

GRENADA'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support from Ambassador Dessima M. Williams of Grenada in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

PERMANENT MISSION OF GRENADA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS,
New York, NY, October 1, 2009.

Hon. FALEOMAVAEGA ENI HUNKIN,
Representative for American Samoa, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. HUNKIN: It is with a sense of grief that I express, on behalf of the Government and people of Grenada and myself, our deepest sorrow and sympathy to the Government and people of American Samoa and yourself on the loss of lives and destruction caused by the recent Tsunami. Our heartfelt condolences go out to your people and, in particular, to the grieving families and friends.

As you are aware, Grenada is very concerned about the vulnerability of island nations to such natural disasters and of the negative effects such disasters bring to the development of our countries. However, it is our sincere belief that through the strength, resilience, and persistence of the people as well as the diligence of the Government of American Samoa, the challenges caused by this extremely difficult circumstance could be overcome.

I take this opportunity on this grave occasion to extend Grenada's commitment and solidarity to the Government and people of American Samoa.

Sincerely yours,

DESSIMA W. WILLIAMS,
*Ambassador,
Permanent Representative.*

REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support from Jason C. Yuan, representative of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the United States in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL
REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE
UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, September 30, 2009.

Hon. ENI FALEOMAVAEGA,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN FALEOMAVAEGA: On behalf of the government and the people of the Republic of China (Taiwan), I am writing to express our deepest condolences and support for the people of American Samoa after a massive tsunami hurled by a powerful earthquake yesterday.

I was greatly saddened by the tragic loss of life, as well as the damage to property, livelihoods and power outages. My thoughts and prayers are with the injured, the families who lost their loved ones and those who remain missing.

I also have offered our willingness to help in our most recent communications with officials in the Obama Administration. Please do not hesitate to inform me if we can be of assistance for the relief and recovery efforts. With deepest sympathy,

JASON C. YUAN,
Representative.

PALAU'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support from President Johnson Toribiong of the Republic of Palau in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I was shocked and deeply saddened this morning when I found out that your beautiful islands were devastated by an earthquake and tsunami. I became more and more distressed throughout the day as the news reports advised just how devastating the tsunami had been. Words cannot truly express how heartrending that news was to me.

My deepest sympathies go out to you and to the people of American Samoa, especially the victims of this tragic disaster. Please convey my heartfelt condolences to your elected and traditional leaders and to your people. The Republic of Palau and I stand ready to assist your recovery efforts in whatever way we can. Please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Sincerely yours,

JOHNSON TORIBIONG.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support from Prime Minister Kevin Rudd of Australia as Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.

On behalf of the membership of the Pacific Islands Forum, I wish to formally convey our deepest condolences to Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga for the tragic loss of life as a consequence of the tsunami that struck on the morning of 29 September. Our prayers go out to all of those families who have lost loved ones and those injured or displaced by this tragic event.

I am confident that the Pacific family will do all it can to support the relief efforts in Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga.

As Chair of the Forum, I urge the broader international community to mobilise in support of the relief and recovery efforts and long term reconstruction of the villages and infrastructure devastated by the impacts of both the tsunami and the earthquake.

KEVIN RUDD,
Chair.

AUSTRALIA'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING TSUNAMI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support from Ambassador Dennis Richardson of Australia in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA,
Washington, DC, October 5, 2009.

Hon. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
Chairman, Sub-Committee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN, I am writing to extend my condolences for the loss of lives and large-scale damage experienced in American Samoa following the 30 September 2009 earthquake and the resulting tsunami.

Australia was pleased to be able to respond immediately to requests for assistance from our Pacific neighbours Samoa and Tonga, both of which were also devastated by the earthquake. Australia is providing both countries with disaster relief items, including food, clothing, shelter and medical supplies, and stands ready to offer further assistance as needed.

I understand you travelled immediately to American Samoa to survey the damage first hand and lend your support to relief efforts. I wish you well in these endeavours.

I have attached a 30 September 2009 statement by the Australian Prime Minister, the Honourable Kevin Rudd, in his capacity as the current Chair of the Pacific Island Forum, conveying his deepest condolences to Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga for the tragic loss of life as a consequence of the tsunami.

Yours sincerely,

DENNIS RICHARDSON.

HONORING ERIC DEAN WALLACE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Eric Dean Wallace, a very special young man, who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Eric has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Eric has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Eric Dean Wallace for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF HURLEY
MANNING

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Hurley Manning, a Northwest Florida community leader, upon the dedication of Hurley Manning Field at Milton High School. Coach Manning spent his career serving and teaching, and I am proud to honor his dedication and service.

Hurley is a life-long Floridian. He grew up in Milton, Florida, attending Allentown School, Berryhill Elementary, and Milton High School, graduating in 1956. He played football for Milton on the old Overman Field, and during his senior season played in the very first football game on the field being dedicated in his honor.

After graduating from Troy State University in 1960 and coaching football in Georgia and in Gainesville, Florida, Coach Manning eventually returned to Milton High School in 1968 as the head football coach. He served as head coach for 21 years, winning numerous District and Regional titles. He is the only football coach in the history of Santa Rosa County, Florida to win a state championship, which Coach Manning did twice in back-to-back years 1978 and 1979. He was extremely dedicated to the teaching profession, teaching for almost 30 years, and he continues to keep up with his athletes, who are known as "Hurley's Boys."

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Coach Hurley Manning for his lifetime of service to the students and families of Northwest Florida. My wife Vicki and I wish him, his wife of 41 years, Shirley, his children Lynette Peterson and Heather Couper, and his grandchildren, all the best for continued success.

"THE IRAN REFINED PETROLEUM
SANCTIONS ACT OF 2009—THE
BILL IS RIGHT, AND THE TIME
IS RIGHT"

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2194, the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act of 2009, which my good friend and colleague Chairman BERMAN introduced on April 30, and of which I am a co-sponsor.

Madam Speaker, this bill amends the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to impose sanctions on persons who sell to or service, or otherwise commercially or financially support, Iran's petroleum industry. The bill responds to Iran's lack of refining capabilities—Iran imports 40 percent of its gasoline and relies on foreign

companies to develop its energy industry. Limiting Iran's access to refined petroleum could have a major effect on the Iranian economy—and on Ahmadinejad's policies.

Even as President Obama opens diplomatic talks with Iran, we know, from all our experience with Iran and so many other dictatorships, that a serious effort to peacefully stop Iran's development of nuclear weapons will require the strongest political and economic pressure our country can muster.

Madam Speaker, it will not only be worth the effort, but it's absolutely necessary that we make this effort. In this regard, I want to point out that we have repeatedly seen the correspondence between the way a government treats its own people and the way it behaves internationally. It seems to be almost a law of international relations: massive human rights violators behave deceitfully and aggressively, and the more massive the violations, the greater the deceit and aggression.

The law has certainly held in the case of the Ahmadinejad government, whose deceit in hiding a previously secret uranium enrichment facility was revealed several weeks ago, and whose support of Hezbollah and other terrorists and declarations of genocidal intent toward Israel are notorious. When we read the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices—I will attach the Iran summary as an addendum—we should keep in mind that all these outrages and atrocities Ahmadinejad and his cronies commit on their own citizens are more evidence of the aggression Ahmadinejad and his cronies are fully prepared and preparing to commit on Israel, toward whom they don't even pretend to have anything other than the most malevolent intent.

As former Senators Coats and Robb and General Wald wrote in the Washington Post on September 21: "By ratcheting up pressure on Iran before we sit down, Western negotiators would gain both sticks (additional measures) and carrots (repealing sanctions) with which to induce Iranian cooperation."

This is exactly right: the time to move this bill is now, before the administration opens its talks with the Ahmadinejad government. This House is ready to send a clear signal to the Iranian regime—that, though our President is negotiating, this country has not weakened one bit its fundamental commitment to defend Israel, that we will not tolerate nuclear threats to Israel, and we will not permit the Ahmadinejad government to obtain nuclear weapons.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and Chairman BERMAN to move this bill, which now has over 325 co-sponsors, to the floor for passage by the full House as soon as possible. The bill is right, and the time is right.

2008 COUNTRY REPORTS, IRAN SUMMARY

The government's poor human rights record worsened, and it continued to commit numerous serious abuses. The government severely limited citizens' right to change their government peacefully through free and fair elections. The government executed numerous persons for criminal convictions as juveniles and after unfair trials. Security forces were implicated in custodial deaths and committed other acts of politically motivated violence, including torture. The government administered severe officially sanctioned punishments, including death by stoning, amputation, and flogging. Vigilante groups with ties to the government com-

mitted acts of violence. Prison conditions remained poor. Security forces arbitrarily arrested and detained individuals, often holding them incommunicado. Authorities held political prisoners and intensified a crackdown against women's rights reformers, ethnic minority rights activists, student activists, and religious minorities. There was a lack of judicial independence and fair public trials. The government severely restricted civil liberties, including freedoms of speech, expression, assembly, association, movement, and privacy, and it placed severe restrictions on freedom of religion. Official corruption and a lack of government transparency persisted. Violence and legal and societal discrimination against women, ethnic and religious minorities, and homosexuals; trafficking in persons; and incitement to anti-Semitism remained problems. The government severely restricted workers' rights, including freedom of association and the right to organize and bargain collectively, and arrested numerous union organizers. Child labor remained a serious problem. On December 18, for the sixth consecutive year, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution on Iran expressing "deep concern at ongoing systematic violations of human rights."

IN HONOR OF CHARLES J.
"CHARLIE" VIZZINI

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Charles J. "Charlie" Vizzini. He was born in Colver, Pennsylvania on March 8, 1924 to John and Lillian Vizzini. He passed away on August 11 of this year.

Throughout his life, he dedicated himself to God, his country, and to his fellow man. In particular, he focused on remembering and helping his fellow veterans. His commitment stemmed from an incident during World War II when, as a young Army private stationed in France, Vizzini was wounded. He was struck in the chest by bullets from a German automatic pistol. An Army doctor was quoted in a 1944 article as saying that even though Vizzini sustained tremendous injuries, his life was saved because the bullets hit a New Testament in one of his breast pockets and a Catholic missal in the other. In a 1998 interview, Vizzini said, "I believe it is a miracle from the Lord that I am here today. That is the biggest reason I do the things I do to help veterans." While recovering from his injuries, he stayed in a European hospital for almost a year before returning to Colver. For his courageous efforts serving his country, he received two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star.

After returning to Cambria County, Vizzini married the former Glendora Waterhouse, his loving wife of 60 years. He worked in Pennsylvania's Ebensburg Center and served as commander of Ebensburg Post 4963, Veterans of Foreign Wars. He also served on the Pennsylvania Democratic Committee and was a member of Holy Name Catholic Church in Ebensburg.

Madam Speaker, Vizzini was particularly active in honoring veterans. He would organize annual Veterans Day memorial services to honor veterans. He would also hold services