

and Estates Section. An active member of the American Bar Association, he even served as the Editor of the Association's Journal of Real Property and Probate Trust Law.

Not just an outstanding lawyer, Clarke McCants was a kind man who raised a fine family that he took great pride in. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Anne Lucius McCants and many loving children and grandchildren. It is important that the people of our nation step forward to serve their communities and give back to their country. This was not lost on Clarke McCants who gave generously of his time to his community.

Educated at the University of South Carolina as both an undergraduate and a law school student, he was a very active participant in the student government and many various extra curricular programs on campus such as Omicron Delta Kappa, President of Pi Kappa Alpha, and the debate team.

Between his undergraduate and law school education, Mr. McCants served us all in the United States Army Air Corps as a flight radio operator. His service in World War II earned him one Bronze Star. We are thankful for his service and we can all learn from the life experiences of Clarke Wardlaw McCants, Jr.

In closing, I just wanted to take a moment to share my condolences to the family of Clarke Wardlaw McCants, Jr. The entire staff and I are sorry for your loss and the pain this has caused you and your family.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTING GIRLS BY PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 987, legislation that would authorize the United States to provide assistance for the prevention of child marriage in the developing world. Regrettably, child marriage continues to be an all-too-common practice in many third-world countries. We as a nation have a moral obligation to do all that we can to assist with the prevention of this deplorable custom. Marrying before puberty or during early to mid-adolescence places young women in dire circumstances—where they face severe health risks in pregnancy and childbirth, where they are trapped in positions of complete dependence and where they are subjected to verbal and physical abuse at the hands of their spouses. It is imperative for the United States to take a strong stance against this practice by investing in efforts to prevent child marriage and empower susceptible young women in these developing nations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CONGRATULATING GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA'S SELF RE- GIONAL HEALTHCARE

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Greenwood, South Carolina's Self Regional Healthcare on receiving the South Carolina Governor's Quality Award. Presented by the South Carolina Quality Forum; an affiliate of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the Governor's Quality Award recognizes organizations across the state that have mirrored the superior standards of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

As my colleagues know, the Baldrige Program's mission is to improve the competitiveness and performance of U.S. organizations. It is the only formal recognition of performance excellence given by the President of the United States to companies and organizations in the business, healthcare, education, and nonprofit sectors.

Five years in the making, Self Regional was recognized for improving the quality of patient care while simultaneously improving the outlook of its long-term financial performance. I give credit to the team of 2,300 physicians, administrators and volunteers who worked tirelessly to put their patients first. To each and every one of them, I say, a job well done.

I am pleased to see everyone involved at Self Regional being recognized for their hard work and dedication by the Governor's Quality Award. While congratulations are certainly in order, I concur with Mr. Jim Pfeiffer, President and CEO of Self Regional, who said, "It is important to note the real winners in this are our patients, for quality and safety are especially important when it comes to addressing the health needs of others."

Since making the commitment to improve its level of patient care, Self Regional has received the Quality Forum's Silver Award twice and the Explorer's Award once. With such a stellar track record, Self Regional is making a name for itself in not only South Carolina, but also, across the nation. I am pleased to add my name to the many that offer Self Regional their heartfelt congratulations on this award.

IN RECOGNITION OF JULIE LANCELLE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Julie Lancelle for her outstanding community service in Pacifica, California, since 1986.

Julie moved to Pacifica in 1986 with her husband and daughter and was quickly drawn into the public activism intrinsic to this coastal town. One of her first causes was the opposition to extending the Highway 1 freeway south of Rockaway Beach. The following year she was appointed to the Pacifica Open Space Task Force.

In 1992, Julie was first elected to the Pacifica City Council. After serving a two-year

term, she left to spend more time with her children. In 1997, she recommitted herself to community service and became a member of the Pacifica Land Trust Board where she used her years of experience to preserve open space.

She was again elected to the city council in 2002 and during her eight years of service was instrumental in the completion of the Pacifica Strategic Plan, the Palmetto Streetscape Plan and the expansion of the Community Emergency Response Team Program. She advocated for the preservation of the habitat at Sharp Park, balancing environmental concerns with the recreational pursuits of golf and archery. Julie also represented her community on the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the City/County Association of Governments.

Throughout her life, Julie has been passionate about the outdoors and the preservation of open space. One of the highlights in her career was the purchase of Mori Point and its inclusion into the Golden Gate National Recreational Area. She launched a campaign for that purchase and organized the community to raise money to partner with the Trust for Public Land, the Park Service and the Coastal Conservancy. Thanks to Julie, Mori Point is now a spectacular hiking area open to everyone.

Madam Speaker, it is right to honor my friend and colleague Julie Lancelle for her outstanding advocacy and dedication to her community, particularly on December 15, 2010, the day she retires from the Pacifica City Council.

HONORING CHRIS EBIE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Chris Ebie upon his retirement as the Mariposa County Auditor.

Mr. Ebie began his career with Mariposa County in September of 1987 as Account Clerk III in the Auditor's Office. In November of 1988, he was promoted to Assistant Auditor. In April 2005, Mr. Ebie briefly left Mariposa County but returned in January 2006 as the Board-appointed County Auditor. In June 2007, Mr. Ebie was officially elected to the position of County Auditor.

In his time with the County, Mr. Ebie worked on a number of projects, including coordinating efforts in assuring the County's compliance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 45, maintaining the County's software and budget structure and implementing the Alternative Measurement Method (AMM) for reporting costs and liabilities associated with health and other non-pension benefits for public employees.

In addition to his service to the County, Mr. Ebie is a dedicated family man. Chris and his wife Grace are the proud parents of four children and the proud grandparents of four grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Ebie for his dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Ebie many years of continued success.

HAITI EARTHQUAKE

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the plight of Haiti. As we all know, Haiti suffered a devastating earthquake in January 2010. The magnitude 7 quake claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of Haitians, displaced over a million and left the capital of Port-au-Prince and outlying country areas in ruins.

Haiti's road to recovery has been long and arduous. Despite overwhelming support from the international community, the success of redevelopment and rebuilding efforts has been extremely limited. Even today, thousands remain in international displacement camps, many overrun with disease and violence. To date, more than a thousand have died due to the cholera outbreak. Even more continue to suffer in unspeakable poverty and squalor.

One of the strongest obstacles to meaningful recovery in Haiti has been a political environment long plagued with corruption and dishonesty. Despite the presence of over 100 observers, Haiti's presidential election two Sundays ago was overrun with allegations of fraud and overtly questionable practices. It is my hope that the election results are indeed as accurate as possible and that the former First Lady Mirlande Manigat and ruling party candidate Jude Celestin are the true, democratically elected candidates to participate in the Presidential run-off.

Although Haiti experienced numerous political and economic problems prior to the earthquake, the current level of challenges the Haitian people are facing is no longer tolerable. The United States and the international community cannot continue to accept the pace at which Haiti's recovery is taking place, while human lives are at stake. We can all do better, and to choose complacency over deliberate action would be a grave insult to humanity.

As we approach a new year and a new Congress, I urge my colleagues to never forget Haiti and the challenges its people continue to face. As the Representative of a large Caribbean-American constituency and as a daughter of Caribbean, Haiti has always been close to my heart. However, my commitment to helping Haiti does not solely come from my constituency or my familial background. It comes from my identity as a public servant and a citizen of the world. In all of my work, I will continue to give the people of Haiti a voice. I will not give up until my colleagues recognize Haiti and Haiti resurges as the pearl of the Caribbean once again.

Let us never forget that as we unite with the people of Haiti, Haitian-Americans and the Haitian Diaspora to assist with the development of this great nation, we are forever guided by the words etched indelibly on the Haitian flag, 'L'Union fait la force' (Loon yon fe la force) . . . through unity, there is strength!

SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, 17 years have passed since the signing of the Oslo Peace Accords in 1993, but a final resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has yet to be achieved.

The question is: Why?

Only by first understanding the reasons that the conflict continues, can the United States set and implement a policy that can help to encourage a true and lasting peace.

So let us consider the conduct of both sides.

One Israeli government after another has been willing and able to make painful sacrifices, including territorial withdrawals, to achieve peace.

As Secretary of State Clinton has noted, the current Israeli government has made unprecedented concessions in pursuit of peace, including a ten-month moratorium on housing construction in the West Bank in order to encourage the Palestinians to negotiate directly with Israel.

In short, Israel has proven its commitment to peace.

However, Mr. Speaker, Israel does not seem to have a partner in this endeavor.

Palestinian leaders still never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity, and continue to default on their international obligations.

They continue to refuse to negotiate directly with Israel, without preconditions.

Instead of encouraging the Palestinian people to accept Israel as a permanent neighbor with whom they should live in peace, the leaders in Ramallah continue to tolerate, encourage, and even participate in anti-Israel incitement.

They continue to refuse to recognize Israel's right to exist as a democratic, Jewish state.

Even as the Palestinian leadership seeks a state for the Palestinian people, it would deny the right of the Jewish people to a state in their own homeland.

We are not talking about isolated, fringe elements.

Palestinian rejectionism and non-compliance flows from the very top.

Earlier this year, the leader of the Palestinian Authority and the PLO, Abu Mazen, praised the recently-deceased mastermind of the PLO's massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Abu Mazen also expressed what he called his "firm rejection of the so-called Jewishness of the state [of Israel]," saying that "This issue is over for us; we have not and will not recognize it."

Last year, Abu Mazen said that "Presently, we are against armed struggle, because we cannot cope with it. But things could be different at some future phase."

And a former PA foreign minister and senior associate of Abu Mazen has announced that the PA would be intensifying its diplomatic and economic offensive against Israel, with the aims of isolating Israel, preventing it from building its ties with the European Union, and expelling Israel from the U.N.

Already, the PA tried—unsuccessfully—to block Israel's candidacy for membership in the OECD.

And now, instead of sitting down with the Israeli government to negotiate directly, the Palestinian leadership is conducting an extensive campaign to seek recognition of a Palestinian state by foreign governments and within the U.N. and other international organizations.

Unfortunately, in response to a request from Abu Mazen, the Brazilian government recently agreed to recognize a Palestinian state, instead of urging the Palestinians to fulfill their commitments.

The governments of Argentina and Uruguay have also indicated that they intend to recognize a Palestinian state.

The Palestinian leadership is aggressively lobbying other nations to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a partner for peace.

But as we've seen over and over, Palestinian leaders are not going to make the tough decisions and change their ways unless they have to.

By providing over \$2 billion in assistance in the last five years alone—with hundreds of millions more planned—the U.S. is only rewarding and reinforcing bad behavior by Ramallah.

Enough is enough.

We should finally hold PA leaders accountable, which is why I will soon introduce legislation to clarify and tighten existing U.S. laws that deny funding to the PA until they meet their commitments.

The Administration should also reverse its decision to allow the PLO office in DC to call itself a "General Delegation" and to fly the Palestinian flag.

That decision sent the wrong signal to other governments, who concluded they should also upgrade the PLO's status in their countries.

Furthermore, the U.S. should stop pressuring the Israeli government to make more and more concessions, and must not attempt to impose the terms of a solution.

Mr. Speaker, I will support the resolution before us because it reinforces Congressional opposition to unilateral efforts by Palestinian leaders to gain recognition from other governments or within the U.N.

I would draw particular attention to the fact that the resolution calls on the Administration to publicly affirm that it will: deny recognition to any unilaterally declared Palestinian state; and veto any U.N. Security Council resolution to establish or recognize a Palestinian state.

The Administration must also oppose efforts by the Palestinians to seek recognition from, or membership in, any international organizations.

I would like to thank my distinguished colleague from Texas, Congressman Poe, for introducing the resolution that served as the basis for the measure before us today.

Judge Poe went out of his way to ensure that his resolution was fully bipartisan, securing the support of many Democrat cosponsors, including my distinguished colleague from Nevada, Ms. BERKLEY.

We had requested that the Poe-Berkley resolution be considered on the floor.

Regrettably, the Majority decided to introduce a new resolution on this issue instead.

Supporting the pursuit of Middle East peace, and supporting our ally Israel, is one area that has strong bipartisan support in Congress, and by and large, the text of this resolution reflects that bipartisanship.