

CONGRATULATING SISTER ADRIAN BARRETT FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED AND EXTENDING TO HER BEST WISHES FOR A WELL DESERVED RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Sister Adrian Barrett, IHM, an extraordinary woman whose capacity for caring for the poor is exceeded only by her selflessness and humility.

Sister Adrian's remarkable career of service began in 1949 when she became a sister of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

After her early years teaching at schools in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New York and working summers in Scranton ministering to poor children, Sister Adrian and an old acquaintance, Monsignor Joseph P. Kelly, created Project Hope, a summer camp for underprivileged youths, first at Pius X Seminary at Dalton and later at Camp St. Andrew in Tunkhannock.

Sister Adrian returned to Scranton permanently in 1976 to work full time with low income families at United Neighborhood Center's Progressive Center. She developed an annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the needy of the community, at first with 24 guests, now with more than 2,000.

In 1985, she established Friends of the Poor with the stated objective of bringing together "those who can give with those who have a need to receive."

Over the years, Sister Adrian has become a hero in the Scranton area, providing food, clothing, furniture and healthcare education and assistance to those in need and sponsoring an annual educational trip to Washington, DC, for underprivileged children.

Mrs. Mary Lou Burne, one who has worked with and knows Sister Adrian well, observed recently that "She's the heart of the poor in Scranton. She feels what they feel. She cries when they cry."

Retired local banking executive David Tressler, who has done volunteer work with Sister Adrian for more than 25 years, said she inspires with her unflagging, round-the-clock commitment to the poor and is not bashful about asking those with means to assist those without.

"She is a unique individual," Mr. Tressler said. "She has time for anybody and everybody."

Now, as she approaches the age of 80, she has decided it is time to retire and hand her incredible work to a successor, Sister Maryalice Jacquinet, IHM.

Sister Adrian once observed that the highest compliment anyone could pay her is to acknowledge that she tried to love and serve the poor and, in so doing, loved and served God.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Sister Adrian Barrett who truly has loved and served the poor and, in so doing, has improved the quality of life for countless souls and has inspired all of us to a heightened awareness of our calling to help our fellow man.

IN HONOR OF THE SOUTH COBB HIGH SCHOOL BLUE EAGLE MARCHING BAND

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor members of the South Cobb High School Blue Eagle Marching Band. Under the direction of Band Director Zachary Cogdill and with the support of Principal Dr. Grant Rivera, the faculty and students at South Cobb High School, these students were chosen to represent the great State of Georgia during the 56th Presidential Inaugural Parade next Tuesday. I am immensely proud of their dedication and diligent preparation for this occasion, as President-Elect Barack Obama is sworn in as the 44th President. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit for the record a copy of the official letter I submitted to the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee recommending South Cobb High School for participation in the parade:

To Members of the Committee:

I would like to recommend the South Cobb High School Blue Eagle Marching Band for participation in the 2009 Presidential Inaugural Parade.

South Cobb's marching band continues a long tradition of exemplary musical groups at the school. Under the outstanding leadership of Mr. Zachary Cogdill, the marching band program has increased to 60 students. This year, the Blue Eagle Marching Band has won 11 trophies at two competitions, including Best in Class and Grand Champion in Class.

This band also features a young man who suffers from leukodystrophy—a rare, progressive genetic disorder that affects the nervous system. Although he cannot march, he walks in front of the band and plays a single drum-beat throughout the band's entire performance. His special role is the basis for the band's theme—"Heartbeat."

Lastly, most students have never been to Washington, DC and this would be an excellent for them to visit our Nation's Capital. I look forward to meeting members of the marching band should they be selected for your events. I know they certainly have earned the opportunity to perform, and hope you will feel the same.

Again, I encourage you to grant the South Cobb High School Blue Eagle Marching Band the opportunity to perform in January. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVID SCOTT

Member of Congress

This fall, the Blue Eagle Marching Band won 11 trophies at two competitions, including Best in Class and Grand Champion in Class. They also performed at the Georgia Dome in Downtown Atlanta. With the support of the Atlanta community, the high school was able to raise \$70,000 in five days for their trip. I am thankful for the generosity of my hometown and each individual who supported our students, financially and otherwise.

On Friday night, the Blue Eagle Marching Band will depart Austell, Georgia for Washington, DC. For many, this will be a first visit to our Nation's Capital. I wish them a safe journey and congratulations on this out-

standing achievement. I am honored to represent such talented constituents.

TRANS-ATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE HOLDS 65TH MEETING UNDER LEADERSHIP OF THE HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 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, that was held in Miami, FL from December 6–8, 2008. Chairwoman SHELLEY BERKLEY, the gentlelady from Nevada, has consistently provided dynamic and capable guidance to this important interparliamentary exchange. The TLD vice-chairmen, Representative JIM COSTA from California and Representative CLIFF STEARNS from Florida, should be commended for their leadership in helping to strengthen American relationships with our European colleagues. I also wish to thank the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for being a gracious hostess of this meeting in her sunny district and ably assisting the delegation.

Representatives BERKLEY, COSTA and STEARNS were joined by six other members at the Miami session. This bipartisan delegation—which also included Representative SHEILA JACKSON-LEE (D–TX), Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ (D–CA), Representative SUSAN DAVIS (D–CA), Representative PHIL GINGREY (R–GA), Representative VIRGINIA FOXX (R–NC), and Representative RON KLEIN (D–FL)—ensured an informed and productive exchange of views with members of the European Parliament.

The TLD serves as the formal response of the European Parliament and the U.S. Congress to the commitment in the New Transatlantic Agenda, NTA, of 1995 to enhance legislative ties between the European Union and the United States. Building on the existing interparliamentary relationship, the TLD involves bi-annual meetings between American and European legislators in order to discuss topics of mutual interest and foster transatlantic discourse.

During this time of transition in the United States Government, it is particularly important that legislators continue to collaborate on the many important issues facing citizens on both sides of the Atlantic. The TLD discussions in Miami addressed a wide range of foreign policy challenges, focusing on the recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai as well as international efforts to address the ongoing challenges in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Members also discussed the current status of diplomatic initiatives regarding the Iranian nuclear threat and the repercussions of the Georgia-Russia conflict. American members responded to European concerns about data protection and the complexity of application procedures as part of the visa waiver program. During the discussion of regulatory initiatives being undertaken by the Transatlantic Economic Council, TEC, American members encouraged their European counterparts to address the EU ban on

the import of American poultry as well as discriminatory regulations on chemicals used to manufacture cosmetics—both of which have detrimental effects on American farmers and producers. In addition, the delegates discussed the challenge of climate change, the importance of energy security, and joint efforts needed to address the global financial crisis.

Madam Speaker, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the joint statement that was agreed upon by American and European legislators at the 65th TLD meeting in Miami. This document demonstrates the depth and breadth of the interparliamentary discussions while also highlighting the scope of excellent transatlantic cooperation.

JOINT STATEMENT OF JONATHAN EVANS, MEP, CHAIRMAN, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION; SHELLEY BERKLEY, CHAIRWOMAN, UNITED STATES CONGRESS DELEGATION; CLIFF STEARNS, VICE CHAIRMAN (RANKING REPUBLICAN), UNITED STATES CONGRESS DELEGATION; AND JIM COSTA, VICE CHAIRMAN, UNITED STATES CONGRESS DELEGATION AT THE 65TH MEETING OF DELEGATIONS FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, DECEMBER 2008

We, Members of the European Parliament and the United States House of Representatives, held our 65th Interparliamentary meeting (Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue) in Miami, Florida on 6-8 December 2008.

Building on the joint statement issued after our last meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 24-26 May 2008, we reiterated the importance of regular dialogue on a range of political, social and economic issues that affect all of our citizens. We welcomed the new U.S. administration and look forward to the election of a new European Parliament and European Commission next summer. We discussed ways in which to utilize this time of political change on both sides of the Atlantic to further enhance our transatlantic relations and deepen our cooperation. We confirmed that legislators on both sides of the Atlantic should increase dialogue and consultation amongst themselves in order to prevent possible conflicts in the legislative and regulatory regimes. In particular, direct and timely contacts between specialist committees within our legislatures have been valuable means of reinforcing cooperation and should be continued. We agreed to report back to the European Parliament and U.S. Congress on the content and outcome of our discussions, particularly in the areas where joint efforts are likely to result in positive outcomes.

We examined a wide array of foreign policy issues, agreeing that joint action by the European Union and the United States is the most effective way to approach many pressing international challenges. We welcomed the results of the EU-U.S. summit in Brdo, Slovenia in June 2008 and stressed the importance of the principles contained in the final declaration. In particular, we agreed that both sides should continue to demonstrate global leadership and effective transatlantic cooperation in the face of challenges such as:

Promoting international peace, stability, democracy, human rights, international criminal justice, sustainable development, the rule of law and good governance; and

Fighting terrorism while protecting the fundamental freedoms on which our democratic societies are built.

We discussed the recent terrorist attack in Mumbai, India, expressing our condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and condemning the attacks. We called on the governments of India and Pakistan to cooperate in reducing tensions in the region,

called on the government of Pakistan to participate fully in the investigation, and asked the U.S. and EU to assist in these efforts.

On Afghanistan, we recognized the need for a joint long-term strategy aimed at stabilizing the internal situation and reducing risks for regional security. We welcomed the EU's decision to expand its EUPOL police training mission from 250 to 400 personnel.

On Iran, we assessed the continuing nuclear threat. We pledged to continue our cooperative efforts to confront this challenge with a unified voice, using the dual track of diplomacy and strong sanctions. We called on transatlantic partners to continue to press Iran to comply with its UN Security Council obligations and, if needed, to move forward with additional sanctions to complement UN measures.

We assessed the August conflict between Russia and Georgia. While recognizing the importance of continuing to engage in dialogue with Russia about shared concerns, we emphasized that we cannot return to 'business as usual' while Russia continues to violate the ceasefire agreement. We stressed that Russia must implement its commitments on withdrawal of its military to pre-conflict positions and allow access by international civilian monitors to all areas in South Ossetia. We reaffirmed our continuing support for the Georgian people and our commitment to aid the country's post-conflict reconstruction. We also expressed concern about the ongoing developments in Russia's domestic and foreign policies, including provocative statements regarding missile deployment to Kaliningrad as well as about the reliability of energy deliveries to Russia's European neighbors and partners.

The TLD welcomed the recent admission of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia to the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. We expressed our hope that the remaining EU Member States will be eligible to join soon and that the U.S. State Department will review its administrative procedures to determine whether the visa application process can be simplified. We also discussed the importance of ensuring safe trade as well as joint efforts to combat terrorism and transnational crime. We called for the timely sharing of information among our law enforcement and intelligence agencies, emphasizing the importance of protecting individual privacy and personal data.

We stressed the positive impact and symbolic importance that would result from an early visit and address to the European Parliament by U.S. President-elect Barack Obama.

We agreed on the need for continued discussion of possible joint actions to address the effects of climate change. We also called for increasing attention to the need for energy security through the diversification of energy sources. We discussed the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, scheduled for the end of 2009, and expressed hope that a viable and effective global agreement will be reached.

Our dialogue focused on the financial crisis, particularly the ways in which it has affected the housing market, banking sector, employment and industries in Europe and the United States. We expressed support for continued cooperation between our governments in seeking to find collaborative solutions to these problems, including through the recent G-20 gathering and follow-up meetings. We took stock of the initiatives dealing with global financial instability, such as the European Economic Recovery Plan and the U.S.'s Emergency Stabilization Act of 2008.

With regard to the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), we noted with satisfaction the engagement of the TLD on 13 May 2008

with TEC Co-Chairs Gunther Verheugen and Dan Price in the framework of the advisory groups. We welcome the TEC as a permanent feature of the EU/U.S. relations. We look forward to engaging with the TEC at the next meeting on December 12, which will have particular importance as the last session before the change in administrations. We called on the incoming Obama Administration to take careful note of the TEC outcomes and to pledge its commitment to continuing to engage with the European Union through this important mechanism.

We welcomed the progress that has been achieved since the TEC's last meeting. We strongly supported the agreement to recognize each others' accounting standards (U.S. GAAP and EU IFRS), which will save multinational companies on both sides of the Atlantic billions of dollars in compliance costs. We applauded the joint statement committing to openness in foreign investment, greater cooperation on the enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPR), and efforts to harmonize biofuels standards. We advocated stronger involvement of legislators in contributing to and overseeing these initiatives since many of these issues involve important interests for stakeholders, such as securities regulatory regimes and the creation of a level playing field for insurance/reinsurance. A wide range of issues are also under consideration in the High Level Regulatory Forum (HLRF) and legislators should be informed in a timely manner about the results of their activities.

Several items have been identified within the TEC agenda that still require legislative consideration:

While achieving reciprocity and mutual recognition of security standards remains critically important, we continued to raise concerns about the U.S. Safe Ports Act and its 100 percent cargo scanning requirement;

We reiterated the need to facilitate a solution to the ban on imports into the EU of U.S. poultry which has undergone pathogen reduction treatment, consistent with international commitments; and

Regarding the EU's regulation on the registration of chemicals (REACH), we continued to call on the European Commission to bring forward legislation ensuring that European and U.S. producers of cosmetics are treated equitably in their requirement to register substances used in their products with the EU's chemical agency.

As we have done throughout the establishment and initial meetings of the TEC, we continued to assert that the TEC initiative should be characterized by transparency and consultation of stakeholders and we called on both Administrations to reinforce the flow of information to the TLD in advance of the TEC meetings. The relevant legislative and regulatory bodies should be aware of the transatlantic impact of proposed legislation and regulations, and understand the benefits of rapid advancements towards a barrier-free regulatory environment. A more formal role should be envisaged within TEC for the U.S. Congress and the European Parliament, in particular via TLD, so as to allow for detailed and accountable reporting of TEC results to legislators.

In conclusion, both sides renewed their commitment to make the TLD's work more relevant to the European Parliament and to the U.S. House of Representatives. Amidst a climate of transition on both sides of the Atlantic, we reaffirmed the importance of continuing to strengthen and improve our dialogue in order to realize the full potential of our interparliamentary relationship.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
WAKEFIELD ACT**HON. JIM MATHESON**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Wakefield Act, which reauthorizes the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.

It is the only Federal program that focuses on saving the lives and health of children needing emergency medical treatment.

This year is the program's 25th anniversary and I am proud to be the lead sponsor along with Representative PETER KING.

Unfortunately, millions of kids find themselves in our Nation's emergency rooms every year. Thanks to the Wakefield Act, doctors, nurses, and first-responders now have much greater knowledge about what works and what doesn't work, when these small patients come through the emergency room door.

Since the program began, child injury death rates have dropped 40 percent. The research that resulted from this legislation helped establish pediatric emergency medicine as its own specialty. Data collection and training seminars—including from the Emergency Medical Services for Children Data Analysis Center based in my district at the University of Utah—have been provided to thousands of medical personnel.

The program's authorization expired in September 2005. In the summer of 2006, the Institutes of Medicine released a report which documented the value of the program. It also noted the gaps that remain in providing quality emergency care for children. There is a serious gap between the percentage of kids who end up in the ER and the percentage of emergency rooms that are staffed, trained, and equipped to respond appropriately. The report's bottom line—this program is "well positioned to assume a leadership role" in closing the gap.

It's endorsed by over 50 organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Madam Speaker, this legislation enhances the program by authorizing the funding needed to ensure that progress continues in this specialty. I look forward to working with my colleagues toward its adoption.

A TRIBUTE TO HOWARD WEAVER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Howard Weaver's 40 years of service and journalistic integrity in the newspaper business. Mr. Weaver is retiring from the McClatchy Company leaving a lasting legacy in Sacramento where his leadership and expertise will be deeply missed. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of our Nation's finest journalists.

After earning his bachelor's degree in social and behavioral sciences from Johns Hopkins University and his masters in philosophy from

Cambridge, Mr. Weaver has spent more than three decades in the newspaper industry. He began his career in 1972 as a reporter for the Anchorage Daily News. In 1977 he founded the Alaska Advocate, a statewide weekly newspaper. After the closure of the Alaska Advocate in 1979, Mr. Weaver returned to the Daily News as an editorial writer. He was named managing editor in 1981 and assumed full editorial responsibility in May 1983.

During his tenure at the Anchorage Daily News, the newspaper won numerous awards including being named one of the world's 25 best designed newspapers, best sports section, and best feature writing. Mr. Weaver twice led the Anchorage Daily News to win Pulitzer Prizes. He was one of three reporters whose coverage of the Alaska Teamsters Union during construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline, "Empire: The Alaska Teamsters Story," won the Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Public Service in 1976. In 1989 he again was awarded prize for his work as editor and a lead writer on the Daily News' "A People in Peril," coverage of alcoholism and suicide among Alaska Natives and has served as a Pulitzer Prize juror at the invitation of the Pulitzer Board four times. Mr. Weaver is the past president of the Alaska Newspaper Association and the Upper Yukon River Press Club and was a Distinguished Lecturer in Journalism at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

In 1995 Mr. Weaver moved to Sacramento to assume the position of assistant to the president for new media strategies at McClatchy Newspapers and was named editor of the editorial pages for the Sacramento Bee in 1997. Most recently he served as vice president of news and is senior editorial executive for the McClatchy Company. In addition, his writings have been published in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and Time Magazine. While at McClatchy Newspapers, which publishes 31 daily and more than 50 community newspapers and related Web sites, the editorial pages in the Sacramento Bee were named best in California by the California Newspaper Publishers Association and individual editorials won the Best of the West competition. Mr. Weaver was primarily responsible for the opinion content at the Sacramento Bee and for many years he chaired the editorial board meetings at which the paper's editorial positions were decided. His excellent writing and years of expertise has ensured that Sacramento's residents continue to receive up-to-date accurate information about pressing issues in our communities and across the Nation.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Howard Weaver's distinguished commitment to the newspaper industry and keeping Sacramento's residents informed. Mr. Weaver's outstanding leadership and dedication to journalism has allowed the McClatchy Company and the Sacramento Bee to embrace new venues of media and the Internet. As Mr. Weaver's wife, Barbara, colleagues, family, and friends gather to honor his career, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing him continued good fortune in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING WALTER DIAS FOR
HIS COMMUNITY SERVICE ON
GUAM**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Walter Dias for his civic involvement and community service on Guam. Walter Dias, known to his family, friends, neighbors and coworkers, as "Wally," has resided on Guam over the past 15 years and been active in our non-profit community. Wally was recently promoted by his employer, Continental Airlines, and is relocating to Hong Kong to assume the position of Managing Director of Greater China and Southeast Asia.

Wally is the eldest of five sons and two daughters of Walter Sr., and Virginia Dias. He grew up in a small town in the resort area of the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania and earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Accounting from Pennsylvania State University before beginning his career at Price Waterhouse and later at Geo Source Inc. In 1987, Wally started his airline career in the finance division of Continental Airlines, and in 1993, he moved from its corporate headquarters in Houston to Guam to serve as the Director of Marketing for Continental Micronesia. Wally was later promoted to Vice President of Sales and Marketing, a position through which his involvement with our non-profit community on Guam grew.

Wally promoted travel to the Pacific islands of Micronesia through a "Warmth of Paradise" campaign that he developed while at Continental Micronesia. Through this campaign, the cultures of the Pacific islands, including of the Chamorro people of the Marianas, is showcased. Wally also sought to foster greater relations between the civilian and military community on Guam, and to support education initiatives focusing on Guam's military history. When Guam celebrated its 50th Annual Liberation Day in honor of the island's liberation from Imperial Japanese Forces in 1944, Wally helped coordinate the travel of more than 2,000 liberators to Guam for this special event. Wally also worked with the Military Historical Tours to fly veterans from the Battle of Iwo Jima for the battle's 50th anniversary commemorative program.

His work in our community extended beyond those of us who call Guam home. Wally helped coordinate the transportation of 2,000 Kurdish refugees from Iraq to Guam, and later from Guam into the mainland of the United States for settlement, in 1996. He was instrumental in the founding of the Ayuda Foundation, a humanitarian organization that has helped thousands of people from the Micronesian islands access medical supplies and health care. Wally also helped establish the Wings for Life One Pass medical account program. To this day, the program has helped transport more than a hundred patients to receive proper medical treatment. These are lasting examples of Wally's efforts on behalf of our community on Guam and the greater Micronesia region.

It is on the occasion of his promotion and relocation to Hong Kong, that the people of Guam recognize him for his community service and his leadership in helping to develop our visitor industry.