

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall votes on February 25, 2010 and February 26, 2010; and I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 67, "no"; rollcall No. 68, "yes"; rollcall No. 69, "yes"; rollcall No. 70, "yes"; rollcall No. 71, "yes"; rollcall No. 72, "no"; rollcall No. 73, "yes"; rollcall No. 74, "yes."

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN
IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 944, which recognizes the persecution and displacement of ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq. This resolution calls on the Iraqi and United States governments to better protect the rights of persons of all ethnicities and religions.

This resolution comes as the Chaldean community mourns the two-year anniversary of the murder of Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho. Archbishop Rahho dedicated his life to the Chaldean Church in Mosul and sought to build interfaith relationships while advocating for the inclusion of Chaldeans and other vulnerable populations in the new Iraqi state.

These vulnerable populations include Chaldeans, Assyrians, Turkmen, Sabean Mandeans, Yazidis, and Syriacs. Their unique languages and histories are among the oldest of the Mesopotamian region. Together, they represent the richly diverse heritage of Iraq.

Since 2003, however, members of their communities have suffered marginalization, harassment, and violence. Many have been forced to seek safety away from their homes, often outside the country's borders. Ethno-religious minorities formerly comprised approximately five percent of Iraq's population; today, they comprise almost twenty percent of all Iraqi refugees registered with the United Nations Refugee Agency.

Minorities fear such rates of displacement threaten the very future of their communities. Continued sectarian violence prevents the free exercise of religion, cultural expression, and political participation that are fundamental to democracy. This resolution underscores the importance that Iraq's upcoming elections be free, fair, and safe, and that the rights of its minority populations be protected.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 944 and in urging meaningful support for Iraq's ethnic and religious minorities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "ACTIVE
COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION
ACT OF 2010"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Active Community Transportation Act, legislation that will provide concentrated, long term funding for communities to implement active transportation systems. Communities across the country are realizing the importance of encouraging active lifestyles, for the health of their citizens, the environment, and the economic strength of the community itself. As only 68 percent of Americans are licensed drivers, we should provide transportation options for those who don't have access to a car, generally the elderly and the young. Since half of the trips taken in the United States today are within a 20-minute bicycle ride, and a quarter of all trips are within a 20-minute walk, there are plenty of opportunities to incorporate walking and biking into Americans' daily lives.

Americans will walk and bike if these modes are made safe and convenient. However, our nation has failed to invest adequately in pedestrian and bicycle networks to make active transportation a viable choice for routine travel. Too often we take for granted the value of being able to bike and walk to work. It is time for the federal government to support infrastructure investments to make walking and biking safe and convenient for all Americans. Investing federal dollars to create walkable and bikeable communities is also a cost-effective way to create jobs and transportation choices. In my hometown of Portland, Oregon, our investment of \$60 million created 274 miles of bike lanes, more than doubled the amount of people who commute by bike and provided between 850 and 1,150 jobs. This is just one of many stories I have heard about the impact that active transportation infrastructure has on people's health, their daily lives, and their pocketbooks.

The Active Community Transportation Act will help communities to implement comprehensive, strategic active transportation systems to make walking and bicycling safe, accessible and convenient for Americans, thereby increasing activity levels, lowering emissions and creating healthier, more vibrant communities.

RECOGNIZING THE AQUARIUM OF
THE PACIFIC

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute the Aquarium of the Pacific located in my community of Long Beach, California, for receiving the prestigious Super Nova Star of Energy Efficiency from the Alliance to Save Energy, a coalition of prominent business, government, environmental, and consumer leaders who promote the efficient and clean use of energy to benefit consumers, the environment, economy, and national secu-

ity. Each year the Alliance to Save Energy recognizes companies, learning institutions, state offices, and government programs for their efforts to promote energy efficiency domestically and globally. My constituents at the Aquarium of the Pacific received the Super Nova Star Award on September 17, 2009, at the Alliance to Save Energy Gala in Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, the Aquarium was chosen for this globally recognized award because it is the most energy efficient business in the Nation with annual revenues under \$50 million. The Aquarium became the first among museums, zoos, and other aquariums in this country to certify its greenhouse gas emissions with a third-party, the California Climate Action Registry. This led to its being named as a Climate Action Leader with the Climate Action Registry in 2007. The Aquarium of the Pacific has used energy-efficient practices to maintain steady kilowatt-hour usage for the past 8 years despite rising visitor numbers.

It is no surprise to me that the Aquarium of the Pacific received such a prestigious award because it is a pioneer of marine education and energy efficiency in my district. In 2008, the Aquarium inaugurated a new environmental classroom that was recognized as Long Beach's first LEED-platinum certified building. The classroom achieved LEED-platinum certification because it uses solar power, a green roof, a rainwater capture system, and a highly efficient pool pump, among other energy and water efficiencies. The Aquarium is committed to achieving LEED platinum or gold certification for all future projects and is setting an excellent example for how other businesses and institutions in my district can prioritize and achieve energy efficiency.

Madam Speaker, the Aquarium of the Pacific is a vital part of my constituents' community environmental conservation efforts. The Aquarium's Green Team task force organizes environmentally friendly activities such as an annual street cleanup day, an Earth Day festival, a sustainable seafood initiative, and a watershed and ocean literacy program. As the Aquarium continues to grow, one of the underlying objectives of the master plan is to increase attendance by expanding the facility's capacity and conservation programs without increasing energy and potable water usage.

Madam Speaker, I also want to commemorate the Aquarium of the Pacific for its ongoing efforts to broaden the public's understanding of the Pacific Ocean and its complex ecosystem. The Aquarium's mission is to instill a sense of wonder, respect, and stewardship for the Pacific Ocean, its inhabitants, and ecosystems. It is the largest aquarium in Southern California and the fifth largest in the nation. With 200,000 school children visiting annually, the Aquarium of the Pacific provides a fun and educational experience for students of all ages and backgrounds through its interactive exhibits and daily presentations. The Aquarium hosts a variety of educational programs, cultural festivals, classes and courses, offsite field trips, and renowned guest speakers to connect Long Beach's diverse community with the Pacific Ocean's diverse ecosystem.

I applaud the Aquarium of the Pacific for its hard work and dedication both to educating the community of Long Beach about marine environments and to mitigating the effects of climate change. I ask my fellow colleagues to

join me in recognizing the Aquarium of the Pacific for having received the high honor of the Super Nova Star of Energy Efficiency.

COMMEMORATING THE SUMGAIT POGROM

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, this past Sunday marked the twenty-second anniversary of the pogrom against Azerbaijanis of Armenian descent in the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. The 3-day massacre in the winter of 1988 resulted in the deaths of scores of Armenians, many of whom were burnt to death after being brutally beaten and tortured. Hundreds of others were wounded. Women and girls were brutally raped. The carnage created thousands of ethnic Armenian refugees, who had to leave everything behind to be looted or destroyed, including their homes, cars and businesses.

These crimes, which were proceeded by a wave of anti-Armenian rallies throughout Azerbaijan, were never adequately prosecuted by Azerbaijan authorities. Many who organized or participated in the bloodshed have gone on to serve in high positions on the Azeri government. For example, in the days leading up to the massacre, a leader of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, Hidayat Orujev, warned Armenians in Sumgait: "If you do not stop campaigning for the unification of Nagorno Karabakh with Armenia, if you don't sober up, 100,000 Azeris from neighboring districts will break into your houses, torch your apartments, rape your women, and kill your children." Orujev is currently the State Advisor for Ethnic Policy to Azeri President Heidar Aliyev.

Despite efforts by the Government of Azerbaijan to cover up the events of February 1988, survivors of the pogrom have come forward with their stories. They told of enraged mobs, which threw furniture, refrigerators, television sets and beds from apartment balconies and set them afire. Armenians were dragged from their apartments. If they tried to run and escape, the mob attacked them with metal rods, knives and hatchets before the victims were thrown into the fire. One witness said of a victim, "He was still moving, trying to escape from fire, but five young men were pushing him back into the fire with metal rods." Others told of Interior Ministry troops, who stood by doing nothing.

The Sumgait massacres led to wider reprisals against Azerbaijan's ethnic minority, resulting in the virtual disappearance of Azerbaijan's 450,000-strong Armenian community, and culminating in the war launched against the people of Nagorno Karabakh. That war resulted in almost 30,000 dead on both sides and created more than one million refugees in both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

This April will mark the 95th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, a crime that Azerbaijan's ally and protector Turkey has devoted enormous political resources to deny. Just as we cannot allow the first genocide of the Twentieth Century to fade into history, the memory of the victims of Sumgait must not be forgotten either.

TRIBUTE TO DON THOMPSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an accomplished and talented corporate leader who is an outstanding role model as we celebrate Black History Month. Don Thompson is the recently appointed President and Chief Operating Officer for the McDonald's Corporation in Oak Brook, Illinois. Mr. Thompson is in charge of global strategy and operations for McDonald's 32,000 restaurants in 117 countries. He is tasked with maximizing profits for the company's many shareholders across the globe.

Don was raised in Chicago and Indianapolis by his grandmother. He credits his early success to her unwavering commitment to his education and wellbeing. Thanks to her determination and Don's hard work, he graduated from Purdue University with a degree in electrical engineering and got a job at the Northrop Corporation. He joined McDonald's in 1990 as a Restaurant Systems Engineer but soon realized his interest lay in restaurant operations.

In 1993, Don was named Director of Strategic Planning and Quality Management. Since then, he has risen quickly through McDonald's operational structure, performing beyond expectations in each position he has been given. In 1998 he was named the San Diego Regional Manager, a position that put him in charge of 300 area restaurants. Within a year, San Diego went from being McDonald's 39th most profitable market to its 2nd.

Five years later, Don was promoted to the position of Executive Vice President of Global Innovation where he helped expand and improve McDonald's global operations. Under his guidance, foreign branches were retooled to satisfy local palates. McDonald's international sales soon grew as a result and many observers attributed this turnaround to Don's ambitious initiatives.

In 2006, Don became the President of McDonald's USA where he oversaw all of the company's 14,000 American locations. He helped steer the company to several years of positive domestic growth. Last month Don was named to his current position as President and Chief Operating Officer. He now plans McDonald's global strategy and helps execute its implementation.

Don has been recognized for his outstanding work at McDonald's by a number of media outlets and business associations. Black Enterprise named him Corporate Executive of the Year. In 2008 the Trumpet Foundation awarded Don the Corporate Executive award. Last year, he received the Presidential Inspiration Award from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated.

Along with being a gifted businessman, Don is a committed member of his community and remains true to his humble beginnings. "Don't get into the pity party of what's going to be done for you, because there are so many things you can do for yourself," he has said. "Others will see what you do and will look to support and help you." He currently serves on the board of trustees for Purdue University and is a member of the Executive Leadership Council. He is a former member of the San

Diego Ronald McDonald House Charities board of directors.

While reaching the upper echelons of American business, Don has remained a committed family man. He lives in the Chicago area with his wife Elizabeth and their two children.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Don Thompson on his recent appointment and the positive example he sets for all Americans. In this month, when we recognize the contributions of African Americans in this country, it is fitting and proper that we include corporate leaders like Mr. Thompson, who have broken barriers and opened doors for future generations to follow. I applaud his extraordinary accomplishments and the wonderful legacy he has built through hard work and perseverance.

EXTEND TAX CREDIT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF STEEL INDUSTRY FUEL

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to lend my support to a provision in the Extenders Bill that is being debated in the Senate to extend and clarify a tax credit for the production of Steel Industry Fuel, SIF. Last Fall, my colleagues and I introduced a similar bill to extend and clarify the SIF credit. SIF is used by the domestic steel industry as a feedstock for the manufacture of coke, which is coal that has been carbonized and is used as a fuel in steel making.

In October, 2008, Congress enacted a new refined coal tax credit under Section 45 of the tax code for the production of steel industry fuel, which is made from coal waste sludge and coal. The availability of the steel industry fuel tax credit provides a subsidy for projects that may not otherwise be commercially viable on account of materials, process, technology and other transaction costs. As originally enacted, the SIF credit was available for only one year. The placed-in-service period for the credit expired as of December 31, 2009, so new steel industry fuel projects cannot be brought on line without an extension of the credit.

The use of Steel Industry Fuel provides significant energy, environmental, and economic benefits, all of which argue for an extension of the SIF credit. The primary benefit of manufacturing SIF is that the production process recaptures the BTU content of coal waste sludge. The Environmental Protection Agency has approved the production of SIF as a method for disposing of coal waste sludge, and the production of SIF is the preferred method of coal waste sludge disposal. In addition, our domestic steel industry can become more competitive by using SIF because it lowers production and operation costs.

From an energy resource and environmental standpoint, the production of SIF is the superior method of disposing of coal waste sludge, it would otherwise be treated as a hazardous waste under applicable Federal environmental rules. The alternative methods of disposal are incineration and land-filling, each of which requires the physical conveyance of a waste product off-site. These disposal methods fail to