

with an impressive 10 to 0 victory. The Waipio team then represented the U.S. in the International Championship game against Japan. Although Japan came out ahead that day, the Waipio team kept the fans cheering and chanting "U.S.A." through the game's conclusion.

I am thrilled that our hometown teams are continuing Hawaii's tradition of Little League success and honorable sportsmanship. Americans across the country are proud of the effort and spirit displayed by these young players. While the practices, training, and games are an important part in the team's success, the coaches, parents and the community serve vital roles in supporting the team.

On behalf of the citizens of the 1st Congressional District of Hawai'i, I extend my congratulations to 2010 Little League World Series National Champions, the Waipio Baseball team, for their amazing achievements throughout the season.

IN HONOR OF JOHN FISCHER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of John Fischer, who passed away recently at the age of 81. I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize his long public service in the California Central Coast community that I represent.

John was born and raised on the east coast, graduating from the University of Maryland with a degree in physics. He was a long time member of Mensa, which accepts only persons who test in the top two percent of our nation in intelligence. John was in the top .01 percent. He moved to Los Angeles and worked for the Los Angeles Fire Department for nearly a decade. During that time he assisted the Los Angeles Police Department on the task force that took part in solving the Hillside Strangler case. He later worked for the LAPD, and then for the Los Angeles City Library.

In 1989, John moved to Pacific Grove and immediately became a frequent speaker at City Council and other public meetings, advocating for environmental issues. John had a gift for explaining difficult concepts in simple terms that made complex topics understandable. His discourse was not only informative, but always polite, even in heated disagreements.

I never saw him without his snowy owl pendant, and even his license plate, "Snowy," proclaimed his love of and care for the natural world. In his twenty-one years in our community, he contributed a lot of time and effort to many organizations. He was a co-founder of EcoCorps with former Pacific Grove Mayor Sandy Koffman and her husband; he served as President and Trustee of Friends of the Sea Otter; he volunteered for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in all its programs that monitor water quality, and also served for years on its Conservation Working Group. He volunteered for Pacific Grove's Monarch Habitat Restoration Committee, Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Advisory Committee, Economic Development Group, Housing Committee, Community Polic-

ing Advisory Committee, Traffic Commission, Crespi Pond Committee, and represented Pacific Grove on the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Transportation Agency of Monterey County.

For his over 1,800 hours as a volunteer at the Monterey Bay Aquarium he was named a "Volunteer Emeritus." In 2005, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation named him an Outstanding Volunteer. He received numerous accolades during his life for his many contributions.

Madam Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in mourning the passing of this dedicated and loving man. His life was a gift to his community, a shining example to be emulated by those who he inspired to continue his work.

CONGRATULATING ICHIRO SUZUKI FOR BECOMING THE FIRST PLAYER IN THE HISTORY OF MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WITH AT LEAST 200 BASE HITS IN 10 CONSECUTIVE SEASONS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ichiro Suzuki for becoming the first player in the history of Major League Baseball with at least 200 base hits in 10 consecutive seasons. Ichiro is an outfielder for my hometown team, the Seattle Mariners. He came to the Mariners in 2001 after playing for nine years for the Orix Blue Wave in Japan.

On Thursday, September 23, 2010 Ichiro accomplished this record feat with a line-drive single to center field in the fifth inning against the Toronto Blue Jays. The only other player in MLB history with ten 200-hit seasons is Pete Rose, but Ichiro is the only player to ever accomplish this in consecutive seasons, demonstrating incredible athletic ability and consistency.

For the people of Seattle, and for baseball fans everywhere, I wish Ichiro Suzuki congratulations for this incredible accomplishment.

EMERGENCY MEDIC TRANSITION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3199—Emergency Medic Transition, EMT, Act. As an original cosponsor and co-author of this bill, I'm pleased that policy language I authored regarding reciprocity for military emergency medical technicians can be considered today. This provision establishes reciprocity between the armed services and states regarding certification for emergency medical technicians, EMTs.

In 2008, the State of Illinois passed legislation which allows military "EMT" training of an honorably discharged member of the armed forces to be considered as 'reciprocal' for its

licensure requirements. Working with Representatives HARMAN and HERSETH SANDLIN, I included a similar provision in H.R. 3199, The Emergency Medic Training, EMT, Act, a comprehensive bill that will assist our EMT vets with training, grants, and education opportunities when they arrive home.

The need for such direction to states remains necessary. Our men and women in uniform should be able to use their real-time training and education in the field to help those in emergencies here at home, without the cost and redundancy of retraining upon their return.

I want to thank Congresswomen HARMAN and HERSETH SANDLIN for their hard work and support of our returning EMTs as well as their efforts to bring the underlying bill to the floor. I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes."

HONORING PROFESSIONAL TRUCK DRIVERS

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize America's professional truck drivers who serve our nation by delivering the clothes we wear, the food we eat, and the medicine we rely on.

This week, September 19–25, is designated National Truck Driver Appreciation Week and is set aside to honor the 3.4 million professional truck drivers in the United States. One out of every fifteen people across this country is employed in the trucking industry, making it one of our nation's largest employers.

Trucking is an industry that I am personally quite familiar with. Before getting into politics, I spent 26 years working in my family's trucking business. Early on, I acquired a Commercial Driver's License, which I still carry.

Trucking serves as the backbone of our economy, and is responsible for nearly 70 percent of the total U.S. freight tonnage. Over 80 percent of our nation's communities rely solely on the trucking industry for their goods and commodities.

The America's truck drivers are dedicated to keeping our highways safe. They follow stringent safety regulations, attend frequent training programs and educate the motoring public to help them drive safer around tractor-trailers.

America's truck drivers sacrifice precious time from their families, all the while, they deliver for ours. This week we pause to say thank you to them and to their families.

I salute these fine professionals and their families for the dedication they have to America and for delivering life's essentials safely and securely.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURAL LEASING OF NAVAJO NATION LANDS

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to enable Navajo Nation

to enter into 99-year commercial leases for economic development purposes.

Navajo Nation is the largest tribe in the United States. It's comprised of over 250,000 members and extends over 27,000 square miles of New Mexico, Arizona and Utah.

Today's Navajo Nation has worked to provide economic development opportunities and partnerships with individuals, small business owners, and large commercial establishments. With successful initiatives including the Diné Power Authority and the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry, the Nation has been at the forefront of economic development on tribal lands.

Today I am introducing legislation that I hope will enable the Nation to develop new projects and exercise their tribal sovereignty. This bill will authorize the Navajo Nation to enter into commercial leases of up to 99 years on their tribal lands. This simple revision of current law will level the playing field for the Nation by allowing it to enter into the same terms that commercial leases are typically offered.

It is my hope that the offering of 99-year leases will trigger additional economic growth on the Navajo Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this necessary legislation.

URGING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to growing concern of abuse and corruption in the former Soviet Republic country of Kazakhstan. The recent revolution in neighboring Kyrgyzstan and, earlier, the conflict behind Russia and Georgia heightens concern for the region . . . a region rich in oil and gas supplies and a region which serves as a gateway for the U.S. and NATO war effort in Afghanistan. However, ongoing allegations of corruption, human rights abuses, human trafficking, religious persecution and the lack of election reform, free media and free speech seriously affect its civil society.

The world's 10th largest energy-producing country, where a large number of U.S. corporations are doing business in an effort to meet our domestic energy needs, is not only an ally of the U.S. on non-proliferation treaties; it has provided the U.S. and NATO a gateway to Afghanistan. However, increasingly I see reports indicating that Kazakhstan's governmental system lacks the basic rights of democracy: elections are neither free nor fair; what political opposition exists is manipulated, physically and economically harassed and even sometimes assassinated. Few independent media outlets exist; wide-scale corruption which has begun to affect major U.S. companies doing business in Kazakhstan is rampant; respect for human rights, religious freedom, and freedom of speech or economic liberalization is non-existent.

The United States has sought a mutually beneficial relationship with Kazakhstan and provides aid to Kazakhstan in order to enhance economic growth, democracy, security, and civil society and to attend to humanitarian

needs. However, it is evident that the current U.S.-Kazakhstan relationship is compromised by Kazakhstan's record of human rights violations and lack of immediate and necessary reforms while chairing the OSCE. The U.S. Department of State has criticized President Nazarbayev's government for human rights violations. Its March 2009 report states: "The following human rights problems were reported: severe limits on citizens' rights to change their government; military hazing that led to deaths; detainee and prisoner torture and other abuse; unhealthy prison conditions; arbitrary arrest and detention; lack of an independent judiciary; restrictions on freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and association; pervasive corruption, especially in law enforcement and the judicial system; prohibitive political party registration requirements; restrictions on the activities of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs); discrimination and violence against women; trafficking in persons; and societal discrimination."

The details in the report, as well as reports from observer groups, are haunting. Two notable external groups are Freedom House and the United States Department of State. The observer group, Freedom House, has labeled Kazakhstan as "not free" and according to its assessment, Kazakhstan has earned a 6 ranking in Political Liberties and a 5 in Civil Liberties on the Freedom House scale of 1 to 7, 7 being the worst ranking possible. Even the U.S. State Department ranks Kazakhstan as a Tier 2 Watch List, meaning that Kazakhstan is a cause for concern over human trafficking issues.

In amending the constitution to allow him unlimited reign in 2007, President Nazarbayev joined a growing list of authoritarian leaders worldwide who have extended their terms indefinitely.

I applaud the work of the Helsinki Commission under the current leadership of Senator BEN CARDIN, and previously, Congressman ALCEE HASTINGS, for their ongoing commitment to bringing these matters to light and it is my hope that we continue work to bring about a transparent democracy where human rights violations and corruption have no place.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,471,094,170,316.20.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,832,668,424,022.40 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Latino Democratic Committee of Orange County, as it celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month. For almost a decade, the Latino Democratic Committee of Orange County has championed the cause of improving the lives of Latinos in Orange County through pride of ethnic origin, involvement in government, education and community issues while building coalitions. I am delighted to add my voice to those recognizing the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States and to celebrate Hispanic heritage and culture. I am proud to join the residents of Orange County in commemorating this celebratory month.

Since 1968, as Hispanic Heritage Week was approved by President Lyndon Johnson and expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988, we have all come together to celebrate and honor Hispanic Americans and their contributions to our Nation. Since the Revolutionary War, Hispanics have served with honor and distinction in every conflict. They serve as leaders in government, law, business, not-for-profits, social movements, and grassroots efforts. Hispanics continue to enrich our Nation's character and shape our common future. Now, more than ever, Hispanic Americans are shaping the American experience.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to honor National Hispanic Heritage Month and the Latino Democratic Committee of Orange County. I congratulate and salute the board of directors and supporters of this organization for their very positive and lasting impact on the lives of so many individuals and families.

POLITICAL PRISONERS BEING HELD IN VIETNAM

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, the Vietnamese government is nothing but a gaggle of thugs and gangsters who exploit, control and profit from the labor of the Vietnamese people and the theft of that nation's natural resources. The Hanoi dictatorship regularly imprisons, tortures and executes Vietnamese citizens who challenge the government/mafia's rule. As in all countries ruled by a communist party religious believers are persecuted most severely because those who align themselves with a higher authority than the mob in the capitol are its greatest threat.

More than two years ago, I placed a list of the political prisoners then being held by the government of Vietnam in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I am sorry to say that the list of political prisoners now being held in Vietnam has actually grown over the last twenty-four months. Vietnam has benefited immensely from growing US-Vietnam ties in the 15 years since relations were resumed, but the relationship has not in any way, shape, or form been