

week for playing down the possibility of a “grand bargain” with Iran after a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. But al-Jazeera, the leading media outlet of the Arab Middle East, focused on an entirely different piece of news out of Mr. Gates’ Cairo news conference. Asked whether U.S. aid to Egypt would be linked in the future to democracy or human rights, the Pentagon chief answered that “foreign military financing” for Mr. Mubarak’s autocracy “should be without conditions. And that is our sustained position.”

The Obama administration, which has rushed to embrace Egypt’s 81-year-old strongman, would do well to consider why al-Jazeera—not known for pro-American sympathies—would choose to trumpet that report. The Obama administration’s policy assumes that the Bush administration’s attempts to promote democratic reforms in Egypt produced yet another case of damaged ties and bad public relations to remedy, such as Guantanamo Bay or the war in Iraq. So Mr. Gates, like Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton before him, heaped praise on Mr. Mubarak while making clear that the new administration will not trouble him about his systematic and often violent repression of the country’s liberal politicians, bloggers and human rights activists.

Yet, as al-Jazeera well understands, Mr. Mubarak and his fellow Arab autocrats are widely despised across the region—and the United States is blamed for unconditionally propping them up. In fact, Mr. Bush won credit from many Egyptians for pressing for democratic change; he was criticized because he failed to follow through. Now, Arabs around the region are learning that the Obama administration is returning to the old U.S. policy of ignoring human rights abuses by Arab dictators in exchange for their cooperation on security matters—that is, the same policy that produced the Middle East of Osama bin Laden, Hamas and Saddam Hussein.

The pullback is not only rhetorical. Funding for democracy promotion in Egypt has been slashed from \$50 million to \$20 million this year. The State Department has agreed to Egyptian demands not to use economic aid to fund civil society organizations not approved by the government. As a result, U.S. funding for pro-democracy and human rights groups will drop by about 70 percent. Meanwhile, Democrats on the House Appropriations Committee this week inserted \$260 million in fresh security assistance for Egypt into a supplemental appropriations bill, along with \$50 million for border security. No conditions were attached.

What will all this appeasement buy from Mr. Mubarak? The Egyptian ruler continues to pledge to stop arms trafficking to Hamas in Gaza, and to fail to do so. He keeps a cold peace with Israel, withholds an ambassador from Iraq and, as Mr. Gates tacitly acknowledged, opposes any broad rapprochement between the United States and Iran. He is grooming his son to succeed him, a step that could entrench Egypt’s autocracy for decades more—or maybe produce an Islamic revolution. Does all that really merit unconditional U.S. support?

#### IN TRIBUTE TO PERRY LUNTZ

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 11, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, with great sadness and affection, I rise to pay trib-

ute to a dear friend, Perry Luntz, who passed away in April. Perry was an author, journalist and marketer who served on his community board, became President of his local political club and actively participated in numerous political campaigns. I was privileged to have known him, and I will miss him deeply.

Perry was a lifelong civic activist. He served for many years as a member of Community Board 6 in Manhattan, and was President of the Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club. Perry was actively involved in numerous political campaigns, including Freddy Ferrer’s two unsuccessful runs for Mayor of the City of New York and Eugene Nickerson’s campaign for county executive in Nassau County (Nickerson served from 1962 to 1970 and was the only Democrat to win that office until 2001). Perry was also a volunteer literacy teacher. During the Vietnam War, he participated in several protests and had the misfortune to be tear-gassed at a rally in Washington, DC.

Public service was Perry’s passion, but his career was as a journalist and marketing specialist. In one way or another, Perry was involved with the beverage alcohol business for most of his adult life. For more than a decade, he served as Director of Marketing Communications (a term he coined) for Seagram Distillers, and subsequently worked on the creative side of several advertising agencies, including a stint as a creative director of a Young & Rubicam division. For several years he headed his own marketing communications agency. For more than 20 years Perry was publisher and editor of “Beverage Alcohol Market Report,” an international e-letter for beer, wine, and spirits executives. He was Senior Editor and columnist for the Beverage Media groups of trade magazines.

Perry believed in moderation, maintaining that spirits should be appreciated for their gustatory delights. When he was interviewed about Irish whiskey he admonished: “It’s supposed to be enjoyed, to be savored. It’s not meant to be guzzled.” Perry served as Chair of The Wine Media Guild and was a member of the Society of Professional Journalists. At age 80, in November 2007, Perry published his first book, *Whiskey and Spirits for Dummies*, which has been translated into both German and Spanish. The book takes readers on a journey into the rich heritage and diverse taste profiles of different spirits from around the globe, tracing the origins of whiskey, rum, brandy, vodka, gin and tequila, among others, explaining how they are made, and showing the reader how to evaluate, serve and enjoy them.

Tragically, while suffering from lung cancer and a broken hip, Perry contracted Legionnaire’s Disease at a skilled nursing/subacute rehabilitation facility where he was recuperating. As required by law, the New York City Department of Health has reported his illness to the New York State Department of Health, which oversees such facilities. When I first met Perry, he was deeply involved in efforts to improve conditions at a variety of facilities in my district, and he always had a profound sense of empathy for the disadvantaged. It would, therefore, be particularly fitting for so dedicated an activist if his last illness were to become the impetus for improved conditions at nursing homes in general.

Born in Brooklyn in 1927, Perry graduated from Boys High (now known as Boys and Girls High) and went on to earn a degree in mar-

keting from New York University. Perry served with the 473rd Air Service Group in Berlin at the end of World War II and was awarded the Army of Occupation Medal and the World War II Victory Medal. Perry is survived by his wife Carol Ann Rinzler, two sons, Ira and Russell, and two grandchildren, Eli and Ari. His son, Lloyd, predeceased him.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the many achievements of Perry Luntz, an informative author and journalist, creative ad man, committed community activist and exceptional human being who cared deeply about his community and sought to improve the world around him. He will be profoundly missed.

#### HONORING THE LOUISIANA HONORAIR VETERANS

### HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 11, 2009*

Mr FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from Northwest Louisiana.

On April 11, 2009 a group of 104 veterans and their guardians flew to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these Louisiana veterans to visit Washington, DC on a chartered flight, free of charge. For many, this will be the first and only opportunity to visit the memorials created in their honor. These brave men and women, from my home state of Louisiana, deserve the thanks of a grateful nation for everything they have sacrificed for our freedom.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thank them for their unselfish service.

James L. Adams, William P. Atkins, Joe B. Aulds, Fred Winston Baily, Charles Baird, Howard G. Barnett, Ed J. Barras, John E. Blanchard, Charles E. Brister, Joseph J. Brocato, Chester C. Bums, Billy G. Cantrell, J. C. Carlin, C. C. Carpenter, Edmond H. Chandler, Jr., LaVon E. Chandler, Waylon H. Chandler, Fred L. Cheek, Steve K. Cheek, Ralph J. Cooper, Luther R. Couch, William R. Cutler, Golan A. Davis, Heuy G. Davis, William E. Davis; and

George W. Davison, Lee Day, Ellison DeMoss, Donald R. Downs, Herschel M. Downs, George Forrest Dunn, Herman H. Edwards, Ray C. Ellerd, John M. Farrar, Theodor Finkbeiner, Noble E. Flenniken, James M. Gatner, Clyde E. Gilber, Challie Bruce Griggs, August E. Hayden, Raymond L. Heck, Clem V. Henderson, Sr., Marvin Higginbotham, Eugene L. Hill, Harry J. Hilman, Fahy E. Hodge, Howard Holder, Joseph F. Hood, John L. Horton, Gordon M. Hughes; and

James M. Hunter, William F. Hunter, W.E. Jacobs, Robert Johnson, Emmett F. Jones, Gaston V. Jones, Dudley J. Kemper, Raymond Kleeman, William T. Knowles, Douglas E. Lane, Vernon Y. Leach, S.E. Lee, Elmer C. Lolley, C.W. Loyd, Hilton Lytle, Elzie R. Mains, Horace H. Maxwell, Harold L. McBeth, William McElroy, Dan B. McKay, James H. McQuiller, Jesse L. Means, Floyd S. Mercer, Anthony John Miciotto, Roy A. Miciotto; and

Ollie Mitchell, Charles B. Moore, Danny R. Moore, Howard E. Morris, Calvin E. Morrison, Miles G. Murphy, James M. Newsom, George G. Nolan, Charles F. North, Raymond

L. Odom, John S. Palmer, John Parker, Billy B. Parks, George M. Pearce, Felix P. Pinnix, Francis A. Plauché, Eileen Rahm, Wallace T. Rascoe, James O. Rawls, James L. Revells, John M. Rust, Gerald D. Sanderson, Frank P. Sartori, Paul Sartori, Orvis U. Sigler; and

Joe D. Simpson, Lonell L. Smith, William H. Smith, Leroy Solice, James C. Spencer, Jackson W. Stine, James H. Stronger, Garrard M. Stump, Terry B. Trammell, Henry G. Ward, Billy R. Weeks, Thomas R. Wells, Arvis L. Wiley, Otis Wilkerson, Roger C. Wilkinson, Kenneth C. Wood, Neil A. Yarborough.

MICHAEL A. MAZELLA, JR.

**HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 11, 2009*

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael A. Mazella, Jr., a principal, teacher, and alumnus of the St. Ann School in the Dongan Hills community of Staten Island, New York who has touched the lives of thousands of Staten Island children.

Born and raised in Dongan Hills by his mother Lee Mazella and his father, the late Michael Mazella, Michael Mazella, Jr. was a member of the first graduating class of the St. Ann School, the former Augustinian Academy on Grymes Hill and St. John's University.

Mr. Mazella taught 7th and 8th grade classes at St. Ann School for over 17 years before becoming its first principal who was not a member of the clergy. He has served as principal for the past 22 years. Besides his work as principal and classroom teacher, Mr. Mazella has also served as a gym instructor for St. Ann's 6th, 7th and 8th grade students, the boys' varsity basketball coach, and a moderator of the St. Ann's Parish Christian Youth Organization sports program.

As principal, Mr. Mazella has worked hard to bolster St. Ann's academic programs, spearheading efforts to re-establish the school's kindergarten program and institute requirements for foreign language, art and music appreciation, and computer science. He also played a central role in the effort to secure and maintain the school's Middle States accreditation.

Principal Mazella has also supervised two major renovation projects at the St. Ann School. In 1992, the school added a wing to house a new pre-school, the computer center, a library, and a faculty room. And in 2005, in commemoration of the school's Golden Jubilee, Principal Mazella oversaw a key modernization effort that provided St. Ann students with state of the art lighting, Smart Boards, new desks and chairs, and air-conditioning.

Mike Mazella's achievements as a principal and teacher have been widely recognized far beyond the confines of St. Ann's Parish. He is the recipient of numerous awards including: Outstanding Elementary Teacher of America in 1975, the Jack Anglin Memorial Trophy, the Maurice Wollin Award, Staten Island Teacher of the Year in 1984, the Distinguished Graduate Award in 1991 from the N.C.E.A., and the Medal of Honor from the Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

In addition to his lifetime of dedication and 40 years of service to St. Ann School, Mike Mazella has been a positive influence on the lives of countless Dongan Hills public school

children, serving as a CCD program coordinator for over 30 years.

Outside of his professional life, Michael Mazella is a devoted family man, married to Pamela Smith of West Brighton for almost 40 years. He is the father of three children, Michael, Julie and Jessica and the beloved grandfather of Ryan, Justin, Erik, Georgia, and Keira.

Michael Mazella will retire from his role as principal of the St. Ann School this June when the academic year comes to a close. He will leave behind a legacy of service to St. Ann's and the larger Staten Island community, having improved the lives of thousands of children through his work as teacher, coach, principal, mentor, and role model. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Michael A. Mazella, Jr. and his extraordinary contributions to Staten Island and the St. Ann School.

HONORING THE CENTRAL CONNECTICUT COAST YMCA ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 11, 2009*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I am honored to have this opportunity to rise and extend my sincere congratulations to the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA as they celebrate their 150th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for an outstanding organization.

The Central Connecticut Coast YMCA has become an institution in the Greater New Haven community. What began as the effort of a small group of local businessmen has today grown into an organization with twelve branches, serving more than 75,000 people in twenty-five communities. The Central Connecticut Coast YMCA offers a myriad of programs for children, families, as well as adults—continuing in their founders' vision of identifying and addressing unmet needs within the community. Although the work of the YMCA has changed over the years, from teaching English to immigrants at the turn of the 20th century to teaching values to modern day youth, they continue to provide programs and services that enrich the community and enhance the quality of life for all.

The Central Connecticut Coast YMCA has a vision for the community—to advocate for those whose voices are seldom heard, improve neighborhoods, and build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities. From after-school childcare to summer camp and preschool programs to year-round swim lessons for all ages, the CCC YMCA offers our young people programs designed to help them develop strong foundations on which to build their future success. The CCC YMCA has created parent-child fitness classes to encourage families to exercise together, youth sports programs with parents interacting as coaches as well as cheering from the sidelines, and have most recently begun programs promoting and supporting healthy family lifestyles. The Central Connecticut Coast YMCA has created an environment where families have the opportunity to spend quality time together.

The Central Connecticut Coast YMCA is also a strong partner in providing a continuum

of care to individuals and families who have become homeless. It is the largest provider of supportive housing in Fairfield County and operates the only family emergency shelter in the City of Bridgeport. In just this past year alone, they provided housing to 892 individuals, including more than 400 children. And they are providing so much more than simply shelter from the elements and a place to lay one's head. Their supportive services include case management, job training, and continuing education classes. It is through this holistic approach that so many in need are finding the resources necessary to rebuild their lives, provide for their families, and contribute to the community.

For one hundred-fifty years, the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA has been there for our children and families. Its great success would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of its Board of Directors, Managers, Trustees, staff and volunteers—past and present—who remain vigilant in their mission. Their compassion, generosity, and vision have guided this organization and I am proud to have this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to them for all of their good work.

Today, as the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA celebrates its 150th Anniversary, I am pleased to rise not only congratulate the organization on this remarkable milestone, but thank them for the many invaluable contributions they have made which have gone a long way in shaping the very character of our community. Congratulations and best wishes for many more years of continued success!

COMMENDING SISTER M. THERESE ANTONE

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 11, 2009*

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the State of Rhode Island and the students of Salve Regina University, I would like to acknowledge and commend Sister M. Therese Antone. She is currently fulfilling a fifteen-year tenure as the sixth president of Salve Regina University in Newport, and she will assume a role as the first Chancellor of the University on July 1.

Under the direction of Sister Therese Antone, Salve Regina University has impacted and improved the academic and economic vigor of the State of Rhode Island. Sister Therese has brought the issues of higher education, business ethics, healthcare and social justice to the forefront as a community leader and statewide representative. Sister Therese has been invaluable to Salve Regina University and the State of Rhode Island.

The diligent work of Sister Therese has had a profound impact on the lives of thousands. Her continued involvement and leadership at Salve Regina University will remain a paramount asset to the further development of higher education. I hereby recognize Sister M. Therese Antone for her service, achievement and dedication to the dynamic advancement of academia.