

Israel and its security. I speak for all of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, when I say: the bond between our nations was powerful long before we set foot in this chamber, and it will outlast all of us. In that spirit, Congress must continue to support strong foreign aid for our ally. And we must continue to insist that regimes that threaten Israel's safety, and the world's, recognize Israel's right to exist—and act accordingly.

Few ideas in history have been more daring than the idea that the Jewish people could end generations of exile and build a thriving state, called to the highest principles of justice. Few ideas have been more hopeful, or more demanding. And few are more deserving of the world's sustaining effort.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

In the Veteran's Interview Project, I have gained insight and knowledge on the topic of America's veterans. My uncle, George Vacek, was drafted into the service and joined the Marine Corps. He was assigned to the artillery unit as a radio operator. He entered the

service as a private and completed his tour of duty as a corporal. He fought the campaign in Vietnam and then was transferred to Cuba. I discovered through my interview with him, the trials and rewards of military service. While in the service, he endured hardships, witnessed the evils of war, overcame obstacles, developed discipline, and yet he came away with the fulfillment that he gained a greater respect for himself and his country.

This project was beneficial to me in that I realized what it would be like to walk in a soldier's shoes. Americans support our servicemen, both here and abroad, but yet have absolutely no clue of what it's really like to be there. My in-depth conversation with my Uncle enlightened me on his journey. In concluding this interview, I realized that our soldiers are true patriots who are sacrificially putting themselves in harm's way to forever protect our freedoms.—J'Lynn Vacek.

HONORING THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS AND PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of our nation's Peace Corps volunteers in honor of the 49th Anniversary of the Peace Corps. Since the establishment of the Peace Corps by President Kennedy in 1961, nearly 200,000 Americans have served in 139 countries. For the past 49 years, Peace Corps volunteers have demonstrated the nation's commitment to encourage and expand development at the grass roots level.

Currently, 7,671 volunteers are providing expertise and development assistance to 76 countries. Peace Corps volunteers have made significant contributions in agriculture, business development, information to technology, education, health, youth, and the environment. In these various sectors and communities, volunteers have been able to adapt and respond to new challenges through their innovation, creativity, and compassion.

For example, Peace Corps volunteers have provided hope and assistance to people affected by HIV/AIDS. Volunteers have led the way in making the Peace Corps at the forefront of responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Through living in the community and learning the local language, they are able to share information relating to HIV/AIDS in a culturally appropriate way.

Once Peace Corps volunteers return from abroad, they have become leaders in all sectors of society. Through their training and experience abroad, volunteers are able to adapt to different cultural settings at the professional level. I would like to commend our proud nation's Peace Corps volunteers for their service, particularly those men and women of the Eleventh Congressional District of Virginia. I consider it a great honor to represent these noble men and women, who travel great distances and make great sacrifices to help reaffirm our country's commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues and their staff to join me in recognizing the achievement of and the Peace Corps volun-

teers. They are a great credit to our country, and we should applaud them.

HONORING PETER HUTCHISON UPON BEING NAMED THE 2010 NEW YORK STATE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a gentleman in my district, Peter Hutchison.

Mr. Hutchison has been recognized as the 2010 New York State Assistant Principal of the Year by the School Administrators Association of New York State. He was recognized for his outstanding work at Amityville Memorial High School. He has served as an educator for over 31 years, including six as assistant principal at Amityville Memorial High School.

I congratulate him on this accomplishment and applaud his contribution to high school education on Long Island.

CHRISTOPHER BREWER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christopher Brewer who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Christopher Brewer is a 10th grader at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christopher Brewer is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Christopher Brewer for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

HONORING CHIEF PAUL PRICE OF CAMDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Paul Price upon his retirement and to recognize his outstanding contributions to Camden County and the state of New Jersey.

Chief Price is known for his integrity and selfless nature. He has worked diligently to gain five million dollars in grant money for fire fighters in Camden for safety and preparedness. Chief Price goes significantly above and

beyond the call of duty to give resources to those in need, working long nights and weekends so that the fire department has everything it needs. Chief Price's commitment to Camden County is also evidenced through his civic service affiliations. He has been active in the Camden County Fireman's Association, New Jersey Deputy Chief Association, Port Security Committee, Camden Cooperate Watch, and he was Emergency manager for the City of Camden. Despite all his work, his peers point out that he has never sought the spotlight and that he has always kept the best interests of the Camden Fire Department and its firefighters in mind.

Beyond his civic duties, Chief Price has been recognized by the Camden community as always being ready to offer a helping hand in times of need. He is the driving force and backbone of the Camden Angels Program, working tirelessly every Christmas to ensure 3,500 children receive Christmas presents. Chief Price also donates his time to spring festivals, special needs carnivals and activities, and through outreach to the hungry and homeless. He also has given endless support to the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program in Camden City.

Madam Speaker, Chief Paul Price's work and dedication are truly praiseworthy. I wish Chief Price the best of luck upon retirement and I thank him for his commitment to his community.

IN HONOR OF THE BEACHWOOD
BOY SCOUTS, GIRL SCOUTS,
LEADERS AND PARENTS

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Leaders and Parents of Beachwood for receiving the 2010 Beachwood Citizen of the Year Award.

Through their excellence in giving back to the Beachwood community and committing to their personal development and aspirations, the Beachwood Girl and Boy Scouts have displayed dedication to the highest standards and best traditions of American citizenship. I am confident that they will continue to accomplish great things in the future and prove to be successful and productive members of society.

I am proud to have such hardworking constituents and I thank them for their dedication and tremendous service throughout the years. Madam Speaker, I hope you will join me in congratulating these exceptional Scouts, their leaders, and their parents for all the contributions as they are honored as "Citizens of the Year."

WHO SPEAKS FOR THE COPTIC
CHRISTIANS?

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a bipartisan letter which was sent

to the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, TIP, expressing "concern over continuing reports of abductions, forced marriages, and exploitation of Coptic women and girls in Egypt." We urged the TIP Office to investigate whether these cases should be included in the upcoming Trafficking in Persons Report.

The U.S. has given Egypt billions of dollars in foreign aid since the Camp David Accords, and yet they persist in trampling the rights of minorities and brutally suppressing political and human rights. In fact, by most accounts there has been backsliding in all of these areas.

With still no Ambassador for International Religious Freedom, when was the last time that this administration advocated for the Coptic Christians?

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, April 16, 2010.

Hon. LUIS CDEBACA,
Ambassador-at-Large, U.S. Department of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR AMBASSADOR CDEBACA: We write today to express our concern over continuing reports of abductions, forced marriages, and exploitation of Coptic women and girls in Egypt. Some of these reports document a criminal phenomenon that includes fraud, physical and sexual violence, captivity, forced marriage, and exploitation in forced domestic servitude or commercial sexual exploitation, and financial benefit to the individuals who secure the forced conversion of the victim. As you know, these are some of the hallmarks of human trafficking.

Numerous reports, including in Egypt's Al-Ahram Weekly and a November 2009 report issued by the Coptic Foundation for Human Rights and Christian Solidarity International (CSI), point to the grim reality of forced marriage faced by vulnerable Coptic women and girls in Egypt. In the 25 cases documented by the Coptic Foundation for Human Rights and CSI, it is clear that violence, fraud, and/or coercion are used to force vulnerable Egyptian women and girls into marriages for the purpose of forced conversion, and these forced marriages are sometimes accompanied by sexual exploitation or domestic servitude. In some cases the families involved in the abductions and forced conversions receive mysterious financial benefits. Further, it appears, according to their lawyers, that the situations facing the women highlighted in the report are not isolated cases.

In the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (2008), Congress tasked the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) office with reporting on "emerging [and] shifting global patterns in human trafficking." We respectfully request that the office follow up on the reports coming out of Egypt, investigate whether the cases of abduction, forced marriage, exploitation and other financial benefit to the individuals who secure a forced conversion should be included in the forthcoming 2010 TIP Annual Report, and inform us about your determination on the matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank Wolf, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chris Smith, Carolyn Maloney, Michele Bachmann, Bob Inglis, Aaron Schock, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Doug Lamborn, Marsha Blackburn, Anna Eshoo, Dan Burton, Donald Payne, Albio Sires, Joe Wilson, Ted Poe, Trent Franks, Anh "Joseph" Cao,

Members of Congress.

CODY HORNSBY-KLINGE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cody Hornsby-Klinge who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Cody Hornsby-Klinge is a 12th grader at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Cody Hornsby-Klinge is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Cody Hornsby-Klinge for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

COMMENDING UNIVERSITY OF
CONNECTICUT HUSKIES ON WOMEN'S
NCAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1239, which recognizes the tremendous accomplishments of the University of Connecticut women's basketball team. The University of Connecticut Huskies women's basketball team has emerged as one of the most outstanding teams in the history of college sports. On April 6, 2010, the Huskies defeated the Stanford Cardinal in the National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA, Division I women's basketball national championship in San Antonio, Texas.

This victory gave the Huskies their seventh national championship, second only to the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers' eight championships. This season the Huskies went undefeated, ending the season on a record 78 game winning streak, a streak that has lasted since the beginning of the 2008–2009 season. As a former college basketball player, I understand the hard work, intense focus, and tireless dedication required to achieve a single season as successful as the Huskies' was this year. So, the kind of repeated success that the University of Connecticut women have seen over the years is truly impressive.

The Huskies' coach, Geno Auriemma, is the president of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association and holds the highest winning percentage among active coaches. Coach Auriemma is also a coach of the 2012 United States Olympic Team. In addition to these successes, Coach Auriemma should be most appreciated for the role model that he is to his players and the positive impact he has on their lives.