

GOOD SHEPHERD HOUSING FOUNDATION OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA, CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation. For the past two decades, the Foundation has provided low-cost housing to the homeless and those on the brink of homelessness in Prince William County.

The Foundation was created in 1989 out of the compassion and collective action of the Good Shepherd faith community. The founders identified a need within Prince William County for housing for the mentally ill. They worked with the Prince William County Community Services Board to establish the bedrock of a stable and lasting program. In its beginning, the Foundation provided housing for five single adults.

It has since grown substantially in both numbers of clientele and breadth of mission. Now in its twentieth year, the Foundation provides housing and supportive services for 25 single adults and 18 families in 11 homes owned by the Foundation. Assistance has been extended to those with chronic low income, mental and physical disabilities, AIDS/HIV, pregnant teens and the elderly. The organization is sustained by the efforts and donations of individuals, businesses and churches, and it receives assistance from local, State and Federal funding.

The Shepherd Homes Program offers group living and single adult housing options to mentally ill individuals. Shepherd Homes I, II and III are properties owned by the Foundation that function as group homes. Ten apartments leased by the Foundation offer the mentally ill, some who are veterans, relief from chronic homelessness. Beyond housing assistance, the Foundation offers services that put residents on a path to financial and psychological stability.

Since its inception, the Foundation expanded its mission to include low income families. The Affordable Family Housing Program is a holistic program aimed at providing housing and teaching families the importance of education and financial management. Families are given transitional, two-year or long-term, low-cost housing. Tutoring is available for the children and parents receive financial counseling. The Foundation works to end chronic homelessness by providing immediate relief and preventing future generations from falling into this dangerous condition.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing appreciation for the work the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation does in the Prince William community. The Foundation exists today as a robust and effective community organization dedicated to helping the disabled and less fortunate. I offer my unconditional support for its mission and commend its ability to help our fellow man.

CELEBRATION OF THE FESTIVAL OF DIWALI

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Festival of Diwali.

Over one billion individuals celebrate the cultural and religious holiday of Diwali each year. Diwali is one of the most joyous festivals celebrated on the South Asian subcontinent. The festival is celebrated in the Hindu, Sikh, and Jain traditions, and has cultural significance for South Asians. Within the United States there are over 2 million celebrating Diwali making it a significant holiday in our country.

Diwali literally means "The Festival of Lights," translated from Hindi. Celebrations of Diwali usually involve the lighting of lamps to symbolize hope and joy. I joined Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the White House yesterday, as President Obama lit a lamp in the White House in the observance of the festival, after signing an executive order restoring the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

In the Hindu faith Diwali is often linked to Rama's triumphant return following his victory over Ravana as told in the epic The Ramayana. Following Rama's victory his people lighted lamps along the capital city to celebrate as their King returned. The clay lamps which the people lit, were called Deepavalis which Diwali is a shortened version of. In many Hindu calendars Diwali corresponds with the start of a new year. Diwali is one of the most significant holidays within Hinduism.

In Jainism, Diwali marks the date upon which Lord Mahavira achieved the state of absolute bliss or Nirvana. It is said that King Chetaka, upon Lord Mahavira achieving Nirvana, light a multitude of lamps to create a material light to replace the light of intelligence that had been lost.

In the Sikh tradition, the foundation of the Golden Temple is said to have been laid on Diwali. In this tradition, the 6th Sikh guru Hargobind was released from prison on the festival of Diwali.

There is great diversity among the faiths that celebrate this joyful holiday. Across all these traditions, Diwali holds significance across the South-Asian community as a time of hope, happiness and the renewal of life. I am very proud to have been a co-sponsor of House Resolution 798, conveying the best wishes of the House of Representatives to those celebrating Diwali. The resolution recognizes the importance of Diwali and extends the House of Representatives' deepest respects to all those celebrating Diwali. I would like to join with all those celebrating this joyous time and wish Shubh Diwali to all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I was absent on Wednesday, Octo-

ber 14, 2009, due to a previously scheduled event. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" during the recorded votes for the following five bills:

1. H. Res. 768—Expressing support for the designation of the month of October as "National Work and Family Month";

2. H.R. 1327—Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009;

3. H. Res. 816—Mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that occurred on September 29, 2009, in American Samoa and Samoa;

4. H. Res. 786—Commemorating the canonization of Father Damien de Veuster, SS.CC., to sainthood; and

5. H.R. 3371—Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESTRELLA CLEMENT IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise today to honor Estrella Clement, who dedicates her life to help identify and treat women who have breast and cervical cancer.

Ms. Clement was born in Cuba, moved to New Jersey as a child and has been living in Tampa for 25 years. Ms. Clement always knew she wanted to be a nurse and help improve the health of her community. She obtained a master's degree in nursing from the University of South Florida and has been a nurse for more than 32 years. Ms. Clement works with Meditech Medical Center clinics where free mammogram tests, breast examination, and Pap smears are offered to women who might not be able to afford these services otherwise.

Tirelessly dedicated, Ms. Clement worries that women are unaware of the free screening and treatment options in her neighborhood. Transportation is a major obstacle for many low-income women. Ms. Clement's goal is to have a mobile unit so she can go directly to the community. Unfortunately, too few people know about the free service. Ms. Clement is making it her duty to reach as many women as possible.

Ms. Clement also has been a co-chair of Prime Time Sister Circles, a group that helps African-American women improve their health, and she has served on the Moffitt Cancer Center's Hispanic Advisory Council.

Madam Speaker, Estrella Clement is acutely aware of the toll, both financial and emotional, that breast and cervical cancer can have on women. She devotes her life to improving the health of the Tampa community. I applaud her dedication to the prevention and treatment of breast and cervical cancer.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF  
UNITED STATES-POLISH DIPLO-  
MATIC RELATIONS

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. LIPINSKI, for introducing this legislation commemorating the 90th anniversary of the establishment of U.S.-Polish Diplomatic Relations.

The Polish people and the people of the United States have a long history of friendship that dates back to the American war of independence when Polish patriot Casimir Pulaski volunteered to serve in the Continental Army and led his own cavalry regiment in fighting the British.

We have stood shoulder to shoulder during dark times in both our histories, and in more recent times, we rejoiced together as the iron curtain that had enshrouded Poland and Eastern Europe was cast aside.

And, in 1999, the United States and NATO welcomed Poland into our security partnership.

In 2008, America signed a cooperative security agreement with Poland to further our mutual security interests. This included the establishment of a missile defense system to protect both Europe and the United States from ballistic missile attacks from rogue states such as Iran.

This agreement was signed as a result of the strong courage of Poland's leaders who believed the United States government when it promised to help protect their homeland.

Ironically, on September 17, 2009—the 70th anniversary of the 1939 Soviet invasion of Poland—the Administration withdrew U.S. support for this mutual missile defense system in Europe. The Administration must now respond to find other ways that our cooperative partnership may be advanced.

As a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the author of the NATO First Act, I believe the United States must remain committed to working with the Polish people to sustain our mutual partnership.

I urge support of H. Res. 266.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF "MEETING  
OF THE PRESIDENTS"

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark a unique date in our history, the 100th Anniversary of the "Meeting of the Presidents". On October 16, 1909, U.S. President William Howard Taft and Mexican President Porfirio Diaz met in both El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico in an historic meeting that established the personal relationship between our two countries. The event marked the first in-person meeting between the Presidents of the United States and Mexico. In fact, prior to 1909, no sitting U.S. President had left our country to visit a foreign nation.

The sister cities of El Paso and Ciudad Juarez went to great lengths to ensure that

this meeting was unlike any other, by adorning memorial columns and welcome arches with the colors of the two nations—red, white, and blue, and red, white, and green. Principal thoroughfares were decorated, thousands of incandescent and arc lamps were lit, and it is said that the cities competed with each other to demonstrate their best hospitality to the visiting Presidents.

The Stone and Webster Public Service Journal of 1909 has a great account of the day's historic events. President Taft arrived in El Paso, on the morning of October 16, 1909 and was met by El Paso Mayor Joseph U. Sweeney. After breakfast, President Taft was taken to the Chamber of Commerce through streets lined with thousands of school children who proudly waved colorful flags and sang patriotic songs. Mexican President Porfirio Diaz traveled across the International Bridge and was met by Secretary of War J.M. Dickinson, Texas Governor Thomas Mitchell Campbell, and Mayor Sweeney who escorted President Diaz to his meeting with President Taft at the Chamber of Commerce.

After the meeting, President Taft journeyed across the border to visit Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Arriving at the border of the Chamizal zone, which was then disputed territory between the U.S. and Mexico, President Taft drove through the International Bridge and was saluted by the Mexican artillery with twenty-one guns. Upon arriving in Mexico, he entered the state carriage of President Diaz and was driven to the Custom House, which served as the temporary capital of the Mexican Republic. After a brief meeting, President Taft returned to El Paso, where he participated in a parade and addressed the cheering crowds. He ended the day by attending a reception in Ciudad Juarez where the two Presidents toasted each other and their respective countries.

This marked the first international trip of any sitting U.S. President and remains a rich part of the storied history of the great city of El Paso, which I represent. To this day, El Paso and Ciudad Juarez have maintained close ties. Culturally, socially, and economically intertwined, these sister cities are home to the largest international border community with a population of over 2 million people. Since that time, El Paso and Ciudad Juarez have hosted four joint meetings between the presidents of Mexico and the United States, more than any other border city.

On January 12, 2009, President-elect Obama continued this spirit of cooperation by meeting with President Felipe Calderon in his first face-to-face talks with a foreign head of state. This meeting fulfilled a tradition in effect since 1980 of U.S. Presidents talking with their Mexican counterparts before being sworn in, to underscore the special relationship between the two nations.

My good friend, Mexican Ambassador to the U.S. Arturo Sarukhan, reflecting on this special occasion said, "there is no more important bilateral relationship in the world today than the one between Mexico and the United States. . . . October 16th marks a date that should inspire us all to continue working to ensure that both Mexicans and Americans continue strengthening a partnership that must lead both countries toward greater development, security, prosperity and well-being for our two peoples."

Let us mark this occasion by committing ourselves to push forward to strengthen the

relationship between Mexico and the United States. I applaud the work of President Obama and President Calderon to foster a closer relationship with our southern neighbor. There is no better way to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the "Meeting of the Presidents" than by continuing the legacy of strong diplomatic ties with our friends from Mexico.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION CON-  
DEMNING THE ILLEGAL EXTRAC-  
TION OF MADAGASCAR'S NAT-  
URAL RESOURCES

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to condemn the illegal extraction of Madagascar's unique and invaluable natural resources. I am joined in this effort by DONALD PAYNE, Chair of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, and ENI FALOMAVAEGA, Chair of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment.

Madagascar hosts some of this planet's greatest diversity. Larger than California, this island nation hosts over 150,000 species found nowhere else. The people of Madagascar depend on these incredible and unique resources for survival. Yet, political turmoil is putting the honest livelihoods of many, as well as one of our planet's greatest treasures, in extreme peril.

Reports from Madagascar are dire and detail rampant illegal logging, mining, and resource degradation. This resolution condemns this ongoing tragedy and calls for the restoration of rule of law. It is my hope that calling attention to this issue will spur change.

REVEREND DR. FRANK JACKSON

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the wonderful life of Reverend Dr. Frank Jackson. His vibrant spirit, limitless compassion and selfless commitment to service will be missed by all who knew him. Through his ministry at Faith Presbyterian Church of Oakland, Reverend Jackson brought our community to a greater understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the life of the Church. He was an exemplary husband, father, pastor, community leader, teacher and friend. With his passing on September 11, 2009, we look to Reverend Jackson's legacy and the joy his work inspired.

After earning a bachelor's degree at San Francisco's Simpson College in 1972, Reverend Jackson pursued a Master of Divinity at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Reverend Jackson also became the first African-American clergy member to graduate from the Master of Nonprofit Administration program at University of San Francisco when he earned his third degree there in