

Lucy Billingsley who founded the Chiapas Project, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to lifting women out of poverty in Latin America.

The Chiapas Project was founded in 2003 when Ms. Billingsley, a Dallas real estate developer, traveled to Chiapas, Mexico with thirty other women to see firsthand how microfinance and microloans effectively helped some of the most disadvantaged women in Mexico's poorest state. The group returned to North Texas with vigorous determination and raised \$790,000 to fund the expansion of a microfinance institution called Alternative Solidaria in Chiapas. This money ultimately lifted roughly 4,000 women out of poverty. Today, the Chiapas Project has set new goals and is working toward raising more money for microfinance initiatives across Latin America.

Recently Ms. Billingsley was honored at the Dallas Regional Chamber's 14th Annual International Business Achievement Awards luncheon where she received the Individual Award. Additionally, the Chiapas Project was commended for raising the global awareness of North Texas as an international business center in Latin America and across the world.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing both Lucy Billingsley and the Chiapas Project for the great work they have done to help disadvantaged women and families in Latin America.

HONORING THE MIAMI MEDICAL
TEAM FOUNDATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to Honor the Miami Medical Team Foundation, MMTF, a South Florida non-profit organization dedicated to improving medical conditions in third world countries. The Miami Medical Team Foundation has provided humanitarian assistance to countries that are hit by disasters.

Since 1980, the MMTF has helped families recoup from floods and hurricanes. In order to combat all disasters, The Miami Medical Team Foundation is comprised of doctors that specialize in different medical fields. These doctors go to great lengths to provide service for those in need. The Miami Medical Team Foundation provides relief to individuals and families by supplying food, clothing, medications, and other necessities. In addition to sending these supplies, The Miami Medical Team Foundation donates medical equipment to hospitals in affected countries. This wonderful organization provides relief missions ranging from basic health to refugee assistance. In addition to their excellent service, the MMTF covers all of the expenses of these relief missions. This self-funded foundation is truly committed to the greater good and I strongly commend their efforts.

I extend my gratitude to all of the employees and volunteers in The Miami Medical Team Foundation especially their chairman and president, Dr. Manuel Alzugaray, for all of his hard work and dedication. Dr. Manuel Alzugaray has been committed to helping others since the beginning of his long career. Through his studies, he has become a cer-

tified expert in matters dealing with terrorism and homeland security. He is a board certified expert in traumatic stress, making him a keen asset when dealing with sensitive global catastrophes. He has become an expert in treating those who have suffered mentally from the havoc of natural disasters. Dr. Alzugaray never ceases to make a tangible difference in the lives of many around the world.

The Miami Medical Team Foundation is devoted to serving anyone in need around the world and I strongly commend all of its efforts. I wish each and every member and volunteer the utmost success and again offer my utmost appreciation for all they do.

HONORING THE 3RD BRIGADE
COMBAT TEAM

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding service of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, "Spartans," 10th Mountain Division, as they complete their service in Afghanistan and return to their families and loved ones.

I am tremendously proud of the brave soldiers of the 3rd BCT who have sacrificed so much to keep our Nation safe. The family members of these soldiers must also be recognized, enduring through the Spartans' year-long deployment and providing their unwavering support as they return home.

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team was led during their missions in Afghanistan by COL David B. Haight and CSM Delbert D. Byers. The brigade consists of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Battalion, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, 710th Brigade Support Battalion, and the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

The Spartans began their deployment to Afghanistan in December of 2008 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Their assigned area of operations covered Wardak and Logar 1st-32nd Provinces, with the 1st-32nd detached to operate in Kunar Province. The 3rd BCT guarded the southern approaches to Kabul. If enemy forces sought to attack the city from the south, they had to get through the Spartans first.

The 3rd BCT's deployment to the area was significant in another way as well. Their operations marked the first time during Operation Enduring Freedom that International and Security Assistance Force, ISAF, units conducted counterinsurgency operations in either Wardak or Logar provinces. Before the Spartans arrived in country, only Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police operated in the provinces; these forces were isolated and confined to local areas.

The Brigade's units partnered with Afghan security forces to help develop their capacity and overall professionalism, ultimately playing a pivotal role in returning the security of Afghanistan over to the Afghan people. Aggressive counterinsurgency efforts resulted in low morale among insurgents and surviving leadership fleeing the region.

3rd BCT's operations resulted in 419 detainees, 236 enemy killed, and 120 enemy wounded. At the same time, the Spartans had 311 friendly casualties and 32 brave Soldiers killed in action.

They have truly performed in the best of Fort Drum's traditions and deserve our heartfelt thanks. It is with sincere gratitude that I recognize them before Congress today.

CONGRATULATING McCALL
BUTLER

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate McCall Butler, a student at Troup County Comprehensive High School, on his selection as a member of the State Student Advisory Council for the 2009-2010 school year. McCall was one of 53 students selected by state schools superintendent Kathy Cox. As a council member he will have the honor of discussing state policies with fellow members as well as with superintendent Cox several times during the school year. He will also have the honor of serving as an ambassador for the superintendent within his school.

The relationship between students and educators that this council facilitates is invaluable for improving and monitoring state policy. "It gives me a tremendous insight into how state policies and procedures are working in the classroom and it allows me to communicate directly with students in schools throughout Georgia," superintendent Cox has said.

McCall is an outstanding Georgia scholar. He is dedicated to giving a voice to the concerns of his school and its vital programs. Upon receiving the honor he commented, "A big reason for me to apply was because the Career Technical Agriculture Education programs at our school are very important to me, and I want to make sure they have continued funding going toward local, regional and state activities."

McCall will undoubtedly serve the interests of the students of Georgia and especially his school very well.

We appreciate the service provided by McCall and his fellow members on the State Student Advisory Council. I congratulate McCall on behalf of the people of Georgia's 3rd District and wish him continued success in his academic endeavors.

FRESH THINKING ON SUPPORTING
ISRAEL

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to place into the RECORD a compelling op-ed written by Representative GEORGE MILLER, which appeared recently in the Vallejo Times Herald. I have long admired Representative MILLER's thoughtful approach to one of the toughest foreign policy challenges we face—resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In this piece, Representative

MILLER cogently outlines a path forward in the Middle East and discusses the importance of supporting a political process that will bring about two States living side by side in peace and security.

[From the Vallejo Times Herald, Jan. 14, 2010]

FRESH THINKING ON SUPPORTING ISRAEL
(By Representative George Miller)

I read with interest Larry Grossman's piece in the Times-Herald ("Miller isn't fair to Israel," Jan. 10) criticizing my record on issues related to Israel. I believe he and I share the same interest in defending Israel's right to exist and flourish in peace and security. We appear to differ on what it means to support Israel. I am glad to be able to offer my view.

The United States can and must play a constructive role in helping to end the deadly and destabilizing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and Israel's neighbors. But adhering to an outdated ideology that punishes diverse perspectives on the Middle East is a disservice to Israel and the cause of peace and security. Here are my views on some of the key issues facing Israel and the United States today.

I support a strong and lasting friendship between the United States and Israel. The deep ties between our nations are rooted in a shared culture and common set of beliefs. America's support for Israel and the Israeli people has never been, nor is it now, in question.

I fully support Israel's right to defend itself and I reject hateful speech, rocket attacks, suicide bombs and other violent attacks directed against the Israeli people. No nation should ever be expected to withstand such attacks without response. When I have been critical of Israeli military action, such as in Gaza in 2008, it has been based on the view that Israel's response was disproportionate and undermined its long-term interests. In addition, democratic nations like Israel and the United States must respect International Law and human rights and I will always demand adherence to those critical instruments of democracy and freedom.

I support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the immediate resumption of peace talks as necessary steps to ensure Israel's security and status as a democratic nation. President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton support a two-state solution, as did President George W. Bush. Moreover, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu supports a two-state solution. Israel must cease the aggressive, and sometimes illegal, settlement activity in order for the peace talks and the two-state solution to succeed.

When it comes to votes in Congress affecting the Middle East, I do not follow orthodoxy but judge issues based on whether they advance the cause of peace and security.

Consider two recent examples. Along with 57 other members of Congress, I opposed a House resolution in November criticizing a report by Justice Richard Goldstone on the Gaza war because the bill was rushed through the House without a single congressional hearing or any delineation of the relevant issues for members' consideration. On the other hand, I supported the recently passed Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act, which furthered the cause of peace and security by sending a strong signal to Iran that Congress is willing, if necessary, to enact tough sanctions to diminish Iran's capability to threaten Israel.

Debate in the United States on Middle East issues has been dominated for decades by the position pushed by some supporters of Israel that the only friend of Israel is the one

who never criticizes. That is not the definition of friendship.

Not all actions by the government of Israel are in the best of interest of the Jewish people, but to say so publicly is not an attack on the state. The same is true for our own country. Criticizing the Bush administration for invading Iraq or the Obama administration for wanting to close Guantanamo, just for example, are not attacks on America nor should they ever be labeled as such.

There are many different voices within Israel on the issue of peace and security, just as there are wide ranging views among American Jews and others in our country that support the state of Israel. Americans For Peace Now, for example, an affiliate of the non-governmental Israeli movement Peace Now, is critical of some Israeli military and government actions but is clearly pro-Israel. And J Street, a different organization mentioned by Mr. Grossman, does an excellent job of educating policymakers about Middle East issues. J Street is pro-Israel and pro-peace but does not support every Israeli government position.

These two groups are rattling the nerves of the traditional pro-Israel lobby—and they are being attacked as a result.

But the strength of democracy is its tolerance for dissent. Expanding the debate is a positive development for Jews, Palestinians and all Americans interested in securing a lasting peace in the Middle East.

My approach as a Member of Congress when it comes to the Middle East and other vital concerns is to examine issues and raise questions and determine whether the actions planned by Congress are helpful to the cause of peace and security. I can think of no greater way in which to show my support for Israel and the Israeli people.

HONORING NICHOLAS D. TURCOTTE

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Nicholas D. Turcotte, a citizen-soldier gave his life on December 4, 2006 while serving in Iraq.

As a member of the Minnesota National Guard, Nick distinguished himself. In just 2 years he rose to the rank of Sergeant, and was known as a soldier's soldier; dependable, helpful, and an outstanding example to those around him.

Sergeant Turcotte was born in Highland Park, Illinois. After living in Colorado, he moved to Maple Grove, Minnesota with his grandparents.

He enjoyed playing hockey, paintball, singing and playing trombone. He contemplated a career in law enforcement and joined the Maple Grove Police Explorers until he entered basic training with the Minnesota National Guard.

Nick married his high school sweetheart, Jennifer, in September 2004.

Inspired by his enthusiasm for service and commitment to his country, Nicholas Turcotte's family has established a scholarship in his name that supports the Minnesota Law Enforcement Explorer Association. This scholarship will allow other young people to participate in the educational programs the Explorers offer, as well as providing money for secondary education.

Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest respect and admiration that I honor Sergeant Turcotte's sacrifice on behalf of the Nation today. We are ever grateful for his service, and continue to grieve with his family, who is keeping his memory alive each and every day.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MATTIE LEE NASH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mattie Lee Nash who passed away recently at the age of 87.

As a remarkably civic-minded resident of West Dallas, Ms. Nash was constantly working to better her community. She was frequently referred to as the "Mayor of West Dallas," and during the 1980s she served on the Dallas Housing Authority's board where she gave a voice to the often forgotten neighborhoods west of the Trinity River. In 1991, she was elected to the Dallas City Council after the adoption of the single-member-district system that helped to ensure diverse representation on the city council. Throughout all of this, she maintained a tireless sense of hope that emboldened citizens across the city of Dallas.

Twenty-five years after her term on the city council, we remember Ms. Nash with warm thoughts and heavy hearts. Her actions so struck people in the community that the city recently honored her by naming a recreation center in her honor.

Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring Ms. Mattie Lee Nash who worked tirelessly for the citizens of West Dallas to ensure that they were actively and fairly represented.

THE LOSS OF C. BLYTHE ANDREWS

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. C. Blythe Andrews Jr., the former editor-in-chief of the Florida Sentinel Bulletin, Florida's largest and oldest Black newspaper, and a beloved member of the Tampa Bay community. The state of Florida suffered a great loss on January 12, 2010 when he passed away.

Mr. Andrews' devotion to the Florida Sentinel Bulletin was life long. His first job for the paper was during his years at Booker T. Washington Junior High School. He would spend afternoons after school folding newspapers for delivery. He continued to work for the paper, under the close eye of his father who was the editor-in-chief at the time, while attending Middleton High School in Tampa. After receiving his bachelor's degree in economics, his master's in journalism, and serving in our Nation's Army, he went on to continue the family legacy of newspaper publishing, becoming editor-in-chief of the Sentinel Bulletin