nationwide have access to health care. Thus, I will support this measure.

PAUL CUFFE: VOTING RIGHTS PIONEER

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 16, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, Saturday, January 17, is the 250th birthday of Paul Cuffe. He is not well known, but he should be. I was not myself familiar with his important role in our history and as one of those who fought against the terrible racist pattern that mars our early history until it was called to my attention by a constituent, Brock N. Cordeiro of the Town of Dartmouth. Mr. Cordeiro wrote to me and called my attention to Mr. Cuffe's role. As Mr. Cordeiro notes, in 1781 ''Paul Cuffe sought the franchise or relief from taxation without representation'' and he played a major role in the fact that this happened in Massachusetts in 1783. Many years later, in 1864, as the Town of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, celebrated its centennial, people noted that ''it was his determined and manly efforts, and his refusal to pay the taxes assessed upon him, on the grounds that he had no voice or vote with his neighbors, that finally secured from the Legislature of Massachusetts equal rights of suffrage for the colored man with the white man.''

Madam Speaker, I am very proud as an American of the role that America has played as the first vibrant self-governed Nation, but the racism that marked our early years is the source of trouble which we are still fighting to overcome. It is therefore entirely appropriate to recognize as his 250th birthday approaches the pioneering work of Paul Cuffe. It is very difficult to imagine from our safe haven today what moral and physical courage it took for Mr. Cuffe to defy the racist consensus which confronted him, and his example should be widely hailed.

I am grateful to Brock Cordeiro for calling this to my attention. Mr. Cordeiro noted in his letter to me that he came to this through his academic studies, and because of his own history in the need to confront our racist past and to mark the progress we have made in overcoming it, he wrote a master's thesis on Mr. Cuffe.

Madam Speaker, as you know, and as I advised Mr. Cordeiro, we do not issue proclamations on people's birthdays, but given the great historical example that Paul Cuffe has given, I am very proud to insert this tribute to him on his 250th birthday into this RECORD.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FACILITIES AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 16, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, my colleagues and I join together today to introduce the Smithsonian Institution Facilities Authorization Act of 2009.

I thank my colleagues, including Committee on House Administration Chairman BRADY, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member MICA and Subcommittee Chairwoman NORTON, Majority Leader HOYER, and the Congressional Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, for joining me as cosponsors of this important legislation and for their continued efforts to move these authorizations of critical Smithsonian facilities forward.

This bill authorizes the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to design and construct laboratory space to accommodate the Mathias Laboratory at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, SERC, in Edgewater, Maryland, and to construct laboratory space to accommodate the terrestrial research program of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, STRI, in Gamboa, Panama. The bill also authorizes the Board of Regents to construct a greenhouse facility at its museum support facility in Suitland, Maryland.

Section 2 of the bill authorizes the Board of Regents to design and construct laboratory and support space to accommodate the Mathias Laboratory at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Maryland. The bill authorizes $41 million to design and construct the facility. SERC is a global leader in the study of ecosystems in the coastal zone. The 52,000-square-foot replacement laboratory will be connected to the existing structure to provide an operationally efficient and environmentally sustainable laboratory facility for SERC's research programs. The project will eliminate the use of temporary, unsafe trailers, address substandard, inefficient laboratory facilities, and will substantially reduce the facility's energy use and maintenance costs.

Section 3 of the bill authorizes the Board of Regents to construct laboratory space to accommodate the terrestrial research program of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Gamboa, Panama. The bill authorizes $14 million to construct the 53,283-square-foot facility. STRI is the principal United States organization devoted to research in tropical biology. Tropical biology is critical to finding untapped resources to add to the important supply of food, pharmaceuticals, and fiber of tropical regions. STRI has outgrown the space available at its current facilities and this bill provides for construction of a new lab in Gamboa, Panama, on the east bank of the Panama Canal. Gamboa is protected by geography from the encroachment of civilization and pollution. The terrestrial research program is critical to understanding the role that tropical plants and soils play in global climate change models and for enriching knowledge of tropical biodiversity.

Section 4 of the bill authorizes the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to construct a greenhouse facility at its museum support facility in Suitland, Maryland. This bill authorizes $12 million for the construction of a new greenhouse facility. This facility will support the Office of Facilities Engineering and Operations, OFEO, of the Horticulture Services Division, HSD. This office provides services for the Smithsonian museums and units through planting for exhibits and special events, and through development and management of the Smithsonian public gardens.

In the 110th Congress, I introduced two bills to authorize the facilities authorized by this legislation. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reported H.R. 6627, the Smithsonian Institution Facilities Authorization Act of 2008, a bill to authorize the SERC and STRI facilities on September 15, 2008. The House passed this bill by voice vote on September 17, 2008. The Committee reported H.R. 5492, a bill to authorize the greenhouse facility in Suitland, Maryland, on March 10, 2008. The House passed this bill by voice vote on March 11, 2008. Unfortunately, the Senate did not complete action on these bills in the 110th Congress.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Smithsonian as the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure moves to address the enormous repair and maintenance backlog of the Smithsonian Institution facilities and to ensure that its facilities meet the highest standards of energy efficiency and conservation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Smithsonian Institution Facilities Authorization Act of 2009.

RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ATTACKS FROM GAZA

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Israel's right to defend its citizens from the terrorism and extremism of Hamas. The United States and this Congress have a responsibility to stand in solidarity with Israel as it endures a difficult moment in its history. We must understand that this conflict was created by Hamas's unwavering commitment to violence against both Israelis and Palestinians. Since 2001, Hamas has fired over 7,500 rockets and mortars at villages and towns in Southern Israel. More alarmingly, Hamas has recently acquired rockets with an increased range that have the ability to levy even more destruction on Israeli society. As their rocket technology becomes more sophisticated, Hamas could potentially strike airports, major cities and nuclear power plants. Would we as Americans accept living under an incessant barrage of violent air attacks? We would expect our leaders to take the appropriate action against these perpetrators of violence. Israel has correctly taken steps that will ensure that terrorism against its nation will be eliminated with the hope that one day its nation can live in peace. I firmly believe that a two-state solution is the only way in which peace and stability can come to Israelis and Palestinians in the Middle East.

Madam Speaker, for over 20 years, Palestinians have been subject to the terror, intimidation and militancy of Hamas. This terrorist organization openly recruits suicide bombers to launch attacks throughout the Middle East. Earlier this month, a female suicide bomber killed over 100 innocent Iraqis without causing the slightest outcry from Hamas. In Gaza, Hamas has committed a litany of human rights violations including the arrest, tortures and imprisonment of political opponents. In December 2008, Hamas terrorists refused to allow Palestinian pilgrims in Gaza to travel to Mecca, Islam's holy site. Hamas represents a great threat to international peace

and will continue to do so as long as it remains a significant threat in the Middle East. I urge the swift passage of this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF ''THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FREEDOM ACT OF 2009''

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 16, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I introduce ''The International Women's Freedom Act of 2009'' along with my friend and colleague, Representative CHAKAH FATTAH. I am also pleased that Senator BOXER has introduced the companion measure in the Senate.

This legislation establishes an ''Office of International Women's Rights'' within the State Department headed by the appointed Ambassador at Large, and additionally, would create a United States Commission on International Women's Rights.

The International Women's Freedom Act condemns violations of women's rights and gender equality while advocating for the improvement of the status of women of the world and the achievement of their equality with men. It also seeks to channel U.S. security and development assistance to governments other than those found to be engaged in gross violations of the rights of women.

I modeled this bill after another piece of legislation that created the United States International Commission on Religious Freedom in 1998. The Commission on International Religious Freedom has made substantial progress towards expanding religious freedom in Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan, among others. In addition to religious freedom, we require the State Department to issue reports on battling international bribery, sex trafficking, and narcotics control and these reports make a difference in people's lives. It is my hope that this bill will make a similarly profound difference in women's lives. I strongly believe that we owe it to the women of the world to shine a spotlight on the status of their rights in an effort to improve them.

RECOGNIZING MARILYN HORNE ON THE OCCASION OF HER 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 16, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a treasure of American cultural life and music, Marilyn Horne who is celebrating her 75th birthday. Ms. Horne has had a long and distinguished career that has spanned the globe and endeared her to music-lovers everywhere.

Ms. Horne has always demonstrated a passion for music, first performing publicly at the age of 2. After studying voice and song/recital works at the University of Southern California, she has gone on to perform in more than 1300 recitals, made over 100 recordings and received three Grammy Awards including the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1989. She has lent her mezzo-soprano voice to some of the most challenging roles in music and has been a fixture in the world of classical music for the last four decades.

She has also shown a commitment to sharing her passion with the next generation of vocalists through her work as a visiting professor at some of the Nation's great music programs and as director of the Voice Program at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, a program she has led since 1997. When Ms. Horne became concerned about the diminishing recital opportunities for promising young vocalists, she founded the Marilyn Horne Foundation in 1993 to ensure that young singers would continue to have the opportunity to excel and to preserve vocal recital as a treasured and living art form in the United States. Since its inception, the Foundation has reached over 55,551 children via 649 school programs, supported 262 recitals of promising young vocalists in 26 States, and helped to share the gifts of these young people with millions of others by promoting radio broadcasts of these recitals. Many of the foundation's alumni can now be seen performing on some of opera's most famous stages, including Carnegie Hall, The Met and the New York City Opera.

The honors that Ms. Horne has received in her lifetime are too numerous to list here. But, most prominent among them are the National Medal of the Arts in 1992, being named a Kennedy Center Honoree in 1995, and being inducted into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame. She has also attracted international acclaim and her worldwide honors include the Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters from France's Ministry of Culture, Commendatore al Merito della Repubblica Italiana, and the Fidelio Gold Medal from the International Association of Opera Directors. She was also the inaugural winner of Italy's Rossini Medaglia d'Oro, which was created especially to recognize her contribution to reviving many of Rossini's greatest operas.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor Marilyn Horne for her lifetime of achievements, her passion for music, and her dedication to future generations of vocalists. We wish her the best of luck in her continuing work, and I am so honored to call her my friend.