

by those trained and based in Afghanistan. Still, President Bush diverted attention and resources to Iraq, misleading the American people and Congress as to the true source of the threat to our nation and the world.

After considerable and careful review of military options in Afghanistan, President Obama submitted to the American people a sober assessment of the realities on the ground and a plan to end U.S. involvement. I believe that the President is committed to ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I support his efforts, but I believe we must expedite his timetable.

Undoubtedly, our brave men and women in uniform have fought well and deserve our full support and commitment to return them home safely to their families and loved ones.

Our troops have fought with honor and professionalism in the face of great challenges, and at great cost—I am truly humbled by their service and sacrifice.

While I support the President and our military leadership in bringing this war to a responsible end, I believe the time has come to send a message that the United States cannot sustain an open-ended commitment in Afghanistan. I believe the resolution before us sends that message.

That is why I vote in favor of the resolution today.

HONORING SAM H. PACK

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I rise today to recognize Mr. Sam Pack, owner and president of Sam Pack Auto Group. Mr. Pack has earned the recognition as one of the most prominent leaders in the American automotive industry in recent years.

Mr. Pack has held various management positions with Ford Motor Company. In 1980, Mr. Pack became the president, general manager, and partner of Lee Jarmon Ford Inc. in Carrollton, TX. During Mr. Pack's tenure as a business executive, he has developed Sam Pack Auto Group into a nationally renowned and influential business.

Throughout his professional career, Mr. Pack has always had a reputation of high customer satisfaction, owner loyalty, and leadership in the community. Mr. Pack was honored in 1988 by Time Magazine as the "Quality Dealer of the Year," which is the highest industry standard for new-car dealers who exhibit exceptional performance in their dealerships, combined with distinguished community service. The Texas Automobile Dealers Association bestowed Mr. Pack with the prestigious "Legends Awards" in 2006, which makes him one of only nine dealers to receive this accolade.

Mr. Pack is an active member in many civic service organizations. In 1990, Mr. Pack was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Pack was also the recipient of the 2003 "Award for Outstanding Community Service" from Ford Motor Company. These achievements display Mr. Pack's community involvement and selfless service to others.

On behalf of the 24th District of Texas, I would like to personally thank Mr. Pack for his diligent service and entrepreneurial spirit. Mr. Pack's civic and professional accomplishments have been numerous, and it is an honor for me to recognize him for his contributions to the people of 24th District of Texas. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Pack many years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF SAM H. PACK

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Sam H. Pack, one of the most influential leaders in the American automotive industry on thirty meritorious years of service.

Mr. Pack began his career in the automotive industry with Ford Motor Company. After his eighteen year tenure, he moved on to become the President, General Manager, and Partner of Lee Jarmon Ford, Inc., a dealership in Carrollton, Texas. In 1986, Mr. Pack purchased sole interest and as owner, the dealership has experienced continued growth under his leadership. The many loyal customers he has gained over the years can be attributed to his commitment to excellence and belief in quality customer service. His entrepreneurial spirit, business savvy, dedication, and hard work can be seen in his many successes as the proud owner and President of Sam Pack Auto Group.

Aside from his successful career, Mr. Pack firmly believes in giving back to his local community. His monetary contributions to numerous philanthropic organizations has touched the lives of many and helped nonprofit organizations more effectively achieve their mission. Beyond giving financially, Mr. Pack also gives generously of his time and effort. He is actively involved in various civic and professional organizations such as the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce, North Dallas Shared Ministry, Episcopal Diocese of Dallas Children's Foundation, National Automobile Dealers Association, and the Dallas New Car Dealers Association where he currently serves as the Chairman.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to joining me in honoring Mr. Pack. I wish him and his family all the best and congratulate him as he celebrates the 30th Anniversary of Sam Pack's Five Star Ford.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Monday, March 15, 2010, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 112 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1145, as amended), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 113 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1170), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 114 (on the

motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1163), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 115 (on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 267).

HEALTH CARE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, today's headlines are full of talk about process and vote counts, making it possible for some to forget what we are doing and why we are doing it.

We are reforming healthcare because our system is broken.

Insurance companies are discriminating against those with pre-existing or "on-going" conditions.

Companies are discriminating against people like Alicia Chester—a constituent from my district—who, after graduating from college, was denied adequate coverage.

Because she suffers from back pain, the insurance companies refused to cover Alicia's back treatment, deeming hers an "on-going" condition.

Then, due to one irregular pap-smear, the insurance companies declared Alicia a "cervical cancer risk" and barred her from reapplying for 18 months.

No one deserves to be dropped because they need help.

No one should have to decide whether to cover costs out-of-pocket, or to avoid medical treatment because the costs are too high.

We are fixing healthcare because of people like Alicia.

U.S. RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to insert my views into the RECORD regarding the importance of the relationship between the United States and Israel.

Vice President BIDEN's visit last week to Israel and subsequent public statements made by U.S. and Israeli officials have given rise to a storm of speculation about the strength and durability of the alliance between our two nations.

The Obama administration in recent days has expressed frustration over an announcement made by the Israeli government during the Vice President's visit that it intends to build 1,600 additional housing units in East Jerusalem.

The administration contends such plans place in jeopardy its initiative to resume peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians, and has publicly rebuked Israel for last week's announcement, an act seldom seen from U.S. Government officials.

These events deeply concern me, and I find the administration's rhetoric troubling. Now is the time for greater solidarity between the United States and Israel, not less.

We cannot forget that the United States faces considerable challenges in the Middle

East. Iran is quickly advancing its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities to threaten the United States and our allies in the Middle East and Europe. Our significant political and military gains in Iraq and Afghanistan remain fragile and reversible. Moreover, the Middle East remains the epicenter of violent extremism, serving as a base for terrorist groups who continue to plan and launch attacks against America.

The United States cannot confront these threats alone. Israel has been our most critical partner in the Middle East, helping us to protect our national security. The ability of the United States to defeat our adversaries depends on Israeli support.

Bringing my remarks to conclusion, the relationship between the United States and Israel rests firmly upon the foundation of more than half a century of history. It is grounded in mutual respect, supported by shared values, and guided by our common long-term interests. Therefore, our alliance remains strong and, despite what some may speculate, it will not succumb to the shifting politics of the day or to petty disagreements.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons I call upon the President, members of his administration, and my fellow members of Congress, to remain steadfast in their unwavering commitment to the relationship between the United States and Israel.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO "METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH" ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I rise to congratulate Metropolitan Baptist Church as they join together in celebration of their 100th Anniversary. This momentous and joyous celebration will commence on March 21, 2010.

Metropolitan has a very rich history that has given it life and longevity for the past 100 years. At a time when a systematic campaign had been started by area landlords to force African-Americans out of my beloved Harlem, the Metropolitan Baptist Church began with the merger of two churches: Zion Baptist Church pastured by the Reverend P.C. James, and Mercy Seat Baptist Church, pastured by Reverend Dr. N.S. Epps.

The officers of both churches met at the home of Reverend Epps. At the meeting, it was decided that both church names be dropped. Trustee Robert L. Hill of the Mercy Seat Baptist Church suggested the name that would be carried on throughout its History, Metropolitan Baptist Church. A motion was made, carried and recorded, and that day, March 12, 1912, the Metropolitan Baptist Church was started. Its first location was the Subway Church, home of the old Mercy Seat Baptist Church, on West 134th Street near the new 135th Street Subway station. The new church was led by Dr. Epps, its first pastor until 1914.

In 1916, under the Rev. W.W. Brown, the church built the enormous Metropolitan Baptist

Tabernacle at West 138th Street. After the Baptist congregation bought the New York Presbyterian Church on West 128th Street in 1918, where it remains to this day, the Tabernacle became Liberty Hall. This was the focal point of Marcus Garvey's Back-to-Africa movement, where the first convention was held in 1920 of the Universal Negro Improvement Association. Thousands were drawn to the elaborately ritualistic, almost religious, meetings at the hall.

Since its inception, many Governors and Members of Congress from both the Democratic and Republican Party have visited the church to garner the support of its congregants. In 1994, Metropolitan Baptist Church, under the tutelage of Reverend John A. Smith, became a Triple Landmark, having earned Federal, City, and State landmark status.

From its modest beginning, Metropolitan Baptist Church has emerged as a cornerstone of my beloved village of Harlem. Under the guidance of its 5th pastor, Reverend Bobbie McDaniel, Metropolitan continues to thrive, both in terms of spiritual growth as well as practical improvements. The proud members of the church are thankful for the spiritual and emotional leadership he and the previous pastors have provided during their 100 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Metropolitan Baptist Church on their historic 100th Anniversary. Their historic significance, constant dedication, and spiritual guidance is worthy of the highest commendation.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS NATIONAL MEMORIAL ACT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, today, H.R. 2788 passed the House with the unanimous support of my colleagues. The bill designates a memorial that is currently under construction at March Field Air Museum, in Riverside, California, as the Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial.

I am proud that the Distinguished Flying Cross recipients, who have received this prestigious medal for their heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Armed Forces, are closer to having a memorial designated as a National Memorial with the passage of this bill.

March Air Reserve Base is adjacent to the location of the memorial at the March Field Air Museum. Today at the base there are active operational air units providing support to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, which is why this is an appropriate setting for the memorial to the many aviators who have distinguished themselves by deeds performed in aerial flight.

I am including in today's RECORD, my floor statement from Tuesday, March 16, 2010, regarding H.R. 2788.

FLOOR STATEMENT ON H.R. 2788, THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS MEMORIAL ACT
Rep. Ken Calvert

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2788, a bill to designate a national Distinguished

Flying Cross Memorial in Riverside, California.

I am honored to represent the Inland Empire Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society which is the primary sponsor of the memorial. Last June, I introduced H.R. 2788 which would designate a memorial, which is currently under construction at March Field Air Museum as the Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial. It honors all current and former members of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The bill has strong bipartisan support both from the committee and with 48 cosponsors. The legislation is supported by the Distinguished Flying Cross Society, Military Officers Association of America, the Air Force Association, Air Force Sergeants Association, The Association of Naval Aviation, The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, and the China-Burma Indian Veterans Association. I'd like to point out language in the bill that specifically states that the designation shall not be construed to require or permit federal funds to be expended for any purpose related to the national memorial. Funds have been and will continue to be raised through private means for these purposes.

Distinguished Flying Cross recipients have received the prestigious medal for their heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Armed Forces. There are many well-known people that have played a vital role in the history of military aviation and have received the award. This renowned group includes: Captain Charles L. Lindbergh, former President George H. W. Bush, Brigadier General Jimmy Doolittle, General Curtis Lemay, Senator McCain, Jimmy Stewart and Admiral Jim Stockdale, to name just a few.

The March Air Reserve Base, which hosts the C-17As of the 452nd Air Mobility Wing is adjacent to the location of the memorial at the March Field Air Museum. When completed, visitors will be able to witness active operational air units providing support to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, which is an appropriate setting that honors the many aviators who have distinguished themselves by deeds performed in aerial flight.

I'd like to thank those who have worked tirelessly to ensure this memorial is built and is properly designated in honor of the distinguished aviators that have served this great Nation. In particular, I'd like to recognize, Jim Champlin, with the loving support of his wife Trish, who recently passed away, who have been instrumental in this effort.

Again, I hope you will join me in supporting the designation of the National Distinguished Flying Cross Memorial at the March Field Air Museum and H.R. 2788.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I was not present in the chamber yesterday afternoon to vote on rollcalls 131, 132, 133, 134, and 135. I would have voted "yea" on each measure.