

supply functions operate from temporary spaces across base, creating significant delays in troop/equipment mobilization. This negatively impacts the Wing's ability to demolish and relocate from other substandard facilities on base. When funded, the Logistics Readiness Center will provide command and control for all materials in-bound and out-bound, including freight processing, packing, crating, pallet buildup shop, and provide bulk and bin storage. The facility will also support secure storage, an armory, and have administrative areas.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of congressionally-directed projects in my district that have received funding in the Conference Report accompanying H.R. 3288, the FY2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act and provide an explanation of my support for them.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA IN UKRAINE

**HON. ROBERT WEXLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2009*

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of Voice of America's Ukrainian Service, which is on December 11, 2009.

As members of Congress know, Voice of America is the largest U.S. international broadcaster and plays a critically important role globally, broadcasting 1,500 hours a week of programming through various media forms spanning news, information, and educational and cultural topics, and reaching an audience of over 130 million people worldwide. Since 1942, Voice of America has filled a critical gap in regions of the world where freedom of the press is limited or does not exist.

Today, Voice of America facilitates the free-flow of information globally. It is particularly important in Ukraine, where Voice of America will be celebrating its 60 years of service.

Voice of America has been essential to advancing democratic freedoms through the free-flow of information and supporting the development of democratic institutions in Eastern Europe, including Ukraine. On the front lines of international broadcasting, VOA has provided a critical outlet for the dissemination of free, uncensored news and information throughout Ukraine in multiple languages and formats. Today close to five million Ukrainians access Voice of America's services each week. VOA's Ukrainian broadcasts have also provided valuable information to the Ukrainian people as they continue their political, economic, and democratic reform efforts and build a stronger civil society.

Today there are still many countries that do not enjoy freedom of the Press, which is an essential component of a functioning and successful democracy. Unconscionably there are governments that continue to deny their populations this basic liberty, creating conditions in which media and members of the press face censorship, intimidation, persecution, or far worse.

Voice of America is essential to American and international efforts to change the dynamics of press freedom and human rights. To that end, I want to praise VOA and its dedi-

cated staff that have worked diligently in Ukraine, and around the globe, to promote and facilitate the free and unfettered flow of information, opinions, and ideas.

Once again, I commend Voice of America on its 60 years of promoting freedom of information in Ukraine. I also want to congratulate VOA Ukrainian Service for its efforts and leadership in successfully fulfilling VOA's core mission to "promote freedom and democracy and to enhance understanding through multimedia communication of accurate, objective, balanced news, information, and other programming about America and the world to audiences overseas."

A TRIBUTE TO HERO K. TAMAKLOE

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hero K. Tamakloe who emigrated from Togo in 1988. Mr. Tamakloe has held many jobs in New York. He's worked as a cab driver, and interned with Woodhull Hospital after working on behalf of the Togo Embassy at the United Nations. Finally, after attending York College, majoring in economics, Mr. Tamakloe decided to apply for work as a teacher with the Department of Education.

Tamakloe was assigned to P.S. 95 Q in Hollis as a substitute teacher, where he worked for two years before taking over YMCA of Greater New York's "Virtual Y" program which serves over 300 students in an after school program. Currently, Mr. Tamakloe is a YMCA of Greater New York employee and is assigned to DYCD (Department of Youth & Community Development) at New York City Housing Authority Beacon Satellite at Bushwick-Hylan and Sumner Community centers in the North Brooklyn area.

Mr. Tamakloe is regarded as one of the strongest off-site YMCA after school Directors in New York City, a reputation complimented by the awards he received. Mr. Tamakloe credits the staff, parents, teachers, mentors and volunteers who helped him to keep the After School and Beacon Programs running smoothly.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the aptly named Hero K. Tamakloe.

IN PRAISE OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE MEETINGS HELD LAST WEEKEND IN NEW YORK CITY

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2009*

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues in the Congress to a successful meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue, TLD, in New York City from December 4-7, 2009. Chairwoman SHELLEY BERKLEY led a strong bipartisan delegation, which included Vice-Chairman CLIFF STEARNS, Vice-Chairman JIM

COSTA, GARY ACKERMAN, XAVIER BECERRA, DENNIS CARDOZA, JOHN DUNCAN, Jr., ELIOT ENGEL, VIRGINIA FOXX, BART GORDON, JAY INSLEE, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, RON KLEIN and LORETTA SANCHEZ. I wish to recognize these members for their thoughtful contributions to an informed and productive exchange of views with Members of the European Parliament.

The Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue serves as the formal response of the European Parliament and the U.S. Congress to the commitment in the New Transatlantic Agenda of 1995 to enhance legislative ties between the European Union and the United States. The TLD involves biannual meetings between American and European legislators in order to foster transatlantic discourse and exchange views on topics of mutual interest. Given the recent adoption of the Lisbon Treaty and the additional powers it provides to the European Parliament, it is even more important that legislators engage in this dialogue in order to seek joint solutions to the pressing issues facing citizens on both sides of the Atlantic.

Participants at the New York meeting held extensive discussions about the financial crisis and international trade. The debate was informed by presentations from the Obama administration, including Michael Froman, Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs, and Mark Sobel, Acting Assistant Secretary for International Affairs at Treasury. The TLD emphasized the need for a strong and coordinated transatlantic policy response, while reiterating the importance of the Transatlantic Economic Council, TEC, as a framework for cooperation.

Considerable attention was paid to foreign policy issues. TLD participants engaged in vigorous debate about the Middle East, hearing the administration's perspective from Jeffrey Feltman, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs. Other foreign policy debates focused on Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Iranian nuclear threat, relations with Russia, and the Balkans. These deliberations were further enhanced by the delegation's meetings on the final day of the TLD at the United Nations with Ambassador Susan Rice and Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs B. Lynn Pascoe.

In addition, the delegates talked about the challenge of climate change and energy security with Jon Wellinghoff, Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. They also discussed a range of civil liberties issues, including American travel regulations and President Obama's efforts to close Guantanamo.

In conclusion, I submit the joint statement that was agreed upon by American and European legislators at the 67th TLD meeting held in New York. This document emphasizes the importance of continued transatlantic dialogue and cooperation in jointly addressing current financial and foreign policy challenges

TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE, 67TH MEETING OF DELEGATIONS FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, JOINT STATEMENT

(By Shelley Berkley, Cliff Stearns, Jim Costa, Elmar Brok, Sarah Ludford, and Niki Tzavela)

We, the Members of the European Parliament and the United States House of Representatives, held our 67th Interparliamentary meeting (Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue) in New York City, from 4-7 December 2009.

Building on the joint statement issued following our last meeting in Prague on 18–20 April 2009, we reasserted the importance of regular dialogue on the pressing political, social and economic challenges that affect citizens on both sides of the Atlantic. We agreed to report back to our parent bodies on the content and outcome of our discussions in New York, with an emphasis on the areas where joint efforts are likely to produce positive outcomes.

The Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue appreciated the Lisbon treaty's entry into force, with its enhancement of the powers and competences of the European Parliament in areas such as International Trade and Justice and Home Affairs, as well as the appointment of an EU President and High Representative. We expressed our desire to continue building on the political momentum created by the election of new administrations in Europe and the United States in order to further strengthen the transatlantic relationship.

We called for continued collaboration between legislators in the U.S. Congress and the European Parliament on legislation and issues of common concern, formalising lines of communication and information-sharing between EU and U.S. legislators to promote compatible legislation reflecting transatlantic cooperation through the work of the committees, in full respect for each side's sovereignty.

We discussed a wide array of international political questions such as the situations in the Middle East, Afghanistan/Pakistan, the Balkans, Russia and Iran's nuclear programme.

We also examined a wide array of issues of common interest, including global concerns relating to Energy and Climate Change, Financial Services and International Trade. We examined how the United States and the European Union could best cooperate in matters of Civil Liberties and Justice and Home Affairs.

Our conclusions are as follows:

#### INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES

(a) Peace in the Middle East requires a durable ceasefire, an immediate and unconditional end to terrorist attacks on Israel, a functioning and effective government in the Palestinian Territories and the resumption of the obligations under the roadmap, including an end to incitement and a solution for the question of settlements. The goal is a secure Jewish state of Israel and a viable Palestinian state, living side by side.

(b) We held a strong debate exchanging a wide array of views between and within the delegations on the strategy for Afghanistan/Pakistan announced by President Obama on 1 December 2009, which provided a new impetus for renewed international commitment to confronting the ongoing challenges of security, terrorism, governance, corruption and socio-economic reconstruction. We look forward to the international conference on Afghanistan that will be held on 28 January 2010 under the auspices of the UN. The EU and the U.S. should enhance their cooperation and support, foster burden-sharing, work to improve the coordination and effectiveness of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), and seek to help build critical infrastructure across Afghanistan. Maintaining the stability and cooperation of Pakistan is equally important as well.

(c) On Iran, the dialogue noted the recent, troubling moves by the Iranian Government regarding its nuclear programme, affirmed that a nuclear armed Iran is unacceptable and expressed its concern about the human rights situation in the country. We urge the leaders on both sides of the Atlantic to develop a common policy and unite the inter-

national community to meet this threat, including strong sanctions, if it continues to fail to comply with its international obligations in the nuclear area.

(d) Relations with Russia should involve constructive cooperation on challenges and threats, including security matters, disarmament and non-proliferation, along with respect for democratic principles including human rights standards, and adherence to international law. The dialogue expressed concerns about Russia's continued failure to comply with the 2008 ceasefire agreements with Georgia negotiated by French President Sarkozy, as well as the potential for another energy dispute with Ukraine this winter. We also cited the need to enhance mutual trust between the transatlantic partners and Russia. We welcome the ongoing U.S.-Russia negotiations on arms reduction and look forward to Russia's membership in the WTO, once those negotiations are satisfactorily completed, with all its legal obligations.

(e) Challenges remain in our efforts to integrate the Western Balkans into a united Europe. Cooperation between the United States and the European Union remains the most effective way to encourage political and economic development in Kosovo as well as to facilitate constitutional reform in Bosnia, and ensure respect for the rule of law, including cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia, throughout the region.

#### ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

We agreed that the Copenhagen Conference is one of the biggest challenges for international cooperation. We welcomed the announcement of President Obama's personal involvement in the COP-15 Summit in Copenhagen.

We discussed the common goal to provide the necessary stimulus for sustainable economic growth, promoting green technologies and creating new jobs.

We discussed how the EU and the U.S. could work together to reach an international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by setting ambitious reduction targets for industrialised countries and identifiable actions by developing countries. We discussed cap-and-trade systems and the need to avoid incompatible emission trading systems to pave the way to a transatlantic, and ultimately a global carbon market. We noted the link between tackling climate change and addressing energy security and economic growth, recognizing that the fight against climate change could also be an opportunity to create new jobs and sustain economic growth.

We welcomed the creation of a new EU-U.S. Energy Council at the last EU-U.S. Summit in order to strengthen the dialogue on strategic energy issues of mutual interest, foster cooperation on energy policies and further improve research collaboration on sustainable and clean energy technologies. We look forward to the Energy Council deliberations feeding the TEC process and we consider this as another area where the TLD can develop further.

#### FINANCIAL CRISIS

We examined the consequences of the global economic and financial turmoil. We agreed that the crisis requires a strong and coordinated policy response by the U.S. and the EU. Recovery plans currently being adopted are critical in mitigating the effects of the crisis: approaches chosen should be compatible, strengthen financial supervision to ensure confidence in the system, avoid protectionist measures, and avoid distortions of competition in the transatlantic marketplace.

We discussed the role of international cooperation in financial regulation and super-

vision, including better crisis prevention and management, and agreed that the EU and U.S. should cooperate on the reform of international financial institutions.

We are pleased that the G-20 leaders have decided to give the emerging countries, within the International Monetary Fund, a position commensurate with their weight in today's global economy so as to ensure support for the developing world and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

#### CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

We welcomed the "Washington Declaration" on 28 October 2009 on enhancing transatlantic cooperation in the area of Justice, Freedom and Security within a context of respect for human rights and civil liberties. We expressed the hope that it will provide a framework to replace the ad hoc approach of the last decade on data collection and sharing arrangements (PNR, SWIFT, MoUs linked to visa waiver, etc.) with a more strategic approach of law enforcement and judicial cooperation through the Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition Agreements and through developing an agreement on data protection.

We discussed President Obama's desire to close the Guantanamo detention facility within a year, taking note of the offer by several European countries to accept Guantanamo inmates and encouraging the U.S. and the EU to continue seeking joint solutions to combat terrorism.

The dialogue also discussed the EU-U.S. negotiations to extend the Visa Waiver Programme to the remaining EU member states. We hope that the U.S. visa waiver programme will be extended to all EU citizens as soon as possible, when the criteria have been met. An exchange of views took place on the recent adoption of the U.S. Travel Promotion Act.

In light of the concerns about the Safe Port Act raised by port operators and the trade community, in particular with respect to the cost/benefit ratio of the scanning requirement's possible negative effects on competitiveness and on transatlantic trade flows, we were of the view that the U.S. Administration should re-examine this legislation.

#### INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND WTO NEGOTIATIONS

We agreed that trade is as central to the EU-U.S. relationship as it is to world recovery. We call upon the European Commission and the United States to redouble their efforts to bring the Doha Round of world trade talks to a successful conclusion.

We believe that international trade can make a contribution to the restoration of world economic growth and that work to integrate and harmonise EU and U.S. trade practices will lead to a global improvement in living standards and will help secure quality jobs in both the European Union and in the United States.

We believe that participation by Congress and the European Parliament in the Parliamentary Conference of the WTO and in its Steering Committee would enhance cooperation at a global level. We, therefore, call on the leadership of both bodies to take appropriate steps in order to allow us to collaborate in this context.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

We reiterated our commitment to the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), stressing its utility as a framework to achieve a barrier-free market and for macro-economic cooperation between both partners. We welcomed the results of the meeting held on 27 October, particularly the extended dialogue between the Administrations with legislators that identified past challenges

and future opportunities. We discussed progress made over the past year in promoting transatlantic economic integration, including investment, accounting standards, regulatory issues, the safety of imported products, and the enforcement of intellectual property rights.

As we told our Administrations during the recent TEC meeting, transatlantic economic cooperation must be more accountable and transparent. In order to help achieve this objective, the schedules of TEC meetings, agendas, roadmaps and progress reports should be agreed upon between the core stakeholders as early as possible and then made public. Such measures are crucial to developing a clear and transparent process for setting the agenda of the TEC, extending the TEC to new sectors, and establishing a roadmap. We continued to encourage the EU and U.S. executive branches to facilitate more active participation by members of the U.S. Congress and the European Parliament in the TEC process, in particular via the TLD, especially for a pre-legislative dialogue between the respective committees of Congress and the European Parliament. TLD members should be full partners in the Transatlantic Economic and Energy Councils.

We note that on the European side, responsibility for coordinating the TEC will pass from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry to its Directorate-General for Trade. We believe that this can provide a new impetus toward removing barriers to trade and investment and on fostering competitiveness in the transatlantic market.

#### STRENGTHENING THE TLD

We agreed that a working group should come up as soon as possible with a list of concrete proposals for the further work of the TLD. We noted the recent document written by the Atlantic Council of the United States along with several other policy think tanks, entitled "Shoulder to Shoulder: Forging a Strategic U.S.-EU Partnership." We supported several of the recommendations in the document and will use them as a starting point. For example:

U.S. Members of the TLD should be drawn from both House and Senate. U.S. House members should be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

The U.S. Congress should open an office in Brussels. The office would service the TLD and monitor legislation affecting U.S. interests. We noted the European Parliament is opening an office in Washington in January 2010.

The TLD should convene a joint consultative committee on the extraterritorial implications of domestic legislation; and focus regular exchanges on upstream regulatory legislation.

The TLD should hold joint hearings and conduct joint study tours to areas of common concern, for instance to the Middle East.

The U.S. Congress and the European Parliament should ensure regular contacts between appropriate staff, not simply in foreign affairs-related work but across the board in key areas of mutual engagement.

The TLD should spearhead a new generation of internships in Congressional and European Parliament offices. Each Congressional office should offer to host one intern from the EU; each European Parliament office should offer to host one intern from the United States.

In conclusion, we reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening the transatlantic relationship and working in partnership to solve common challenges. We pledged to continue improving the effectiveness of our dialogue in order to realize the full potential of

our invaluable interparliamentary relationship, as well as to ensure the relevance of the TLD's work to the European Parliament and the United States Congress.

### RECOGNIZING BETTY SALTER FOR RECEIVING THE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Betty Salter upon being awarded the Habitat for Humanity International Lifetime Achievement Award. Betty has dedicated her life to serving others, and I am proud to honor her service and commitment to the community.

Betty Salter is one of the founders of the Pensacola Habitat for Humanity and has served on the Board of Directors for 28 years. In the early years of the Pensacola affiliate, Betty served as chairman of the Family Selection Committee. In the late 1980's, when the affiliate could not afford to hire a director, she answered the call and volunteered as the Executive Director of Pensacola Habitat. Twenty years later, Betty remains the volunteer Executive Director. She and her husband James, also a volunteer, work six days a week building houses for low income families.

When Betty took over as Executive Director, the Pensacola Habitat for Humanity had built a total of four homes. Five years later, under Betty's leadership, house production jumped to twenty per year. Today, the affiliate builds between 55 and 60 homes each year. Betty's enthusiasm, energy, and generosity have motivated thousands of volunteers in our community to donate their time and their money in support of Habitat for Humanity. In 2004 and 2005, Betty helped lead the Pensacola affiliate through Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis, making sure projects continued as scheduled.

In addition to her service with Habitat for Humanity, Betty has been dedicated to all forms of housing assistance over the years. She served on the Board of Directors for Methodist Homes of Alabama and West Florida. She also served on the Board of the Children's Services Center for over twenty years. Betty has been awarded numerous honors over the years from many charity organizations. This year, Habitat for Humanity chose Betty as one of only four volunteers to award the first Habitat for Humanity International Lifetime Achievement Award.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Betty Salter for her service to the people of Northwest Florida. She is a dedicated community servant who has sacrificed so much for others in need. My wife Vicki and I wish all the best for continued success to Betty and her husband James, children Gail and Jane, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire extended family.

### TRIBUTE TO LOVELY HILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

#### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2009*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Lovely Hill Baptist Association in recognition and celebration of its rich history and tremendous impact in South Carolina. On December 12, 2009 this 108-year-old organization will celebrate Founders' Day for the very first time.

This organization held its first meeting in 1901 at Lovely Hill Baptist Church in Smoaks, South Carolina. Three years later, they were chartered under the name of Lovely Hill Baptist Educational Congress to reflect their mission to provide for the education of African American youth who weren't allowed to attend public schools. In 1918 the group purchased more than 34 acres to build the first school for black children in the St. George area. Once public schools were integrated, the land was used for the county fair.

In 1932, the organization's mission had grown, and to broaden its scope, officially became known as the Lovely Hill Baptist Association. Sixty years later, Lovely Hill Baptist Association was incorporated, and today, 22 churches are members. In 1999, the association broke ground for the construction of a new conference center on the site of the original school. Construction was completed in 2005, and today the facility provides a much needed center for community activities in St. George and surrounding areas.

The association has several auxiliaries including the Sunday School Congress of Christian Education, the Lovely Hill Women's Auxiliary/Young Women's Auxiliary, the Ushers' Convention, the Brotherhood Convention, and the Youth Convention.

Over the years, a number of moderators have served the Association faithfully—Reverends Cogger H. Haygood, J.M. Marshall, S.D. Rickenbacker, and T.E. Sanders. The current moderator of the Association is my good friend, Reverend Dr. S.B. Marshall, who is ably assisted by the 1st vice-moderator, Reverend McKinley Ravenel, and 2nd vice-moderator, Reverend Floyd Wright.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in recognizing this organization that has contributed so much to the faith community in South Carolina. For more than a century, the Lovely Hill Baptist Association has provided excellent spiritual leadership and Christian education to the citizens of my congressional district. I applaud their rich history and significant contributions to countless numbers of my constituents. And I congratulate them on their inaugural Founders' Day and wish them Godspeed!

### TRIBUTE TO DR. A. ZACHARY YAMBA

#### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2009*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the United States