scholar, who has chosen to make her home here in the United States because she has heartfelt love for its people.

NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National Energy Security Intelligence Act of 2008, H.R. 6545.

Our Nation is in the middle of an energy crisis. Oil and gas prices are continuing to climb past \$4 a gallon, and it is unlikely that gas will ever be cheap again. We will never be able to meet our domestic demand even if we drill on every square inch of our public and private lands. The United States possesses only 2 percent of the world's oil reserves, yet consumes over 25 percent of the world's oil. In order to meet our demand we import 22 million barrels of oil a day from some of the most volatile regions of the world. There is no denying that our national security is weakened by our dependence on foreign fuels.