

yesterday's Washington Post highlighting Secretary of State Clinton's disappointing start on human rights. In referencing some of her recent comments, the editorial rightly notes, "Ms. Clinton is doing a disservice to her own department—and sending a message to rulers around the world that their abuses won't be taken seriously by this U.S. administration." Secretary Clinton is sending the wrong message on human rights.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 10, 2009]
SOME FRIENDS

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton continues to devalue and undermine the U.S. diplomatic tradition of human rights advocacy. On her first foreign trip, to Asia, she was dismissive about raising human rights concerns with China's communist government, saying "those issues can't interfere" with economic, security or environmental matters. In last week's visit to the Middle East and Europe, she undercut the State Department's own reporting regarding two problematic American allies: Egypt and Turkey.

According to State's latest report on Egypt, issued Feb. 25, "the government's respect for human rights remained poor" during 2008 "and serious abuses continued in many areas." It cited torture by security forces and a decline in freedom of the press, association and religion. Ms. Clinton was asked about those conclusions during an interview she gave to the al-Arabiya satellite network in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. Her reply contained no expression of concern about the deteriorating situation. "We issue these reports on every country," she said. "We hope that it will be taken in the spirit in which it is offered, that we all have room for improvement."

Ms. Clinton was then asked whether there would be any connection between the report and a prospective invitation to President Hosni Mubarak to visit Washington. "It is not in any way connected," she replied, adding: "I really consider President and Mrs. Mubarak to be friends of my family. So I hope to see him often here in Egypt and in the United States." Ms. Clinton's words will be treasured by al-Qaeda recruiters and anti-American propagandists throughout the Middle East. She appears oblivious to how offensive such statements are to the millions of Egyptians who loathe Mr. Mubarak's oppressive government and blame the United States for propping it up.

The new secretary of state delivered a similar shock in Turkey to liberal supporters of press freedom, now under siege by the government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. According to the State Department report, "senior government officials, including Prime Minister Erdogan, made statements during the year strongly criticizing the press and media business figures, particularly following the publishing of reports on alleged corruption . . . connected to the ruling party." That was an understatement: In fact, Mr. Erdogan's government has mounted an ugly campaign against one of Turkey's largest media conglomerates, presenting it with a \$500 million tax bill in a maneuver that has been compared to Russia's treatment of independent media.

Ms. Clinton was asked by a Turkish journalist what she told Mr. Erdogan when he complained about the State Department report. She answered: "Well, my reaction was that we put out this report every year, and I fully understand . . . no politician ever likes the press criticizing them." "Overall," she concluded, "we think that Turkey has made tremendous progress in freedom of speech and freedom of religion and human rights, and we're proud of that."

In fact, as the State Department has documented, Turkey is retreating on freedom of speech. In Egypt, the human rights situation also is getting worse rather than better. By minimizing those facts, Ms. Clinton is doing a disservice to her own department—and sending a message to rulers around the world that their abuses won't be taken seriously by this U.S. administration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 115, I was on the floor and voting, but due to mechanical error, my vote was not recorded. I would have voted "yes."

MARY ELLEN ROZZELL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Ellen Rozzell, former President of the National Association of Professional Surplus Lines Offices (NAPSLO), who passed away unexpectedly on March 3, 2009, while attending a NAPSLO conference in Palm Springs, California.

Mary Ellen was a respected, beloved leader. The President of Continental/Marmorstein & Malone Insurance Agency in Paramus, New Jersey, she began working in the insurance business with the Marmorstein Agency some forty years ago. Mary Ellen served as President of New Jersey Surplus Lines Association (NJSLA) from 1989–1990, and was named as NJSLA honoree of the year in 1992 due to her outstanding contribution to the New Jersey Surplus Lines Industry. She also served on the New Jersey Insurance Commissioner's Producer Advisory Council, and with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Her warmth, openness, honesty and good nature made everyone who met her feel immediately comfortable. These qualities served her very well in life, with family and friends, and in her remarkable career where she rose through the ranks with hard work and honesty. She was always prepared for the trials of life and business and the often difficult decisions required by both. She embraced responsibility, expected accountability and never failed those who depended on her.

All who knew her benefited by her example.

Her family has established the Mary Ellen Rozzell Foundation for AVM Research so that friends and colleagues might contribute to arteriovenous malformation research in Mary Ellen's name.

I extend my sympathy to her family and those close to her. She will be missed greatly by everyone she touched.

TRIBUTE TO LLOYD SMITH

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and thank my Chief of Staff, Lloyd Smith, for 28 years of service to the Emerson family and to the Eighth Congressional District. Since 1981, Lloyd has served the people of Southern Missouri and the institution of Congress. In the political landscape of our state, he is a fixture. His name is inseparable from the term of service first of my late husband Bill Emerson in Congress from 1981 to 1996 and then, from 1996 until now.

Lloyd has left the ranks of my staff from time to time in order to give others the benefit of his policy experience and political know-how. Those lucky to enlist him have never been the worse for it.

To my staff, Lloyd is their leader. He inspires them, rallies them, guides them and motivates them. He brings out the best in them, and though he shares in all of their successes he freely gives them all of the credit.

Though he is important to many people for many reasons, to me Lloyd is also a great and dear friend. I have long valued Lloyd's strategic mind, his intellect and his insight—which truly drive our congressional office. Lloyd thinks in terms of big ideas, but he never neglects the details. This combination of brave creativity and studious diligence is rare, and the easy smile and gentle charm of this man from East Prairie, Missouri, belies the depth of his dedication to the office.

And in thanking Lloyd for his years of service, I must also express my deepest gratitude to his wonderful wife, Marlys, and his three amazing children, Trista, Sam and Tiffany. They have made sacrifices, too, so their husband and father could work the long, stressful hours this job demands. They also share the credit for Lloyd's ability to stay positive and optimistic, week after week, year after year, decade after decade.

As he moves on to new challenges, I wish Lloyd the very best of luck. I cannot quantify the immense debt owed to him by Missouri's Eighth Congressional District, by this nation, and by me for his faithful service. I commend him to the U.S. House of Representatives today, and I thank him for his friendship always.

COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SOMERSET COUNTY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month, and I would like to congratulate a number of outstanding women who will be recognized at the Somerset County's Commission on the Status of Women awards in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The Commission presents awards annually in celebration of National Women's History Month in March. This year there are 17

women being honored, including entrepreneurs, educators and hometown heroes whose community service is considered extraordinary.

This year's Social Services Award winner is Barbara Schlichting of Stockton. She has worked for Somerset Treatment Services in Somerville for 32 years, first as a counselor, then as a supervisor, and now as executive director.

Barbara has worked with countless staff and clients to provide quality and meaningful services in the field of drug and alcohol counseling and psychiatric services.

She works tirelessly to secure grants for those with tremendous hardships and runs a successful agency that provides sometimes-difficult-to-find services. The agency's many counselors over the years also have benefited from Barbara's knowledge and dedication.

I am pleased to congratulate Barbara Schlichting for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

HONORING THE SAINT JOSEPH COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County in celebration of its 100th anniversary.

The founding fathers of the Chamber of Commerce realized that as a business community their collective actions would have a much greater impact than those actions taken individually. In order to make their community stronger, both locally and nationally, they would need the business community engaged in all areas of commerce.

Today, the Chamber is immersed in all areas of business, education, and legislative affairs, and it continues to deeply involve itself in the community at large. This is critical to Saint Joseph County residents today, since cities across the land are facing profound issues such as unemployment, budget cuts, and an increase in school drop-out rates.

As a response to these challenges, the Chambers of Commerce across the country have taken on far more active roles within their communities. While still involved in the important networking events that encourage collaboration between the current and future generations of business professionals, the Chamber's role has become far more participatory in the critical issues facing our community. To this effect, the Chamber is partnering with the South Bend Community School Corporation and government officials, as well as with business and community leaders, to lead the school system in a new, dynamic direction.

Two years ago, The Chamber formed the Business Growth Initiative, which proactively addresses and resolves key issues that will help businesses grow and expand in the city of South Bend. Also, the chamber recognized the need to retain and attract young professionals in our community. The Young Profes-

sionals Network (YPN) was created to help address key issues for young professionals living in and relocating to the area.

Many programs have been initiated and conducted with the Chamber taking the lead role, such as the Manufacturing Summit, which addressed the issue of education and the development of a workforce that is technologically advanced; Green Community initiatives, an entrepreneurial forum; and the South Bend/Mishawaka Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Whether it is an issue of advanced business, community, or education, the Chamber is prepared to make a difference now and for the next 100 years. They continue to advance their community and help its citizens make a difference by allowing their voices to be heard. Consequently, I salute the Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County on its 100th anniversary and wish them continued success.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SILVER SPRINGS-MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Silver Springs-Martin Luther School on its 150th Anniversary and to recognize the tremendous dedication of staff, administrators, Board of Trustees and supporters of this outstanding facility.

Founded in 1859 in Philadelphia with just one dollar and gritty determination to serve orphaned children, the 36-acre campus in Plymouth Meeting, Montgomery County provides a home, treatment, education and a variety of services to very special, traumatized children and their families.

The extremely dedicated and talented staff at Silver Springs-Martin Luther School, combined with the excellent foster family care, special education school and family resource services, help so many wonderful children overcome the steep challenges they face in their early years.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Silver Springs-Martin Luther School for reaching this extraordinary milestone and in commending the exemplary efforts of the staff, administrators, Board of Trustees and supporters in providing a nurturing and healing environment so that children facing long odds can achieve their full potential.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR MIKE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a dear friend and one of Connecticut's most dynamic and charismatic leaders. He was known universally as Mayor Mike. A great light left us when Michael J. Peters passed away on January 4, 2009. His engaging personality, his great sense of humor and his devotion to his

city, his friends and his family, will forever endure.

I was fortunate to know him and to be a direct beneficiary of his friendship and loyalty. I was equally honored to be at his funeral surrounded by friends, family and dignitaries, but it was through the remarks of his sister Geraldine and his son Chris that the essence of this great and beloved man was captured. Madam Speaker, I submit to the record of this great Nation these eulogies of Mayor Mike Peters of Hartford, Connecticut, a great American and a great example of devotion and service above self, done with a smile.

EULOGY GIVEN BY CHRIS PETERS

Good morning. I would first like to say on behalf of my mother, my brother, my sister and my entire extended family thank you so much for such a genuine and unbelievable outpour of support over the last several weeks. Your prayers and well wishes helped us all get through this difficult time.

My father was an example to us children of what hard work is and what it takes to raise a family. For most of our childhood my dad worked two jobs to support our family and to give us a roof over our heads. His main and most notable career was as a firefighter but with the schedule being as it was for a firefighter he had days off that allowed him to bring in additional income. One such job was delivering oil for John McCarthy Oil. Although it was against the oil company's policy, my father would often bring me on deliveries with him and he would let me hold the nozzle as we filled the tanks at people's homes. I remember once the tank had overflowed and I was sprayed from head to toe with fuel . . . that was the end of that. I think he realized at that point why there was such a policy but because he worked so often, any chance he had to hang out with us he took advantage, even if it meant bringing me to work and dousing me in a highly flammable liquid.

Having a firefighter as a father was such a cool thing as a kid. It's most kids' dream to be a firefighter when they grow up and having him work at Engine 15 right up the street from where we grew up; I was able to show off all the time. Bring my friends into the firehouse and look at the trucks and watch him slide down the pole. He gave us so much to be proud of way before he ever became the Mayor.

He was an umpire for our little league in the south end (he had a very tight strike zone by the way) and was instrumental in organizing fund raisers for the league and helped shape my love for baseball by making sure my brother David and I were Yankee fans at a very early age. I've been told (mostly by him) that he was quite the ball player when he was younger. I think he was proud of my 4 year career in the McGinley Craffa little league and he was happy to get 4 more years out of David, who by the way, was much better than I. Watching a Yankee game with him on a warm summer night, windows open and a warm summer breeze blowing in, is something my brother and I will sorely miss.

His bond with my sister Michelle was something very special between a daughter and her father. In High School, Michelle did what a lot of young teenage girls do; she gave our father a lot of grey hairs. Although we joke about the trouble Michelle got into, truth is she wasn't all that bad. Now that I look back on it, it was more the concern my father had for her and the love he felt for his only daughter. Those years of rebellion helped shape a very special bond between the two of them. My father's love and commitment to making sure he showed her the way