

the life of Puerto Rican boxing champ and a long-time community activist Johnny Manzanet.

Manzanet was a man whose life embodied the reverie of the American Dream, a man of distinction whose accomplishments were a testament to his great Puerto Rican heritage.

Born in the small fishing town of Salinas, Puerto Rico, Manzanet rose up to become a world class middleweight boxing champion and dedicated public servant. In 1968, he was called upon to lead the Olympic Team of the United States in Mexico's Summer Games of the XIX Olympiad. He was then called to serve once more, when Governor Nelson Rockefeller appointed him as the New York State Boxing Commissioner in 1970.

In the ensuing decades, Johnny continued to remain involved with the boxing world, training and developing young talent in every era. All-in-all, the list of those who learned from him include some of the sport's best, from Mike Tyson to the first Hispanic cruiserweight champion, Jose "Chegüi" Torres, to even Cassius Clay, the young upstart who would go on to become the great Muhammad Ali.

Yet no matter where he was or what he was doing, Johnny always managed to devote his time to the betterment of the Puerto Rican community. He contributed his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly. Places like the Community Corporation of Loisaída and the Puerto Rican Community Development Project were the recipients of Manzanet's fierce advocacy and protection. He continued to serve in his final years, as a community representative under Bronx Borough Presidents Fernando Ferrer and Adolfo Carrion, Jr.

Sadly, Manzanet passed away on January 22, 2008, a benevolent amalgamation of intellect, steadfastness, and vigor. Though he will be greatly missed, his family, his friends, and his community will never forget his lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others. They and we should never forget that in and out of the ring, Johnny Manzanet had the heart of a champion.

COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT (H. RES. 1095)

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, H. Res. 1095. Signed into law in April 1968, the landmark Fair Housing Act includes broad prohibitions on discriminatory activity in the sale and rental of housing. Undoubtedly, this law has created significant change and progress in our Nation. Yet, the law has had a disappointing impact in deterring continued housing discrimination.

Racial discrimination in the real estate market, rental market, and in financing continues at high rates. According to the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, every year, more than 1.7 million fair housing violations are committed solely against African-Americans. An annual report by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

indicates that of the 10,328 housing-related complaints handled by the agency in 2006, race and disability made up the largest percentages. In an earlier HUD study, the agency found that among Blacks, Asians, and Pacific Islanders, one in every five customers encountered discrimination by rental agents. The harmful effects of these discriminatory housing practices have led to hyper segregated communities and schools across the country.

In my congressional district in Cleveland, Ohio, fair housing organizations such as the Housing Research & Advocacy Center report that the number of housing discrimination complaints have doubled in the last 5 years. Of those reported in my district, 38 percent involved disability, 34 percent alleged race discrimination, and 13 percent were based on familial status. These unlawful practices perpetuate communities where schools go without adequate resources and residents have access to fewer health care facilities and other essential services. Unfortunately, ongoing housing discrimination has created communities across this Nation that do not reflect the neighborhoods envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King 40 years ago.

Housing discrimination has also played an integral role in our Nation's subprime loan and foreclosure crisis. A report by Cleveland's Housing Research & Advocacy Center found that, "not only do African-Americans and Latinos have a harder time getting approved for a loan, but once they get a loan, they wind up with high-cost sub prime loans more often than whites, even when they have higher incomes." U.S. maps that highlight the high number of foreclosed homes in minority communities further demonstrate the critical importance of the protections provided by the Fair Housing Act. Our Nation's dignity and economic security depend on the enforcement of this important law.

I appreciate this opportunity to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. I proudly join my colleagues and housing advocates across the country in advocating for increased efforts to achieve the "beloved community" incaptured in Dr. King's dream.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING MEALS ON WHEELS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 14, 2008

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today in support of a resolution honoring and recognizing the work of the Meals on Wheels Association of America, its member senior nutrition programs throughout the country, and their annual March for Meals campaigns.

This resolution recognizes the important work Meals on Wheels does in preventing senior hunger and improving the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of our Nation's seniors. It also encourages Members of Congress to support their local senior nutrition programs by delivering meals to homebound seniors in a community within their district or State.

The Meals on Wheels Association of America recently concluded its annual March for Meals campaign. March for Meals is a national

campaign during the month of March to raise awareness of senior hunger and to encourage action on the part of local communities. The month of March was chosen because it was during this month the law was enacted that included senior meal programs in the Older Americans Act.

An important part of March for Meals is Mayors for Meals Day, where mayors and elected officials from across the Nation deliver meals for their local Meals on Wheels programs. On March 19, 2008, a new record was set when 1,084 U.S. mayors and elected officials joined together to deliver meals to seniors.

I have proudly participated in past Meals on Wheels Association of America's "March for Meals" events and witnessed first hand both the need for these important programs and the incredible dedication of their staff and volunteers. I encourage each of you to get involved with your local programs—whether you help prepare meals, deliver meals, or just join local seniors in enjoying their meals—your support can make a difference.

I also encourage you to join me in supporting this resolution which will give the Meals on Wheels Association of America and its member programs the honor and recognition they so richly deserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, April 16, I was unable to be present in the Capitol and missed rollcall votes Nos. 192 through 195. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall votes Nos. 192 and 193, procedural votes on H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall votes Nos. 194 and 195, procedural votes on H.R. 5715, Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING DR. MA YING-JEOU UPON HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF TAIWAN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Dr. Ma Ying-jeou upon his recent election to the Presidency of Taiwan.

On March 22, 2008, Taiwan elected a new President, Dr. Ma Ying-jeou, former mayor of Taipei. As a long term observer of Taiwan, I have noticed that this island country has taken great strides toward full democracy. The latest presidential election proved that democracy is thriving in Taiwan. Regarding Taiwan-U.S. relations, President-elect Ma has also indicated the need to strengthen our informal ties with each other. After 9/11, Taiwan was one of the first countries to give its support to us and has

been proactive in providing information and resources to us in combating global terrorism. In addition, Taiwan has been cooperative in reducing its trade surplus with us and promoting U.S. goods and services in its domestic market. In return, we must assure Taiwan that we will remain faithful to the letter and spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Madam Speaker, Taiwan has come a long way from its authoritarian past and is today a beacon of democracy and freedom in the Far East. I wish to congratulate President-elect Ma and the Taiwanese people for their latest demonstration of democracy. A true democracy like Taiwan deserves friendship and support.

MORE COHERENT PLAN NEEDED FOR IRAQ WAR

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, as a committee member I had the opportunity last week to hear first-hand the testimony of General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker when they appeared before the Armed Services Committee to update us on the status of America's military and diplomatic involvement in Iraq.

There have been many comments on that testimony, but one of the best I have seen was a recent editorial in the Colorado Springs Gazette.

As the editorial noted, "One of the more striking aspects of our unfortunate occupation of Iraq is an everchanging description of who 'the enemy' is. At first it was the Saddam Hussein regime, and once that toppled it was covert regime loyalists. After a long period of denying that an insurgency had developed, insurgents became the enemy. Then it became al-Qaida in Iraq, although foreign and al-Qaida forces never made up more than about 10 percent of those fighting the U.S. occupation. Now it is 'special teams,' presumably supported by Iran."

In addition, the editorial commented on the speech to the Nation in which President Bush announced that although tours of duty would be reduced to 12 months, for the foreseeable future the number of troops deployed in Iraq would remain at the same level as before the "surge" and on the president's description of the desired outcome in Iraq.

The editorial's response was "The president spoke in broad generalities of 'a free Iraq that can protect its people, support itself economically, and take charge of its own political affairs.' Beyond holding on and hoping, however, there was no sense of how to get there from here."

Madam Speaker, I think that sums it up very well. And, as one who opposed the Bush Administration's rush to war in Iraq, I also must concur with the editorial's statement that "The length, cost and indecisiveness of this war should make Americans more skeptical the next time a political leader suggests war, against a country halfway around the world, without a clear objective."

For the benefit of our colleagues, here is the full text of the Gazette's editorial.

[From the Gazette, Apr. 13, 2008]

IRAQ: NO MORE HOLD AND PRAY

President Bush's speech Thursday, combined with the congressional appearances this week by Gen. David Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker, suggest strongly that the U.S. strategy in Iraq until the end of this year is "hold on and pray."

Even the welcome news that Army combat tours will be reduced from 15 months to 12 months, no doubt welcome news to the top military chiefs who have expressed concerns publicly and privately about the military being "hollowed out" by the endless combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, has a whiff of unseriousness about the mission to it. Granted, as outgoing Army Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody told the House Armed Services Committee on Tuesday, the Army is "out of balance" because of the war. But if the president had a coherent strategy for turning the corner in Iraq, he might well have been willing to tolerate that for a while.

The president spoke in broad generalities of "a free Iraq that can protect its people, support itself economically, and take charge of its own political affairs." Beyond holding on and hoping, however, there was no sense of how to get there from here.

One of the more striking aspects of our unfortunate occupation of Iraq is an ever-changing description of who "the enemy" is. At first it was the Saddam Hussein regime, and once that toppled it was covert regime loyalists. After a long period of denying that an insurgency had developed, insurgents became the enemy. Then it became al-Qaida in Iraq, although foreign and al-Qaida forces never made up more than about 10 percent of those fighting the U.S. occupation. Now it is "special teams," presumably supported by Iran.

It's clear now: The longer we remain in Iraq the more enemies we make. Imagine if the Chinese army were occupying California. Opposition to that occupation would come from new quarters every week.

Perhaps the most encouraging development from this week's hearings is the growing number of Republican lawmakers beginning to question administration policy. "The people of the United States have paid an awful price," said Rep. DANA ROHRBACHER, R-Calif., noting that the Iraqi government had budget surpluses. "It's time for the Iraqis to pay that price for their own protection."

Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, Reps. Tom Tancredo of Colorado, John McHugh of New York, Randy Forbes of Virginia, Jeff Flake of Arizona, Steve Chabot of Ohio and even Dan Burton of Indiana all expressed impatience with the pace at which the Iraqi government is assuming responsibility.

Republicans may simply be distancing themselves from an unpopular president as they face reelection bids in November. Whatever the reasons, it is encouraging to see them express the skepticism most Americans feel.

The length, cost and indecisiveness of this war should make Americans more skeptical the next time a political leader suggests war, against a country halfway around the world, without a clear objective.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANIEL WITKOWSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel Witkowski, of Gar-

field Heights, Ohio, for 51 years of dedication and hard work for the Department of Public Utilities in Cleveland.

Mr. Witkowski began working at the age of nineteen in June of 1956 as a water serviceman aid. Mr. Witkowski diligently worked his way through the company rank. During his time at the Department of Public Utilities, he played an instrumental part in completing the Futuristic Trunk Main Study. This study measured flow rates and crating maps for the division trunk main system which is still in use today. In 2003, he was promoted to assistant superintendent of distribution in the engineering section. He was recently honored by Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson as one of 70 employees that has worked at least 25 years in the department.

Mr. Witkowski, now 70 years old, oversees seven crews and remains active by doing daily operations for the division. For over 40 years, his knowledge and expertise has been vital to the services of the Department of Public Utilities.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Daniel Witkowski for 51 years of public service to the city of Cleveland.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REXAM PRESCRIPTION MANUFACTURING FACILITY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Rexam Prescription celebrates the 40th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, Rexam Prescription has grown from a small manufacturing facility in 1968 through hard work and dedication; and

Whereas, the Rexam Prescription has become a world class facility as a testament to the committed Ohioians who work there; be it

Resolved, That along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Rexam Prescription on its 40th Anniversary. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact this facility has had in the community and in the lives of those people you have touched.

WELCOMING THE POPE'S VISIT AND HOPING IT WILL FURTHER THE PROGRESSIVE AGENDA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to warmly and reverently welcome Pope Joseph Alois Ratzinger to the United States—