

While the resolution proports to raise awareness regarding the smuggling of Cypriot religious and cultural artifacts, it only addresses cases related to Northern Cyprus and ignores the fact that it is a problem on both sides of the island, and should be addressed by both sides in addition to the international community.

H. Res. 1631 overlooks the destruction of over 100 mosques, shrines, mausoleums and other valuable Ottoman and other cultural treasures in the 103 towns and villages which the Turkish Cypriots were forced to abandon in the southern part of the island.

There is also no mention of the vast sums spent by Turkish Cypriots to restore 15 Orthodox Churches over the last three years—each of which has been completed.

In order to address this problem, Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders established a Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in May 2008 in conjunction with talks to settle the Cyprus issue. This Committee was given an important mandate for the protection of the rich cultural heritage of the island. It aims at preserving secular and religious cultural heritage monuments, which is an integral part of the ongoing process of improving relations between Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots.

Had Greek Cypriots accepted the UN peace plan in the simultaneous referenda in April 2004, these issues would have been well on the way to being resolved, rather than discussed in third country legislatures.

Despite the rejection of the so called Annan Plan in 2004, direct negotiations between the two leaders on the island have continued in pursuit of a comprehensive solution to the conflict. As the party that has supported the UN peace plan along with the international community in 2004, the Turkish Cypriots continue to demonstrate their commitment to a comprehensive settlement based on the political equality of the two sides. Both sides need the support and encouragement of the United States and other members of the international community in order to bridge their differences and reach a mutually agreed upon settlement. The Congress should engage in activities that aim to bring the two sides together, not inflame passions. That is why I believe it was ill advised for the Congress to adopt this resolution.

HONORING SERGIO MASSA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise to honor one of South Florida's finest community leaders, Sergio Massa.

Sergio was born in the historic Port of Callao, Peru and completed his studies at the Colegio Militar Leoncio Prado. At an early age, his family instilled in him the value and importance of service and activism, and it is one that he has carried with him throughout his life. He came to the United States when he was 18 years old and first lived in San Francisco. He later moved to New York and in 1979 received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration & Accounting from the

New York Institute of Technology. Sergio then began his community involvement as a board member of Club Peru New York, the oldest Peruvian organization in the United States. He later moved to Miami, became the president of Club Peru Miami, and established his own company, Business Authority Corporation, which provides accounting services and development for small and midsized businesses.

In 1994, Sergio established the Peruvian American Coalition (PAC), which has brought together Peruvians from across the country and serves as a venue for its members to engage in politics and the legislative process, while promoting issues important to the Peruvian American community. Today, PAC has chapters in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, West Palm Beach, Atlanta, Utah, Idaho and New York City.

For years, Sergio has also been involved in an issue critical to our nation and that is immigration reform. Through the establishment of the Latin American Foundation, he has helped and guided countless immigrants as they transition and settle in the United States, enter the workforce and tackle language and cultural barriers. Sergio continues to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform, coordinating with other community groups and elected officials at all levels of government and working for the passage of that legislation.

Aside from the PAC and the Latin American Foundation, Sergio is the founder of the Peruvian American Political Organization USA (PAPO USA), the Peruvian American Coalition Foundation, the Tumi USA Award, the Latin American Voters League, Inc., the Convention of Peruvian Institutions in the USA, and AIPEUC—the Association of Peruvian Institutions in the USA and Canada.

Throughout his impressive career as a successful businessman and a selfless leader in our community, he has counted on the unconditional support of his wife Flor and his children, who have understood the value and importance of his service and have joined him in putting the needs of their community first. Sergio has earned the respect and admiration of many in our community and has been honored and recognized by local governments and organizations. Today I join all of them in thanking my good friend Sergio Massa for his undying commitment to seeing the success of the Peruvian American community and all Hispanics in South Florida and across the United States. He values the principles of democracy and works each day to ensure that they are preserved for all to enjoy.

LOÏS MAILOU JONES—HONORING AN INNOVATIVE TRAILBLAZER FROM THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize the late Loïs Mailou Jones, a renowned American artist and educator who died in 1993 at the age of 93. One of the longest living painters of the Harlem Renaissance, she influenced many emerging African-American artists during and since that historic period.

Her work will be on exhibit at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, in Washington, D.C., October 9, 2010 to January 9, 2011.

Loïs Mailou Jones (1905–1998) explored multiple themes and styles, poetically portraying African-American struggles in her work which included paintings, drawings and textile designs. For over fifty years, she consistently experimented with new techniques and inspired others to innovate. This led to many collaborations with her Harlem Renaissance contemporaries, from drawing illustrations for Langston Hughes to working alongside Carter G. Woodson, her significance during this period has been acknowledged.

As a long-time professor at Howard University, she shaped generations of students and upcoming artists. She enhanced their learning experience with painting tours outside of the classroom, convinced the exposure would help them become better artists. This included travels as near as the local park to as far away as Paris and Africa.

Born in Boston, MA, but traveling frequently throughout her career, her artwork consistently captured what was relevant in her life. After marrying Haitian artist Louis Vergniaud Pierre-Noel in 1953, Jones traveled and lived in Haiti and in those pieces one can see the influence of the Haitian culture, with its African influences and more colorful creations.

Her race and gender contributed to a long and challenging path before receiving recognition for her work, but eventually the accolades came. President Jimmy Carter honored Jones for her outstanding achievements in the arts in 1980, and in the last ten years of her life both President Bill Clinton and French President Jacques Chirac met the artist and collected her work. Loïs Mailou Jones continued to create her vibrant paintings until her death in 1998.

A unique synthesis of African, Haitian, Parisian, and American iconography, Jones' work remains a remarkable contribution to the world of art. Her paintings grace the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, National Museum of American Art, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, National Portrait Gallery, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the National Palace in Haiti, the National Museum of Afro-American Artists and private collections around the world.

At this time, I would like to also honor the current Trustees of the Loïs Mailou Jones Pierre Noel Trust: Robert W. Jones, Chris Chapman, MD, and Larry Frazier, Esq.

Madam Speaker, we recognize this distinguished artist and offer recognition of her contributions made to this genre.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE: THE LATE JASON EDWARD JUSTICE, JR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, George S. Patton, Jr. said "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived." For that reason, on September 29, 2010 we did not mourn Jason Edward Justice Jr's death; rather we celebrated his life.

Jason was born on March 20, 1955, in Galveston, Texas. He was inspired to study hard

and prepare himself for college. He attended La Marque Independent School District. He was a great athlete which enabled him to receive full college scholarship. He graduated in 1977 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

He parlayed this degree into a career of public service as Chief of Staff to Texas State Senator Royce West and me when I served in the Texas Senate. In addition, his more than three decades of state service included working for Ann Richards when she was the Texas Comptroller and with the Texas Employment Commission.

Jason was involved with many organizations such as the Coalition of Black Trade Unions, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employee Union, the AFL-CIO and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. His integrity and excellent service earned him various awards.

Jason was devoted to his wife, Janis DeGrate Justice, and to his family. In addition to Janis, he is survived by his children, Jason Justice, III, Christopher Justice, Derek D. Smith and Barbie Smith.

Many of us in Texas knew and admired Jason Justice. I valued his friendship and advice, as did so many others, and we will greatly miss him. It is impossible to fully grasp the breadth and depth of a life of someone like Jason, who gave every project or responsibility his very best effort and who lived his life with boundless enthusiasm and compassion. He was a role model and mentor to so many, and he leaves a powerful legacy that will last for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in memory and in honor of this great American, dedicated public servant, and truly great man—Jason Justice. We will not mourn that he has left us behind; rather we will rejoice what he has left behind.

HONORING THE MASSAPEQUA FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, this weekend I had the privilege of joining in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Massapequa Fire Department. Founded on September 25, 1910, the Massapequa Fire Department has a long history of dedicated volunteerism and service to the Long Island community including Massapequa, Massapequa Park, and East Massapequa.

The Massapequa Fire Department provides around-the-clock fire protection and emergency medical services to approximately 19,000 homes located within its district, responding to an average of 2,400 alarms annually.

As Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am proud to support our nation's firefighters in Congress. These brave men and women risk their lives day after day to protect our communities and save the lives of others. Through Federal programs such as the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and the Staffing for Adequate

Fire and Emergency Response Program, we can do our part in ensuring that these heroes get the equipment, vehicles, training, staffing and other resources they need.

I hope that this milestone in the Massapequa Fire Department's history reminds us of not only the traditional role that firefighters have always played in protecting our communities, but also how their role has changed since September 11, 2001, because now they are also faced with an increasingly complex and dangerous job of preparing for and responding to acts of terrorism. We must do all that we can to support them in their mission.

I want to thank Massapequa Fire Chief Peter Anglim for his leadership and service, and all of the firefighters, both active and retired, who have proudly served the Massapequa community. Congratulations on 100 years of dedicated service.

VETERANS BENEFITS AND ECONOMIC WELFARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning. I rise in support of several pieces of legislation before us this week that aim to improve the lives of our Nation's veterans.

As Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, it was my honor and privilege to help move some of these bills forward. I also thank the sponsors of these bills for their commitment to our veterans.

These bills make substantial improvements to the VA's job training programs, making veterans more attractive to small businesses to hire and train, and to ensure that veterans suffering from PTSD and other mental conditions are able to appeal their claims decisions if they miss an arbitrary deadline, set by a bureaucrat.

I strongly support the provision in H.R. 6132 which will allow veterans receiving a pension from the VA to keep receiving their pension in the event they are awarded a settlement for loss or injury. This will correct an extremely unfair part of current law that includes these payments as income when determining a veteran's eligibility for a means-based pension.

I am also glad that the House is addressing the issue of Retained Asset Accounts. We have heard a great deal about these accounts for recipients of Service Group Life Insurance Policies. H.R. 5993 will ensure that the families of veterans understand their rights and are fully informed of their options when their loved one passes.

Thank you again Mr. Speaker, and thank you to Chairman FILNER for his assistance in bringing these bills forward. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of these important bills.

ARTHRITIS PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND CURE ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my legislation, H.R. 1210, the Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act. I have fought long and hard for this bill alongside the Arthritis Foundation, the American College of Rheumatology, and the thousands of advocates across the country who understand how important this is. The legislation enjoys the bipartisan support of 181 Members of the House, and passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously.

One out of every five adults suffers from arthritis, making it the most common cause of disability in the United States. More than 300,000 children suffer from juvenile arthritis. Early diagnosis for this disease is critical to ensure children get access to the right doctor and the care they need.

My bill will authorize the "National Arthritis Action Plan," giving legislative direction and leadership to a program which has proven successful since 1998. The Plan distributes important grants to states and nonprofits to carry out arthritis outreach and education activities. The bill expands the Secretary of Health and Human Services' authority to increase juvenile arthritis research at NIH, and authorizes important institutional training grants to increase the number of pediatric rheumatologists in the U.S.

I'm proud of the work I've done to raise awareness about the devastating effects of arthritis but I'm far prouder of the tireless work of the arthritis advocates who have walked these halls, called their Representatives, and shared their stories. Their grassroots efforts are at the heart of this bill and I'm so pleased we could work on this together.

Passage of the Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act is also a tribute to my friend, Senator Edward Kennedy, as we introduced this legislation together in the 110th Congress. His commitment to public health, improving care for children, and ending suffering are the principles which guided everything he did and I know he's looking down on us today and smiling.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE SEPTEMBER 29, 2009 TSUNAMI THAT STRUCK AMERICAN SAMOA, SAMOA AND TONGA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember those who lost their lives last year on September 29 when American Samoa was hit by the most powerful earthquake of 2009 which struck below the ocean about 140 miles southwest of Pago Pago, American Samoa, and 125 miles south of Samoa.

The earthquake, which registered 8.3 on the Richter scale, set off a massive tsunami that