

other hand, nations like Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran all ban gay service. I believe the interests of the U.S. are best served by following the lead of other democratic nations, our allies, rather than the policies of the most oppressive regimes in the world.

Study after study has shown that open service does not affect military readiness or unit cohesion. In the recently released Department of Defense review, 70 percent of service members responded that repeal would not have a negative effect on the military. Of those who had actually served alongside someone who they thought to be gay, 92 percent of respondents said that it did not have an impact on unit cohesion. Repeal is also strongly supported by the American public, with a recent Washington Post poll showing 77 percent of the public supports open military service. It is clear our Nation and our military is ready for this change.

The most urgent reason for repeal, however, is that DADT places honorable young men and women in the decidedly dishonorable position of lying about who they are in order to serve. It is unconscionable that we would continue to make the lives of soldiers, many of whom face daily threats to their lives, more difficult by placing upon them the burden of lying about their sexual orientation.

Earlier this year, I read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an email from a current service member who happens to be gay. He shared how he and his partner of 10 years managed the stress and hardship that comes with 3 deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Despite their shared sacrifices, his partner receives no official support from the military. would not be the first to be informed of his death, and cannot make emergency decisions. While serving in active duty, he was aware of several other soldiers who were gay. In one case, he didn't know a friend was gay until after he died of wounds from an IED and received a letter from the deceased soldier's partner expressing how much he had loved the Army and the sense of family he felt among his fellow soldiers. These are the real victims of DADT.

No one should have to lie in order to serve, but that is what current policy requires for the estimated 65,000 gay and lesbian Americans currently in the military. The time for debate, and procrastination, and procedural stalling tactics is over. The choice today is clear: continue to stand beside a harmful and discriminatory policy that the American public and our Nation's military leaders do not support or vote to repeal it.

I encourage my colleagues to do the right thing—support this legislation, and finally put an end to the era of “Don't Ask, Don't Tell.”

STANDING WITH OUR ALLY SOUTH KOREA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I was deeply saddened and outraged by North Korea's recent attack on Yeonpyeong island which killed four South Koreans and wounded 20. Officials estimated that the North had fired roughly 200 artillery shells onto Yeonpyeong. The Novem-

ber 23 attack was the first on civilian-populated areas since the Korean War.

This is just the latest provocation on the part of Pyongyang—a regime infamous for its deplorable human rights record and Soviet style gulags.

Recently North Korea showed Dr. Siegfried Hecker, the former head of the U.S. Los Alamos National Laboratory, a new modern uranium enrichment facility with 2,000 centrifuges. The North Koreans claimed it is producing low enriched uranium destined for fuel for a new light-water nuclear reactor. According to the Congressional Research Service, “Although Dr. Hecker has said that the centrifuge plant and the new reactor appear to be designed primarily for civilian nuclear power, the uranium facilities could also be used to produce fissile material suitable for nuclear weapons.”

These are deeply troubling developments. During this time of heightened tensions in the Korean Peninsula we must actively work with our long-term ally South Korea to ensure a lasting peace in the region and continue to expose the true nature of the North Korea regime which the international community can no longer deny.

SUPPORTING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1765, a resolution supporting a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and condemning unilateral declarations of a Palestinian state.

As a co-chair of the Democratic Israel Working Group, I would like to thank my colleague, Chairman HOWARD BERMAN, for bringing this important resolution to the House floor.

I have been to Israel and the West Bank on numerous occasions. I can personally vouch for the yearning of the people of Israel and the Palestinian territories to come to a peaceful settlement that will end decades of discord and violence.

A negotiated two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians is the underpinning of the peace process. It is the official policy of the U.S. Government, the Israeli Government and of the Palestinian Authority.

Only through direct negotiations can difficult compromises be reached on core issues like borders, water, refugees, the status of Jerusalem, and security.

Unfortunately, Palestinian leaders are pursuing a coordinated strategy to bypass the negotiations process to seek recognition of a unilaterally declared Palestinian state by the United Nations and other international forums.

Recently, the governments of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay unilaterally recognized the State of Palestine upon request from Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Unilateral declarations of statehood will not eliminate the sources of the conflict. Rather, they undermine the peace process and endanger the safety and security of the Israeli and Palestinian people.

This country and this Congress remain the largest grantor of assistance to help the Pales-

tinian Authority build the political, economic and social infrastructure to support a future state. The unilateral statehood effort will undermine the ability of the United States to continue playing a constructive role.

I call upon my colleagues to vote in support of the peace process, of a secure Israel and viable, democratic Palestinian state and in favor of this resolution.

BROTHER . . . BROTHER . . . COMBAT MEDIC SPC JEROD HEATH OSBORNE, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American family, and a fallen hero and his brother. On July 5, 2010, Combat Medic SPC Jerod Heath Osborne of Royce, Texas of the 4/73 82nd Airborne, died during an IED explosion in Afghanistan. In his short life he was a combat medic, an Angel on the Battlefield, the ones who rush in while all around the face of hell is going on. The lives that he has saved in his brief but great life will be measured in the future, with children and heroes that he has saved. His brother, a SSG in the 22nd Infantry, on September 21 of that same year almost died in a mortar attack and is currently fighting to save his leg. This family, throughout the generations, has served our nation in the Armed Forces. The very bed of our Nation's freedom is built upon selfless families, our prayers and thoughts go out to them. SSG Grillet has said that his brother Jerod always wanted to be just like him, but now he wants to be like his brother.

Brother . . . Brother . . .

Brother . . . Brother . . .

My . . .

My Brother's Gift . . .

So very precious, as was this . . .

My Brother's Faith, shall forever so wave . . .

My Brothers life, one of such so sure selfless sacrifice . . .

All in his amazing grace . . .

My Brothers life, so very short . . . yet shines so bright!

Moments, are all we have!

To grab hearts, To Make A Difference . . . to Heaven rise!

As an Angel on The Battlefield . . .

As into the face of death Jerod, you so ran . . . and not to yield . . .

To but so save sacred life, as was your mission . . . as was his most divine light!

From dusk to dawn, as a battlefield combat medic your courage worn!

As all around you Jerod, the face of death so swarmed!

And what child may be born?

All from your love Jerod, upon battlefields of honor adorned!

That might so save the world, who now lives on . . .

And all those lives you saved, just moments from the grave . . .

And what children, all on this morning will awake?

With but the greatest gift of all, in their hearts to take!

With a Mother or Father, a Sister or Brother whose fine lives you saved . . .

Brother . . . Brother, oh how it's for you I cry!

A promise I've made, as I wipe these tears
from my eyes!
That I will live for you, each and every new
day, every sunrise!
To the fullest! All in your fine name!
And if ever I have a new son, your name will
be his . . . this one!
Brother . . . Brother . . . I am so very proud
of you!
All in what you have done . . . oh yes it's
true!
Only the good die young, as now you shine
all up in Heaven's sun!
As an Angel In The Army of our Lord, with
your new battle begun!
To watch over us, as Thy Will Be Done!
Brother . . . Brother . . .
All across Texas this night . . .
As we lay our heads down to rest, as comes
a gentle rain . . .
As upon us, are but our Lord's tears to wash
over us . . .
And so bless us, to so ease our pain!
As he cries for your most sacred sacrifice,
this rain . . .
Brother . . . Brother . . . I can not wait until
up in Heaven we meet again. . . .
And we won't have to cry anymore, all in
this pain . . .
Brother, Brother, once you so wanted to be
just like me . . .
Now, I'm the one who so wants . . . to be like
you!
Brother . . . Brother . . . Amen. . . .

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, December 9, 2010, Tuesday, December 14, 2010, and Wednesday, December 15, 2010, I was not present for twelve recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way: Roll No. 626—"yea"; Roll No. 627—"yea"; Roll No. 628—"yea"; Roll No. 629—"nay"; Roll No. 630—"yea"; Roll No. 631—"yea"; Roll No. 632—"yea"; Roll No. 633—"yea"; Roll No. 634—"yea"; Roll No. 635—"nay"; Roll No. 636—"yea"; Roll No. 637—"yea."

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLLEYVILLE GARDEN CLUB

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Colleyville Garden Club. Over the last 50 years, the Colleyville Garden Club has been committed to the improvement of Colleyville's parks and gardens.

On January 11, 1961, Florence Eudaly, wife of Colleyville's first mayor, along with several other women, organized the Colleyville Garden Club. The club began by meeting in member's homes with established yearly dues of \$1.00. Since then, the Colleyville Garden Club has grown in membership and continues to support projects in the community with the underlying goals of promoting interest in all phases of gardening, horticultural education,

civic beautification, and conservation of natural resources.

The Colleyville Garden Club has spent countless hours involved in projects in the Colleyville community such as Keep Colleyville Beautiful, Arbor Day, Promenade Garden Tour, and many others. The Colleyville Garden Club has designed and installed gardens throughout the local community including the Colleyville Center, Leone Hodges Butterfly Garden at Kidsville, Colleyville City Hall, Colleyville Parks and Recreation Office, Sparger Park, and Webb House. From 2008 to 2010, the Club generously donated two bronze sculptures and three Lyman Whitaker wind sculptures to McPherson Park.

On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the Colleyville Garden Club for its 50 years of service in the Colleyville community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Mr. RADANOVICH and Mr. CARDOZA to extend our sincerest congratulations to California State University, Fresno as they celebrate their centennial anniversary.

As Fresno State celebrates its 100th anniversary, the university is "Powering the New California" in our rapidly changing region as we move forward in the 21st Century. California State University, Fresno, also known as Fresno State, has evolved from its founding as a teachers college to become a renowned center for higher learning in the Central Valley with eight schools and colleges serving over twenty thousand students.

Fresno State was originally founded as Fresno State Normal School on September 11, 1911 under the guidance of its first president Mr. Charles L. McLane. In 1921, Fresno State Normal School changed its name to Fresno State Teachers College and began to share a campus with another fine local institution, Fresno City College, to provide a quality education to local students for whom the distance of universities such as the University of California and Stanford University was too great a hardship. Fresno State Normal School would change its name again to Fresno State College in 1934, and in 1949 the first advanced degrees in English and Education were granted. Forty-five years after Fresno State first opened its doors, it relocated to its present location on Shaw and Cedar Avenues in 1956, where it currently sits on over three hundred acres of land. In 1961, Fresno State College became the charter institution of the California State University System and would officially become known as California State University, Fresno in 1972.

Today, Fresno State enrolls more than 21,500 undergraduate students and 4,400 graduate students and offers Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees. In 2011, Fresno State will graduate its 100th class with an anticipated 5,500 students graduating from the institution. Notable among the academic pro-

grams at Fresno State, the Sid Craig School of Business has been nationally recognized by the Princeton Review as a "Top Business School," the Jordan College of Agricultural Science and Technology oversees the only commercial winery in the country run by a university, and the Lyles College of Engineering has the only Geomatics undergraduate program in the Nation. Fresno State is also home to the Henry Madden Library, which with over one million books is the largest academic library between Sacramento and Los Angeles, and serves as a learning resource for the entire region. It is programs and institutions such as these that truly embody the excellence of Fresno State.

Fresno State has not only established itself as a leader in academics, but also in athletics; the school has gained national recognition through their various sports programs such as football, baseball and soccer. For instance, in 1998, Fresno State's women's softball team won the NCAA Women's College World Series by defeating the defending two-time former champions, the University of Arizona. Additionally, a decade later, the Fresno State men's baseball team climbed their way through the College World Series as the lowest ranked seed in post-season play to capture the 2008 NCAA title in a shocking defeat of the University of Georgia. Fresno State's distinguished alumni include Mayor of Fresno, California Ashley Swearingin, three-time Olympic Gold Medalist Laura Berg, former NASA Astronaut and Mission Commander of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* Colonel Rick Husband, U.S. Ambassador to Colombia and Honduras Phillip V. Sanchez, former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Paul H. O'Neill, former Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn, and 2001 Super Bowl winning quarterback Trent Dilfer.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. CARDOZA and myself, in recognizing California State University, Fresno as they celebrate their centennial anniversary and continue their outstanding educational leadership for students throughout the Central Valley and the State of California.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTING GIRLS BY PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE ACT OF 2010

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act of 2010.

This bill is a measure that represents the best of American foreign policy. It addresses an abuse that I think all of us agree should not happen in the 21st century.

Girls should have the chance to enjoy their childhood in the peace and security of their own families—not be married off to the highest bidder, or anyone else for that matter.

And, research shows that this is not just about girls—while the vast majority of those trapped in child marriage are girls, boys too are among the victims.

This is a moral issue. By passing this bill, we have a chance to state clearly and on the record that child marriage is a human rights abuse.