

within the hearts and minds of every student who has walked through the band room doors. His tenure as Music Director has had an impact on the lives of countless students; he served as a wonderful role model for each of them to emulate—in the classroom and in life. Mr. Gunlicks' passion for music, humble approach and unwavering dedication to his profession has enriched the fabric of our entire community, connecting us all through the universal language of music.

ANISSA MILLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anissa Miller who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Anissa Miller is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anissa Miller is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Anissa Miller for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

IN PRAISE OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE MEETINGS HELD LAST MONTH IN PRAGUE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues in the Congress to a successful meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD) that was held in Prague, Czech Republic, from April 18–20, 2009. Chairwoman SHELLEY BERKLEY, the gentlelady from Nevada, continues to provide this important interparliamentary exchange with enthusiastic leadership and a strong commitment to strengthening relations with our European allies. I commend this bipartisan delegation—which included PAUL KANJORSKI (D–PA), DANA ROHRBACHER (R–CA), LORETTA SANCHEZ (D–CA), JOHN R. CARTER (R–TX), PHIL GINGREY (R–GA), VIRGINIA FOXX (R–NC), STEVE COHEN (D–TN), and RON KLEIN (D–FL)—for their contributions to an informed and productive exchange of views with Members of the European Parliament.

The Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue serves as the formal response of the European Parliament and the U.S. Congress to the commitment in the New Transatlantic Agenda of 1995 to enhance legislative ties between

the European Union and the United States. The TLD involves bi-annual meetings between American and European legislators in order to exchange views on topics of mutual interest and foster transatlantic discourse. I welcome the discussion held by members at the Prague session about ways in which to deepen the dialogue and increase their communication beyond these formal meetings.

Given the recent transition in the U.S. administration and the upcoming European Parliament elections, it is essential that legislators continue their collaboration on the important issues facing citizens on both sides of the Atlantic. The financial crisis was a central topic at the Prague meeting, with presentations by European experts as well as representatives of the EU and U.S. administrations. The TLD emphasized the need for a strong and coordinated transatlantic policy response, while reiterating the importance of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) as a framework for cooperation. Members also addressed pressing foreign policy issues. Particular attention was devoted to Afghanistan and Pakistan, as TLD participants engaged in a dialogue with Richard Boucher, U.S. Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs, about President Obama's comprehensive new strategy. Other foreign policy debates focused on the status of diplomatic initiatives regarding the Iranian nuclear threat, the Middle East peace process, and relations with Russia. In addition, the delegates talked about the challenge of climate change, the importance of energy security, and President Obama's decision to close the Guantanamo detention facility.

Madam Speaker, I would like to commend Representative BERKLEY for bringing the American delegation to Estonia and Lithuania in advance of the TLD meeting for important bilateral visits with these important NATO and EU allies. In both countries the delegation met with the President, Prime Minister, Speaker and parliamentarians to reaffirm our country's friendship and support for the Baltic states. These high level discussions focused on regional security, responses to the global financial crisis, and the importance of energy diversification. In Estonia, members raised the issue of citizenship laws and the importance of good relations between ethnic Russians and Estonians. In Lithuania, U.S. members thanked political leaders for their valuable contributions to the NATO mission in Afghanistan. They pressed them on the need to resolve longstanding problems with Jewish property restitution, protect a historic Jewish cemetery site, and cease investigations of Jewish partisans regarding their World War II activities. The delegation also spoke with a group of Belarusian opposition leaders who traveled to Vilnius from Minsk to brief members on the political and human rights situation in Belarus. The U.S. delegation assured them of our ongoing support of their brave efforts.

In conclusion, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the joint statement that was agreed upon by American and European legislators at the 66th TLD meeting held in Prague. This document highlights the importance of continued transatlantic dialogue and cooperation in addressing pressing financial and foreign policy crises.

TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE
JOINT STATEMENT

Shelley Berkley, Chairwoman, United States Congress Delegation, Phil Gingrey,

Acting Vice Chairman, United States Congress Delegation, Ron Klein, Acting Vice Chairman, United States Congress Delegation, and Jonathan Evans, MEP, Chairman, European Parliament Delegation.

We, the Members of the European Parliament and the United States House of Representatives, held our 66th Interparliamentary meeting (Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue) in Prague, Czech Republic, on 18–20 April 2009.

Building on the joint statement issued following our last meeting in Miami on 6–8 December 2008, we stressed the importance of regular dialogue on a range of political, social and economic issues that affect all of our citizens. We agreed to report back to our parent bodies on the content and outcome of our discussions, particularly in the areas where joint efforts are likely to result in positive outcomes.

We discussed with Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs and Council President-in-office Karel Schwarzenberg the Summit held in Prague on 5 April 2009 between President Obama and the 27 EU Heads of State and Government. We welcomed its outcome and expressed our trust that this meeting will provide a strong impetus for strengthening the transatlantic relationship and furthering a common agenda.

The Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue agreed that we should build on this political momentum to improve and renew the framework of the transatlantic relationship. In this context, we called for greater collaboration between legislators in the US House of Representatives and the European Parliament on issues of common concern and legislation that affects each side of the Atlantic. We also expressed our intention to have increased communication between our biannual meetings, using mechanisms such as periodic video conferences and the formation of working groups to address specific topics in greater detail.

With regard to foreign policy and security issues discussed during our TLD meeting, we agreed that joint action is the most effective way to approach problems which affect both sides of the Atlantic. In particular, we considered that:

a) peace in the Middle East requires a durable ceasefire, an end to attacks on Israel from Hamas and other terrorists, a functioning and effective government in the Palestinian Territories. We also expressed our support for the appointment of George Mitchell as Special Envoy to the Middle East Peace Process;

b) the comprehensive new strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan announced by President Obama on 27 March 2009 constitutes a good basis for a regional approach to security, combating terrorism, and economic development. The EU and the US should enhance their cooperation and support, work to improve the coordination and effectiveness of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), and seek to help build critical infrastructure across Afghanistan;

c) the dialogue affirmed that a nuclear armed Iran is unacceptable. We also agreed that relations with Iran should involve both incentives for Iran to build constructive ties with the international community as well as concerted pressure on Iran if it continues to fail to comply with its international obligations in the nuclear area and human rights; and

d) relations with Russia should involve constructive cooperation on challenges, threats and opportunities of mutual concern, including security matters, disarmament and non-proliferation, and respect for democratic principles including human rights standards, and adherence to international law. The dialogue expressed concerns about

Russia's recent behaviour in regards to the recent conflict with Georgia and energy dispute with Ukraine. We also cited the need to enhance mutual trust between the transatlantic partners and Russia.

On energy and climate change, we stressed that the EU and the US should work together to address these issues at the UN negotiations in Copenhagen later this year. We discussed cap-and-trade systems and the feasibility of setting up mutually compatible systems. We noted the link between tackling climate change and addressing energy security and economic growth, recognizing that the fight against climate change could also be an opportunity to create new jobs and sustain economic growth.

We examined the consequences of the global economic and financial turmoil. We agreed that the crisis requires a strong and coordinated policy response by the US and the EU. Recovery plans currently being adopted are critical in mitigating the effects of the crisis: approaches chosen should be compatible, avoid protectionist measures, and not give rise to distortions of competition in the transatlantic market place. We considered that global financial regulation and supervision should be strengthened, including better crisis prevention and management, and that EU and US should cooperate on the reform of international financial institutions.

We stressed the importance of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), including its utility as a framework for macro-economic cooperation between both partners. We welcomed the progress made over recent months in promoting transatlantic economic integration, including investment, accounting standards, regulatory issues, the safety of imported products, and the enforcement of intellectual property rights.

We insisted that transatlantic economic cooperation must be more accountable and transparent. In particular, the schedules of TEC meetings, agendas, roadmaps and progress reports should be agreed upon between the core stakeholders as early as possible and then made public. Such measures are crucial to developing a clear and transparent process for setting the agenda of the TEC, extending the TEC to new sectors, and establishing a long-term roadmap of activities. We called on the EU and US executive branches to facilitate more active participation by members of the US Congress and the European Parliament in the TEC process, in particular via the TLD.

We considered that both partners should use the full potential of the TEC in order to overcome the existing obstacles to economic integration. To this effect, legislators on both sides of the Atlantic should convey their views on legislative and bureaucratic obstacles to the TEC leadership and conduct a regular review of the situation. We emphasized once more the concerns raised by the 100 percent cargo scan requirement, as well as the need to resolve remaining disputes with regard to the REACH regulation and access to the EU market for American poultry.

We discussed President Obama's signing of an executive order leading to the closure of the Guantanamo detention facility within a year. We also considered that the US and the EU Member States should cooperate in finding solutions wherever necessary, including accepting Guantanamo inmates in the European Union.

The dialogue also focused on the negotiations between the US and the EU Member States to extend access to the US visa waiver programme. We welcomed the extension of the programme to seven EU Member States, and encouraged the EU and US executive bodies to continue activities with regard to the Member States not yet included.

Finally, the dialogue took note of a 2008 European Commission report on legislation passed by the US Congress in 2006. The report found that the legislation was not in compliance with World Trade Organization policies as they apply to internet gambling. The TLD expressed strong support for ongoing discussions between the US and EU to resolve the situation in an effort to avoid potential sanctions against the US and the loss of export markets for US business sectors.

In conclusion, both sides renewed their commitment to make the TLD's work more relevant to the European Parliament and to the U.S. House of Representatives. We also agreed to further improve the effectiveness of our dialogue in order to realize the full potential of our interparliamentary relationship.

MATT MILLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Matt Miller who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Matt Miller is a junior at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Matt Miller is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Matt Miller for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF DRs. CATHIE SCHUMACHER AND K.C. KALTENBORN

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, the Shining Lights Award is presented to individuals who demonstrate dedication to public service and the highest level of character, integrity and ethics. Anchorage Project Access, Drs. Kaltenborn and Schumacher have themselves by embodying the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam for their selfless work in bringing medical care to Anchorage's most impoverished residents and have been selected as the 2009 recipients of the Shining Lights Award.

In today's economic climate, many people are forced to choose between food, rent, and their health. Anchorage Project Access (APA) is a volunteer network of 405 medical professionals designed to address the needs of over 15,000 people in our community who are uninsured and fall 200% below the poverty line. Since 2005, APA has united health care providers, hospitals and ancillary organizations in

an effort to provide basic medical care to those on a limited income. APA strives to reduce health care costs for all of us by promoting a model of health through ongoing care, reducing the unnecessary use of local emergency rooms.

Husband and wife team Drs. Cathie Schumacher and K.C. Kaltenborn were deeply involved in founding APA and continue to dedicate their time and energy to making this worthwhile project successful. Their tireless efforts to establish and nurture APA have benefited the entire Anchorage community and the State of Alaska.

I encourage everyone to reflect on their exemplary devotion to public service as an inspiration to use their own talents for the good of our community. Congratulations to Drs. Schumacher and Kaltenborn and thank you for all that you do!

HONORING THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE OF KARISSA TATOM

HON. WALT MINNICK

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. MINNICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Karissa Tatom, 17, of Meridian, a senior at Cole Valley Christian Schools, has been named one of the top honorees in Idaho by the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Karissa Tatom is being recognized as a Distinguished Finalist by the program's judges, and will receive a bronze medal. Ms. Tatom learned how to knit so she could make hats and scarves for the "Mad Hatter" organization, which provides hats to women and children who have suffered hair loss due to chemotherapy.

In light of numerous statistics indicating that Americans today are less involved in their communities, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Karissa Tatom are inspiring examples to all of us and are among our brightest hopes for tomorrow.

Ms. Tatom should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud her for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.