

talked with VA Secretary Jesse Brown about the need for a Veterans' Home in Chula Vista, California. She was at the table when we spoke to VA Secretary Principi about providing medical equipment and supplies to the Veterans Hospital in Manila. She helped to bring a Community Based Outpatient Clinic to Imperial County, California and the Miramar National Cemetery to San Diego, California, with a groundbreaking scheduled for January 30, 2010.

Her important legislative achievements include passage of several bills for veterans, including a bill to provide a posthumous Purple Heart to the families of every prisoner of war who died while in a prison camp, a bill to provide compensation to World War II Merchant Mariners who were excluded from the original GI Bill benefits, and legislation to restore equity and promised benefits to the Filipino World War II veterans who were deprived of both by an act of Congress in 1946.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to Sharon for 26 years of working together, learning together, and achieving together. As a former history professor, I believe that we have changed a small piece of history.

CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA'S ANTI-HOMOSEXUALITY BILL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out against Bill No. 18, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2009, which will soon be considered for passage by the government of Uganda. This proposed legislation criminalizes and punishes homosexuality, thereby endangering the lives of all Ugandans and threatening their civil and human rights. This is outrageously discriminatory and deeply troubling.

The Anti-Homosexuality Bill was introduced as a Private Member's Bill by Ugandan Member of Parliament David Bahati of the National Resistance Movement Party on April 29, 2009. Following adoption, it was published in the Uganda Gazette on September 25, 2009, according to the procedural rules of the Ugandan Parliament. A vast majority of governments throughout the world, including the United States, continue to deny full civil rights and protections to their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, LGBT, citizens. However, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill takes this to a deadly extreme.

This legislation condemns HIV-positive citizens, including minors, who engage in consensual homosexual acts to death and sentences citizens who engage in consensual homosexual acts to life imprisonment. The Anti-Homosexuality Bill also seeks to persecute LGBT citizens living abroad by extraditing them for acts committed outside Uganda, including those who are also dual citizens of Uganda and the United States. Furthermore, this legislation requires known homosexuals to be reported to the authorities within 24 hours; failure to do so would result in a jail term of up to 3 years. This applies to Ugandan nationals and dual citizens living abroad, as well as any person who witnesses such an act within

Uganda, regardless of whether they have legal ties to the Ugandan nation. Finally, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill requires that its provisions override any commitment to international agreements or protocols that recognize the rights of LGBT persons to the extent of the inconsistency between the two. As a responsible member of the international community, the United States cannot condone such a bill becoming law.

The Anti-Homosexuality Bill legislates against the fundamental democratic right of freedom from fear of physical harm by one's own government. This legislation would undermine the government of Uganda's commitment to democracy at a most basic level, significantly damage its relations with the international community, and risk inciting greater hate-motivated violence within Uganda itself. Its mere existence almost certainly will lead to violence against individuals who either are LGBT or are rumored to be LGBT, their families, and community leaders in their places of worship, homes, schools, and businesses.

Furthermore, I am deeply concerned about the consequences that this bill would have on public health in Uganda as it attempts to combat HIV/AIDS. The stigmatization of homosexual identity and behavior continues to stymie efforts to fight HIV/AIDS in the United States and abroad. The bill's criminalization of homosexuality will undoubtedly discourage individuals from having the open and honest discussions about their sexual health and behavior that are crucial to lessening the spread and burden of this infection.

I commend President Obama and State Secretary Clinton for denouncing this bigoted legislation and am pleased to acknowledge that their sentiments have been publicly shared by the European Union, Canada, and other nations and international human rights groups. In addition, I also applaud those Ugandans, including Senior Advisor to President Museveni, John Nagenda, who have spoken out in opposition to this bill and urge them to fight it when Uganda's parliament enters discussions on the matter in February or March of this year.

I am further encouraged by Secretary Clinton's commitment to protect "the rights of the LGBT community worldwide" and will continue working to ensure that sexual orientation and gender identity not constitute the basis for criminal penalties, harassment, or discrimination. It is my fervent hope that Congress will show a similar commitment to its own LGBT citizens as it is called upon to repeal discriminatory legislation such as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the Defense of Marriage Act.

Madam Speaker, I unequivocally condemn the Anti-Homosexuality Bill in the strongest possible terms and urge the government of Uganda to withdraw this bill and support the inalienable human rights of all people.

CONGRATULATING RODNEY KAY

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rodney Kay, named my State's 2009–10 "Assistant Principal of the Year" by the Georgia Association of Sec-

ondary School Principals. Rodney, head of Curriculum and Instruction at Heard County High School in Franklin, will represent the Peach State well when he competes for the national title in March.

Rodney won this award after serving as an administrator for only two years. This recognition so early in his career demonstrates the passion and commitment he brings to educating young people. His leadership, combined with the talents of all the fine educators at Heard County High, quickly brought demonstrable results. The school has achieved new records in test scores, and the Governor's Office of Student Achievement named Heard County as one of only nine schools to attain "platinum" status in the 2008–09 school year.

Rodney's win was not only well-deserved, but it also had the additional benefit of bringing positive attention to Heard County students' accomplishments, said Principal Rusty Sowell. "It is a tremendous honor to be selected, and it speaks for itself with the things he has done and helped us achieve," Sowell continued.

This success might derive from Rodney's team player approach with teachers. Rodney knows first-hand the challenges as well as the joys that come with serving directly in the classroom. Before his promotion to assistant principal at Heard County, he worked as a Spanish teacher for 13 years in his hometown of Carrollton.

As a Member of Congress, I greatly appreciate efforts to honor the outstanding public servants who dedicate their lives to enlightening the next generation of Americans. Our teachers rank among our greatest resources. They put their own hearts on the line for students facing educational hardships or troubled home lives. They also know the triumph of seeing students learn, overcome obstacles, achieve academic excellence and go on to successful college and professional careers.

Rodney Kay obviously has approached this calling with fervor and passion—and with an eye on a higher purpose. "I believe I am in the school to serve teachers and students, and I have been placed on this Earth to serve God and others," Rodney said.

We appreciate that service from Rodney and his fellow educators. On behalf of the people of Georgia's 3rd District, I congratulate him on this honor and wish him the best of luck as he advances to the next level.

RECOGNIZING STEELE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHARLOTTE, NC

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize Steele Creek Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. Steele Creek Presbyterian was founded in 1760, and this year, they celebrate their 250th anniversary as a church community.

As one of the oldest churches in our area, Steele Creek Presbyterian Church is a cornerstone in the Charlotte community. Its membership is dedicated to the service of others, whether by providing food to area shelters, manpower to local Habitat for Humanity

projects, or any number of other volunteer efforts in our community. The congregation at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church continually sets an example of living a life of faith by raising our future generations in an atmosphere that fosters love, service and a sense of community.

Madam Speaker, today it is my honor to recognize Steele Creek Presbyterian Church. They have demonstrated a level of commitment to community that is well appreciated, and it serves as an example for us all. It is a privilege to represent the Steele Creek congregation, and I wish them many more years of worship and service.

A TRIBUTE TO HARDY WILLIAMS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and work of my friend Hardy Williams, the late State Senator from Philadelphia. Senator Williams was a pioneer in championing African American causes in Philadelphia and dedicated his life to serving his community.

Senator Williams was born April 14, 1931 and raised in West Philadelphia. A product of the School District of Philadelphia, Sen. Williams graduated from Pennsylvania State University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and began his groundbreaking work shortly thereafter. He organized the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus in 1972, and served five successful terms as a State Representative.

In 1982 he was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate. During his tenure in the Senate, Sen. Williams served as minority chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee and chairman of a task force on violence as a public health issue. In 1994, he founded and served as executive director of Black Family Services. Sen. Williams also founded the Organized Anti-Crime Community Network. He worked with Blacks Networking for Progress, the Delaware Valley Ecumenical Council, and the African-American Delaware Valley Port Corporation. Sen. Hardy was instrumental in establishing the Crisis Intervention Network, a program dedicated to preventing violence among youths.

Senator Hardy Williams' long and impressive career showcases his commitment, service, and dedication to bettering his community. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating the life and accomplishments of Sen. Williams, and honor him for the great work he has done for the people of Philadelphia.

IN HONOR OF NAVY SEAL SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR FIRST CLASS JEREMY WISE

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero. On December 30,

2009, our state and nation lost a great patriot when former Navy SEAL Special Warfare Operator First Class Jeremy Wise, aged 35, died in an attack on a CIA outpost near Khost, Afghanistan. He died when a terrorist detonated a bomb at the facility killing seven Americans in the attack.

Petty Officer Wise was raised in Arkansas by his loving parents, Dr. Jean and Mary Wise, and graduated from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. Although I never had the honor to meet Petty Officer Wise, I extend my deepest condolences on behalf of all Arkansans to his family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances for this devastating loss.

Petty Officer Wise joined the U.S. Navy in 2001 where he rose to the rank of Special Warfare Operator First Class as a Navy SEAL, joining an elite group of service men and women. Petty Officer Wise served with the U.S. Navy until September 2009. After his Naval service, he headed to the front lines in Afghanistan as a security contractor doing the important work over there that needs to be done to secure our nation here at home. Throughout his extended period of service to our nation, Petty Officer Wise was an exemplary serviceman who embodied the true patriot.

My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Dana; son, Ethan; parents, Jean and Mary; and the rest of his family during this extraordinarily difficult time.

Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Navy SEAL Special Warfare Operator First Class Jeremy Wise and his legacy, as well as each man and woman in our armed forces, and those in harm's way supporting their efforts, who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great country.

BULGARIA SETS PACE FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Bulgaria, I would like to commend Prime Minister Boyko Borisov and the country of Bulgaria for their fiscal soundness.

According to a January 12, 2010 article in The Wall Street Journal, countries around the world, including the United States, could learn from the Bulgarians as proponents of a free market democracy. Bulgaria entered the European Union (EU) in 2007 and succeeded in producing the smallest budget deficit among the 27 member nations last year. (They are not yet part of the euro zone, which currently consists of 16 EU nations.) As a dynamic member of NATO, Bulgaria is a valued partner of America.

Bulgaria is on track to be the only EU nation to balance its 2010 budget. The country was able to manage its budget by instituting key fiscal strategies. The most basic example was the capital city's ability to freeze wages and pensions for those in the government, re-evaluate costly state investment projects, and slash government spending by 15 percent. Such efforts resulted in a "full-year deficit of less than 500 million lev (\$370 million), or 0.8

percent of gross domestic product. The closest country to do so was Germany with 3.4 percent.

Given the international attention to Bulgaria's fiscal strategy, European leaders will now understand Bulgaria has arrived on the world stage. Continuing economic progress could help Bulgaria leapfrog other euro desiring countries, like Romania and Hungary who had to be given bailouts from the International Monetary Fund, IMF, due to the downturn, where as Bulgaria has not and does not intend to ask the IMF for assistance. Even Poland, who has been rethinking their entering the euro currency nations club, may be outpaced by Bulgaria as a currency member nation.

Bulgaria's decision to tackle the difficult issue of spending and budget deficits, which plagued their country in the past, is now a model for other Baltic states where deficits are rising. Further evidence of their success is the credit-rating agency Standard & Poor's has upgraded Bulgaria's status as stable.

I commend Prime Minister Borisov and Finance Minister Simeon Djankov for their visionary work elevating Bulgaria as a major player in the EU and world. Entry into the euro should be given serious consideration by the EU as a result of these major achievements.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CHARLES ALLEN

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, Reverend Charles L. Allen. Sr., Pastor of the Greater Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, is retiring after thirty-two years of dedicated service. I am pleased to join his parishioners in thanking Reverend Allen for his devoted service to his church and community.

Reverend Allen has served in many capacities throughout his years in the ministry. Among the many positions Reverend Allen has held are President of the Puritan District Congress of Texas and advisor to the City Wide Ushers Association. Reverend Allen also taught Moody Bible College courses to his parishioners and other interested members of the community. Reverend Allen served in the United States Army from 1952 until 1954.

Under Reverend Allen's leadership, Greater Mount Nebo experienced a tremendous increase in membership. Reverend Allen helped ensure Greater Mount Nebo had sufficient resources to construct a new edifice and retire the church's mortgage. Reverend Allen also helped his congregation, and the entire community, by organizing a variety of education courses.

Reverend Allen's parishioners benefited not just from his teachings, but from his personal example. Reverend Allen treats everyone who crosses his path with integrity and compassion. The vitality and warmth exhibited by this spiritual and dedicated leader has earned him the respect and admiration of those individuals who have been privileged to know and work with him.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join the congregation of Greater Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church in