

sisters, family, friends and a world full of fans. I will leave you all with a quote from Michael, "If you enter this world knowing you are loved and you leave this world knowing the same, then everything that happens in between can be dealt with."

#### HEARTBREAK ON CAPITOL HILL

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, just moments ago on this floor there was cheering and there was clapping over the passing of the crap-and-trade bill. And it is a little tough to get excited. From a political standpoint, I should be overjoyed because I really believe in my heart that when the American people find out, and this is just a part of it, when they find out what has been done to them, they are going to be livid. And they are going to throw some people out of this body. I just know that will happen. But I care more about America than I do politics.

I know that we will be facing the single moms that we heard from last summer that can't afford the gasoline bill. They can't afford the propane.

You didn't do a great thing. You hurt some really decent families struggling and trying to make it. And this is going to be their death knell. It breaks my heart.

#### CELEBRATING BLACK MUSIC MONTH

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. This is Black Music Month. And we had a resolution to introduce and pass celebrating the 30th anniversary of Black Music Month. Because of the scheduling, it didn't come up. That is why I wanted to address that fact today.

Black Music Month is important because it reminds people of the history of music in this country and the contributions of black Americans. Much of that happened in my city in Memphis, at Stax Soulsville, home of Isaac Hayes, Sam and Dave, Stax Soulsville Records, Al Green, Willy Mitchell and others, also Detroit and Motown and New Orleans and Fats Domino, Professor Long Hair, and many great musicians.

But back to Kansas City, and Charlie Parker, and Miles Davis and Max Roach and Dizzy Gillespie, not all from Kansas City, but that from that jazz era, and others. Michael Jackson, of course, passed. Many great musicians whose music needs to be remembered and young people need to learn that music is a great way to pass on our culture and preserve it and a great way to enjoy their own life and experience a better way. I'm pleased this is the 30th anniversary of Black Music Month. And we need to enjoy music and soothe the soul.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### CELEBRATING THE ALBANIAN DIASPORA OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Albanian diaspora of southeast Michigan and to raise the concern they have expressed to me.

Respect for people of diverse cultures is an American value and has made our Nation great. Our national heritage reflects the cultural contributions of a wide range of ethnic groups.

I am fortunate to represent the Ninth District of Michigan, a district rich in ethnic and religious diversity and one that includes many families from the Balkan region. In my time as a Congressman and resident of the Ninth District, I have developed a strong bond with the Albanian American community. This is a people that strongly value community service, family, and education. These are the values we can all admire and strive to instill in our children.

The Albanian American community of southeast Michigan is relatively new to our country. Most are first- or second-generation Americans. However, this community has established strong roots in southeast Michigan, establishing churches, community centers and small businesses. These places preserve and celebrate Albanian culture. They help enrich the lives of fellow Albanian Americans and the broader community alike.

Saint Paul's Albanian Church in Rochester Hills, Michigan, a city in my district, boasts nearly 5,000 members and is a shining example of how the Albanian diaspora has taken root in southeast Michigan. These roots are nourished by the community's focus on family, a value deeply embedded in Albanian culture, and one that I greatly respect.

As with many new immigrant communities, the entrepreneurial spirit runs deep among our Albanian Americans. Our Nation has provided many Albanian Americans with their first opportunity for business success. Members of the community have embraced these opportunities and worked tirelessly for the success of their endeavors, helping to grow our economy and create jobs in our region.

The community's affinity for entrepreneurship is coupled with a deep appreciation for education. Albanian Americans recognize the invaluable return on investment that educational achievement brings to the next generation.

I am particularly proud of the Albanian American community's patriotism, love for America and participation in the American democratic process.

Albanian Americans truly are full participants in the American democratic system. They understand that the essential element of a thriving democracy is active engagement.

Albanian Americans' unwavering dedication to democracy does not stop at our borders. The Albanian community is working tirelessly to bring attention to the needs of the emerging democracies in the Balkan region and to strengthen U.S.-Balkan relations.

I am proud of the relationship the city of Rochester Hills has formed with Tuz, Montenegro. For example, the Albanian American diaspora in Michigan and the city of Rochester Hills recently worked together to provide school supplies to the cities of Tuz, and I commend them for these efforts.

While many are aware of the efforts made by the Albanian American community to assist refugees during the Kosovo conflict, it is important to highlight important work still being performed by the Albanian American community.

The Albanian diaspora continues to seek further recognition for the Republic of Kosovo and has been vital in helping former refugees rebuild their lives. The recent independence of the Republic of Kosovo and the induction of Albania into NATO are a testament to the Albanian American community's progress.

The Albanian community in Michigan remains concerned with events and issues currently affecting their brethren and families overseas. Some particular concerns of my constituents I want to raise today relate to recent reports of inequities in the Montenegrin justice system. In particular, reputable human rights organizations like Amnesty International have reported that several Albanian American citizens convicted in connection with the Eagle's Flight case have been subject to torture and physical abuse. These incidents and reports have caused tremendous anxiety and uncertainty in the Albanian American community. It is my hope that the Montenegrin Government will work diligently to protect human rights and the rule of law in the exercise of justice in the future.

Whether fighting for justice, advancing democracy, supporting our schools, or working hard to strengthen our economy, Albanian Americans in my district and across America are helping to make our Nation even greater. It is an honor to represent a prominent Albanian American community here in the United States Congress.

## WE ARE FREE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, from the hellish streets where Iranians demand freedom, voices arise to pray for deliverance and liberty; but, elsewhere, safely ensconced in freedom, others argue for appeasement and "neutrality." We must choose wisely between these competing voices and visions, lest we betray our allegiance to liberty.

Some voices allege America's support of Iranian democracy demonstrators harms their cause, strengthens the regime, increases the repression, and, once the freedom seekers are slaughtered, precludes "good" relations with the murderous mullahs.

Their siren song is wrong. Despite pronouncements, America has not intervened, the mullahs publicly accuse us of it, their illegitimate puppet Ahmadinejad demands our prostration at the regime's feet, and all the while, the regime butchers innocents.

□ 1945

On June 24, CNN recorded a call from a terrified Iranian girl, who told of democracy demonstrators being hacked with axes, shot or thrown from bridges. She pleaded: "You should stop this. You should help the people of Iran who demand freedom. You should help us. It's time to act." She was pleading to America. She was pleading to us.

Once, another generational chance for freedom was seized, as Soviet dissident and gulag prisoner Natan Sharansky attests, "We developed our own tapping language to communicate with each other between the crawls of our cells. We had to develop new communication methods to pass on this great, impossible news.

"Reagan dared to call of the great Soviet Union an evil empire. That moment made it impossible for anyone in the West to continue closing their eyes to the real nature of the Soviet Union.

"It was one of the most important, freedom-affirming declarations, and we all instantly knew it. For us, that was the moment that really marked the end for them, and the beginning for us. The beginning of a new revolution, a freedom revolution. Reagan's revolution."

As for voices clamoring for a "grand bargain" with Iran's inhumane regime if it clings to power, Sharansky warns: "How a government treats its own people cannot be separated from how that government could be expected to treat other countries." How did the regime treat the family of Neda Agha-Soltan, the student it shot in the streets? Her state executioners refused to tender Neda's body to her family; buried her without a funeral; banned all signs of mourning; and forced her family to flee from their Tehran home.

To defeat such a regime, Sharansky offers Reagan's example: "Ronald

Reagan had the moral clarity to understand the truth, and the courage both to speak the truth and to do what needed to be done to support it."

What concrete actions can we take today to aid the Iranian people's march to freedom?

We must increase funding for Radio Farda and other democracy building programs to provide the Iranian people with the free flow of information and communications in their struggle to be free.

The President must use his full authority under the Iranian Sanctions Act to deter companies from investing in Iran's energy sector.

We must place column 2 tariff rates on Iran's remaining exports to the United States. We must pass the Global Online Freedom Act to prevent American companies from assisting foreign governments, including Iran, from censoring and monitoring their people on the Internet. We must pass the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act and the Iran Threat Reduction Act to embargo the flow of refined fuel to and increase the pressure upon the regime.

The President must prohibit regime members from entering the United States of America.

We must seek a United Nations Security Council resolution denouncing the regime; demanding a new, internationally monitored election; and tightening the current U.N. sanctions against the regime until this election occurs and its outcome's integrity verified.

We must work with American labor organizations to establish a support fund for Iranian workers striking in protest of the regime.

Finally, we must link all of our relations with Iran, and with those nations abetting the regime's perpetuation in defiance of its people's freedom to human rights.

If we pale and fail to take these measures, we will be haunted by the cries of the oppressed Iranians abandoned to preserve our neutrality in this time of moral crisis.

But, when we act, we will expand freedom to the oppressed and enslaved; and ensure it for our children and ourselves. Only then will we have honorably performed our duty to liberty by guaranteeing generations of Americans and Iranians may proclaim, "We are free."

## RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

JUNE 26, 2009.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC,  
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER,  
U.S. Capitol,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This letter is to alert you that I have sent a letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California

informing him that I will be resigning as the United States Representative for the 10th Congressional District of California effective immediately.

In May, I had the distinguished honor of being nominated by President Obama to serve as Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. Keeping nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists, making sure other countries do not obtain them and, one day, I hope, ridding the world of these terrible weapons, has become my passion and, I hope, my life's work.

It has been an immense pleasure working with you Madam Speaker. I owe you, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, a debt of gratitude for your leadership, guidance and dedication. I eagerly await the opportunity to work with you in my new role with the Obama Administration.

Sincerely,

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER.

JUNE 26, 2009.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC,  
Governor ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,  
California State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA.

DEAR GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER: On May 5th, I was nominated by President Obama to serve as Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. Therefore I am resigning my position as the United States Representative for the 10th Congressional District of California effective immediately.

Thirteen years ago, the people of California's 10th Congressional district bestowed upon me the privilege of serving as their representative in Congress. It has been a remarkable period marked by tremendous challenges and remarkable achievements. I take great pride, along with my distinguished colleagues in the California delegation, in working to make our communities safer, California more prosperous and our nation more secure. No matter where I am serving in government, I always will remember those who sent me to Washington and I always will be grateful for their support and the trust they placed in me.

I also wanted to thank you for your leadership. It has been a pleasure to work with you and your staff and I look forward to continuing our productive relationship.

Sincerely,

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER), the whole number of the House is 433.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

## HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN JAMES HALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOCCIERI) is recognized for 5 minutes.