

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AND COMMENDING THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR AGAIN RECOMMENDING THAT VIETNAM BE DESIGNATED A COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN IN THEIR RECENT ANNUAL REPORT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Vietnam Human Rights Day and to commend the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom for again recommending that Vietnam be designated a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) in their recent annual report.

The State Department removed this designation in November 2006, and since then, human rights conditions in Vietnam have steadily deteriorated. According to the Commission, "removing the CPC designation suspended the diplomatic framework that had led to a productive bilateral engagement on religious freedom and other human rights concerns and therefore removed the potential incentives and leverage needed to urge the Vietnamese government to continue to improve its human rights record."

Since the removal of CPC status and Vietnam's subsequent accession to the World Trade Organization, the Vietnamese Government has continued to detain and imprison those whose only crimes were speaking out against the government or exercising their freedom of religion. In addition to violating Article 69 of the Constitution of Vietnam, which guarantees the "freedom of opinion and speech, freedom of the press, the right to be informed and the right to assemble, form associations and hold demonstrations in accordance with the provisions of the law," these detentions are in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Commission has recommended CPC status for Vietnam every year since 2001. It is time for the State Department to heed this advice and redesignate Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN FLAGS SHOULD BE MADE IN THE USA RESOLUTION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about a resolution that I have just introduced that expresses the sense of the Congress that all American

flags flown over Federal Government buildings and on federal property should be made in the United States.

The U.S. Census bureau estimates that \$5.3 million worth of American flags were imported from other countries in 2006, mostly from China. Even though U.S. law requires every flag be labeled with its "country of origin," the figure of foreign-made American flags has steadily grown over the past few years. This is an absolute shame!

The American flag is much more than our national symbol. It embodies our courage, liberty, and justice. The flag reminds us each and every day of the blood that was shed so that we may enjoy our freedoms. So as we proudly fly the Stars and Stripes, we must be sure that they are homespun in the United States!

So as we approach the few months where we celebrate Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day, I invite my colleagues and fellow patriots to join with me in honoring our American flag every day! Please join me in supporting H. Res. 1182

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 1074

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and offer congratulations to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1074, located in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania for celebrating their 75th anniversary this year. They will be acknowledging this great milestone on May 10, 2008 at a banquet to be held at the Spring Mill Firehouse. The Post has a proud tradition of public service and volunteerism and represents all the great works that our Nation's VFWs perform each year.

I am sure each of us in the House of Representatives has had the privilege to meet with constituents who are members of local VFWs, or perhaps fortunate to visit a local Post. The VFW traces its roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American and the Philippine Insurrection founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Their work soon shifted to not only helping the brave men and women who served their country, but local neighbors and communities who also needed their help.

As their inspiring mission states: "Honor the dead by helping the living." VFWs support countless activities, through veterans' service, community service, national security and a strong national defense.

Today, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, with its Auxiliaries, includes 2.3 million members in approximately 8,400 Posts worldwide.

Post 1074 is led by Post Commander Andrew Duncan, and continues to make a dif-

ference in our community, including maintaining the beautiful War Memorial Statue located at Second Avenue and Fayette Street in Conshohocken, PA. The VFW proudly notes that its members and its auxiliary contribute more than 13 million hours of volunteerism in our area each year.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the honorable work, dedication and service of the men and women in VFW Post 1074. They continue to improve our local communities through their volunteer efforts, and show why members of the United States armed services are not only the best on the battlefield, but also when they return home.

TRIBUTE TO CARL MONTANTE, THE CANISIUS COLLEGE 2008 DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carl Montante on receiving the Canisius College 2008 Distinguished Citizen Award. Carl will be honored at the Canisius College Board of Regents Scholarship Ball on Saturday, May 10, 2008. Carl is a brilliant example of commitment and devotion to one's community and fellowman.

A devoted Western New York native, Carl and his four siblings were born and raised in Buffalo, NY where he continues to give back to his community. He attended Canisius College and, in 1967, he earned his law degree from the University of Buffalo Law School. After practicing law in Buffalo, Carl founded the Uniland Development Company in 1974. As President and Managing Director of Uniland, he oversees the company's operations and property developments in Buffalo-Rochester corridor.

Carl is involved in several organizations in his community including the Holy Angels Academy, The BISON Scholarship Fund, and the Foundation of the Diocese of Buffalo. He is former Chairman of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Annual Fund and National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and serves on the Boards of the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, and Catholic Health System.

Perhaps most notable is Carl's service and contribution to his alma mater, Canisius College. Carl has served in numerous leadership capacities including as chair of the Canisius College Board of Trustees from 1997-2001. Carl and his wife, Carol Ann, recently committed \$5.1 million to the college for the development of an interdisciplinary science center. The Montante family's donation is the largest in the Canisius' history. I applaud his desire to give back to his community and believe his contributions to education and science will

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

have a great impact on the future of Western New York.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Carl J. Montante for this great honor and applaud him for his service and dedication to the Western New York community. I wish Carl and his family the best in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY AND THEIR NOBLE CAUSE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, every hour in the United States someone new is diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. It is a lasting disease which attacks the central nervous system, and can be extremely disabling. This week the National Multiple Sclerosis Society is in town to promote awareness of people living with MS—approximately 400,000 Americans and 2.5 million people worldwide.

Many Americans know a person living with multiple sclerosis, a mother or father, a son or daughter, another family member or friend, or maybe even a colleague. For me, it was a member of my staff. This brave and strong woman inspired me to get more involved in the battle to live in a world free of multiple sclerosis.

As a medical doctor prior to coming to Congress, I'm working to find sensible solutions for the health care challenges that Americans face. As the co-chair of the newly formed Congressional Multiple Sclerosis Caucus, I intend to bring the needs of those individuals into the larger discussion of quality health care.

Madam Speaker, we must work together to improve access to quality health services, to break down barriers, and to make MS therapies more affordable. I ask other Members of the House to join me in this noble cause. We must always remember that behind every statistic is the face of a family member or friend. We have a shared responsibility to offer help and hope. There is no better time than now to begin offering it.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN JAQUETTE AND SUE WILSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize high school athletic trainers Brian Jaquette of Fort Dodge High School and Sue Wilson of Johnston High School, for their quick thinking in treating a football player who suffered serious internal injuries during a football game last fall.

The injured football player was tended to by Jaquette and Johnston, who decided that his abdominal pain was serious enough to call for an ambulance. It turned out that the injured player was suffering from a ruptured gall bladder, which would have caused blood poisoning and possibly death if left untreated. Were it not for Jaquette and Johnston's accurate initial examination and determination, it is unlikely

that his injury would have been treated in time.

The quick thinking and calm demeanor displayed by these two athletic trainers serves as a wonderful example to all those who care for others. I commend Sue Wilson and Brian Jaquette for their outstanding professional work and dedication to the young athletes they serve. I am honored to represent each of them in the United States Congress, and I wish them the best in their careers.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT AND JUDY ALVAREZ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Judy Alvarez by entering their names in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I honor Mr. and Mrs. Alvarez for being awarded with the Small Business Administration's (SBA) 2008 Home-Based Business of the Year, sponsored by the SBA's Nevada District Office.

RJ Communications Concepts, LLC was established by Bob and Judy Alvarez in 1995. The company began as a home based business and represents a culmination of the couple's combined 60-plus years of work within the telecommunications industry. Their experience, hard work, and dedication quickly resulted in the company expanding beyond the walls of the Alvarez's home.

Today, the company covers a wide range of services. The distribution of electronic components and testing equipment comprises over half of the company's business. The company also provides services for multiple fields, including information technology supplies, consulting, training equipment and business provisions.

In addition to the professional accomplishments, Bob and Judy have been good community partners to a variety of local non-profit organizations in Southern Nevada. Through their company, Bob and Judy helped organizations including the North Las Vegas Boys and Girls Club, the Nathan Adelson Hospice and the Sunrise Children's Foundation, among others. According to Judy Alvarez, "We feel a level of social responsibility . . . Even if you're small you can still do something." Additionally, as a former member of the U.S. Air Force, Bob and his wife, Judy has also provided assistance to Nellis Air Force Base.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Judy Alvarez for their accomplishments as small business owners, their contributions to the Southern Nevada community, and for their recognition by the SBA as the 2008 Home-Based Business of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO THE DON BOSCO WRESTLING TEAM

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Don Bosco wrestling team at the Iowa State Wrestling Tournament in Des Moines this past winter.

Don Bosco rolled to its third straight Class 1A title with a stunning 81 point win over New London/WMU. This win set a new class record with 175.5 points. Also celebrating his third straight win was Bart Reiter, a junior, who became a three-time state champion and joins only 13 other three-time winners this decade.

I congratulate Don Bosco for winning the Iowa Class 1A state championship. The last team to win three in a row was Lisbon from 1988–1990.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Don Bosco wrestling team, both on and off the mat, and I am proud to serve them in Congress.

HONOR POLICE OFFICERS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Texas. In a few days, thousands of police officers from around the country will travel to Washington, DC for National Police Week.

This occasion provides Congress with the opportunity to honor those who have given their lives to protect our families, constituents, and communities.

In my district, "The Memorial Wall" stands in the San Antonio Police Academy's courtyard and lists the names of those forty-eight officers who have sacrificed their lives while fighting to keep San Antonio's neighborhoods safe and crime-free for our children.

We can honor their legacies and the lives of other police officers by bringing legislation to the floor that will help Federal, State and local law enforcement officials combat crime.

For example, the bill Congressman FORBES and I introduced, H.R. 3156, the "Violent Crime Control Act of 2007," would do just that.

Why is the Democratic leadership in Congress stalling crime legislation?

KEEP STARRETT CITY AFFORDABLE

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I rise to discuss the need for additional affordable housing across the nation. Financial planners suggest that families devote 30 percent of their income to paying for housing costs. But for many families across the country such a rule of thumb sounds more like a pipe dream. According to the 2006 American Community Survey, twenty-five percent of renters across the