

THE ISRAEL BLOCKADE AND THE
FLOTILLA

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, in the last few weeks, the right of Israel to defend itself against threats to ensure its security has come under attack.

Last month, Israel Defense Forces intercepted a flotilla of vessels in the Mediterranean Sea manned by protestors whose aim was to provoke a response from Israel and prompt international disapproval of Israel's blockade of the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip.

During this so-called "flotilla incident," Israeli forces boarded the ships to search for weapons. They were attacked and subsequently used force to protect themselves. The Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation, which organized the flotilla, has known ties to Hamas and other terrorist groups.

Madam Speaker, in the aftermath of this event, Israel has been unfairly and wrongly condemned for its actions. As criticism of Israel over this incident escalates, and investigations into the matter proceed, we must not forget who really is under attack—Israel.

Israel is persistently targeted for violence by Hamas and other military groups in the region. Hamas, which is officially designated by the United States as a terrorist group, is fervently avowed to the destruction of Israel.

Israel inspects cargo bound for Gaza to stem the flow of arms and explosives to Hamas and other militant organizations there who want to attack it. There is a good reason for this policy: Since Israeli forces withdrew from Gaza, Hamas has fired more than 7,000 rockets and mortar shells into Israel.

The foremost responsibility of government is to protect the safety of its citizens. Many nations—including the United States—reserve the right to confront threats to their security, sometimes preemptively to eliminate imminent danger.

Blocking the movement of weapons by sea into Gaza prevents Hamas and other militant groups from having the means to use violence against Israel to achieve their desired aims, chief among them the annihilation of Israel.

Madam Speaker, it is imperative that members of this chamber give due attention to the circumstantial evidence and historical facts surrounding the flotilla incident.

The relationship between the United States and Israel rests firmly upon the foundation of more than half a century of history. It is grounded in mutual respect, supported by shared values, and guided by common interests.

For these reasons, we must remain resolutely committed to uphold Israel's right to self-defense.

I urge my fellow colleagues also to voice their support for Israel on this important issue.

RECOGNIZING DOUG STEINHARDT,
2010 RECIPIENT OF THE WARREN
COUNTY "GOOD SCOUT" AWARD**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Central New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America is celebrating 100 years of Scouting at their Annual "Good Scout" Award dinner. The Good Scout Award is given to individuals who exemplify the true spirit of volunteerism and support the mission and purpose of the Scouting movement.

The 2010 recipient of the Warren County "Good Scout" Award is Doug Steinhart. A lifelong resident of Warren County, Doug has served the community in the tradition of the Boy Scouts of America and his work in the private and public sector is a testament to his dedication to the community. Some of the achievements and services Doug has provided to Warren County include being named to the governing body of the New Jersey State Bar, appointment to the Board of Directors of DARE, serving on the Legislative Committee of the New Jersey League of Municipalities and the Board of Directors of the Warren County Regional Chamber of Commerce. An Eagle Scout, Doug was also appointed to the Board of Directors of the Central New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America in July 2008. Doug sets the highest standard of how to lead by example to residents of Warren County every day.

This year, Boy Scout Troop 141 from Belvidere, NJ is also being honored tonight with the "Boy Scouts of America's Centennial Award", which recognizes the troop for being the longest continuously operated Boy Scout Troop in the Central New Jersey Council at 98 years old. They were chartered in March of 1912 by the Belvidere Scout Home Association who still charters the Troop today. Troop 141 Scouts camp at least once per month, attend summer camp on an annual basis and participate in community activities such as the annual Christmas tree presentation to the town of Belvidere.

Today, I join the Boy Scouts of America in acknowledging Doug Steinhart and Belvidere Troop 141. I am proud to represent such selfless and dedicated residents in the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in a series of votes on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 339, Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 5072—FHA Reform Act of 2010 (H. Res. 1424), I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 340, on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5072—FHA Reform Act of 2010, I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 341, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 989, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States would adopt national policies and pursue international agreements to prevent ocean acidification, to study the impacts of ocean acidification, and to address the effects of ocean acidification on marine ecosystems and coastal economies, I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 342, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 1178, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to compile the cost estimates prepared by the Congressional Budget Office which are included in reports filed by committees of the House on approved legislation and post such estimates on the official public Internet site of the Office of the Clerk, I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 343, on the Republican Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4173—Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, I would have voted "nay" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 344, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1330, Recognizing June 8, 2010, as World Ocean Day, I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 345, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 5278, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 405 West Second Street in Dixon, Illinois, as the "President Ronald W. Reagan Post Office Building," I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 346, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 5133, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 331 1st Street in Carlstadt, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Frank T. Carvill and Lance Corporal Michael A. Schwarz Post Office Building," I would have voted "aye" on the question.

FHA REFORM ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5072) to improve the financial safety and soundness of the FHA mortgage insurance program:

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5072, the "FHA Reform Act of 2010." This bill will make essential reforms that are needed to strengthen the financial footing of the Federal Housing Administration, which helps provide mortgage insurance to expand homeownership opportunities for thousands of Americans each year.

Passage of H.R. 5072 will enhance the FHA's authority to crack down on fraudulent lenders and those who violate their loan requirements. Clearly, the time has come for the federal government to provide much needed oversight of unscrupulous participants in the mortgage lending industry.

FHA has helped 37 million Americans buy homes since 1934, and is filling a vital role in the nation's economy by providing crucial mortgage insurance at a time when the private sector has pulled back from the mortgage market. Because of the "FHA Reform Act of 2010," FHA will be able to put itself on strong financial footing so that it can continue providing American families with the necessary financial backing to become home owners—the foundation of the American dream.

H.R. 5072 also requires the FHA to improve its internal reporting systems to better manage risk and to provide transparent data to the public and Congress. This includes better monitoring of early defaults and claims, tracking mortgage information by loan servicer, and requiring a Government Accountability Office study on FHA. These kinds of reforms will make the FHA a more efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable program in the long run, and hopefully allow more families to become homeowners.

The bill is supported by a range of organizations including the National Urban League, the National Association of Realtors, the National Council of La Raza, the Mortgage Bankers Association, the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, and the National Association of Home Builders.

I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WEST MONROE HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL PROGRAM

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with tremendous pride and pleasure to pay tribute to the achievements of the West Monroe High School Choral program.

Through the years, they have held numerous concerts at Carnegie Hall, performed Mozart's Coronation Mass in Salzburg and Vienna, Austria, and sang the mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy. The many recognitions they have received are the result of long hours of practice, and dedication to excellence by the students, faculty and their families.

The West Monroe High School Choir has once again been honored as they have been asked to represent Louisiana at the 2010 American Celebration of Music in France and Great Britain. This tour will provide an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our young students to perform at various venues throughout Europe. The trip's highlights include performances at The Jesuit Church in Lucerne, Switzerland, Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France, The American Cemetery in Normandy Beach, France, and St. Paul's Cathedral in London, England.

The European concert tour will take place from May 30, 2010 to June 10, 2010, and will include 82 singers and 40 chaperones. Under the leadership of Greg A. Oden, Director, and Vickie Freeman, Assistant Director, the students have passionately worked through the entire year to raise the necessary funds to achieve this aspiration.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the wonderful achievements

of the West Monroe High School Choir. The many honors they have received are the result of long hours of practice, and dedication to excellence by the students, faculty and their families. They have truly made me and their community proud.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF DR. TILLER

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the murder of Dr. Tiller.

Dr. Tiller was a respected physician who dedicated his life to providing women with safe access to abortion care, and who was shot and killed while attending his church in Kansas.

Sadly, the experience of Dr. Tiller is not unique—since 1993, eight clinic workers have been murdered in the U.S.

A physician in my district recently shared with me her own account of a scared 13-year-old who came into the clinic with her mother. The girl had been sexually assaulted by a 19-year-old and needed an abortion.

The physician was able to help that young girl, but she confided her fear that someday she might not be able to aid young women who had no chance to prevent pregnancy.

In the end, she said it's her patients who reconfirm her "heartfelt desire to continue to provide."

As President Obama said, no one is pro-abortion, but when faced with such a gut-wrenching decision, a woman deserves to have a physician like Dr. Tiller to provide her with safe, quality care.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF DR. GEORGE TILLER

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the murder of Dr. George Tiller who was killed in his church in Wichita, Kansas on May 31, 2009. Dr. Tiller was a dedicated physician, and his murder was a deplorable act of violence that violated the sanctity of his place of worship. Dr. Tiller's shooting shattered the peace of his church, and added to an all too long list of past tragedies in places of worship. In the past ten years, there have been numerous instances of gun related violence in our places of worship which resulted in 32 deaths and 26 injuries. These sanctuaries are meant to be peaceful refuges for those who seek serenity in times of turmoil and safety in times of hostility. On this anniversary of Dr. Tiller's murder, we must remember and commit to our country's tradition of cooperation and understanding. We must reaffirm the American principle that tolerance must always be superior to intolerance, and that violence is never an appropriate response to a difference in beliefs.

FHA REFORM ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5072) to improve the financial safety and soundness of the FHA mortgage insurance program:

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 5072, the FHA Reform Act of 2010. This legislation will, among many provisions, allow FHA to adjust its premium structure for new borrowers, while continuing to provide services to the communities it was intended to serve. Unfortunately, the economic crisis—the national housing prices decline, unemployment, and loan losses—led to the FHA's capital reserves falling below the two percent level required by law. I believe, the changes my colleagues and I will make to this program will help ensure its success in the long term, while reducing federal spending and saving taxpayers \$2.5 billion dollars over the next five years.

The FHA Reform Act of 2010 will ensure FHA continues its role as a key stabilizing force in the market and support sustainable homeownership for first-time buyers and underserved markets. That said, I believe the FHA will help keep the recovery of our country on track by playing a central role in the housing finance system for some time before it scales back to its role as private capital returns.

H.R. 5072 will also grant FHA the authority to terminate lenders' approval to originate or underwrite loans backed by FHA insurance when FHA finds evidence of fraud or non-compliance. Unfortunately, in the second half of 2009, 2,357 default notices were issued to my constituents in the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, Garden Grove, and Santa Ana. For this reason, it's imperative that FHA is reformed, so my constituents seeking to become homeowners are afforded the opportunity to do so from a safe and trustworthy source.

This bill is important to my constituents and many other Americans struggling to keep their homes.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO MATT SCHILLER, 2010 RIVERSIDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an individual from my Congressional District who was recently named the 2010 Riverside Unified School District Teacher of the Year. Matt Schiller, a teacher at Poly High School, was one of three teachers honored last month at an event in Riverside, California.

Matt graduated from U.C. San Diego in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and received his teaching credentials and a Master of Science degree in biochemistry from U.C. Riverside in 2002. While