

1987 Archbishop Derderian received his Master's Degree in Theology from Oxford University, and was raised to the rank of "Dzairakun Vartabed." In 1990 he was elected Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church in Canada, and later in 1990, was ordained as a Bishop by His Holiness Vazken I. On February 18, 1993 he was made an Archbishop. In 2003, Archbishop Derderian was elected Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America by the 76th Annual Assembly.

Since being elevated to the rank of Archbishop, he has led many projects of great importance to the Church and the community. He created the Christian Youth Mission to Armenia in 2003 which builds ties between youths living in America to Armenia through travel and internship programs. Under his leadership, the Church is nearing completion of the first ever Cathedral of the Armenian Apostolic Church on the West Coast, located in Burbank, California. Additionally, since his appointment as Primate he has ordained five new priests to serve the Western Diocese.

Archbishop Derderian's commitment to serving the faithful and the community are admirable. I congratulate him on his 30 years of service in the Priesthood and thank him for his leadership.

**SPECIAL AGENT SAMUEL HICKS
FAMILIES OF FALLEN HEROES
ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2711, the Special Agent Samuel Hicks Families of Fallen Heroes Act. I also want to thank my colleague, Mr. ROGERS, for introducing this important legislation.

This legislation aims to authorize the FBI to pay the relocation and moving expenses for families of FBI agents who are killed in the line of duty. At present, the law only provides for the FBI to cover these expenses if an FBI agent or an employee is killed overseas. However, payment for the relocation of a decedent's immediate family if the death occurs in the U.S. falls outside the ambit of the current statutory provision.

Special Agent Hicks, the man after whom this legislation is named, was a former police officer with the Baltimore police department. Upon receiving an assignment as an FBI agent, Hicks and his family relocated to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Special Agent Hicks regrettably lost his life when he was fatally shot on November 19, 2008 at the age of 33 while executing a Federal search warrant associated with a drug distribution ring. He is survived by his wife and their 2-year-old son. The Bureau was unable to assist the Hicks family in moving back to Baltimore because of restrictive construction of the statute providing only for the financial assistance to families of agents perishing overseas.

This instance of a family of a federal law enforcement officer being denied the financial assistance they required to relocate is indicative of the error in the construction of the ini-

tial remedial statute. Allowing for domestic family members of fallen federal agents or employees to receive the same assistance that foreign families receive will widen the scope of the statute and provide much needed relief to those persons touched by such tragedy.

FBI employees take on tremendous responsibilities to ensure the safety and the security of these United States. As such, agents and their families are moved throughout the country, dispersed to its very corners, in pursuit of this nation's protection. In the event of an untimely and tragic death, we would like to bring help to the fallen hero's family within the perimeter of this new legislation—regardless of whether the tragedy strikes abroad or here at home.

Unfortunately, in the recent past there have been instances in which such authority was needed to support the families of agents or employees who gave their lives for this country, and received no assistance at all. This legislation seeks to remedy this wrong, and hopefully with its passage the immediate family of FBI agents or employees will receive the help they deserve.

The foregoing reasons outline the importance of our attention this legislation seeks to afford those families of federal agents or employees that the initial statutes did not cover. We must provide financial assistance to the families of domestic fallen heroes.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

**RECOGNIZING AND HONORING
MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES
AND VETERANS**

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1385, which recognizes the courage and sacrifice of our veterans and members of the Armed Forces, and urges all Americans to honor their brave service. This important resolution expresses our national gratitude for the willingness of our men and women in uniform, past and present, to risk their lives on our behalf.

I thank Chairman SKELTON for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor. I also thank the Congressman for sponsoring this legislation and for his dedication to ensuring that this Nation does everything it can to repay our veterans and members of the Armed Services for the sacrifices they have made to protect us and the values that we cherish as American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, throughout our history, the members of our Armed Forces have endured hardship and suffering—many of them making the ultimate sacrifice—on behalf of our Nation. Time and again, they have answered the call to serve the United States, leaving their homes, their families, and American soil, in times of war and peace. From World Wars I and II to the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm, our men and women in uniform have fought valiantly to protect American citizens and promote global security.

Since the tragic attacks of September 11, 2001, the Armed Forces have served with an inspirational sense of duty and country. Since

2001, more than 1,000 Americans have lost their lives and more than 5,500 Americans have been wounded in the Operation Enduring Freedom. Since 2003, over 4,300 servicemen and servicewomen have sacrificed their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom. More than 31,000 Americans have returned from this conflict wounded or with disabilities. California has lost nearly 600 servicemen and servicewomen in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom; two of these brave individuals came from my district. Almost 4,000 men and women from California have been wounded in these conflicts. I am forever grateful for these sacrifices and for the dedication of our Armed Forces to ensure the safety of the American people at a time when our Nation faces challenging new threats from abroad.

These brave men and women have assumed the responsibility of protecting us; we, then, have a solemn obligation to them. We must always provide the members of our Armed Forces with the resources, supplies, and equipment they need to carry out their mission as safely and successfully as possible. We must work hard to support our veterans who return home from overseas, serving their needs with the same vigor and sense of duty that they displayed in serving our country. As the representative of a district that is home to over 24,000 veterans and the VA Medical Center of Long Beach, I know how important it is to ensure that our veterans have access to affordable health care, housing, and job opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1385.

**CONGRATULATING ISRAEL ON
OECD MEMBERSHIP**

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1391, a resolution congratulating Israel on its accession to membership in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Membership in the OECD, which includes the United States and most of the nations in the European Union, will yield greater stability and security for Israel. However, like many Israelis, I believe that true long-term stability and security for Israel depends upon a peaceful relationship with its Palestinian neighbors.

The OECD stated values include "a commitment to pluralist democracy based on the rule of law and the respect of human rights." As such, the body has a responsibility to ensure its members uphold and comply with those values. Absent from the debate on this resolution was the revelation that the economic data submitted to the OECD for membership included Israeli citizens living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, in violation of OECD's own values and international law.

The submission of this data did not thwart Israel's acceptance into the OECD; however, continued illegal settlement building in the Occupied Territories and the debilitating blockade of Gaza does thwart Israel's long-term security. The acceptance into the OECD despite this data sends a signal to members of the

international community that they can violate international law and be rewarded for it. Furthermore, it threatens to undermine the fragile proximity talks facilitated by U.S. Special

Envoy George Mitchell, as settlement building continues to be a main obstacle to progress.

Stability is not secured solely through economic growth. Anyone truly supportive of Israel must work with the Israeli government to bring it closer to a just and peaceful resolution

with its Palestinian neighbors. I support a strong Israel. I believe that Israel's position in the international community can be strengthened by a demonstrated commitment to human rights and international law.