

anniversary as part of its I AM EMPOWERED campaign. The League has pledged to help achieve the following goals by 2025: Ensure that every American child is ready for college, work and life; ensure that every American has access to jobs with a living wage and good benefits; ensure that every American lives in safe, decent, affordable and energy-efficient housing on fair terms; and ensure that every American has access to quality and affordable health care solutions.

Altogether the work of the National Urban League has been pivotal in improving the lives of millions of Americans through community-oriented programs, civil rights, and leadership opportunities. I stand with my colleagues today in appreciation for the service the League has provided our citizens over the last 100 years and look forward to working alongside the League for the next 100 years.

Since its inception, the National Urban League has been known as an historic civil rights organization dedicated to elevating the standard of living in historically underserved urban communities. The League continues in that legacy today and continuously seeks to empower the citizens of urban and inner-city communities.

I would like to thank and praise the thousands of volunteers, workers and community advocates with the National Urban League who have worked towards the empowerment of their respective communities and the creation of new opportunities.

I ask my colleagues for their support of H. Res. 1157, as well as for their continued support for the National Urban League. Through the continuation of the League's programs over the next 100 years, I am confident that the United States will continue to be a more fair, just and equitable society for all Americans.

I would like to again thank my colleague Representative ALCEE L. HASTINGS for his leadership in introducing this bill as well as for his support of the National Urban League.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1157.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1247, "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 3 through 9, 2010, and throughout the year."

I would like to thank my colleague, Representative STEPHEN F. LYNCH, for introducing this legislation as it is important that we recognize the service and dedication to duty of those in public service here in the United States.

Those involved in Public Service at all levels of government have formed the foundations of our great nation for hundreds of years. From those involved in community education and outreach programs to policy makers at the

State Department our country would not be able to properly function without these praiseworthy individuals. I salute leaders in our government for giving selflessly of their time and energy towards the sustained growth and improvement of our nation.

I would especially like to recognize the men and women who serve in the armed forces. These real-life, modern-day heroes selflessly give of their time—and sometimes even their lives to protect our country against foreign threats. For that we are forever thankful and indebted to them for their service.

I would also like to recognize members of local, state and federal police and fire departments all across the country. Because of the protection and stability they provide our communities we are all able to live safe and healthy lives.

Madam Speaker, officially establishing the week of May 3 through 9, 2010 as Public Service Recognition Week would seek to show our continued support for those in the public sector across our nation. It is important that we recognize these individuals for their service to our country as well as for the role they play in the continued success of our nation.

I stand today with Representative STEPHEN F. LYNCH and other Members of Congress in reaffirming our support and appreciation for those in Public Service.

I ask my colleagues for their support of H. Res. 1247, as well as for their continued support of government employees and public servants. By increasing our support for those in government jobs and promoting the importance of these jobs for our nation, we will ensure that our government remains efficient and productive for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1247.

HONORING ALEJANDRO VALADEZ

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Alejandro Valadez, who honorably served the City of Chicago as a member of the Chicago Police Department for 3 years before his untimely death on June 1, 2009.

At just 27 years of age, Officer Valadez maintained a strong reputation for outstanding performance and professionalism on the job. Within his three short years of serving the Chicago Police Department he was awarded a department commendation and 22 honorable mentions.

A South Side Chicago native, Officer Valadez lived his life with honesty, integrity, and courage never wavering from the task at hand. Alejandro was known to love his job and gladly served the Chicago police force alongside his brother, sister, and expectant girlfriend.

On June 1, 2009, Officer Valadez made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the residents of the Englewood community in Chicago. Shortly after midnight, he and his partner were questioning several residents when a vehicle drove up to them and opened fire. Bullets struck Valadez once in the leg and once in the head. He was later rushed to John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital where he died the next morning.

I rise today, representing with the City of Chicago, to express my deepest gratitude and sympathy to Officer Valadez's family for his dedication and courageous commitment to keeping our communities safe. Chicago and the United States will forever remember Alejandro Valadez for his heroic sacrifice by the addition of his name to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, DC, on May 15, 2010.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PROMPT RESPONSE TO AT- TEMPTED TERRORIST ATTACK IN TIMES SQUARE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1320, "Expressing support for the vigilance and prompt response of the citizens and law enforcement agencies in New York and Connecticut to the attempted terrorist attack in Times Square on May 1, 2010. Their exceptional professionalism and investigative work following the attempted attack, and their consistent commitment to preparedness for and collective response to terrorism."

Mr. Speaker, democrats are focused on keeping Americans safe. This was an excellent example of Federal, State, and local law enforcement and counter-terrorism authorities working together in a coordinated way, and also a good reminder that citizen awareness and responsible action by every day Americans is also a key component in defeating those who seek to harm us. This timely awareness and cooperation resulted in a quick and appropriate response Saturday night, and combined with a sophisticated and aggressive investigation, led to a swift arrest shortly thereafter.

It is prevalent that we live in a dangerous world with ever-evolving threats. The Obama Administration and our State and local law enforcement authorities understand the nature of the threats and are working tirelessly to defeat them. In Congress, we provided state-of-the-art resources, tools, and authority to wage this fight against terrorism and we will continue to do so in the future. Some may want to politicize this very serious attempted attack and dispute whether the suspect should be read his Miranda rights, taken to federal court or given other rights afforded to U.S. citizens.

Because the suspect is an American citizen, even Glenn Beck agrees that the Constitution must be upheld with respect to a citizen's rights in this case.

DEMOCRATIC RECORD [AND CONTRAST WITH
REPUBLICAN APPROACH]

We have tripled the number of our troops fighting on the central front in the war against al Qaeda and their extremist allies in Afghanistan—after years of taking our eye off the ball and under-resourcing this fight. We have successfully stepped up our partnership with Pakistan, which has gone on the offensive for many months in the rugged border region with Afghanistan—after years in which al Qaeda was able to establish a safe-haven.

We have worked with our partners to target al Qaeda's leadership, and to take out key terrorist leaders—increasing the pressure to a

new level. We are responsibly removing our troops from Iraq and ending that war—after seven years of a war that carried enormous costs in lives and resources. We have restored America's leadership and standing in the world, strengthening our alliances and building new partnerships—after years of frayed alliances and growing opposition to our leadership. We have rallied the world around the ambitious goal of securing all vulnerable nuclear material around the world in 4 years, including specific steps and a clear plan for achieving that goal—after years of insufficient action against the gravest threat we face.

We have reset our relations with Russia, including the most comprehensive nuclear arms treaty in 20 years—after relations with Russia fell to a post-Cold War low. We have increased Iran's isolation through our diplomatic efforts, tightening enforcement on U.S. sanctions, seeking broader sanctions through the U.N., and building a broader coalition of countries to stand up to Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons—after years in which Iran went from zero centrifuges to 7000, and strengthened its position in the region.

We are pursuing a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, which would enhance Israel's security—after years in which America was too often absent from the peace process.

We have led an unprecedented international response to the global economic crisis through the G-20, averting catastrophe and putting our economy on the pathway to recovery—after the gravest economic crisis that we've faced since the Great Depression.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1320.

HAITI ECONOMIC LIFT PROGRAM ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5160—the Haiti Eco-

nomics Lift Program Act of 2010. As a co-sponsor of this bill, I strongly believe that it is another important and necessary step to ensure successful recovery and future sustainability in Haiti.

Haiti's long term development is the ultimate concern and goal of all participating donors and supporting organizations. January's earthquake struck Haiti during a time of economic vulnerability. Before the earthquake, Haiti was, by far, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. However, the United States has led the way in securing a stable and prosperous future for the people and government of Haiti.

We have displayed our commitment through trade preference programs including the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as amended by the United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act, the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act of 2006, "HOPE Act", and the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act of 2008, "HOPE II Act". These amendments extended duty-free tariff treatment to certain apparel produced in Haiti and have made an important contribution to Haiti's economic development efforts.

Before the earthquake, Haiti also has among the world's lowest levels of gross domestic product per capita. An estimated 80 percent of the population lived under the poverty line and 54 percent living in abject poverty, according to the CIA World Factbook. According to the United Nations Human Development Report, more than two-thirds of the labor force is believed to not have formal jobs, and just 62.1 percent of adults over age 15 are literate. Additionally, 18 percent of Haitians did not live to the age of 40.

Yet, despite the destruction wreaked by multiple tropical storms in 2008, Haiti's economy and infrastructure-building seemed to be turning a corner in recent years, aided by international support and debt relief programs.

In fact, according to the New York Times, "Haiti was one of only two Caribbean countries expected to grow in 2009. There were hopes of a tourism revival, reinforced by the

announcement that a new Comfort Inn would open there this May. In a sign of its growing structural sophistication, Haiti even recently announced that it would begin collecting better national statistics, with the help of the International Monetary Fund, so that it could better assess and calibrate its economic policies." The earthquake on January derailed this progress.

Today we approved a bill which will help Haiti recover from that devastating earthquake by opening the U.S. market to more clothing from the Caribbean country, sparking growth in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding region. Subsequently, when the bill reaches the Senate, I urge my colleagues to move quickly in support of the bill.

The clothing sector accounted for 75 percent of Haiti's export earnings and employed more than 25,000 people before the January 12 earthquake that killed more than 300,000, and this bill makes it more attractive for clothing manufacturers to invest in new facilities in Haiti by extending and expanding the duty-free access to the U.S. clothing market under two separate programs.

As important as this legislation is, it is only one part of a much larger American assistance response to the earthquake. America will continue to respond with humanitarian assistance to help the people of this struggling island nation rebuild their livelihoods. I send my condolences to the people and government of Haiti as they grieve once again in the aftermath of a natural disaster. As Haiti's neighbor, I believe it is the United States' responsibility to help Haiti recover, and build the capacity to mitigate against future disasters.

Once again I stand in solidarity with the people of Haiti and will do everything in my power to assist them with rebuilding their country and livelihoods. I am proud of our first responders, and pledge that America's long term commitment to Haiti will live up to the standard that the first responders set.