

agencies administering programs for Veterans, to name only a few.

Besides her commitments to Mariposa County Community Services, Mrs. Williams also served as a member of a number of groups, including the Future Farmers of America/Western Days and the Farm Bureau, was appointed a member of the Fair Board by the Governor and has worked actively with the Junior Livestock Auction Committee since its formation. Mrs. Williams recently celebrated 50 years of marriage to her husband Kenny and they both look forward to spending more time with their family upon her retirement.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Williams for her dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Williams many years of continued success.

A SALUTE TO WOMEN IN DEFENSE

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Women In Defense, A National Security Organization that will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary this Sunday, December 19, 2010.

Women In Defense began in the fall of 1979 as the brainchild of seven dynamic women, Margo Giordano Anderson, Karen Hopkins, Betty Kimmel, JoHanna Kinley, Diane Lafferman, Lillian Morris, and Rebekah Nottingham. They met and discussed the idea of starting an informal network to assist participants, especially women, in expanding their knowledge of national security issues and of the national defense community in which they participated. The association was incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c)(6) on December 19, 1985.

For 25 years, Women In Defense has provided women a formal environment for professional growth through networking, education, and career development. Its 3,000 members, and 16 chapters throughout the United States, cultivates and supports the advancement and recognition of women in all aspects of national security. Women In Defense also offers the HORIZONS Scholarship, which was established in 1988 to encourage women to pursue careers related to the national security and defense interests, and to provide development opportunities to women already working in these fields.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Women In Defense for the dramatic impact it has had on professionals who serve the national defense and national security of our nation. Its numerous successes have elevated the presence and stature of women in industry and military leadership. Because of their efforts, the United States benefits from a workforce that is better equipped to serve our great nation.

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S PROJECT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the National Alzheimer's Project Act—a bill whose passage will mark the first coordinated and concentrated effort by the Federal Government to meet the challenges posed by Alzheimer's disease.

And, those challenges are many. There's the toll it takes on the physical health of the 5.3 million Americans living with the disease, the toll it takes on the emotional well-being of the 11 million people caring for those with the disease, and the increasingly great toll it takes on the finances of the federal budget. The disease takes and takes. But, with the National Alzheimer's Project Act, we can finally fight back.

The need to do so could not be any clearer.

In 2010, Medicare and Medicaid spent \$122 billion caring for people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Without action, the annual cost to those two programs alone from Alzheimer's disease will reach \$805 billion in 2050. But, we are not destined to increase the Medicare and Medicaid costs of this disease almost sevenfold.

In fact, we know that a therapeutic intervention that delays the onset of Alzheimer's by five years would cut nearly in half the projected Medicare cost of the disease over the same time period.

To reach that future where the number of Americans with the disease does not rise unabated and the costs spiral out of control we will need to marshal all of our resources. With this bill, we assign a field general.

The bill establishes the National Alzheimer's Project within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, to coordinate research across all Federal agencies, and to accelerate the development of treatments that would prevent, halt, or reverse the advancement of the disease.

The creation of a strategic plan not only provides a vision for fighting Alzheimer's, but also mandates the creation of benchmarks to measure our progress in that fight. Today, we have no way of evaluating outcomes, let alone a way to improve them.

I am pleased to support such a critical piece of legislation which will improve the lives of the millions of Americans living with the disease and the millions of Americans caring for them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House floor on the legislative day of December 14, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 628 and 630, and "no" on rollcall vote 629.

CALLING ON STATE DEPARTMENT TO LIST VIETNAM AS A RELIGIOUS FREEDOM VIOLATOR

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H. Res. 20, calling on the State Department to list the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as a "Country of Particular Concern" with respect to religious freedom.

The State Department removed Vietnam from the CPC list in 2006, and since then, the human rights situation in that country has deteriorated significantly. After a brief improvement while Vietnam was seeking membership in the World Trade Organization, the Vietnamese government returned to its former ways—intimidation and repression of basic human freedoms. According to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's (USCIRF) recently released annual report, "The government of Vietnam continues to control government-approved religious communities, severely restrict independent religious practice, and repress individuals and groups viewed as challenging political authority."

Vietnam remains a severe violator of religious freedoms, and the CPC designation is a potentially powerful tool that should be used to highlight this shortcoming and encourage action. USCIRF has recommended CPC status for Vietnam every year since 2001, and continues to do so this year, advising that "[g]iven these ongoing and serious violations, the uneven pace of religious freedom progress after the CPC designation was lifted, the continued detention of prisoners of concern, and new evidence of severe religious freedom abuses, USCIRF again recommends that Vietnam be designated as a CPC in 2010."

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I strongly urge the State Department to follow the advice of the Commission and redesignate Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern.

THE HALL OF FAME IN HONOR OF AN AMERICAN HERO SPC TIM HALL 173 AIRBORNE BRIGADE, THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic sacrifice and service of SPC Tim Hall of the 173rd Airborne Brigade of the United States Army. On June 10, 2010, SPC Hall of Reno, Nevada, was severely wounded by a mortar attack in Kabul, Afghanistan. Although he was severely injured and lost both of his legs, SPC Hall continues his courageous effort on the road to recovery. My sincere gratitude, appreciation, and thoughts are with SPC Hall and all of our service members as they continue to heroically and selflessly sacrifice for our Nation. I am honored to represent SPC Hall and his family in Nevada's 2nd Congressional District. I am proud to submit a poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell for the RECORD.

THE HALL OF FAME

In our country 'Tis of Thee. . . .
 All in this our Nation of the free. . . .
 But stand, the greatest of all Americans in-
 deed. . . .
 Are but all of those who go off the war, for
 you and me. . . .
 The ones who answer That Call To Arms. . . .
 Who put themselves, and their families all in
 such heartache and grave harm. . . .
 To our Nation's Hall of Fame, belong. . . .
 The ones who now so lie in the soft cold dark
 graves, so all alone. . . .
 And all of those others who come back home.

 Without arms and legs, and burns upon their
 bodies own. . . .
 Our best and our brightest, our very bravest
 who so fight this. . . .
 Her most magnificent names. . . . are all but
 in our Nation's Hall of Fame!
 Men, like SPC Tim Hall. . . . of the 173 Air-
 borne, who stood tall. . . .
 As a mortar attack, left him dying. . . .
 As it was but then his brave heart to him,
 started crying. . . .
 Not to give up or to give in. . . . as this war-
 riors new battle would begin!
 With his two fine legs gone, he told himself
 it was time to move on. . . .
 Get Up. . . . Get Moving. . . . Get Airborne!
 As so deep down in his heart, so worn. . . .
 Was the courage and the faith, to somehow
 move on. . . .
 Another Hall of Famer born. . . . with his
 profiles in courage soars. . . .
 To new heights. . . . To Teach Us. . . . To So
 Beseech Us. . . . oh Tim what form!
 As he so Reaches Us, and somehow carries
 on!
 As one of Nevada's Finest Sons. . . .
 There's gold in his heart, this one!
 For this man is Army Strong!
 Hooah, for in his heart beats such a song!
 A song of Strength In Honor, all day and all
 night long!
 And if I had a son, I wish he but shine like
 this one. . . .
 As thy will be done, for he's in The Hall of
 Fame this son!
 Showing us all to what new heights a heart
 can run!
 America's Son!
 So on this Christmas morning as you awake.

 Or during the Festival of lights, would you
 so take. . . .
 So take the time to remember, all of these.

 Selfless Souls, who so bring us peace!
 Who our Nation's Hall will never cease!

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JUDGE FRANK BELL FROM THE FIRST JUDICIAL COURT OF FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge Frank Bell, upon his retirement from presiding on the county and circuit benches for the past 38 years. Judge Bell spent his career serving the northwest Florida community, and I am proud to recognize his dedication and service.

Judge Bell was born and raised in Pensacola, Florida. After graduating from Pensacola High School, Judge Bell enlisted in the Army. After serving on active duty and in the reserves, Judge Bell attended the University of

Southern Mississippi, where he received a B.S. in accounting. He furthered his education at the Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, where he graduated in 1966.

Judge Bell returned to his native Pensacola to practice law. He worked as a sole practitioner, in addition to prosecuting both capital and non-capital cases. In 1972, he was chosen by the people of Escambia County, Florida to serve as a County Judge, and in 1985 he was appointed to the First Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, a job which Judge Bell has carried out with honor and distinction for 25 years.

Judge Bell adheres to the judicial philosophy that impartiality must be preserved to ensure fairness in our legal system. In Judge Bell's view, it is of the upmost importance that judges "convince the litigants that all we want is a fair fight for the party." Some Americans view the justice system with fear and trepidation; however, Judge Bell believes that when citizens experience a fair and impartial judiciary firsthand their opinions change completely. According to Judge Bell, citizens, "after serving on a jury where they see the system work, they develop a positive attitude." Judge Bell's unwavering commitment to upholding the law in an unbiased manner is a prime example of our legal system working at its best and is a great credit to his beloved community.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Judge Frank Bell for his service to northwest Florida and to the United States of America.

ADVANCING PEACEFUL NEGOTIA- TIONS IN THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I believe that we must advance a negotiated peace process in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, I have concerns that H. Res. 1765 only addresses one of the issues that is impeding lasting peace in the region. For the United States to be an honest, effective broker of peace, we must take into account the roles that all parties play in the conflict.

Particularly now, as we try to rebuild the potential for direct talks, we must weigh our actions based on how effectively they will advance the likelihood of all parties coming to the negotiating table. I strongly support American diplomatic efforts to mediate a two-state solution, and I believe we must direct our efforts towards balanced measures that lay the strongest possible foundation for a peaceful resolution.

TRIBUTE TO RAY ABRIL, JR.

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to an outstanding

friend, mentor and community leader, Mr. Ray Abril, Jr. Ray passed away on December 14, 2010.

Born in Colton, California on June 5, 1932, Ray was raised in South Colton where he dedicated his life to his community and to the improvement of education in the Colton Joint Unified School District.

Ray graduated from Colton High School in 1950. A veteran of the Korean War, he courageously served four years in the Navy.

Ray first became involved in education in the early 1970's, motivated to serve because of the poor state of many local schools at the time. In 1973 he won his first election to the Colton Joint Unified School Board.

Ray often liked to joke that he had a PhD from USC, "The University of South Colton." Throughout his 28 year career with the Colton School Board, Ray played an important part in improving schools. During his time as board member he worked to improve student performance, enhance school safety and increase the number of college-bound students.

A strong advocate for education, Ray was instrumental in advising me on many legislative policy decisions over the years, including my PROUD Act. As a board member, Ray became affectionately known as "The Godfather of the Colton Joint Unified School District." He held the office of Clerk for thirteen years and served as Board President for six years. Ray retired from the Colton Joint Unified Board of Education after 28 years of dedicated service.

Because of Ray's lifelong commitment to education, the Colton Joint Unified School Board decided to recognize him by including his name in the campus of the new high school in Grand Terrace. When complete, the school will be known as the Grand Terrace High School at the Ray Abril, Jr. Educational Complex.

An active member of the community, Ray was involved in a number of organizations including the San Bernardino Countywide Gangs and Drugs Task Force, the Knights of Columbus and the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Advisory Committee. Ray was also a co-founder of the Mexican-American Parent & Student Organization, a group that advocated educational improvements in Colton.

His legacy of work on local issues such as the BNSF rail crossing and his founding of Colton First had a lasting impact on communities across the Inland Empire. After his many years of service, Ray was awarded the Assistance League of San Bernardino's "Living Legend Award" during its 50th anniversary celebration.

Ray was a loving family man. He and his beloved wife Hortensia were married for 53 years before her unfortunate passing. Ray leaves behind his daughters Melinda Medina, Rebecca Gonzales, Nellie Carnero as well as his three sons, Nick, Michael and Dominic. He also leaves behind 19 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

The thoughts and prayers of my wife, Barbara, Mayor pro tem Joe Baca, Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, Jennifer and I are with his family at this time. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a superb American citizen and dedicated community leader. He will be greatly missed and I extend my sincere condolences to his extended family upon the very sad loss of Mr. Ray Abril, Jr.