

by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died without the protection we should have been giving them.

But perhaps tonight, Madam Speaker, maybe someone new who heard this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill a baby, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,806 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that this Nation is great enough to find a better way than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we hear the cries of the unborn at last. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is February 14, 2008—12,806 days since Roe v. Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of free and the home of the brave.

ARMS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, as part of the Gulf Security Dialogue between the Gulf States and the United States, the President has proposed the commercial sale of a number of significant U.S.-produced weapon systems that the President believes will contribute to U.S. national security in the Gulf Region.

There has been a good deal of controversy surrounding these proposed arms sales included in the Gulf Security Dialogue, and, in particular, the sale of Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) to Saudi Arabia.

The Foreign Affairs Committee has taken the reported concerns seriously. The Committee has held four highly classified briefings on the Gulf Security Dialogue. As part of this ongoing dialogue, Chairman Lantos asked the Secretary of State to provide to the Committee, in writing, additional assurances that can be released publicly that this sale will not threaten our interests or those of our friends in the region. Chairman Lantos received a letter with these assurances from the Secretary of State.

Madam Speaker, as the Acting Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I ask that this letter be printed in full in the RECORD so that

all of our colleagues in the Congress can be aware of the assurances which the Committee has received.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington, DC, February 6, 2008.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you regarding the proposed sale of Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) to Saudi Arabia under the rubric of the Gulf Security Dialogue. Over the last year, we have consulted closely with Congress and our partners in the region on the proposed sale. This sale is important to U.S. national interests in the Gulf region. It will strengthen our relationship with Saudi Arabia and will enhance regional security and stability.

The United States has offered for sale a number of military goods to friendly governments in the region to support U.S. interests. In preparing these sales, we have worked closely with our friends in the region to ensure the proposed transfers strengthen stability and security regarding potential challenges from Iran or other threats in the region. We have consulted closely about this sale with Israel and remain committed to the preservation of Israel's qualitative military edge. I can assure you that the sale of JDAMs to Saudi Arabia will not affect Israel's qualitative military edge. The Government of Israel understands the reasons for this sale and does not object to it.

We are mindful of the sensitivity of some of the technology being transferred, and will continue to keep Congress informed on the details of this sale, particularly of any changes in the arrangements we have briefed the committee. We have had, and will continue to have, thorough discussions with the Government of Saudi Arabia regarding its obligations resulting from this sale. As a result of these discussions, we are confident that the Government of Saudi Arabia will undertake all necessary measures to secure these weapons and to assure their use only in ways which we support. In particular, the Government of Saudi Arabia will provide adequate security for the JDAMs such that these weapons will not fall into the hands of other nations or groups. Moreover, the Government of Saudi Arabia will ensure that these weapons will not be used against U.S. forces or the forces of U.S. allies.

I hope this resolves any concerns that might exist about this sale. We would be happy to discuss further with you, if you desire. We look forward to working with you to secure the advancement of U.S. interests in the Gulf region.

Sincerely,

CONDOLEEZZA RICE.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform you that I was unavoidably detained in my district over the past few days to come to the floor of the House of Representatives to cast my vote on certain rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

I would have voted "aye" for rollcall Nos. 43 through 45, rollcall Nos. 48 through 51, and rollcall Nos. 53 through 57.

I would have voted "nay" for rollcall Nos. 46, 47, 52.

REMEMBERING RAFIQ HARIRI AND THE IMPORTANCE OF LEBANON

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in a mixture of sadness and outrage to commemorate the third anniversary of Rafiq Hariri's assassination. Sadness because the former Prime Minister, a man of vision and courage, was cut down in his prime as he stood up for the idea of a Lebanon as a nation free from external control, a sovereign, united and independent Lebanon that would regain its rightful place among the nations of the Middle East.

Three years ago a massive car bomb deprived the Hariri family of a husband and father and deprived the Lebanese people of a leader. It would prove to be the first in a dozen political assassinations that have plagued that nation for the last three years orchestrated by the enemies of a free and democratic Lebanon.

And it is this fact, Madam Speaker that fills me with outrage and should fill all our colleagues with outrage as well. Lebanon's future continues to be strangled by Iran and Syria whose agents Hezbollah, Amal and Michel Aoun, try to take through violence and intimidation what they cannot achieve at the ballot box. The slow strangulation of the state has left Lebanon without a President for almost 3 months, paralyzing the nation and raising the specter of renewed civil war.

On the third anniversary of former Prime Minister Hariri's murder, the international community must renew its commitment to the people of Lebanon and again speak out against the campaign of naked aggression that has left the March 14 movement only two parliamentarians away from losing their hard won majority. We must renew our demand that Damascus and Tehran lift their boots off Lebanon's neck. And we must ensure that justice is done in the case of Rafiq Hariri and all the other victims of the 3 year campaign to deny Lebanon its rightful place among free and independent nations. Toward that end, the United States and the rest of the international community must make it crystal clear to Syria that the Special Tribunal established by the United Nations Security Council to investigate the terrorist attack on February 14, 2005, is not a bargaining chip to be traded away. The interests of justice in this case far outweigh any concession that the government of Syria might hope to offer. The guilty must be held accountable for their crimes.

The international community has spoken frequently and eloquently through United Nations Security Council resolutions in support of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon, and has demanded the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon. These goals and this unity of purpose must not be abandoned or allowed to wither either from self-interest or distraction. The enemies of Lebanon believe they have time on their side—that they merely need to wait us out and Lebanon will once again be theirs to control.

The conflict in Lebanon is not a sideshow in the Middle East, it is the main event. Lebanon

is where Tehran intends to fulfill its aspirations to regional hegemony and Shiite dominance. There is too much at stake for Lebanon and for the entire region for the world to leave the Lebanese to the mercies of the radical mullahs in Tehran, the thugs in Damascus and their terrorist allies, Hezbollah.

I urge all my colleagues to not only remember Rafiq Hariri and his sacrifice but to speak out in support of the legitimate democratic aspirations of the people of Lebanon. They want only what we enjoy every day—a free, sovereign and democratic state, the servant only of its own people and the master of its own destiny. It's worth fighting for.

HONORING THE HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI A-BOMB EXHIBITION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition at the Wisconsin Capitol rotunda. Because of the dedicated efforts of a coalition of Madison organizations, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition Committee, and the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, this exhibition has made an incredibly important contribution toward educating Wisconsinites and our country about the devastation in Hiroshima and Nagasaki caused by nuclear weapons.

I am heartened by the mission of these organizations to spread peace and international understanding and grateful to the citizens of Madison who helped bring this vital message to our Capitol. I further commend the Exhibition's goal to raise awareness about abolishing nuclear weapons. This is an issue that demands our close attention.

I want to take this opportunity to reaffirm my support for nonproliferation strategies designed to eliminate weapons of mass destruction from U.S. and worldwide arsenals. I strongly support the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which sets forth objectives to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology and further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament. I also believe we need to terminate efforts to enhance U.S. military capabilities of the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

My thanks go out to the citizens and organizations of Wisconsin who have dared to imagine peace and help make it a reality.

CONGRATULATING ROB COGORNO ON HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rob Cogorno, who will soon be leaving his Congressional career here in the House of Representatives for new opportunities off of Capitol Hill.

Rob's formal title is Floor Director for the Majority Leader, but he is truly a servant of

this institution. Rob has worked for several Members of Congress over his 25-year Capitol Hill career, but the reality is that he has truly served both this institution and the ideals that make it what it is.

As a former Congressional staffer, I recognize the value of our staff. We would not be who we are and our country would not be where it is without, in part, our dedicated, smart and hardworking staff. Throughout his career in the House, Rob has served both the individual Members of Congress he worked for and all the Members of Congress of this institution.

Rob is a strategist. He's a master of the procedures that make the House run. He knows what makes the Democratic Caucus tick. He knows how the various groups that make up our Caucus think. He did more than make the trains run on time or make sure that we, as Members of Congress, had an outlet for our various requests. He gave us his unvarnished opinion, in his calm, easy-going, unflappable way, and at times, he was on the receiving end of some very "spirited" rants and complaints from Members of Congress and their staff. But he always behaved professionally and always worked for what he thought was right.

Rob's knowledge and experience will not be easily filled. But more importantly, there will not be another Rob Cogorno in this institution. Yes, there will be other staffers who will fill his role, but Rob cannot be replaced.

The House is losing one of its own—someone who loves and respects this institution; someone who not only believes in the ideals that make up the Democratic party but also believes in fairness for all who make up this body; and someone who has worked every single day to make our country and this world a better place.

Rob—you will be missed, but you won't be forgotten. I appreciate what you've done for this institution and for the Nation, and I thank you for your hard work and dedication. Good luck in the next phase of your professional life.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF AMERICAN HEART MONTH AND NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 972, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day. February is American Heart month, and today, I join women across the country by wearing red to increase the awareness of heart disease as the leading killer among women and men.

Minorities are disproportionately affected by cardiac disease. In a diverse State like Hawaii, this is an especially important issue. As a Congresswoman, I support funding for medical research and improved treatment. And I will continue to advocate for affordable, accessible health care for all.

However, fighting heart disease is not only a public policy issue. Americans can help prevent and reduce heart disease and decrease

the deaths it causes through education and lifestyle changes. Adults should learn the signs of heart attack and stroke, because quick recognition will increase the chance of survival. And we should all make a point to live healthier. Eating better, exercising more, and refraining from smoking are common sense lifestyle choices that could save our lives. I know how hard it is to make time to eat right and get to the gym—but it is worth it. As we celebrate Valentine's Day and affairs of the heart, let us commit ourselves to making that effort for improved heart health.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, for almost three decades TOM LANTOS was been a passionate voice in the U.S. Congress, and a tireless advocate for human rights around the world. Chairman LANTOS' commitment to human rights was forged by his own life's experience, by the violence and tragedy that he saw as a young man in Hungary. His commitment to issues such as ending the genocide in Darfur will be remembered by all those who have served with him throughout his long career in public service.

The Bay Area, and the Foreign Affairs Committee, will sincerely miss his passion and dedication, and his unrelenting commitment to not only helping those in need, but making sure that respect for human rights is at the forefront of our Nation's foreign policy. My heart goes out to Annette, his partner for almost 60 years, as well as his two daughters, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH FREEDOM MOVEMENT

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in extending my congratulations to the people of Nagorno Karabakh on the anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Freedom Movement.

On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the Soviet government to reunite with Armenia and reverse the injustice perpetrated by the Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin.

This peaceful and legal request was met with violent reaction by the Soviet and Azerbaijani leadership and escalated into full military aggression against Nagorno Karabakh. The people of Nagorno Karabakh bravely defended their right to live in freedom on their ancestral land.