

CONCERNS ABOUT THE PHILIPPINE AUTOMATED ELECTIONS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, on May 10, 2010, the Republic of the Philippines will undergo historic elections in its budding democracy. These elections mark the first fully automated national elections to determine the fates of over 85,000 candidates for some 17,000 national and local seats, including that of the President and Vice President. With such a large ballot of candidates and the challenge of polling across a nation of over 7,000 islands, the benefits of an automated system are apparent.

These automated elections, however, are not flawless. Automated voting is not guaranteed to eliminate fraud and error, but seeks to minimize them. Additional independent systems should be in place to ensure transparency and validity across the entire election process and, in particular, over the electronic voting systems themselves. Especially troubling are the reports that the new voting system has never been fully tested in the Philippines, which reinforces the need for a contingency plan in case of voting machine failures. In fact, the National Democratic Institute and other international observers have already expressed similar concerns about these upcoming automated elections.

The Philippine Commission on Elections (COMELEC) has the daunting task of administering these elections, and would do well to heed the bitter lessons that the United States learned from the controversies surrounding our electronic voting machines during recent elections. While still working to improve our election process, we also recognize the importance of mending the public confidence. Public confidence in any form of government is paramount to its success, and this is especially true for any democracy—Philippine and American. Again, I urge COMELEC to establish necessary transparency and validation mechanisms that will earn the confidence of the Filipino people to ensure that their constitutional right was fairly exercised. I look forward to these historic democratic elections and hope that they will result in a confident and peaceful transition of government.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT H. ANDERSON

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, Robert H. Anderson, Lt. Col., USMC (ret.) who sadly passed away in November 2009. Lt. Col. Anderson was laid to rest Friday April 2, 2010 in Arlington National Cemetery.

Lt. Col. Anderson was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism during World War II. He became a Corsair pilot and was in nearly every major battle in the Pacific including Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal, Okinawa, Tarawa,

Guam, Peleliu, Tinian and others. Between these battles, he fought kamikazes that were attacking our ships, flew reconnaissance missions, and escorted bombers, protecting them from Japanese fighter planes. During one of his escort missions he was hit with anti-aircraft fire and told to bail out. He jettisoned the canopy but at the last moment he decided that he would take his chances and try to get back to his base in Okinawa. He successfully landed on the runway at Okinawa with no canopy, no landing gear and much of his plane and controls damaged.

Throughout his life, Lt. Col. Anderson demonstrated his commitment to serving his country. After World War II, Lt. Col. Anderson served in the Marine Corps Reserve testing new jets, training pilots and keeping his skills sharp in case he was needed in combat again. He served one weekend a month and two weeks twice a year until Vietnam. He also volunteered as a recruiter for the Marine Corps Reserve and helped overhaul their public relations strategy. He volunteered for active duty during the Korean Campaign, but was not called.

Lt. Col. Anderson's service and dedication to this country warrants the highest recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating this great American.

INTRODUCING THE COMMISSION ON IMPROVING LONG-TERM CARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES ACT OF 2010

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Commission on Improving Long-term Care and Community Services Act of 2010.

Long-term care is a broad range of health and social services that is used by people who cannot care for themselves independently because they live with a physical, cognitive, or mental disability. Well over 9.4 million adults receive long-term care in the United States and this number is expected to rise. Longer life spans among the chronically ill and disabled, and higher incidences of acquired disabilities from unmanaged conditions such as HIV/AIDS, diabetes, obesity and heart disease project an increase in our reliance on long-term care. States with significant elder populations like Florida know the importance of ensuring that our health care system is well equipped to provide adequate long-term care services.

Last year, I introduced H. Res. 271, a resolution that expressed the need for a national strategy on long-term care, and the necessity of including long-term care in comprehensive health care reform. Many agreed that addressing the state of long-term care and community services is critically important to improving our health care system. However, concerns about the potentially high cost of implementing corrective measures stymied efforts to aggressively tackle the problem in the health reform bill.

The inclusion of long-term care insurance in the health reform bill is helpful, but it cannot serve as a substitution for comprehensively

addressing long-term care and community services issues. Too many patients and families are enduring the physical, emotional and financial consequences of accessing long-term care in a system that is in dire need of improvement. The lack of streamlined standards and dominant payment methods for long-term care have left the system handicapped: depriving countless people of much needed services and placing a tremendous financial and emotional burden on families and caregivers. And yet, there has never been a national plan for long-term care, and nearly 20 years have passed since Congress comprehensively reviewed long-term care policy.

The Commission on Improving Long-Term Care and Community Services Act of 2010 is a cost-effective way to ensure that we comprehensively address long-term care and community services policy in the U.S. and U.S. territories. My bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a National Commission on Improving Long-Term Care and Services. The Commission will be composed of a variety of Federal and national stakeholders that will construct a comprehensive strategy on how to increase the affordability, accessibility and effectiveness of long-term care and community services in the U.S. and U.S. territories. The Commission's policy recommendations must consider cost, geography, culture, transportation, workforce and other factors that influence access to care.

And, the Commission's strategy must also provide guidelines on how to combat waste, fraud and abuse by long-term care providers, address flaws in Medicare reimbursement policies, increase access to home and community-based services through Medicaid, and promote fiscally responsible ways to finance long-term care. The Commission on Improving Long-term Care and Community Services has two years to submit a report to the President, Congress and the general public about their recommendations and findings.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the National Commission on Improving Long-term Care and Community Services Act of 2010 and truly invest in the welfare of our Nation's health and health care system.

HONORING BARTOW HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor my high school alma mater, Bartow High School, for winning the 5A state title in boys' basketball. The final game had the Bartow Yellow Jackets beating the Tampa Sickles in a 51–37 match hosted in the Lakeland Center. This will be Bartow High's fourth boys' basketball title, but its first since 1988. The boys were led by head coach Terrence McGriff and seniors Jeremiah Samarippas, Weedlens Beauvil, Adrian Brackins, Richard Murvin, Vincent Reed, and Reginald Polite.

The school's athletics program is also recognized for its girls' softball team, who appeared in the state championship game for 10 consecutive years from 1997–2006 and won 7 out of the 10 matches. Bartow High also has many football alumni who went on to compete

at the NCAA Division I and professional National Football League levels.

Not only does Bartow High have a state champion in its basketball program, but they compete on a national level with their academic programs. The school houses the International Baccalaureate School at Bartow High, which annually finishes in the top 5 composite SAT scores in the United States. Bartow High earned approval to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma in 1996. Until this year, this was the only such program in Polk County. In 2007, the U.S. News and World Report, the premier school rating entity, ranked the International Baccalaureate program as the third best school in the nation.

Bartow High was originally named the Summerlin Institute, which was founded in 1887 but moved to its current location in 1970. The school currently houses the prestigious military school of the same name, Summerlin Academy. On behalf of Florida's 12th Congressional District, especially Polk County, I wish to congratulate Bartow High's boys' basketball team for the state championship title and Bartow High for its continued well-rounded successes.

IVAN BURCIAGA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

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

The dedication demonstrated by Ivan Burciaga 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 Ivan Burciaga 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.

IN REMEMBRANCE AND RECOGNITION OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SAIGON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and recognition of the 35th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon. This historical date commemorates the end of the Vietnam War, and represents the beginning of a new life for tens of thousands of Vietnamese people, as they began their hopeful journey to America.

On April 30, 1975, the ancient city of Saigon fell to the conquest of communist troops. This

action solidified the communist takeover of South Vietnam. Thirty-five years later, I rise to honor the memory and sacrifice of the hundreds of thousands of South Vietnamese soldiers, American soldiers and civilians who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of liberty.

Despite the violent takeover and the rule of repression that followed, the culture, spirit and hope reflected by the Vietnamese people remained steadfast. After the fall of Saigon, thousands of Vietnamese, determined to rebuild their lives, began a treacherous exodus out of Vietnam. Their daring escape was on foot, through thick jungles and over jagged mountains. They escaped by boat, through snake-infested rivers and across turbulent seas. They became refugees in many nations, including America, with nothing more than the clothes on their backs and the hope for freedom in their hearts.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of the hundreds of thousands of women, men and children who struggled for peace and freedom. We also honor the City of Cleveland and the Vietnamese Community of Greater Cleveland, which offers support, services and hope to immigrants from all over the world. The Vietnamese culture, through the care and commitment of its people, has flourished in Cleveland and across America. Yet it remains forever connected to its ancient cultural and historical traditions that spiral back throughout the centuries, connecting the old world to the new, spanning oceans and borders in the ageless quest for peace—from Vietnam to America.

IN COMMEMORATION AND HONOR OF DR. DOROTHY IRENE HEIGHT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, who passed away on April 20, 2010. Dr. Height was a noble woman who devoted her life to the service of others and for the advancement of civil liberty and freedom for all.

After earning her bachelors and masters degrees from New York University, Dr. Height started her career as a caseworker for the New York City Welfare Department. Possessing an audacious and strong spirit, Dr. Height helped fuel the civil rights movement as an activist with the National Council of Negro Women. She made it her life's work to fight for civil equality for African-Americans and women of all colors.

Dr. Height worked vigorously for the NCNW for more than 60 years. During her tenure, she served as the chair and president emerita of the NCNW, and worked alongside the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Congressman JOHN LEWIS and A. Philip Randolph. Dr. Height was among the few fortunate people to have stood on the platform when Dr. King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963.

While helping to lead the NCNW in the 1960s, Dr. Height organized the famous "Wednesdays in Mississippi" group, which brought women of all faiths and colors together in Mississippi to break racial, class, and

regional barriers. Because of her leadership and ability to bring people together, she was often sought by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt for counsel. Additionally, she encouraged President Dwight Eisenhower to desegregate schools, and urged President Lyndon Johnson to appoint African-American women to positions in government.

Dr. Height has received numerous awards and commendations for her work, including the Congressional Gold Medal, Presidential Medal of Freedom, Spingarn Medal from the NAACP, and in 1993, was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize and honor the life of one of our Nation's greatest civil rights leaders. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Dorothy Irene Height for her life-long service to the principles of freedom, justice, and equality for all.

NATIONAL HEALTHY SCHOOLS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1280, a resolution expressing the support of the House of Representatives for National Healthy Schools Day. Unhealthy school environments have a traumatic effect of our students' health, learning, and productivity, and increase health care costs down the road. Fifty-five million students spend the week in American schools, and it is critical to our Nation's future that they be provided a safe and healthy learning environment.

While we take time to recognize this important issue, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Healthy Schools Campaign, a Chicago-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to encouraging and nurturing healthy school environments. Under the leadership of Founding Executive Director Rochelle Davis, the Healthy Schools Campaign has been a champion and model in the push to develop healthy school meals, which studies show have a significant impact on the cognitive and behavioral well-being of students.

We must work to ensure that every child born in this country has the opportunity to take advantage of its great resources. Guaranteeing a healthy school environment for all children will play a critical role in this effort, and I will continue to strongly support legislation and initiatives targeting that goal.

RECOGNITION OF SILBERLINE MANUFACTURING COMPANY INC. FOR 65 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Mr. HOLDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Silberline Manufacturing Company, Inc. of Tamaqua, Pennsylvania which will celebrate its 65th anniversary on May 1, 2010. Silberline manufactures and sells metallic and special effect pigments, which are used