

state nearly \$3 billion to weather the current economic climate.

In addition to his many roles in government accountability, Mr. Calabro is involved in a number of community organizations, including the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of the Big Bend, the Knights of Columbus, and the Board of Directors of Florida House.

Mr. Calabro is also dedicated to improvements in public education. He is on the Board of Advisors for Florida State University's Graduate School of Social Work. Mr. Calabro also serves on the Florida Education Foundation and Communities in Schools of Florida.

Mr. Calabro has been supported in all of his endeavors by his loving wife of thirty-one years, Debbie. Mr. and Mrs. Calabro are devoted to their four children, Diana, Dominic, Christina, and Danny.

I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Calabro on his thirty years of service with Florida TaxWatch, and to wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO PAKISTANI PEOPLE AFTER FLOODS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus and co-sponsor, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1613. I am deeply concerned about the humanitarian tragedy unfolding in Pakistan due to the recent historic floods and hope that this resolution will bring much-needed attention to the plight of the Pakistanis. I am always moved and inspired by the generosity of the American people when they hear about those in need around the world and I believe that the United States should do everything possible to help expedite the flow of U.S. and international aid supplies and workers into the region.

We must do everything possible to help expedite the flow of U.S. and international aide supplies and workers into the region. I believe that we should immediately reprogram funds from the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009, which were initially set aside for democracy building, into the relief effort. This way we can have an immediate impact without spending a single additional taxpayer dollar. While food shortages and instances of water-borne disease continue to spread, we must act quickly and decisively. The generosity of the American people has been commendable. Let's make it count by acting as swiftly and competently as possible.

We are currently fighting extremists throughout the region of South Asia, extremists who propagate the lie that Americans are out to destroy the Muslim way of life. Now we have an unprecedented opportunity to prove that this couldn't be further from the truth by helping the Pakistanis when they need it most. The U.S. response to the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan led to a short-term increase in positive public opinion of the United States in

Pakistan and I know that a similar response to this, a much larger tragedy, is sure to have an even greater influence in the hearts and minds of people.

PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN CON DAO

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to once again raise the issue of human rights. In January 2010, the Government of Vietnam sent police and government officials into a village to force parishioners and families to sign an agreement to sell their land. In April 2010, a 73-year-old parishioner named Le Van Sinh was hit with tear gas and fell unconscious. In May 2010, parishioner Mrs. Dang Thi Tan passed away and was met with extreme violence and 300 armed police officers and special anti-riot troops while her friends and family tried to bury her in the Con Dao cemetery. During the ceremony, the police attempted to seize the casket. The diocese of Da Nang also reported that Mr. Nam Nguyen, a parishioner of Con Dao was arrested, threatened and beaten to death.

Are these the actions of a country that respects human rights? The same country that committed these horrendous violations was taken off the Country of Particular Concern (CPC) list because the Department of State felt they had progressed in respecting religious freedom. The same country that detained these individuals for peacefully exercising their freedom of speech is a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

How can we identify Vietnam as an international partner when it is unable to respect and recognize the basic fundamental ideas of democracy and freedom? Vietnam must be put back on the CPC list and challenged by the U.S. government to improve and promote human rights in order to further United States-Vietnam relations.

I urge the Department of State to seriously address the human rights violations occurring in Con Dao. I also urge my colleagues to support the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Vietnam to investigate the ongoing human rights violations happening in Con Dao by becoming a cosponsor of House Resolution 1572.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of this week's anniversary of independence of numerous Latin American countries, of our country's Hispanic Heritage Month, and in special recognition of Latinos in my district and throughout our country.

On September 15, five Latin American countries commemorate their independence, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala,

Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. I join these nations in mutual celebration of liberty, democracy and freedom, values which we share dearly.

I am proud that my district is the home of thousands of Hispanic or Latino descent. This community is comprised of individuals who cherish their various ethnicities and national origins. And yet, the Hispanic-American community is united by the importance that they place on faith, family, hard work, and the hope of sharing in a better America.

Madam Speaker, it is in this spirit of national unity that I join you in commemorating Hispanic Heritage Month.

HONORING BILL GRAFF

HON. STEVE DRIEHAUS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Madam Speaker, last weekend, a shining light went out in the City of Norwood, Ohio when Bill Graff passed away.

Before he moved to Norwood eight years ago, Bill was one of the millions of Americans whose work formed the backbone of our nation. He retired from General Motors after a career that took him from his native Michigan to Tennessee.

It was after he retired that Bill brought his charisma and commitment to Norwood, and spent the last years of his life changing that city for the better. In the relatively short time he called Norwood home, Bill Graff wove himself into the fabric of that community. Whether carrying out a restoration that breathed new life into one of Norwood's magnificent older buildings, leading the charge to get new equipment for Norwood's police and first responders, or brainstorming about their next project with Vivian, his wife of 45 years, Bill was always looking for new ways to give back and strengthen the bonds that hold Norwood together.

Through his tireless actions, Bill showed us that community means more than just a group of people sharing a street or a neighborhood. He showed us that community is built upon service to one another, concern for our neighbors and our children, and a dedication to improving the lives of those around us as well as our own families.

Especially in these tough times, we look at Bill's life as an example of what a single person can do to lift up so many others. He will be dearly missed.

MEDIA GIVES FAR MORE MONEY TO DEMOCRATS THAN REPUBLICANS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, for a revealing example of the national media's liberal bias, just follow the money.

During the 2010 election cycle, journalists have given to Democrats over Republicans by

a margin of almost 2 to 1, according to a new report by the Center for Responsive Politics.

The list includes employees of news outlets such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Reuters, among many others.

Furthermore, during the 2008 election cycle, 88 percent of campaign contributions from television network employees went to Democrats, according to The Washington Examiner.

It's no wonder only 8 percent of Americans trust the media, according to a Zogby public opinion poll.

The national media should give Americans the facts, not give Democrats more money.

TAN ESCO CAN TEACH US ALL A LESSON OR TWO

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. SABLÁN. Madam Speaker, Señora Ecolastica Tudela Cabrera, more popularly and lovingly known as Tan Esco, is an icon to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands for her enduring entrepreneurial spirit and tenacity in overcoming adversity.

Born on February 10, 1930, Tan Esco grew up during the difficult days of the Japanese Administration of the Northern Mariana Islands. Her father had to leave his young family and go to Palau, working in the phosphate mines there to earn money for his family back home in Saipan.

Tan Esco attended a private, Catholic school, but later had to transfer to a Japanese school, where Chamorro and Carolinian children were taught the Japanese language and customs. Tan Esco remembered her Japanese teachers for their harsh manner in dealing with errant students and for the corporal punishment, which they meted out unsparingly. Despite such treatment, Tan Esco excelled at school. She was among the top ten in her class and was even put in charge of classes, when the teacher was summoned away.

The attitude of the Japanese Administration towards the local Chamorros and Carolinians hardened even farther, Tan Esco recalls, with the onset of World War II. And when American forces invaded Saipan, the Japanese military treated the local people almost as if they, too, were the enemy. Tan Esco hid in a small cave with over 40 natives for 19 days, while gunfire and bombs raged around them night and day. It was a nightmare for the 14-year-old Ecolastica; and the memories of the war remain fresh to this day, memories she hopes no one in her family will ever have to experience.

After the war ended, Tan Esco worked hard to help her family rebuild their lives. With the knowledge of hairdressing she learned from an American lady and \$500 borrowed from her father, Tan Esco opened Saipan's first beauty shop in the village of Susupe. The budding entrepreneur was only 19 years of age. Then her business interests grew. Within a few short years, she expanded into retail, becoming the first post-war shopkeeper to sell shoes

and clothing. Tan Esco and her husband, the late Gregorio Camacho Cabrera or Tun Guru, next opened a gasoline station, began manufacturing charcoal, processing tapioca, and much to everyone's delight dishing up dessert at Saipan's first soft-serve ice cream shop.

Tan Esco's lasting legacy to her island community, however, and the business that would even make her name abroad, was the bakery. She did not even know how to make bread, when she started. But with a little advice from her mother to get things going, and lots of help from the rest of the family, Ecolastica plunged into baking.

As always, Tun Guru was there by her side, nurturing his wife's enthusiasms and executing the business plans that she never seemed to run out of. The two would wake at 2 a.m. to bake and prepare food. They sold their goods from their snackmobile to the several hundred hungry students at Mt. Carmel School and Hopwood Junior High, who in those days had no school cafeteria. Tan Esco and Tun Guru also had a snack shop at the Saipan airport, which they would open when flights were arriving or departing. They baked 500 loaves of bread daily, delivering it Tanapag and San Roque in the north, often running out because of demand, but always assuring customers there would be more fresh bread tomorrow.

And in the midst of all this activity, Tan Esco and Tun Guru managed to raise a family—13 children in all, who themselves quickly learned the lessons of hard work and sacrifice needed to ensure the survival of the family. All the children's tasks were either directly or indirectly related to running the family business, Ecolastica's Enterprises.

Admired for her work ethic and drive to succeed, Tan Esco also became involved in local politics and civic organizations. She was the first woman ever to serve on the municipal council of Saipan. She held key positions in the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, with the Saipan Farmer's Market Association, the Micronesian Arts and Crafts Association, the PTA committees of Mt. Carmel School, the Kristo Rai Church parish council, the Vocational Education State Advisory Council and other organizations. She participated in the White House Conference on Aging. And in 1991, Tan Esco accepted the honor of being the first woman grand marshal in Saipan's Liberation Day parade and festivities.

Today, Tan Esco enjoys her days in full retirement, having handed over the reins of the business to her youngest daughter. Tan Esco reached the milestone of 80 years of life earlier this year. Her years of work have left her as vigorous and she could easily pass for a woman of 60. Tan Esco says she can hardly believe that she has lived for eight decades, marveling that time has flown so fast. Her husband Tun Guru passed away in 2006, but their 13 children, and many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were on hand to celebrate Tan Esco's 80th birthday.

Biba, Tan Esco, and dangkulo na si Yuus Maase. You are a living lesson to the younger generations of the Northern Mariana Islands. God bless.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO PAKISTANI PEOPLE AFTER FLOODS

CONDOLENCES TO PEOPLE AFTER FLOODS

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, as an original sponsor of this resolution, I join Chairman BERMAN, Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN and my colleagues in strong support of H. Res. 1613, a resolution expressing our condolences and support to the Pakistani people as they face a humanitarian disaster of monumental dimensions.

Today, a fifth of the country of Pakistan is under water as the country endures the greatest flooding in a century. More than 1,750 people have lost their lives, over 2,700 people have been injured and almost 2 million homes have been destroyed—displacing millions of men, women and children. Hundreds of bridges have been destroyed, cutting off communities from relief supplies. And many communities lie vulnerable to cholera and other epidemics as access to clean drinking water diminishes. This disaster has impacted the lives of tens of millions of people.

Acting swiftly, the U.S. government joined forces with the Pakistani government to provide immediate assistance. American military helicopters were redirected to rescue efforts within hours of the Pakistani Government's request for help. American military aircraft began delivering hundreds of thousands of meals and millions of pounds of relief supplies to the affected areas. We have provided heavy-duty waterproof sheeting to construct temporary shelters for more than 100,000 people, rescue boats, construction equipment, water filtration units, and even prefabricated bridges. We are working hand-in-hand with the Pakistan National Disaster Management Authority to ensure this assistance is delivered expeditiously to those in need.

Additionally, the U.S. has pledged more than \$150 million toward emergency flood relief. Approximately \$92 million of that total is in direct support of the UN relief plan. USAID and the State Department are also working together to redirect \$60 million of the \$7.5 billion Pakistan development aid package to flood recovery and reconstruction efforts. And, in light of fast moving events on the ground, USAID Administrator Shah has expressed an intention to re-evaluate future uses of the Pakistan aid package.

This is a time of great crisis for the Pakistani people and they urgently need our help. This resolution expresses our support for the people of Pakistan as they face this unprecedented catastrophe and encourages the Obama Administration to re-examine its priorities for using funds under the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009 in light of the crisis.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.