

LETTER TO PRESIDENT OBAMA ON
PREVENTING TERRORISM**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to share the following letter that I have sent to President Obama urging him to implement several bipartisan proposals that would strengthen our national security. These proposals include bringing back the co-chairs of the 9/11 Commission for a 6-month period to review the implementation of the commission's recommendations and creating a "Team B" of experts outside of government to review our counterterrorism strategy.

In light of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's report of the 14 "points of failure" with regard to the attempted Christmas Day bombing, it is disappointing that the administration has not adopted these proposals that would make our country safer.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2010.

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,
The President, The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Yesterday, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) released an unclassified summary of its report on the attempted terrorist attack on Christmas Day. In reviewing the report's conclusions, including the 14 specific "points of failure" in U.S. intelligence prior to the attack, it occurred to me that many of these "points of failure" could have been prevented through greater outside review of our national counterterrorism operations and strategy.

As you know, over the last five months I have repeatedly urged your administration to adopt four bipartisan proposals that would strengthen our national security. These ideas include bringing back the co-chairs of the 9/11 Commission for a six-month review, making the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) administrator a set 10-year term to bring greater stability and expertise to the agency, collocating the new High Value Detainee Interrogation Group (HIG) at the National Counterterrorism Center, and creating a "Team B" of outside counterterrorism experts to review and challenge our strategy and assumptions across the intelligence community.

In reviewing the 14 "points of failure" identified in the SSCI report, I believe many of the operational missteps could have been prevented if the co-chairs of the 9/11 Commission—former Rep. Lee Hamilton and former Gov. Thomas Kean—had been able to conduct a 6-month review of the implementation of the commission's original recommendations. Specifically, I believe that points 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, listed in the enclosed report could have been mitigated by a follow-up review of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations.

Additionally, I believe that points 7 and 14, "Intelligence Analysts Were Primarily Focused on Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) Threats to U.S. Interests in Yemen, Rather than on Potential AQAP Threats to the U.S. Homeland," could have been mitigated if a "Team B" of outside experts had been able to challenge institutionalized assumptions throughout the intelligence community. The team would represent a "new approach to counterterrorism" which focuses not just on connecting the dots of intel-

ligence, but which seeks to stay a step ahead in understanding how to break the radicalization and recruitment cycle that sustains our enemy, how to disrupt their network globally and how to strategically isolate them.

Last month, I wrote you to share a recent article from respected Georgetown University professor Bruce Hoffman, who endorses the "Team B" approach. He said, "One important yet currently languishing congressional initiative that would help counter this strategy is Representative Frank Wolf's proposal to institutionalize a 'red team' or 'Team B' counterterrorist capability as an essential element of our efforts to combat terrorism and in the war against al-Qaeda." I believe that, in light of the SSCI report, such an approach is needed now more than ever.

Although we now have the benefit of hindsight, it is critical that we take the lessons from the failed attack and implement measures to further review our counterterrorism processes and strategy. It is inexcusable that we would not draw on these valuable outside experts' wisdom to strengthen our homeland and ensure that these mistakes are not repeated.

Best wishes,
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION 210 ANNUAL APPRENTICE GRADUATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sincerity and respect that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, June 4, 2010, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will honor the graduating class of 2010 at the Annual Apprentice Graduation Banquet, which will be held at Tiebel's Restaurant in Schererville, Indiana.

At this year's banquet, the Plumbers Local Union 210 will recognize and honor the 2010 Apprentice Graduates. The individuals who have completed their apprentice training in 2010 are: Jonathan Banaszak, Matthew Czarnecki, Bernard Jewett, Kevin Kuzma, Bryan Lain, William Linebaugh, Roy Swearingin, Jeremy VanHoose, and Dustin Weber.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These graduates are outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and selfless dedication.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated and hardworking individuals. Along with the other men and women of Northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development of the economy of the First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SALVATION
ARMY SERVING SACRAMENTO
FOR 125 YEARS**HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Salvation Army, and to honor its 125th anniversary in the Sacramento region today on May 19, 2010.

The founder and first general of the Salvation Army, William Booth, was born in economic and spiritual poverty, yet he founded a worldwide organization dedicated to their eradication—an organization that now serves the neediest of the needy in 120 countries.

In 1865, the Salvation Army began in the East Side of London, and several years later General Booth sent a few of his followers to establish army roots in America.

In 1885, Major Alfred Wells arrived in Sacramento with the determination to follow the lead of General Booth by ministering to anyone in need. Back then, there were many families and individuals looking for work, looking for food and looking for hope. Fast forward to the present time—125 years later—and the Salvation Army is still in Sacramento, still reaching out to people who need assistance with jobs, food, and of course, hope.

Today, on May 19, 2010, the Salvation Army marks 125 years of service to Sacramento. As they look to the future, they know times may become even more challenging. And yet, they are ready to accept that challenge. Nothing will deter the Salvation Army from continuing its service to the Sacramento community.

Over the years as the needs of the Sacramento region have changed, the army's programs in Sacramento have reflected those needs. There have been shelter programs for men, women, and families; rehabilitation programs for those overcoming alcohol or drug problems; programs for emergency and disaster response, and disaster preparedness training; programs providing sports leagues, youth activities, tutoring, and child development centers, and many more.

Now, I thank the Salvation Army—on behalf of our community—as it continues its legacy in the Sacramento region.

TRIBUTE TO MUFTIAH MCCARTIN

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, over the last several months several of our colleagues have announced they plan to retire from Congress and in a few months some may not return to us due to the workings of our democracy. All of their departures will, in some way or another, impact this body—the peoples' House.

But there will be one loss this year that will be felt most by the members and staff on both sides of the aisle—that of Muftiah McCartin. Now Muftiah's name may not be well known to the people who live in our districts, but I would

hazard a guess that there is not one member of the House of Representatives who has served in the last 30-plus years who does not know and love Muftiah—whether in her role as a parliamentarian, as a staff member on the Committee on Appropriations, or in her most recent role as the staff director of the Rules Committee. In every instance she brought a fundamental fairness, openmindedness, kindness and an incredible work ethic. She handled herself with the utmost professionalism even in the most trying of circumstances—namely having to deal with the 435 of us, and on occasion having to tell us something we did not want to hear.

As I look back on the words of tribute spoken last week by so many of my colleagues I am most impressed by the fact that those words were all spoken from the heart, as are mine. They were not words of canned praise, nor were they sterile platitudes—they were expressions of genuine friendship and respect. I will not repeat what was said about Muftiah's distinguished career—although it bears remembering. Rather I will share a few reflections from her time working for the Appropriations Committee when I was chairman.

In 2005 during my first year as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, it was Muftiah who patiently schooled me and my staff in the complexities of House Rules as we worked on the 11 appropriations bills that came to the House floor that year. I think it is fair to say that had it not been for Muftiah, we would not have successfully completed our important work in a manner that was open and fair to all the Members. In 2006 I had the good fortune to be able to convince Muftiah to leave the parliamentarian's office and come to work on the Committee on Appropriations. I expect the parliamentarian and his able colleagues might still be angry with me for that, but they have, as usual, been very gracious. While Muftiah knew the rules under which we consider appropriations bills each year better than anyone else on my staff, especially the intricacies of the Budget Act, she did not have a background in the minutia of the appropriations and budgeting process. What she did have—and still does—is an incredibly keen mind and a tenacious work ethic.

I assigned Muftiah to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, the second largest and one of the most important bills that touch the lives of every one of our constituents. As soon as she got there I observed her dig into budgets and programs as if she had been doing it all of her life. She quickly grasped arcane budgetary concepts, made the difficult recommendations that the committee staff must make to Members every day, asked the tough questions that must be asked in order to produce a responsible budget, and mentored younger staff in the rules and procedures of the House. As we knew would happen when she was hired, Muftiah could not learn enough, soaking up every bit of knowledge she could come by.

Now we bid a fond farewell to a loving wife and mother, a fierce friend, a great employee and a true institutionalist when it comes to this House. Muftiah has demonstrated a love and commitment to this institution and to public service that unfortunately we don't see often enough. Her work is an example that all of us should take note of and aspire to emulate. I can think of no greater role model for girls and

young women than Muftiah McCartin—a woman who put herself through law school while holding down a full-time job and raising a family; one who understands that we have far more in common than we have differences; one who never put politics before principle; and a woman who faced every challenge, no matter how difficult, with a smile on her face and a kind word for all. My wife, Arlene, and I wish her all the best in the many years to come.

HONORING MRS. MAY TO

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Mrs. May To, who passed away on May 8, 2010, at the young age of 60. My heart goes out to her husband, Alex To; her sons, Jonathan and Brian To; and the rest of her family, friends and loved ones.

Mrs. To was an extraordinary citizen, an activist for immigrant children, youth and families in the San Gabriel Valley for more than a quarter century. Her volunteerism and service spanned several organizations including the Chinatown Service Center, Alhambra School District and the International Institute of Los Angeles.

Born in Canton, China in 1950, May grew up in Hong Kong, where she completed her bachelor's degree in sociology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1975. She came to the United States on an exchange scholarship to study at UCLA in 1977 and received her master's degree in education in two years.

She spent the late 1970s and early 80s helping her fellow immigrants to make the most of the opportunities provided by her adopted country, teaching ESL courses to fifth-graders and serving as assistant director of The Chinatown Service Center, where she oversaw refugee employment, social service and youth programs among others.

In 1984, May worked with the Asian Task Force of the United Way to create the Asian Youth Center, which was meant to fill a gap in critical services for immigrant children, youth and families in the San Gabriel Valley. In 1984, she became the Center's Executive Director.

Since then and under her leadership, Asian Youth Center has grown from a three-person project to a large, community-based organization with a budget of over \$1.7 million and a 57-person staff, serving more than 8,500 Asian and non-Asian children, youth and families.

May's tireless efforts have helped shape the Asian American, Latino American, and other immigrant communities residing in the San Gabriel Valley. Her commitment to improving access to health services, social services, and youth development opportunities for immigrants have improved the lives of countless children, youth and families over the last 20 years.

I urge my House colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. May To for her stellar record of personal, professional and civic leadership, her indomitable spirit and her remarkable serv-

ice and contributions to her community and to our nation.

317TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL AND CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, for the past 48 years, members of this great government have taken pause to honor law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty. Remembering the sacrifice of their fallen brethren, the men and women of the 317th Military Police Battalion gathered to hold their annual Law Enforcement Memorial and Candlelight Vigil.

I am proud to join with them as they pay tribute to the last great offering of freedom given by thirty-eight United States Army soldiers, eight United States Air Force airmen, eight United States Navy sailors, five United States Marine Corp Marines, and four civilian police professionals. As the roll was called and Taps played, the 317th memorialized those who fulfilled their mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Bannered this event the words from Tacitus: "In valor, there is hope." I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking those who protect the liberties of this great Nation. May these words from ancient Rome remind us all of our duty to service, and may they offer us a light of gratitude for those whose service does not lead them home.

SECTION 45G SHORT LINE RAILROAD TAX CREDIT

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support the extension of the Section 45G Short Line Railroad Tax Credit.

The Section 45G Short Line Railroad Tax Credit expired on December 31, 2009 and has yet to be extended. Because this credit has not been renewed, the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad, a 165 mile short line railroad in my district, has been unable to move forward on necessary infrastructure improvements. The St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad provides rail freight service through towns like Lewiston-Auburn, Mechanic Falls and Bethel in my district. An extension of the Section 45G tax credit will ensure that they can continue to put Mainers to work making the track improvements necessary to serve communities throughout Maine.

Many businesses in my district use the St. Lawrence & Atlantic to connect to the national freight rail network. An extension of the Section 45G tax credit will help short line railroads make the improvements necessary to continue connecting Maine businesses with the national rail network, aiding economic development efforts and promoting business growth throughout Maine.