

CELEBRATING THE LEAGUE OF
BLACK WOMEN'S ANNUAL LEAD-
ERSHIP CONFERENCE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the League of Black Women on their annual leadership conference which commences today.

The League of Black Women, founded in the 1970's by Dr. Armita Young Boswell, works today to provide successful, strategic and sustaining leadership experiences for minority professionals and students. With nearly 10,000 members worldwide, the League provides continuing executive-level education. It also provides professional leadership coaching, mentor outreach to school-age students, support of small businesses, and with this conference, exposure of attendees to new relationships in the global corporate community.

More than 200 attendees from major corporations are expected to participate in five days of leadership development forums and executive presentations.

This year's conference theme is "Black Women 2010: Global Ready." As a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I was honored to receive an invitation to participate in this year's forum titled "Women of Color in the U.S. Intelligence Community" and share insight on the prospects of women in Intelligence rising to higher leadership ranks.

Madam Speaker, the importance of diversity in the intelligence community cannot be overstated. It is one of our greatest strengths, as it is essential to addressing increasingly complex national security threats. We must continue to acquire and maintain an intelligence workforce that mirrors our nation and the world within which we operate.

With the hard work of the League of Black Women and other organizations committed to innovative diversity education and leadership research, we can create and sustain a diverse intelligence workforce.

Again, congratulations to the League of Black Women on this year's conference and look forward to celebrating another successful conference next year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I was absent from votes which occurred on June 14, 2010. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

Roll No. 355—H. Res. 1368—supporting the goals of National Dairy Month—"aye";

Roll No. 356—H. Res. 1409—expressing support for designation of June 20, 2010, as "American Eagle Day", and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States—"aye";

Roll No. 357—H.R. 5502—to amend the effective date of the gift card provisions of the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009—"aye."

THE ISRAELI BLOCKADE AND THE
FLOTILLA

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for our ally and friend Israel. Israel is a country that has always backed the United States in its efforts to combat extremism, and that has proven throughout its short history that democratic ideals can take root in the most challenging of international neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, I, like so many of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives and like so many of my constituents in Sacramento, believe in Israel's right to defend itself. The people of Israel deserve to live without fear of being attacked by a terrorist organization—Hamas—that refuses both to recognize Israel's right to exist and to renounce the use of violence to achieve its objectives. For a number of years, both Israel and Egypt have enforced a blockade of Gaza to keep Hamas from acquiring material to launch rockets into Israel.

The recent tragedy aboard the Mavi Marmara could have been avoided, and should serve as a reminder to us all that our Nation must lead the international community in efforts to forge a lasting peace in the Middle East. My heart goes out to the families of those whose lives were lost, and to those Israeli soldiers who were seriously injured.

Prior to what took place on the Mavi Marmara, five previous ships in the flotilla bound for Gaza were redirected without incident. These five ships were sent to an Israeli port so that the goods they were carrying could be screened for material that could be used to make weapons. Much of their cargo has since been sent to Gaza.

Israel redirected five of the flotilla ships because it has the right—and the responsibility—to prevent Hamas from acquiring materials it uses to fire rockets at Israeli towns. At the same time, Israel must continue doing what it can to ensure that the people of Gaza have access to food and supplies needed to live. Much of the humanitarian material the flotilla was carrying will make it into the hands of innocent civilians in Gaza, just as millions of tons of humanitarian aid have been delivered to Gaza through Israel since the start of the blockade.

Mr. Speaker, what this incident demonstrates more than anything else is that a lasting Middle East peace is needed. For a peace settlement to be reached, the first step is for Hamas to meet a very simple set of preconditions established by the Quartet (the United Nations, the United States, the European Union, and Russia).

The Quartet's demands are not complicated: Hamas must join the rest of the international community by recognizing Israel's right to exist, renounce the use of violence, and abide by previous agreements between Israel and the Palestinian people. If Hamas were to do so, the Gaza blockade would end, Israel's security would improve, and peace negotiations could begin in earnest.

In the end, we should use this most recent tragedy as a catalyst to redouble our inter-

national efforts to achieve peace and security in the Middle East. Our objective must not change: we must create a peace that dismantles Hamas's terrorist infrastructure, improves the situation in Gaza, and guarantees the safety and security of innocent Israelis and Palestinians alike. The United States has been attempting to broker just such an agreement via proximity talks for months now.

Furthermore, the United States' goodwill toward the people who live in Gaza is clear. The President's announcement of a \$400 million initiative to improve Gazans' access to drinking water, create jobs, build schools, make affordable housing more accessible, and address critical health and infrastructure needs is just the kind of thing we need to change direction in the Middle East. I strongly support the President's initiative because I want the living conditions for the people of Gaza to improve just as I want living conditions for all people around the world to improve.

As an international community, we all need to examine our various approaches to achieving peace in the Middle East, to see if any calibrations can be made in our strategies that will increase the chances of success. The tragedy on the Mavi Marmara only underscores how urgent it is for the international system to do everything it can to protect the security of Israelis, meet the humanitarian and economic needs of the people in Gaza, and create a permanent peace in this critical part of the world.

I will continue to support Israel's right to defend itself and its citizens. At the same time, I long for the day when Israel and the Palestinians can live peacefully with one another, because that will mean that our efforts to achieve a viable peace agreement in the Middle East have been successful.

AMERICAN JOBS, CLOSING TAX
LOOPHOLES AND PREVENTING
OUTSOURCING ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4213, the American Jobs, Closing Tax Loopholes and Preventing Outsourcing Act. This legislation accelerates our economic recovery by creating or saving over 1 million jobs and by providing emergency aid to American families.

Our economic recovery is thankfully underway. The private sector is working again. Jobs are being added. The task before Congress is finding the right balance between addressing the federal budget deficits and debt and supporting American families still struggling with the lingering effects of the recession.

This bill is a life-preserver for the millions of Americans who are still looking for work. For our youth experiencing record-high unemployment and looking for work this summer, this bill allocates funding that will support 350,000 jobs. It also provides emergency funding for a much-needed unemployment insurance extension through the end of November 2010. In addition to assisting those Americans hardest hit by the recession, these resources will stimulate the economy—every \$1 spent in unemployment benefits generates at least \$1.63 in

economic activity. H.R. 4213 also addresses a major concern for seniors by preventing pay cuts that could discourage doctors from seeing Medicare patients.

H.R. 4213 also makes long-term investments to support economic growth by extending tax incentives for research and development and American-made clean energy. This legislation will save and create jobs through Build America Bonds and Recovery Zone Bonds while rebuilding American infrastructure. This bill restores credit to small businesses and provides tax relief to middle class families, who are experiencing the lowest taxes in 60 years.

The many investments are fully offset by closing tax loopholes, ensuring that Wall Street investment fund managers paid their fair share of taxes on their income and ensuring that corporations stop abusing the foreign tax credit by shipping American jobs overseas. This legislation also begins to hold oil corporations accountable by increasing the fees they pay to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. Most importantly, the entire bill complies with statutory pay-as-you-go.

Let me be clear. Our economy will recover and thrive again—we are on the right path—but until we reach a full and vibrant recovery, we have a responsibility to extend the safety-net of unemployment benefits for the millions out of work while we enact measures to create jobs. For all these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and create American jobs, close tax loopholes, and prevent outsourcing.

IN RECOGNITION OF MANDINGO
TSHAKA

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest thanks and most sincere gratitude to Mandingo Tshaka, a resident of Bayside, New York, who first identified and advocated for the need to acknowledge the significant role that slave labor played in the construction of the United States Capitol several years ago. This week, Mr. Tshaka will be traveling to Washington, DC to witness his vision realized when Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader REID will unveil a series of plaques that honor and remember the contributions made by enslaved African Americans during the building of the Capitol. Thanks to his work and perseverance, the United States government will for the first time acknowledge the regrettable, humiliating, embarrassing, and humbling truth that slave labor helped to construct the very building that houses democracy in our Nation's capital.

In 2005, a Congressionally mandated study confirmed that slave labor was used extensively in the construction of the Capitol. The study confirmed what Mr. Tshaka already knew: One of the most egregious human rights violations in the history of the modern world helped erect the United States Capitol. It is to Mr. Tshaka's enduring credit that Congress will publicly and permanently recognize this fact this week.

Throughout his life, Mr. Tshaka has tirelessly dedicated himself to advocating for civil,

minority and community rights. A lifelong resident of New York City, he has contributed immeasurably to the improvement of his community and of his country. While this week's ceremony will be bittersweet, I am pleased that Mr. Tshaka will be present to witness the fulfillment of his latest endeavor to promote civil rights and awareness.

I look forward to welcoming Mr. Tshaka to the Capitol for this historic unveiling and I am proud to see Congress recognize the truth behind the Capitol's construction. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Mandingo Tshaka and thank him for helping to make this week's ceremony a reality.

IN HONOR OF STANLEY AND
BETTY SHEINBAUM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Stanley and Betty Sheinbaum as they celebrate their 90th birthdays. The Sheinbaums have been partners in life since 1964, with a shared devotion to each other, to their families, and to causes of peace and justice. Their support and work on behalf of humanitarian and progressive causes continues to strengthen the democratic foundation of our nation and the world.

Mr. Sheinbaum grew up in a poor, working class neighborhood in New York City. His family was hit hard by the Depression; their financial struggles during his formative years left an indelible imprint on him—clarifying his sense of justice, and strengthening his compassion and empathy for others, especially for the poor. After high school, he worked at various jobs until he joined the service, where he served during WWII. After the war, he re-enrolled in high school courses to elevate his grades and he was eventually accepted at Oklahoma A&M, where he did well enough to transfer to Stanford University. He graduated from Stanford with a degree in Economics with high honors, subsequently moving to Paris as a Fulbright scholar.

In the early 1960's, Mr. Sheinbaum's previous support of U.S. military involvement in South Vietnam began to fade. He became an active member and leader at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions—an organization that attracted the nation's intellectual elites. Mr. Sheinbaum quickly impressed members with his strong intellect and superior debating skills. He soon met and fell in love with activist Betty Warner, daughter of Warner Bros. co-founder, Harry Warner.

Born in 1920, Ms. Warner was a like-minded political activist who shared her future husband's social and political inclinations. She was born in Hollywood and grew up in the glory days of the movie industry. The daughter of a movie mogul, she lived a life adorned with pop artists and movie stars. Her family came to the United States in the early 1900s seeking democracy, freedom, justice and economic security. Although her father became famous, he began as a cobbler and a salesman. He instilled within her a strong sense of hard work, equality and justice. She became involved in community and grassroots politics and organized to fight McCarthyism.

Stanley Sheinbaum and Betty Warner were married in 1964. The Sheinbaums' sense of philanthropy and service to others has been a shared vision since their marriage. In addition to her activism, Betty Sheinbaum is a passionate artist. She is a successful sculptor, painter, artist and gallery owner. She uses her lifetime of experiences in her beautiful work and incorporates the imagery she has discovered on her travels throughout the world. She has studied with Howard Warshaw, Keith Finch, Jan Stussy, Mark Strickland and George Small.

In addition to donating to worthy causes over four decades, the Sheinbaums have continued to donate their valuable time. Among his countless accomplishments, Mr. Sheinbaum has served as head of the ACLU Foundation of Southern California and as President of the Los Angeles Police Commission during the difficult years between 1991 and 1993. While serving as a Regent of the University of California, he fought for divestment from South Africa. For the last 10 years, he has been the publisher of *New Perspectives Quarterly*. Both Betty and Stanley continue to serve on the Advisory Board for the Liberty Hill Foundation, an organization which invests in changemakers and equips them with the skills and relationships they need to build power and advance social justice.

As well as being active in their own communities, the Sheinbaums have used their resources and their influence to effect global change. In 1988, Mr. Sheinbaum led a delegation of American Jews to the Middle East where he befriended Yassar Arafat. Thanks in part to the efforts of the Sheinbaums, Arafat renounced terror and finally recognized Israel's right to exist. Respected for his ability to negotiate with world leaders, Mr. Clinton would later ask Mr. Sheinbaum to serve as a back-channel envoy to Syria and help influence the course of nations.

The passion, dedication and commitment of the Sheinbaums have made a difference in the lives of many. Their historic careers are surpassed only by their love for each other. Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Stanley and Betty Sheinbaum on the occasion of their 90th birthdays, as we extend to them both the thanks of a grateful nation for all they have done together to make our world a better place. They are truly great Americans.

EXTENDING EFFECTIVE DATE OF
GIFT CARD PROVISIONS OF
CREDIT CARD LAW

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Environmentally Conscious Option Gift Card Act, or ECO-Gift Card Act. This bill gives gift card producers until January 31, 2011, to comply with several provisions of the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure, CARD, Act that we passed last year. The current deadline is August 22, 2010, and producers have found that the quick deadline presented many issues.

If the deadline remains the same, most gift cards on the shelves of stores and in warehouses, which were produced before the law