

2005 and 2008 Aldine ISD narrowed the highest percentage of African-American achievement gaps. Not only is Aldine ISD closing the achievement gap but also it is preparing increasing numbers of students for higher education. From 2005 to 2008 African-American and Hispanic student participation in SAT and Advanced Placement rose.

By these measurements, Aldine ISD clearly deserves the Broad Prize for Urban Education. The award is given to large urban school districts that show solid school achievement and demonstrate distinct gains made in narrowing achievement gaps. I am proud of the hard work that Aldine ISD has done to earn this award and I am thankful to the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation for recognizing their efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present in the Capitol for three votes on Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

However, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3689, providing for an extension of the legislative authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. to establish a Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center; "yea" on H.R. 3476, reauthorizing the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission; and "yea" on H. Res. 659, congratulating Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. on 98 years of serving local communities and enriching the lives of collegiate men throughout the Nation.

MEDIA GIVE TALE OF TWO PROTESTS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, in Pittsburgh and Washington, DC, the national media have given us a tale of two protests.

The media's coverage of the conservative September 12 protests intentionally tried to paint a negative picture of the protestors, even though there were no arrests or acts of violence.

The Washington Post described the 9/12 protests as an outpouring of a "spectrum of conservative anger."

The New York Times used words like "angry" and "profane" to describe the protests.

Fast forward to the radical-left G-20 protests in Pittsburgh recently.

The New York Times headline called the protests a "Peaceful March."

CNN described the protests as "more peaceful, less confrontational," even though there were dozens of arrests and businesses damaged.

The national media should give fair coverage to protests on both sides, instead of demonizing conservatives and praising radical liberals.

REMEMBERING NAVY SEAL, SO2,
RYAN JOB

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, it is with great remorse that I rise today to remember the life of Navy Seal, SO2, Ryan Job. Ryan joined the Navy in 2002 with the goal of joining the select Navy Special-Operations Force, known as the SEALs. Ryan was eventually deployed to serve in Iraq in 2006. While on patrol in the city of Ramadi, Ryan was wounded in an assault, which resulted in the destruction of one of Ryan's eyes and severing the optic nerves of the other. This attack left Ryan entirely blind. After spending time in multiple military hospitals across the country, Ryan's stamina and determination allowed him to make a full recovery, and in 2007, he and his wife Kelly moved to my district and settled in North Scottsdale. There, he was able to complete his business degree, and landed a job with General Dynamics.

Ryan was able to make this smooth transition back to a civilian life with the help of the non-profit Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation. This incredible organization is devoted to providing aid and support to injured men and women of the U.S. armed forces to help them realize their goals of returning back to their homes and becoming productive and active members of society. The Sentinels of Freedom helped Ryan to locate the condo he and his wife chose to live in, found him the job at General Dynamics, and also enrolled him in online classes to allow Ryan to finish his degree. In return, Ryan became a spokesman for the organization and an advocate for veterans, as he wanted to make sure that his fellow men and women in uniform would be able to make the same transition as he did.

On September 24, 2009, Ryan underwent another surgery. However, this time, there were complications, and in an absolutely heart-breaking turn of events, our brave and inspiring friend Ryan Job passed away.

Madam Speaker, I hope that you will join me in remembering and celebrating the life of Ryan Job. My thoughts are with Ryan's family and loved ones during this difficult time. Ryan is a hero to us all. He will be dearly missed, but he will never be forgotten.

PROCLAIMING CASIMIR PULASKI TO BE AN HONORARY CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES POSTHUMOUSLY

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 26 to honor General Casimir Pulaski, a Polish born National hero, as an honorary American citizen.

Casimir Pulaski received designations ranging from "Soldier of Liberty" to "The Father of the American Cavalry" for his honorable service of fighting for freedom on two continents. In the United States, streets, counties,

squares, and even an American submarine bare his name. Both the beginning and end of his noble life are cloaked with mystery—competing stories exist about his birth and death; however, his actions of defending freedom in his homeland of Poland as well as America are renowned.

Casimir Pulaski was born to a family of Polish nobility either on March 4 or 6, 1745, 1746 or 1747 in Winiary, Warsaw, or Waka on the Pilica, Poland. Pulaski's distant relatives give his birth date as March 4, 1747 in Winiary, Poland; however, scrupulous biographical notes of the Pulaski family history state that Casimir was born on March 4, 1746, but gives no mention of the place. On the other hand, baptismal records show March 4, 1745 as the date of birth, connecting his given name to his birth on the feastday of St. Casimir. The date of Casimir's actual baptism was recorded as March 6, 1745 in Warsaw on Nowy Swiat Street. Then again, the National Park Service records his birth date as March 4, 1747 in Waka on the Pilica, Poland.

Regardless of his curious beginning, historians agree that Casimir began his military career at the age of fifteen when young Pulaski joined his father and other members of the Polish nobility in opposing the Russian and Prussian interference in Polish affairs.

After being banished to Paris, Pulaski met Benjamin Franklin who urged him to support the colonies in the American Revolution. Pulaski was impressed with the ideals of a new nation struggling to be free and volunteered his services. Franklin wrote to George Washington describing Pulaski as "an officer renowned throughout Europe for the courage and bravery he displayed in defense of his country's freedom."

In 1777, Pulaski arrived in Philadelphia where he met General Washington, the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. After coming to the aid of Washington's forces and distinguishing himself as a talented military tactician, Pulaski was sent south to assist American colonial forces. Georgia became the only American colony to be re-conquered by the British on December 29, 1778, and Pulaski was sent to assist Comte Jean Baptiste Hector d'Estaing and Benjamin Lincoln regain control of Savannah from the British who had amassed about 3,000 defenders.

The areas surrounding Savannah created a difficult environment for the French and American forces. The left and right sides of Savannah are marshlands which created tough obstacles through which to advance. In the front of the city, a cleared plain of small rolling hills made it impossible for a group of soldiers to advance without being seen from the redoubts that encircled the city. The Siege of Savannah became one of the bloodiest battles of the Revolutionary War, and a military failure of colonists with more than 1,000 of the attacking forces killed. In 2005, archaeologists with Coastal Heritage Society discovered the long-lost Spring Hill Redoubt. This unearthed the site of the bloodiest fighting of the siege and scene of the mortal wounding of Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski.

While historians can agree that Pulaski commanded the French and American cavalry during the Siege of Savannah and sustained mortal wounds during fighting from grapeshot on October 9, 1779, consensus ends there.

Two divergent tales of his death continue today—one from a Georgia family, another

from two of Pulaski's officers. The first has injured Pulaski being sent to Charleston aboard the Wasp, but passing on October 15 and taken to Greenwich Plantation, Georgia for burial. In 1854, bones were discovered in an unmarked grave at the former family plantation of William P. Bowen. Bowen said his grandmother and aunt told him the grave was Pulaski's. The bones were then entombed inside the marble cornerstone of the Pulaski Monument in Savannah. Restoration of the monument in 1996 led to another exhumation by Chatham County Coroner James C. Metts Jr. After eight years of attempts, investigators failed to extract a complete DNA sequence to compare with a living Pulaski descendant in Poland. A draft report by Metts' team concluded "the mystery remains unsolved." It also states that "strong circumstantial evidence does suggest that the remains are Casimir Pulaski."

However, historical accounts from two officers who served under Pulaski tell a different story. They report that General Pulaski was wounded on October 9, 1776, but that he died two days later on October 11 aboard the Wasp on route to Charleston. The two officers report that Pulaski was then buried at sea near the mouth of the Savannah River where it flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

Even with conflicting details of his birth and death, General Pulaski's military history is commemorated in Savannah by multiple tributes including Fort Pulaski, Pulaski Elementary, Pulaski Square, and Pulaski National Monument. I am privileged to commend General Pulaski and his admirable service to our Nation and support his honorary citizenship.

HONORING JESSE RAYMOND
NELSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jesse Raymond Nelson, 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, Troop 1179, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jesse has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jesse 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 Jesse Raymond Nelson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT
OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 1327, the "Iran

Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009." This legislation, if enacted, will enhance U.S. capacity to further isolate Iran and pressure the government to abandon its military nuclear program.

The recent discovery of a secret enrichment facility at Qom serves as a clear reminder that Iran continues to flagrantly disregard international non-proliferation agreements, and poses a direct and dangerous threat to the peace and security not only in the Middle East, but also around the world.

Unfortunately, the concealment of the facility at Qom is only the most recent in a long line of deplorable and illegal behavior by the Iranian government. From seeking to acquire nuclear weapons and evade IAEA inspectors, to continuing to threaten Israel and opposing the Middle East peace process, to supporting international terrorism, to its deplorable human rights record—specifically surrounding the recent elections—the government of Iran has consistently acted in a reprehensible and dangerous manner.

The only effective way to achieve lasting peace and prosperity in the region, along with bringing about reforms in Iran's polity, is to assist the Iranian people in their quest to achieve political, social, and religious liberty. Every government can be judged with the way in which it treats its ethnic and religious minorities, and the current Iranian government gets a failing grade for its treatment of its many and diverse minorities.

While the government's actions in the international community deserve our condemnation, we must distinguish between Iranian people and their government. This fall, I was optimistic that the elections in Iran would serve as a catalyst for change, but given the absence of fair and free elections, coupled with the government's poor record for transparency and accountability, I believe that the democratic voices in Iran need our help to achieve change.

The results of the recent election clearly showed that there was no chance for Iranian citizens to participate in Democracy. On June 12, 2009, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was ostensibly re-elected to his second term as President, as a result of the tenth Presidential elections in Iran, held and calculated on June 13, 2009. Subject to official results released by Iran's election headquarters, out of a total of 39,165,191 ballots cast in the Presidential election, Ahmadinejad allegedly won 24,527,516 votes, which accounts for approximately 62.6 percent of the votes, while his opponent and former Prime Minister of Iran Mir-Hossein Mousavi purportedly secured only 13,216,411 (37.4%) of the votes. Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei announced that he envisions Ahmadinejad as president in the next five years, a comment interpreted as indicating support for Ahmadinejad's reelection, and so it happened exactly that way.

In the aftermath of an election crisis we must not forget that Iran is marching ever closer to the development of a nuclear weapon, as they continue the pursuit of enriching uranium. Iran's nuclear program, coupled with its continued military assistance to armed groups in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Palestinian group Hamas, and to the Lebanese Hezbollah has been the basis for President Obama's characterization of Iran as a "profound threat to U.S. national security interests."

Yet the last Administration's approach of isolationism failed to stop or even slow the es-

calation of Iran's nuclear development. The recent discovery of a secret enrichment facility at Qom serves as a clear reminder that Iran continues to flagrantly disregard international non-proliferation agreements, and poses a direct and dangerous threat to the peace and security in the Middle East, and around the world.

In that vein we do not want to ostracize Iran, as has been done in the past. This Administration indicated that if Iran refuses to come to the "nuclear bargaining table" by late September 2009, sanctions will resume. This deadline passed, and Iran has not changed. Consequently, it is time that we move to enable effective sanctions to remind Iran that we remain serious in our demands. This bill does not move the U.S. past the point of no return in regards to sanctions, but, it sends a clear message to Iran while enabling more effective sanctions in the future.

Mr. Speaker, although Iran has committed heinous human rights violations, and continues to threaten its neighbors, I do not believe that it is productive to punish Iran for their past delinquencies. Instead, we should use our threats and sanctions to persuade the government of Iran to change its behavior by holding free and fair elections, allowing dissent, and finally ending its military nuclear program. I hope that, one day in the near future, we will lift these sanctions; but, until reforms are implemented, we must remain vigilant in pressuring Iran.

Last year, this body passed H.R. 7112—The Comprehensive Iran Sanction Act, but the Senate failed to follow suit. It is my hope that, this time, our colleagues in the Senate realize how much is at stake and act quickly to pass this legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this legislation.

HONORING VIRGINIA HOUSE
SPEAKER WILLIAM J. HOWELL
FOR RECEIVING THE
CARRINGTON WILLIAMS PRESER-
VATION AWARD

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Virginia House Speaker William J. Howell for receiving the Carrington Williams Preservation Award. The Carrington Williams Preservation Award is presented by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation to an individual whose accomplishments in furthering the cause of preservation have been noteworthy and will be long-lasting. This year, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation selected a Virginian of remarkable accomplishments for the Commonwealth and to the preservationist cause to receive this award.

The award is made in honor of Carrington Williams, whose dedication to preservation, especially Civil War battlefields, is well known. He served as chairman of the predecessor organization to the Civil War Preservation Trust, the Association for Preservation of Civil War Sites. He was chairman of the federal commission that wrote the management plan for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District, and he served as the founding chairman of this organization.