

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 2499, the Puerto Rico Democracy Act of 2009, introduced by our colleague Congressman PEDRO PIERLUISI. As the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, I fully support this bill, which the full Natural Resources committee reported out favorably on July 22nd of last year.

H.R. 2499 is an important bill for both Puerto Rico and the other U.S. Territories. As the delegate from Guam, I understand the desire of residents in the territories to decide their future and make a determination about their political future. Guam and Puerto Rico were both ceded to the United States after the Spanish American War in 1898. The communities in Guam and Puerto Rico have long traditions of patriotism and loyalty to the United States. In fact, both Guam and Puerto Rico boast some of the highest per-capita rates of military service in the United States. But while we are proud and fortunate to be Americans, we must be given an opportunity to decide our future political status. H.R. 2499 will provide the people of Puerto Rico a congressionally-sanctioned process to express their preferences regarding their political status. The bill's broad, bipartisan base of cosponsors as well as the unified support it enjoys among Puerto Rico's elected and governing leaders should not be overlooked, and in fact, should prompt us today to decisively pass this bill. Appropriate deference on questions about ballot format and process should be given to Governor Fortuño, the legislature leaders of Puerto Rico, and our colleague, Congressman PIERLUISI of Puerto Rico. They are the democratically elected leaders of the people desiring Congress to sanction a process for them to exercise their fundamental right to self-determination.

Mr. Chairman, Article 4, Section 3 of the Constitution makes it clear that Congress has the power to make needful rules and regulations governing the territories. Passing the Puerto Rico Democracy Act will fulfill the responsibility this body has to over 4 million American citizens.

Each territory is on a different path toward self-determination, and what is appropriate for Puerto Rico may not be suitable for the other territories. But I firmly believe that the process established by H.R. 2499 is the best way for the people of Puerto Rico to exercise their right to self-determination and express their desires to Congress to ultimately resolve their political status. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this important and needed legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIFTEENTH AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the members of Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church, located in Nashville, Tennessee as they celebrate their 125th Anniversary.

The church was organized in 1885, just 20 years after the end of the Civil War, by a loyal band that included Irene Smart, Bill Smith, Ed

Marshall and others. Ten years later they called their first pastor, Reverend A.W. Porter. The first revival service was held at a lively stable. Since those humble beginnings, five pastors have shepherded this faithful congregation: A.W. Porter (1895–1931), Walter R. Murray (1929–1953), Leroy Crinel (1953–1960), Enoch Jones (1961–1994) and William F. Buchanan (1994–present).

Under the leadership of Pastor Buchanan, a new model of ministry was initiated. The image he had for this faith community was "Servant Model"—a church that exists to serve others. The ministries include a "Love Kitchen" that serves weekly hot meals to the homeless; a seniors ministry that provides a place for seniors in the community to come and fellowship, play games and have a hot meal weekly; a community development corporation that delivers services to assist people in meeting their physical, emotional and spiritual needs; "Christ Fund," an endowment that provides scholarships for high school graduates; "Life Spring," a grief and pastoral counseling ministry; "Psalm 46," a disaster preparedness ministry; "Ninevah," an outreach program that provides holistic ministry from the church to the community; a prison ministry; bus ministry; radio worship program, and many other initiatives that expand the church beyond the walls of the physical building.

For 125 years, the Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church has been an invaluable presence in the North Nashville community. When many growing congregations were faced with the dilemma of remaining in the inner-city or moving to the suburbs, Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church voted unanimously not only to remain an urban congregation, but also to be an agent for transformational change in North Nashville.

Several years ago, a local newspaper wrote, "what's exciting about Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church is they have taken ownership in their neighborhood to address conditions in their community to make it better for all the people there." Additionally, a nationwide survey funded by the Lilly Endowment cited Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church as one of 300 outstanding Protestant churches in America and Canada.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Pastor William F. Buchanan, and the entire congregation of Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church on the occasion of their 125th anniversary and wish them many more years of service to our great nation.

IN MEMORY OF CORNELIUS E. MAREK, JR., BELOVED FATHER AND GRANDFATHER

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Cornelius E. Marek, Jr., of Morris Plains, New Jersey, who passed away on March 14, 2010. Mr. Marek's contributions should not go unrecognized.

Mr. Marek, the son of Cornelius Marek, Sr., and Grace Bowden-Marek, was born January 28, 1942, in Morris Plains, New Jersey. He

served in the United States Army from 1964 until 1966 as a private first class prior to attaining his associates degree from the County College of Morris in 1968.

Mr. Marek dedicated his career to improving healthcare in New Jersey. He worked for Healthcare Materials Purchasing at Morristown Memorial Hospital from 1970 to 1980 before becoming Vice President of Purchasing at the New Jersey Hospital Association. Mr. Marek then joined FJD Ventures in 1994 before retiring in 2005. He came out of retirement to work for Liberty Health in Secaucus, NJ, from 2008 until 2010. In addition, Mr. Marek was a member and president of the Hospital Materials Management Society of New Jersey. Mr. Marek inspired all those around him and has passed along his love of politics, reading, and classic movies to his children and grandchildren.

He was diagnosed with cancer in 2008 and bravely fought the disease for 2 years, continuing to work full time at Liberty Health until January of 2010 and serving on the Board of Hospital Materials Management Society of New Jersey until March 3rd of 2010. He passed quietly in his sleep on the morning of March 14 surrounded by family and friends and was laid to rest next to his mother and father at Greenwood Cemetery in Boonton, New Jersey.

Madam Speaker, Cornelius Marek, Jr.'s commitment to his family and to healthcare in his country should not go unrecognized. I express my deepest condolences to his family for their loss and pay tribute to the memory of this outstanding individual.

IN HONOR OF POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY, 2010

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Poles, Polish-Americans and the Honorable Ambassador from Poland, Robert Kupiecki, and his wife, Malgorzata Kupiecki, on the occasion of Polish Constitution Day, celebrated on May 2, 2010.

Polish Constitution Day is a day when people of all cultures, in America and around the world, join with the people of Poland to celebrate the rich culture, traditions and history of Poland. After almost five centuries of struggle and perseverance, the Governmental Statute of Poland became the first written constitution in Europe on May 3, 1791. An important document in the history of democracy, the Polish Constitution established the separation of government powers, freedom of religion, and abolished key elements of serfdom.

The first Polish immigrants arrived on American shores in 1608 at Jamestown, Virginia. Today, more than 10 million Americans trace their ancestry to Poland and nearly 700,000 report that they speak Polish at home. Many Polish-Americans find strength from their family, faith, and hard work. They also find strength and inspiration in their unbreakable bonds to their heritage and their homeland. From Poland's courageous freedom fighters to the Solidarity leaders who rose from the union lines, Poles have been an inspiration.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me today, Polish Constitution Day, in honoring

the struggles, courage and triumphs of the people of Poland and honoring all people of Polish descent. Through their successive struggles for freedom, the people of Poland have given the world hope.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. STAN ROCKMAN OF THE SAN MATEO MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Stan Rockman who after 35 years has this to say about his choice to practice public healthcare: "I love providing high quality care to patients with few options." He asserts that the patient mix at the San Mateo Medical Center enables him to practice international medicine.

Dr. Rockman is the Chief of Gastroenterology and was appointed to the San Mateo Medical Center in 1971. I have personally known him for 30 years and have witnessed his passion for healing.

A favorite story of Dr. Rockman's involves the day his 16-year-old son paid him a visit at lunchtime. His son waited in the lobby where he observed a man in a hospital gown dragging himself down the hallway, posterior exposed, an IV still attached to his arm and two security guards in close pursuit—another futile attempt to escape from drug rehab.

Dr. Rockman says his son was in awe that his father worked in a place like this on a daily basis.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Stan Rockman is a true hero of healthcare in our county and state. The San Mateo Medical Foundation was right to honor his contributions at a special ceremony on April 30th.

COMMENDING THE HONORABLE IWAO MATSUDA FOR HIS PUBLIC SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP IN UNITED STATES-JAPAN BILATERAL AND UNITED STATES-JAPAN-SOUTH KOREA TRILATERAL RELATIONS

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Honorable Iwao Matsuda, a Member of the Diet of Japan and visionary leader of the United States-Japan Bilateral Legislative Exchange Program, LEP, and of the United States-Japan-South Korea Trilateral Legislative Exchange Program, TLEP. Matsuda-san will soon be retiring after decades of exemplary public service to his own country and to a more peaceful and prosperous Northeast Asia.

The United States-Japan relationship is as important as ever, and Matsuda's contributions to that relationship and to the LEP have been vital and unswerving. His leadership and the sorts of exchanges exemplified by the LEP and TLEP form the foundation for our strong ties.

This is an especially important year in United States-Japan relations as it marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between Japan and the United States. The treaty forms the bedrock of our bilateral relationship, which in turn plays an indispensable role in ensuring security and prosperity for the United States and Japan, as well as for the broader Asia-Pacific.

Both of our countries are guided by a shared respect for democracy and freedom, by the enduring ties we have forged over the last 65 years and by the personal relationships formed through the tireless work of leaders such as Matsuda-san.

Matsuda-san's distinguished career began at Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry, MITI, where he served for more than 20 years. This period included a posting in the United States where he did critical work on the expanding bilateral trade relationship.

After leaving the civil service, he ran successfully for public office, serving for 10 years in the Lower House of the Diet. During his tenure, when United States-Japan trade frictions were becoming ever more heated, Matsuda-san had the foresight to develop the United States-Japan Legislative Exchange Program, LEP, which brought Members of the Diet and U.S. Congress together semiannually to address key issues in United States-Japan relations.

As a long-time participant in the LEP, I can personally attest to its valuable contribution toward improving ties and finding common ground. And today it is as valuable as ever given the new problems confronting the United States-Japan bilateral relationship, including basing issues and other matters. Matsuda-san's exemplary leadership through the LEP has demonstrated that even the most vexing issues can be resolved when viewed in the context of our shared interests, values and goals.

In 1998, Matsuda-san was elected to serve in the Upper House of the Diet and held increasingly important government posts, including Senior Vice Minister of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Chairman of the House of Councilors' Research Committee on International Affairs and, ultimately, Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, Food Safety and Information Technology in the cabinet of Junichiro Koizumi. During this period, he created the United States-Japan-South Korea Trilateral Legislative Exchange Program, TLEP, a complement to the LEP and an organization that has demonstrably improved ties among the three nations.

This year marks the LEP's 22d year and 43d consecutive session and the TLEP's 7th year and 12th consecutive session. All of us in this body are grateful for Matsuda-san's leadership and vision. Even with his retirement, Matsuda-san's legacy will endure. The LEP and TLEP will continue and the bilateral and trilateral relationships will advance so long as we hold to the principles of open discussion, friendship and trust that Matsuda-san has exemplified.

We will miss Iwao Matsuda. But I know he will continue to play a critical role in advancing relations among the United States, Japan and South Korea and that we will always be able to count on his friendship and support.

DOLORES HUERTA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am joined by my colleagues Congressmen XAVIER BECERRA, LINDA T. SANCHEZ, LORETTA SANCHEZ, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, ADAM SCHIFF, and HENRY WAXMAN in paying tribute to our dear friend Dolores Huerta, who is being honored by the Feminist Majority Foundation with the Eleanor Roosevelt Award. This coveted award is given annually to a select few individuals who have contributed significantly—often against great odds and at great personal risk—to advance the rights of women and girls and to increase awareness of the challenges women face on account of their gender.

Dolores is a world renowned activist and is regarded as one of the most prominent Chicana labor leaders in the United States. At the age of 80, she is currently the President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation. The mission of her foundation is to build active communities in disadvantaged areas and to work towards fair and equal access to healthcare, housing, education, jobs, civic participation and economic resources with an emphasis on women and youth.

Several of us have known Dolores since the early 1970's when we were members of the California State Legislature and Dolores was the Vice President and Co-Founder of the United Farm Workers of America. During the last 50 years, she has worked tirelessly on many social justice and public policy issues. We know firsthand of her outstanding contributions to our community.

In 1955, when she was only 25 years old, Dolores found her calling as an organizer while serving in the leadership of the Stockton Community Service Organization (CSO), a grassroots organization that battled segregation and police brutality, led voter registration drives, pushed for improved public services, and fought to enact new legislation. Through her diligent lobbying efforts, she succeeded in removing the citizenship requirements from pension and public assistance programs. She was the leading force in the passage of legislation allowing voters the right to vote in Spanish and securing the rights of individuals to take the driver's license examination in their native language.

Dolores has been arrested 22 times for participating in non-violent civil disobedience activities and strikes to protect farmers and women, which has resulted in great benefits to both groups. Largely due to her solid support for the grape boycott, the farm workers were provided with their first health and benefit plans and those who had lived, worked, and paid taxes in the United States for many years were granted amnesty. She fought tirelessly to provide a better working environment and stop the abuse of female immigrants across the U.S.-Mexican border by convincing law enforcement agencies to address the brutal rape and the murder of these immigrants.

Dolores was given the Outstanding Labor Leader Award in 1984 by the California State Senate. In 1993, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. That same year she received the American Civil Liberties