

ranking and wish him continued success in his future education and career.

INTRODUCTION OF THE “DANIEL PEARL FREEDOM OF THE PRESS ACT OF 2009”

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the “Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009”—legislation to highlight and promote freedom of the press worldwide.

In early 2002, Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists in Pakistan, just four months after 9/11. Lured from his apartment, Daniel was on his way to interview a Muslim fundamentalist when he was captured. Just two days before his abduction, Daniel had learned that his wife Mariane was expecting a baby boy. Although four of the kidnappers were convicted in July of 2002, seven other suspects, including those who allegedly helped murder Daniel Pearl, remain at large.

Despite international outrage over this brutal murder, freedom of the press has continued to decline on a global scale.

In 2006, Anna Politkovskaya, one of Russia’s most prominent journalists, was shot dead in her apartment building. The investigative journalist, well known for her critical reports of the Kremlin’s actions in Chechnya, is widely believed to be the victim of a politically motivated contract killing. Anna Politkovskaya was the 13th Russian journalist murdered during President Vladimir Putin’s administration. One month ago, a jury in Moscow acquitted three men charged with her murder.

Just two weeks ago, on March 17th, 2009, two American journalists were detained by the North Korean authorities while reporting on the plight of North Korean refugees in China. North Korea has accused the reporters of illegally entering North Korea from China and has stated the journalists will be indicted and tried for suspected hostile acts.

Acts of violence against journalists continue to rise in frequency, with very few of the attacks resulting in prosecution. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in 2008 at least 41 journalists were killed in connection with their work, and 125 were imprisoned. As the level of violence directed at the press continues to rise, so too does the side effect of self-censorship. Legal mechanisms are also increasingly being used to restrict the media, both through overt censorship and through the use of laws that forbid “endangering national security” or “inciting hatred” by commenting on sensitive or anti-government topics.

Freedom of expression cannot exist where journalists and the media are not independent and safe from persecution and attack. Our government must promote freedom of the press by putting on center stage those countries in which journalists are killed, imprisoned, kidnapped, threatened, or censored. Therefore, together with my colleague Congressman PENCE, I am introducing legislation which calls upon the Secretary of State to submit an annual report on the status of freedom of the press worldwide, bringing attention to those governments, extremists, and criminal groups which seek to silence opposition.

To further this effort, my legislation also establishes a grant program aimed at broadening and strengthening the independence of journalists and media organizations. Too often media assistance programs are short-term, ranging from one year projects to weekend workshops, and are buried as a second thought under broader human rights programs. The Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 will give prominence to freedom of the press projects within the State Department, and ensure a long-term, holistic approach to journalist and media development.

Please join me in this effort to promote freedom of the press worldwide.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE LIBERTY MEMORIAL AS THE NATIONAL WWI MEMORIAL AND TO ESTABLISH THE WWI CENTENNIAL COMMISSION TO ENSURE A SUITABLE OBSERVANCE OF THE WWI CENTENNIAL

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, today along with my colleagues, Representatives AKIN, BLUNT, CARNAHAN, CLAY, EMERSON, GRAVES, LUETKEMEYER, and SKELTON, I am introducing a bill designating the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri as the National World War I Memorial. This bill also establishes a Centennial Commission to ensure a fitting observance of the centennial of World War I.

The First World War extended through four of the bloodiest years in world history. This truly global conflict involved the world’s major powers, mobilizing over 70 million military forces. The War to End All Wars ended with an armistice on November 11, 1918 on the Western Front in Europe, after approximately 16 million military and civilian deaths across the globe, including 375,000 American casualties. The death and destruction of World War I irrevocably impacted the lens through which people viewed the world: The optimism that initiated the early 1900s was swiftly sobered by a consciousness that came to be known as the Lost Generation.

Many people, however, were determined to make this generation a generation remembered and honored. Concerned American citizens in Kansas City, Missouri initiated a movement to erect a lasting and meaningful monument to the men and women who served and died for liberty in World War I.

According to R.A. Long, the founding president of the Liberty Memorial Association, the 217-foot Liberty Memorial was intended to represent “on the part of all people, a living expression for all time of the gratitude of a grateful people to those who offered and who gave their lives in defense of liberty and our country.” In 1919, the people of Kansas City, Missouri expressed an outpouring of support and raised more than \$2,000,000 in two weeks for a memorial to the service of Americans in World War I. This fundraising was an accomplishment unparalleled by any other city in the United States and reflected the passion of public opinion about World War I, at the forefront of everyone’s memory.

H. Van Buren Magonigle won a national architectural competition officiated by the American Institute of Architects to further transform the Liberty Memorial idea into reality. On November 1, 1921, nearly 200,000 people witnessed the dedication of the site for the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. The dedication marked the only time in history that the five allied military leaders—Lieutenant General Baron Jacques of Belgium, General Armando Diaz of Italy, Marshall Ferdinand Foch of France, General John J. Pershing of the United States, and Admiral Lord Earl Beatty of Great Britain, were together at one place. General Pershing echoed the significance of the dedication by asserting, “[t]he people of Kansas City, Missouri are deeply proud of the beautiful memorial, erected in tribute to the patriotism, the gallant achievements, and their heroic sacrifices of their sons and daughters who served in our country’s armed forces during the World War. It symbolized their grateful appreciation of duty well done, an appreciation which I share, because I know so well how richly it is merited.”

Shortly after its dedication, the Liberty Memorial was again distinguished during an Armistice Day ceremony in 1926 when President Calvin Coolidge marked the beginning of its three-year construction project by laying the cornerstone of the memorial. In his dedication speech, President Coolidge declared that “[. . .] the magnitude of this memorial and the broad base of popular support on which it rests, can scarcely fail to excite national wonder and admiration [. . .].” A message on the Liberty Memorial’s tower bears an inscription that inspired its namesake: “In Honor of Those Who Served in the World War in Defense of Liberty and Our Country.” Four stone “Guardian Spirits” representing courage, honor, patriotism, and sacrifice proudly perch above an observation deck, making the Liberty Memorial a noble tribute to all who served in World War I.

Undoubtedly, hundreds of thousands of people—since the memorial’s inception and even today—regard the Liberty Memorial as a powerful symbol of and tribute to Americans who served in World War I. The grandeur and significance of the Liberty Memorial was recognized by the 106th Congress as a national symbol of World War I. The Liberty Memorial that overlooks Kansas City extends far beyond the Kansas City limits. The Memorial serves as a perennial reminder of and for all Americans who served our country during World War I.

The evidence articulated above demonstrates that the Liberty Memorial already is, has been, and deserves to be regarded as a national tribute to World War I. This legislation aims to make official what so many people already consider to be the National World War I Memorial.

While we look to the Liberty Memorial in remembrance of World War I, we likewise must look to the upcoming World War I centennial, to be honored in 2017. To ensure a proper observance of the World War I centennial, this legislation also aims to create a commission to be known as the World War I Centennial Commission. The Commission will promote not only a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, but will also recognize the values of honor, courage, patriotism, and sacrifice, in keeping with the representation of these values through the four Guardian Spirits

sculpted on the Liberty Memorial Monument. The Commission will plan, develop, and execute programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the centennial of World War I. With Kansas City, Missouri as its official host, the Commission will be composed of twenty-four members who will work together to facilitate and coordinate activities throughout the United States to honor the Great War.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I wholeheartedly introduce this legislation to make official the historic, powerful, and unparalleled stature of the Liberty Memorial as the National World War I Memorial coupled with the establishment of the World War I Centennial Commission to properly observe the World War I centennial. We owe the Liberty Memorial's designation as the National World War I Memorial to the hundreds of thousands of people, including those who served our country in World War I, who have looked to the Liberty Memorial as the interminable symbol of sacrifice and sovereignty that continue to shape our country. The World War I Centennial Commission will further observe America's historic commitment to freedom and appropriately remember those who fought for our country in the War to End All Wars.

APPLAUDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE TERRENCE CARDINAL
COOKE HEALTH CARE CENTER
AND THE MEMBERS OF THEIR
CRUSADE IN THE OCCASION OF
THEIR ANNUAL FLOWER BALL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I rise to acknowledge the contributions of The Terrence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center and congratulate them for organizing its Annual Flower Ball Benefit Banquet on April 1, 2009. The Ball is in support of its dedicated hard working staff, team of volunteers, and most importantly, the lives of the its many patients and residents. I applaud the vitally important programs they conduct to improve access to health care for the medically needy and many under-served individuals in my congressional district.

For the past three decades the Terrence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center has provided outstanding and compassionate care and treatment for the many community residents in my district. Since 1978, it has provided continuous comprehensive medical treatment and skilled nursing care to infants, children, and young adults who are diagnosed with developmental disabilities and demanding medical conditions. The center currently provides care and treatment for over 700 residents in my district. Additionally, more than 71,000 outpatient clinical services are provided each year.

The Cardinal Cooke Center's approach to quality medical care is what has allowed it to prosper into the 21st century of advanced technology and medicine. The Center's staff respects the dignity of every human being and recognizes each individual's potential to live as independently as possible. They provide unique approaches to the care and treatment

of our residents and patients, and serve the elderly, people with developmental disabilities, and those who live with chronic illness; people of all races, creeds, economic means and ethnic backgrounds.

This year's Ball holds a unique and special honor—His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan will be acknowledged for his distinguished leadership and great dedication in support of compassionate and innovative care for some of the most frail and at-risk members of the New York community.

The Cooke Center will also honor The Honorable Louis J. Freeh and Barbara Boyle with their coveted Partnership Award, which recognizes outstanding community leaders whose life work reflects the mission of the Center—to reach out to the disenfranchised and give hope to those for whom others have given up hope.

Judge Louis J. Freeh has dedicated much of his life to serving others. As the former director of the FBI or through his personal efforts with local charitable institutions, Judge Freeh has consistently demonstrated his selfless commitment to those less fortunate. After 13 years of committed service, Barbara Boyle is retiring as National Executive Director and CEO of the Huntington's Disease Society of America. Ms. Boyle's honor coincides with the 20 year anniversary of the Cooke Center's own Huntington's Disease Unit.

Daniel Foxx, who serves on the Center's Community Leadership and Development Advisory Boards, will receive The Mary White Commitment Award, for his years of inspirational volunteer service. His devotion, friendship and support is an invaluable gift to the residents of the Cooke Center.

It is my honor to congratulate all the honorees, including His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan. Each has been a significant partner in the overall improvement of the quality of life for all. I also salute the organizing committee and members of the Cooke Center's staff for its efforts in coordinating the Annual Flower Ball Benefit where many other members of their crusade will publicly be acknowledged.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating The Terrence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center for continuing to serve the residents of my district with the greatest challenges such as children with disabilities, elderly with severe medical needs, Huntington's Disease patients, HIV/AIDS, as well as those who require outpatient primary care services. Their constant dedication and commitment in providing quality health care with dignity and compassion is worthy of the highest esteem.

HONORING FRIENDS HOUSE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful establishment in Santa Rosa, California—Friends House. Friends House, a very special continuing care retirement community, is celebrating its 25th anniversary April 24, 25, and 26.

Conceived of in the late 1970s, Friends House opened to its first residents in 1984

and has expanded over the years while retaining its family feel. It is now composed of three related programs dedicated to the health and well-being of older persons—-independent living in both houses and apartments, assisted living, and a skilled nursing facility which is also open to the public. It is operated by Friends Association of Services for the Elderly under the College Park Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

It has been my pleasure to meet with the residents of Friends House over the years. I have found them to be a lively and engaged group with a commitment to the progressive values we share. These caring values are evident not only in the democratically run, close-knit community but also in the activism shared by many of its members. Residents and staff are involved in volunteerism through The Art of Giving Back program. Volunteers work in over 30 nonprofit organizations, and the community hosts educational and cultural sessions for the public.

The care given to seniors by the staff at Friends House is often singled out for praise. One woman wrote movingly of her mother-in-law's passing away "in the loving care of the wonderful angels there." She then asked them to send her love and say a prayer for the comfort of another family member at the facility who was not coherent but who had all the support she needed to make her last days something beautiful and special.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to be able to salute Friends House on its 25th anniversary. I know that its residents and staff will continue to be a loving asset to our community for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO BOB BASTIAN

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the service of Former Pennsylvania State Representative Bob Bastian of Friedens, Somerset County, whose meritorious service to the Boy Scouts of America has inspired multiple generations to benefit from all that Scouting has to offer.

The Bastian family has a long tradition of service to the community through scouting. Bob's father, Fred, his two sons, Scott and Tim and four of his grandchildren are all members of the Boy Scouts.

As an enthusiastic contributor to his community, Representative Bastian is active in the Penn Woods Council committee as well as a member of the district committee for the Scouts' Forbes Trail District; and while many of his efforts to better his community have been realized as a product of his tenure as State Representative from 1999 to 2009, his lifetime commitment to excellence through scouting has and will continue to inspire boys throughout Somerset.

Currently, Bastian is working to recognize the institution of scouting by chairing the Penn's Woods Council's Centennial Celebration Committee. In looking back nearly one hundred years to the inception of the Boy Scouts of America, I am confident that Mr. Bastian's sixty years of exemplary performance in scouting and in life are proof of what all boys can achieve through scouting.