

critics more often than they used the term “liberal” to describe Judge Sotomayor herself, despite her very liberal record.

And there is a clear double standard in the media’s coverage of Judge Sotomayor compared to President Bush’s nominees.

After they were nominated, the national media referred to Justice Alito and Justice Roberts as “conservative” far more frequently than they have labeled Judge Sotomayor “liberal.”

In addition, the national media have heralded Judge Sotomayor’s impressive life story, despite ignoring the similar personal story of former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales during his confirmation.

The national media should set aside bias and treat Judge Sotomayor the same way they treated previous nominees.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARIA ESTHER CARRILLO, FOUNDER OF THE HISPANIC-AMERICAN INTERCULTURAL WORKSHOP, FORMER MEMBER OF THE MAYOR’S HISPANIC ADVISORY COUNCIL, FOUNDER OF THE HISPANIC YOUTH VOICE OF TAMPA AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE TAMPA HISPANIC HERITAGE INC.

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to herald the life and philanthropic contributions of Maria Esther Carrillo, and to express our gratitude for her achievements in the Tampa Bay area as a passionate community activist and educational leader.

Carrillo and her husband Francisco escaped a violent Colombia, controlled by Marxist guerrillas and drug cartels, to settle in Tampa in 1990; only five years after graduating from The University of the Andes in 1985. Carrillo immediately identified with the strong Hispanic culture in Tampa. She made it her life’s work to focus on improving the education of those around her. She sought to bridge English and Hispanic cultures by introducing multicultural studies in language and heritage. Through her work with the Tampa Hispanic Heritage Inc., Carrillo was able to bridge communities of Hispanic and non-Hispanic citizens through countless cultural celebrations and in so doing fusing together diverse groups within the Tampa area.

Carrillo’s faith and fervor in a multicultural Tampa, led to the foundation of the Taller Intercultural Hispano-Americano (TICH) in 1998. Her non-profit was established to champion the coexistence of diverse groups; to educate, share and enjoy other cultures and heritage. Carrillo, the Founder-Director, amassed sponsorships for a free festival that emphasized dance, folklore, food, culture, lifestyle and art for the Tampa community.

Her core beliefs were founded in the limitless potential of the next generation and it is with her commitment that her intrinsic reaction was not surprising. Sacrificing herself, Maria Esther Carrillo moved her body into harm’s way, allowing her maternal instinct to shield her daughter from the out of control truck in Miami, Florida. The proud mother was accom-

panying her daughter, a high school senior, home after accepting a college scholarship so that she could attend Columbia University in the fall.

She lived as she died, protecting and helping the future of the hardworking Hispanic youth that she loved so dearly.

I wish Maria Lilianna Carrillo a speedy recovery and my thoughts and prayers are with the Carrillo family.

INTRODUCING THE HEALTHY TRANSITIONS ACT OF 2009

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Representatives MARY BONO MACK and DAVE CAMP to introduce bipartisan legislation aimed at addressing the unique needs of young people with serious mental illness. This legislation will provide comprehensive support for youth so that they can transition into healthy and successful adults.

Young adults suffering from mental illness fall through the cracks far too often. Last year, former Senator Gordon Smith and I requested a report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examining the challenges facing this population. The results were very troubling. As of 2006, approximately 2.4 million young adults age 18–26 in America had a serious mental illness and another 9.3 million suffered with a moderate or mild mental illness. This population has significantly higher rates of unemployment, incarceration, suicide, inadequate housing, as well as lower rates of continuing education.

There is no coherent federal policy to address this issue and our system is fragmented. The GAO found that many youth lose mental health coverage or have their coverage disrupted when they turn 18, and are unable to find age-appropriate services in the adult mental health system. As a result, many young adults are adrift without services, support, or guidance.

The dysfunctional mental health system described by GAO has had a particularly harsh impact on vulnerable youth, such as those aging out of foster care. A national survey found that foster youth were four times more likely to have attempted suicide in the preceding year when compared to those never placed in foster care. Another study found that these youth suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at rates similar to Iraq War veterans. We cannot let this cycle of neglect continue.

We developed the Healthy Transitions Act in response to GAO’s findings that exposed the critical gaps in age-appropriate mental health and supportive services for young adults. This legislation builds on the successful Partnership for Youth in Transition Demonstration Program and will allow the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to expand their efforts to assist states in serving young people with mental illness. It will provide grant funding to states to develop statewide coordination plans that will assist adolescents and young adults with serious mental health disorders in making a healthy transition into adulthood. The bill will also provide grant funding for states to successfully

implement their plans and ensure that the care systems created are both comprehensive and sustainable. Finally, the legislation will create a Committee of Federal Partners. The Committee will include representatives from all agencies that serve young adults as well as representatives from consumer and family advocacy organizations. The Federal Partners will evaluate the states’ programs, provide technical assistance, and report to Congress on the progress being made.

It has become increasingly difficult for young adults to navigate our current fragmented mental health system. The Healthy Transitions Act aims to fill the cracks in the system by coordinating the work of federal, state, and local partners. It is our social responsibility to help these youth develop into successful, independent adults. I hope all of my colleagues can recognize the importance of investing in our young people and will support this legislation.

COMMEMORATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIANANMEN SQUARE SUPPRESSION

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, having just returned from a week in China with Speaker Pelosi, I am glad to more fully appreciate the country’s tremendous scope, population, the vast and varied landscape, and its rich history. Although the focus was on global warming and the environment and the impressive progress China has made to adjust its policies, the subject of human rights was never far from the surface.

In Tiananmen Square I was taken back to the monumental events of 20 years ago and their tragic conclusion. It is sobering to understand how intensely the Chinese government suppresses any mention or image of the Tiananmen Square massacre. So much so that today there is virtually no knowledge of these events on the part of the young.

That is why it is so important for Congress to mark this observance: to give knowledge to those with no memory and to give hope to those that do remember. It is critical that those who risked so much, those who died or who were persecuted, are celebrated for their courage. It is my hope that one day the Chinese people will have the freedom they deserve.

COMMEMORATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIANANMEN SQUARE SUPPRESSION

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 489, recognizing the twentieth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown. In June of 1989, the Chinese government unnecessarily applied the heavy hand of the People’s Liberation Army to violently

suppress peaceful demonstrators who were calling for an elimination of corruption, the expansion of freedoms, and progress toward political and economic reforms. Twenty years later, there still has been no accurate accounting of those who were killed or injured, and we do not know how many hundreds or thousands of activists remain imprisoned. But we do know that thousands living in exile and millions living in China are unable to freely express themselves in their home country, where censorship and repression still drown out peaceful calls for reform.

The People's Republic of China is a proud nation that increasingly is taking its place on the world stage. But if China wants to be fully integrated into the community of nations, it must recognize that the persecution of peaceful movements is unacceptable, and it must act to reverse the objectionable and counterproductive policies exemplified by the Tiananmen Square crackdown. Violations of human rights and international standards of law are not behavior consistent with a modern nation that wants to contribute to the world of international exchange, global trade, and academic cooperation.

The freedoms of expression and assembly are universal rights, and the flames of these liberties burn in all mankind. Today, we speak for the brave voices who were wrongfully silenced 20 years ago, for the families who have been unable to publicly mourn the loss of their loved ones, and for all those who continue to stand up for free expression in China and around the world. I fervently hope that this effort will hasten the day that the unfettered voices of the Chinese people may be heard in Tiananmen Square and throughout China. For though freedom's flames may be smothered, its smoldering embers will always prod ice, as Martin Luther King put it, a certain kind of fire that no water can put out.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL ARTHRITIS MONTH AND THE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS LIVING WITH ARTHRITIS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize that last month was National Arthritis Awareness Month. This commemoration provided an important opportunity to discuss the serious impact of arthritis, particularly for older Americans, and to highlight the range of treatments available to improve the health and quality of life of individuals with arthritis. However, just because May is over, doesn't mean our awareness of arthritis and the millions of Americans living with arthritis should be any less diminished.

The term arthritis describes more than 100 diseases and conditions affecting the joints. The most common form of arthritis is osteoarthritis, which is a painful chronic condition characterized by the breakdown of the joint's cartilage. Osteoarthritis affects almost 27 million Americans. Older Americans are particularly impacted by this disease, with a third of the population 65 and older affected by osteoarthritis.

Osteoarthritis limits the movement of most patients, and can seriously interfere with basic

activities of daily living. In fact, osteoarthritis of the knee is one of the leading causes of disability among non-institutionalized adults. As an indication of the seriousness of this disease, hospitalizations for osteoarthritis also are on the rise, increasing from about 322,000 in 1993 to 735,000 in 2006.

Fortunately, there are a range of treatments available that can help many individuals with osteoarthritis reduce the pain they experience, minimize damage to their joints, and improve their physical functions. In some cases, these treatments involve lifestyle modifications, such as exercise and weight loss. In other cases, physical therapy or medications can lead to improvements. And even in the more advanced cases of osteoarthritis, including those that have not responded to other treatments, surgical intervention, including debridement, resurfacing, and total joint replacement, can relieve pain and improve joint function.

Given the prevalence of osteoarthritis among the elderly, it is especially important for senior citizens to know that Medicare covers a wide range of osteoarthritis treatments. Doctor's visits, physical therapy, and surgical procedures, including total joint replacement surgery, all may be covered by Medicare if medically appropriate. It is also important to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries with advanced OA do not forgo medically necessary joint replacement procedures because of concerns about copayments, since pain and disability can get progressively worse when such procedures are delayed. In fact, most Medicare beneficiaries have supplemental coverage, such as Medigap or employer-provided insurance, to help pay the premium, deductible, and coinsurance associated with joint replacement surgery. Fear about copayments should not stand in the way of a beneficiary obtaining relief from this painful and debilitating disease.

Whether it be National Arthritis Awareness month or any month, individuals with arthritis should take the opportunity to talk to their doctors about lifestyle changes and other treatments available to help them manage their condition. With appropriate care, individuals with arthritis can take steps to live active, pain free lives.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF STS. VARTANANTZ ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF RIDGEFIELD, NEW JERSEY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church of Ridgefield, New Jersey.

On May 19, 1957, a community's dream began to take shape. On that day, ground was broken for what was then known as the Armenian Apostolic Church of New Jersey. In two short years, the Armenian American community of Bergen County came together and raised the necessary funds to realize the dream of building a church.

On May 3, 1959, the church was consecrated by His Eminence Archbishop Khoren Paroyian, Nuncio of His Holiness Zareh I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia.

Sts. Vartanantz today stands as a beacon of Armenian American community life in Bergen County with its Sunday school, the Nareg Saturday Armenian School, the ladies guild, the men's club, the seniors groups, and several cultural, youth, educational, and fraternal organizations working to perpetuate the Armenian faith and heritage.

I extend my congratulations to the pastor, Rev. Fr. Hovnan Bozoian, the Board of Trustees, and all members and friends of Sts. Vartanantz and wish them many more years of growth and service to the Armenian American community.

I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Sts. Vartanantz Church for its contributions to the Armenian American residents of Bergen County, as well the larger Armenian American community in the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, yesterday my flight was cancelled due to weather and I missed the three suspension votes.

On rollcall No. 292—H. Res. 421—Recognizing and commending the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on its 75th year anniversary, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 293—H.J. Res. 40—Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 294—H. Res. 489—Recognizing the 20th anniversary of the brutal suppression of protesters and citizens in and around Tiananmen Square, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALLIED LANDING ON D-DAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, "We shall not flinch or fail. We shall go on to the end. . . . We shall fight on the seas and oceans. We shall fight with growing strength in the air. We shall defend . . . whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches. We shall fight on the landing grounds. We shall fight in the fields and in the streets. We shall fight everywhere. We shall never surrender."

Winston Churchill said this showing the dedication of our armed forces. They never give up; and, of course, they never give in.

Churchill was right, Madam Speaker. In WWII, American troops did not flinch—they fought wherever and whenever they were needed—to the very end.

For many young Americans, 31,000, to be specific, that courage took them to the beaches of Normandy, France.

And for more than 6,000 Americans that meant giving everything they had for the cause of liberty and freedom.

This July 6th marks the 65th anniversary of the infamous D-day.