

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL
ROBERT T. BRAY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Robert T. Bray for his stewardship in Rhode Island's Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Program—Priority to Veterans. His contributions have been vital to the success of this program. His work with this important issue is simply unmatched.

Rhode Island's Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery Program—Priority to Veterans addresses the needs of individuals with mental illness such as post traumatic stress disorder and trauma related disorders involved in the justice system. In recognition of the dramatically higher prevalence of trauma related disorders among veterans, this program prioritizes eligibility for veterans.

General Bray assumed the duties as The Adjutant General and the Commanding general of the Rhode Island National Guard on 17 February 2006. As The Adjutant General, he is responsible for the mission readiness of all Rhode Island National Guard units for both federal and state missions.

General Bray joined the South Dakota National Guard in December 1971. He received his commission as a Field Artillery officer through the South Dakota Military Academy in 1974. Prior to this assignment, General Bray served as the Deputy Commanding General, Army National Guard, United States Army Field Artillery Center, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In that capacity he served as the advisor to, and as the personal representative of, the Commanding General (CG) for all Army National Guard Field Artillery matters.

General Bray has been instrumental in advancing Rhode Island's correctional institutions. I wish him all the best as he continues his important work on behalf of our nation's heroes, our veterans. He will continue to carry my own admiration, and that of all who have had the privilege to work with him.

**THANKING ROTARY FOR 105 YEARS
OF SERVICE**

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1727, a resolution recognizing Rotary International for 105 years of service to the world and commending its members on their dedication to the mission and principles of their organization. As the Representative of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois which is home to Rotary Club International, I want to personally thank them for the service and commitment to making the world a more humane place.

Madam Speaker, the Rotary Club's motto, "Service Above Self," is an inspiring example for all Americans. Rotarians not only preach this motto, they live it by developing commu-

nity service projects that address many of today's most critical issues, such as children at risk, poverty and hunger, the environment, illiteracy, and violence.

I would like to especially recognize Rotary for its 25-year long campaign for the global eradication of polio. Since 1985, Rotarians have raised close to a billion dollars to immunize the children of the world and have pledged to contribute an additional \$500 million to the cause. In addition to this generous financial contribution, Rotary has provided an army of volunteers to promote and assist at national immunization days in polio-endemic countries around the world.

Due in large part to Rotary's efforts, the number of polio cases has fallen dramatically. In 1985, there were 350,000 known cases of polio in 125 countries. Today, more than 200 countries are polio-free. There are only four endemic nations—Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan—the lowest in history.

I want to again thank Rotary International for its 105 years of service. There is no question that the world is a far better place today because of their tremendous work.

**IN RECOGNITION OF REV. DR.
DEFOREST SOARIES, JR.**

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rev. Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., a resident of Monmouth Junction, New Jersey and the Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset. Today, the church community gathers to celebrate Rev. Soaries' 20th Pastoral Anniversary. Rev. Soaries' pastoral ministry focuses on spiritual growth, educational excellence, economic empowerment and faith-based community development. His advocacy and dedication to members of the community are undoubtedly worthy of this body's recognition.

Rev. Soaries' experience and activism in college laid a solid foundation for his future success. As a college student, Rev. Soaries led a campaign against drug use on campus. He later advocated for civil rights issues as a community organizer for the Urban League. He was also served as a National Coordinator in Operation PUSH. Rev. Soaries earned a Bachelor's of Arts Degree from Fordham University, a Master's of Divinity Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary. He is also the recipient of six honorary Doctoral Degrees from various institutions.

Rev. Soaries is well known for being an active agent for change. He has guided members of the church and local community with financial education assistance and foreclosure prevention. Specifically, dfree is a program developed by Rev. Soaries to encourage participants to attain financial self-sufficiency. The dfree strategy teaches individuals to live without debt, within their means and pay their bills on time. As a result of his outstanding accomplishments, Rev. Soaries was the focus of the third installment of CNN's "Black in America" documentary "Almighty Debt." It aired on October 21, 2010. This documentary highlighted

three families from First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens who were facing difficult financial times as a result of issues including the recession, home foreclosure, unemployment and college tuition payments. In April 2007, Radio Talk Show Host Don Imus used racially insensitive language to describe the members of the Rutgers University Women's Basketball team. Rev. Soaries served as the mediator and facilitator between these two groups.

From January 12, 1999 to January 15, 2002, Rev. Soaries served as New Jersey's thirtieth Secretary of State. He was the first African-American male to serve in this position. In his capacity, he served as senior advisor to the Governor on a wide range of public policies that effect various departments and constituencies. In December 15, 2003, Rev. Soaries was appointed to serve as Chairman of the United States Election Assistance Commission. This commission was established by Congress to implement the "Help America Vote Act" of 2002. Rev. Soaries' leadership in these endeavors is worthy of our praise and commendation.

As a result of his exceptional work, Rev. Soaries was recently recognized by both houses of the New Jersey Legislature for his religious and community leadership. His work has also been featured in the New York Times, Ebony Magazine, Black Enterprise and Government Executive Magazine.

Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in congratulating Rev. Dr. DeForest Soaries, Jr., as the parishioners celebrate his 20th Pastoral Anniversary. Rev. Soaries and the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens are tremendously valued in my district and the State of New Jersey.

**CONGRATULATING LIU XIAOBO ON
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE**

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, the imprisonment of Liu Xiaobo is a personal tragedy, a national shame, and an international challenge. The answer is clear: Mr. Liu should be released immediately.

For his more than two decades of advocating for freedom of speech, assembly, religion, peaceful democratic reform, transparency and accountability in China, Mr. Liu is serving an eleven-year sentence in a Chinese prison for "inciting subversion of state power." Those in China, like Mr. Liu, who have penned thoughtful essays or signed Charter 08 seek to advance debate, as the Charter states, on "national governance, citizens' rights, and social development" consistent with their "duty as responsible and constructive citizens." Their commitment and contribution to their country must be recognized, as the Nobel Committee has done, and as we do today, and their rights must be protected.

The Chinese government has said that awarding the Nobel Prize to Liu Xiaobo "shows a lack of respect for China's judicial system." I would like to take a moment to examine this claim. For it seems to me that what truly showed a lack of respect for China's judicial system were the numerous and well-documented violations of Chinese legal protections

for criminal defendants that marred Mr. Liu's trial from the outset. I refer here to matters such as the failure of Chinese prosecutors adequately to consult defense lawyers, and the speed with which prosecutors acted in indicting Mr. Liu and bringing him to trial, effectively denying his lawyers sufficient time to review the state's evidence and to prepare for his defense. Chinese officials prevented Mr. Liu's wife from attending his trial, in which she had hoped to testify on behalf of her husband. Mr. Liu's lawyers reportedly were ordered by state justice officials not to grant interviews. It is these abuses committed by Chinese officials in China, not the actions of a committee in Oslo, that demonstrated "a lack of respect for China's judicial system."

All nations have the responsibility to ensure fairness and transparency in judicial proceedings. The effective implementation of basic human rights and the ability of all people in China to live under the rule of law depend on careful attention to, and transparent compliance with, procedural norms and safeguards that meet international standards. I serve as Cochairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC). The Commission's Political Prisoner Database, which is available to the public on-line via the Commission's web site, www.cecc.gov, contains information on thousands of political prisoners in China. These are individuals who have been imprisoned by the Chinese government for exercising their civil and political rights under China's Constitution and laws or under China's international human rights obligations. The enhancement of the database that the Commission announced this past summer roughly doubled the types of information available to the public, enabling individuals, organizations, and governments to better report on political imprisonment in China and to more effectively advocate on behalf of Chinese political prisoners. And people around the world have been using the database to do just that. The number of "hits" to the database from individual users, NGOs, academic institutions and governments around the world has skyrocketed. The database makes clear that political imprisonment in China is well-documented, it is a practice whereby the Chinese government has shown disrespect for the law not only in Liu Xiaobo's case, but in thousands of other cases, and it must end.

Unfortunately, the end to political imprisonment in China does not appear likely at this time. Since the Nobel Committee's announcement, Mr. Liu's wife, Liu Xia, has been harassed relentlessly, and remains confined virtually incommunicado under what appears to be house arrest. In the weeks following the Nobel Committee's announcement, there have been over 100 documented incidents in which Chinese citizens have been harassed, interrogated, subjected to police surveillance, detained or placed under house arrest for their expressions of support for Liu. Articles in China's official state-run media have attacked the Nobel committee and painted a harshly negative portrait of Liu. Chinese authorities have attempted to limit the dissemination of information about Liu's receiving the Nobel Prize. Chinese officials have censored unauthorized references to Liu on the Internet and cell phones and blocked access to news about Liu from outside China. Chinese officials have imposed severe travel restrictions on Chinese activists, scholars, and lawyers whom they

fear will attempt to attend the Nobel peace prize award ceremony in Norway on December 10. In the last month, Beijing police reportedly have prevented leading scholars and lawyers from boarding flights to attend international conferences for fear they will attend the Nobel peace prize award ceremony. Other public intellectuals physically have been prevented by police from meeting foreign reporters.

The Director of the Nobel Institute said China's pressure on other governments to boycott this year's ceremony has been unprecedented in his twenty years as Director. China's G20 negotiator said that countries sending officials to attend the award ceremony honoring Mr. Liu must be ready to "accept the consequences." Diplomats report that the Chinese Embassy in Oslo has sent official letters to foreign embassies in the Norwegian capital asking them not to make statements in support of Liu, and not to attend the Nobel awards ceremony on December 10. This is not the behavior of a strong, responsible government.

As Liu Xia said the morning her husband was selected to receive the Nobel Prize, "China's new status in the world comes with increased responsibility. China should embrace this responsibility, and have pride in his selection and release him from prison." As Nobel laureate Vaclav Havel correctly noted, "intimidation, propaganda, and repression are no substitute for reasoned dialogue. . . ." And as Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu recently wrote together with Vaclav Havel:

We know that many wrongs have been perpetrated against China and its people throughout history. But awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu is not one of them. Nor is the peaceful call for reform from the more than 10,000 Chinese citizens who dared to sign Charter 08. . . . China has a chance to show that it is a forward-looking nation, and can show the world that it has the confidence to face criticism and embrace change. . . . This is a moment for China to open up once again, to give its people the ability to compete in the marketplace of ideas. . . .

I take particular note of the words of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, who, in a recent interview with CNN, stated:

Freedom of speech is indispensable. . . . The people's wishes for, and needs for, democracy and freedom are irresistible."

Sadly, the Chinese government clearly has shown the world, through its mistreatment of Liu Xiaobo and countless others, that Premier Wen's words are not the basis for government action in China.

This Resolution shines a light on the Chinese government's failure to enforce basic human rights, and underlines that China once again is at an important crossroads, and seems to be turning in the wrong direction. This has implications not only for the development of institutions of democratic governance in China, but also for the United States in managing our relations with China.

I am pleased to co-sponsor this important Resolution.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER JOHN ULSTROM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of retired Chief Warrant Officer John Ulstrom, who walked 1,500 miles from Desdemona, TX to Washington, DC in an effort to bring attention to the need for better mental health care for troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Officer Ulstrom made this journey in memory of his friend's son Joe Vitalec, a 21 year old Army reservist who committed suicide after developing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in Iraq. Unfortunately, stories like Mr. Vitalec's are not uncommon. Statistics from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reveal that veterans account for 20% of American suicides, which amounts to 18 suicides per day. Today's soldiers are deployed for unprecedented amounts of time, and the extra exposure to combat takes its toll. A study published in the Archives of Internal Medicine found that nearly one out of three veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who required services from the VA in the first part of the decade were diagnosed with psychological trauma. The VA has been underfunded for years, and it employs only a fraction of the number of mental health care workers needed to give veterans the treatment they need. Many veterans receive no treatment at all, and many of those who do receive it in the form of a pill.

In his blog, Ulstrom explains the situation in more personal terms. "I have seen firsthand that there is a severe shortage of mental health workers and psychiatrists in the military and Dept. of Veterans Affairs. PTSD is a severe problem with our returning veterans, with no one to talk to and nowhere to turn, many vets suffer alone with no treatment whatsoever, slowly descending into their own personal hell."

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in applauding Officer Ulstrom for his work. By making this journey and sharing his story, he has personalized the pain of mentally ill veterans and their families. These men and women who have given so much of themselves to our country deserve our full support.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL DONALD J. GOLDHORN, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE GUAM NATIONAL GUARD, FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF GUAM AND TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary service and leadership of Major General Donald J. Goldhorn, the Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard. Major General Goldhorn has been an outstanding leader of the men and women in the Guam National Guard and has been actively involved in our community on