

rocket attacks launched from Gaza into Israel. Many innocent persons, both Israeli and Palestinian, have been killed or injured in the violence. In addition to death and injury, the ongoing violence has destroyed property, instilled fear, and disrupted the lives of innocent civilians on both sides of the conflict.

I appreciate that the resolution helps document the toll that rocket attacks have exacted on Israeli civilians. But I very much regret that the resolution misses an important opportunity to acknowledge the complexity of problems and issues which give rise to the conflict. And I am particularly troubled that the resolution fails to recognize the depth and breadth of human suffering, misery, and death that has been visited upon the people of Gaza.

Mr. Speaker, the humanitarian situation in Gaza has only worsened since the armed takeover by Hamas in June 2007. Basic items such as baby milk, wheat grain, vegetable oil, and dairy products are in short supply. Additionally, the tightening of restrictions on the movement of goods and people by the Israeli government is causing serious hardship according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA.

The OCHA has found that these restrictions have had the effect of preventing the people of Gaza from receiving desperately needed healthcare treatments like chemotherapy and radiation therapy for cancer patients, pediatric surgery, and neurosurgery. The restrictions on the movement of goods make it difficult for healthcare providers to obtain new diagnostic medical equipment or the parts to service existing equipment that has fallen into disrepair. To make matters worse, it appears that those Palestinians who want to leave Gaza to pursue treatment in Israel or abroad are finding it difficult to do so.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that humanitarian assistance is available and accessible to the people of Gaza is one of the most important steps that can be taken to ensure that the peace process succeeds and is not derailed by continued violence. It is for this reason that I recently wrote to Secretary of State Rice urging her to do all she can to make certain that vital humanitarian goods and services are successfully delivered in Gaza. I believe the moral force of the resolution would have been enhanced had it called for similar action.

Finally, this resolution cites the roles of Iran, Syria, and Egypt in enabling these attacks. I want to be clear that nothing recited in the resolution would justify a preemptive military response against these countries nor should it be used as grounds to build a case for such an action.

Mr. Speaker, the rocket attacks against Israel condemned by this resolution have caused great suffering to the victims. Acknowledging that suffering in a congressional resolution is a fitting and proper thing to do. But at the end of the day, the peace and justice we all seek will not come from passing a resolution in Congress. Rather, a just and lasting peace will come from the parties resolving in their hearts and minds to rededicate themselves to the active engagement in good faith negotiation to bring the two-state solution into being. I call upon the Administration to redouble its efforts in discharging its indispensable role as honest broker in the peace process.

HONORING DR. FREDERICK "SKIP" BERRIEN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, for over three decades, Dr. Frederick "Skip" Berrien has been a prominent figure in Connecticut's medical, academic, and child welfare communities. This month, he will retire as the director for the Child Abuse/Children's Advocacy Center at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut. I rise today to recognize and celebrate his illustrious career and his contributions to our friends and neighbors in Connecticut.

Between 1980 and 1987, Dr. Berrien served as the director of pediatrics and acting medical director in general pediatrics at the UConn/Mount Sinai Health Center. Following his tenure at the UConn/Mount Sinai Health Center, Dr. Berrien assumed an associate director position for pediatric ambulatory services at Saint Francis Hospital. He subsequently served as director of pediatric ambulatory services, clinical director for sickle cell services, co-director of the Siberian American Children's Health Program, and director of child abuse services/Children's Advocacy Center at St. Francis. Beginning in 2001, Dr. Berrien joined the Connecticut Children's Medical Center as a consultant for the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Program.

While the size and scope of Skip's medical career is clear, his contributions to the academic and social services community have also been substantial. From 1977 to 1979, Dr. Berrien was a clinical instructor at Boston University and from 1980 until present, an associate professor of clinical pediatrics at UConn School of Medicine. His original research ranges from the state of Russian pediatric health care to pediatric sickle cell pain management. His work in Russia after the fall of the Soviet Union, established new, enduring partnerships with Russian doctors that has benefited both countries.

Dr. Berrien has added to his role of providing and teaching pediatric care, to serving as a forceful advocate for issues such as prevention of child abuse and neglect. In the early 1990's, he was instrumental with developing the Child Abuse/Children's Advocacy Center at St. Francis Hospital. At the time there was no program at all to deal with this critical unmet need in central Connecticut. Today as Dr. Berrien leaves, the center is one of the most respected such programs in the country and has brought both compassion and justice to this challenging area of law and medicine. In addition, Skip remains an active participant of such organizations as the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, and the Hartford Multidisciplinary Intervention Child Abuse Team.

Medical professionals serve an invaluable role in our society. They are protectors of public health, and purveyors of hope and social justice. Throughout his career, Dr. Berrien has exemplified each of these roles. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents with recognizing his contributions and offering our warmest wishes for his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2008 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my Virginia colleagues, FRANK WOLF and JAMES MORAN, to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Herndon Police Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that can be awarded to a public safety officer: the Life Saving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that we enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2008 Valor Awards in the Herndon Police Department. Receiving the Certificate of Valor: Sergeant Stephen Thompson, Senior Police Officer James J. Passmore, Officer Adil Afab, and Officer Michael R. Croson.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Herndon Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 106 on H.R. 2857, GIVE Act, the Inslee Amendment, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING SCOTTS HILL LIONS CLUB

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Scotts Hill Lions Club as they celebrate their 60th anniversary.

The Scotts Hill Lions Club was chartered on March 30, 1948, due to the hard work and vision of Scott Hill's Mayor Erin Holland and Adamsville Lions' Club member Farris Stafford. As a chartered member, the Scotts Hill Lions Club became part of Lions Club International, which is the world's largest service club organization with more than 46,000 clubs in over 190 countries and approximately 1.4 million members.

Over the course of the last 60 years, the Scotts Hill Lions Club members have volunteered their time, energy, and resources to

supporting local charities, providing care for families in need, and have generously contributed towards relief efforts at home and in countries throughout the world. To say the least, the Scotts Hill Lions Club has undoubtedly lived out their club's motto, "We serve." I commend the members of the Scotts Hill Lions Club and encourage others to follow their example of dedication and service. Their hard work will not only be felt locally but around the world for years to come.

Please join me in honoring the Scotts Hill Lions Club, President Dan Brigrance, Secretary Pattie Stewart, and other officers and members in wishing them the best on this well-deserved anniversary.

HONORING JACQUELINE KONOPKA

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, volunteers who work on behalf of public safety officers thicken and strengthen the Thin Blue Line.

Tens of thousands of police officers daily risk the ultimate sacrifice in order to serve a greater good. These public servants have a friend behind the scenes working on their behalf in the Law Enforcement Assistance Connection Inc.

Today, I call the House's attention to Jacqueline Konopka, a 25-year-old constituent from Newnan in Georgia's Third Congressional District. Jackie has gone above and beyond to aid the Law Enforcement Assistance Connection.

A flight attendant for AirTran Airways, Jackie became involved with LEAC after meeting the organization's founder and leader on one of her flights. Terry Hunt's description of his work on behalf of law enforcement on that fateful flight won over a new and tireless volunteer. But Konopka says she's an easy sell when it comes to aiding public safety officials. "As a flight attendant," she says, "public safety is my No. 1 priority."

Today, Hunt sees Konopka's work as integral to his organization's mission: "Jacqueline Konopka has shown me the true meaning of life and inspired me to achieve and overcome personal and professional obstacles. A loyal friend and adviser, Jackie is someone I admire for her perseverance, leadership skills, drive and dedication in all she has done and continues to do. She is extremely special to me—in fact, it's not a stretch to say that had it not been for her willingness and selflessness to advance LEAC's goals, this organization would not function."

LEAC takes part in various activities to promote the welfare of law enforcement authorities, including the Annual Benefit for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund Gala in Washington, the Annual Charitable Golf Classic to support the Law Enforcement Assistance Connection; and A Matter of Honor Annual Golf Event and Gala for the National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington.

Konopka helps plan and organize these events, but she describes her efforts on behalf of the LEAC as mainly "serving as a support for Terry." Nevertheless, she's breaking new

ground on her own by spearheading a "night out" for victims of violent crime. Konopka says she wants the event, planned for 2009 in Washington, to call attention to the fact that 1 out of 3 in this country are sexually assaulted at some point in their lives.

Madam Speaker, I hope the House will join me in thanking and congratulating Jacqueline Konopka and the Law Enforcement Assistance Connection Inc. for all that they give and all that they do to support the public servants who do so much for all Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RAMAPO
COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED CITI-
ZENS DINNER 2008

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize four individuals who have been named by the Ramapo College Foundation Board of Governors as the 2008 Distinguished Citizens. This honor highlights their personal and professional commitment to advance higher education and their significant service to the community.

James E. Jaworski, Esq.; Patricia B. Shrader, Esq.; Drew Nieparent, and Edward P. Wallace, Jr. each support Ramapo College in their own unique ways while exemplifying the school's commitment to high standards of educational excellence.

In addition, these individuals are recognized for their dedication and unfailing commitment to our community. Our communities are only as strong as the people and organizations that are willing to put their time, effort, and energy into building them. I applaud Ramapo College for honoring these individuals and, in doing so, the true spirit of community that helps to make our country a symbol of strength and hope worldwide.

Ramapo College of New Jersey is located in Mahwah, New Jersey. Designated as "New Jersey's Public Liberal Arts College," Ramapo is a comprehensive institution of higher education whose faculty and staff dedicate themselves to the promotion of teaching and learning within a strong liberal arts based curriculum. Its curricular emphasis includes the liberal arts and sciences, social sciences, fine and performing arts, and the professional programs within a residential and sustainable living and learning environment.

It is an honor to represent such fine people and institutions in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2008
VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my Virginia colleagues FRANK WOLF and JAMES MORAN to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Cham-

ber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that can be awarded to a public safety officer: the Life Saving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor.

It is with great pride that we enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2008 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Receiving the Certificate of Valor: Acting Technician Ronald S. Seghetti, Firefighter Jason P. Kelly; the Gold Medal: Lieutenant Danny R. Urps, Master Technician John F. Linhart, Master Technician Joseph K. Swift, Firefighter Medic William F. Ward; the Silver Medal: Captain Richard C. Smith, Firefighter John A. Fleming; the Bronze Medal: Firefighter George H. Moore, Battalion Chief Floyd L. Ellmore, Firefighter Richard M. Tamillow.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

PAUL WELLSTONE MENTAL
HEALTH AND ADDICTION EQUITY
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Despite the fact that 44 million Americans suffer from mental health disorders, a majority of health care plans continue to treat mental health differently than physical health. These plans discriminate against those with mental health disorders by imposing financial limitations and treatment restrictions on mental health and addiction care. Over 80 percent of Americans who need mental health treatment do not seek it because of the restrictions or the cost. This is unacceptable. Americans with mental health disorders need and deserve the same level of coverage as those who suffer from physical disorders, and with the passage of this bill, we can help give them that coverage.

This bill closes the loophole that has allowed plans to charge patients more and impose additional limits for mental health care. Efforts to weaken the bill by allowing plans to determine which mental health benefits to cover or preempting State laws providing stronger mental health protections will allow discrimination to continue against the millions of Americans who need our support in their efforts to seek treatment.

I urge everyone to vote for H.R. 1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act, and these people whose lives depend on the treatment they need and deserve. Members of Congress have mental health parity. It's high time we provide parity to the 44 million Americans who need it.