

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, on May 18, 2010, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 273–275. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 273, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2288, the Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Improvement Act, “nay”; rollcall vote No. 274, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4614, Katie Sepich Enhanced DNA Collection Act, “aye”; and rollcall vote No. 275, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 1327, Honoring the life, achievements, and contributions of Floyd Dominy, “aye.”

SUSPEND MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FUNDING FOR MOROCCO

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the following letter I sent to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton asking that the Millennium Challenge Corporation compact with Morocco be suspended in light of Morocco's deportation of Americans and other foreign nationals without due process.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2010.

Hon. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
Secretary of State,
Washington DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CLINTON: I write today to express my grave concern regarding the recent deportation of approximately 40 American citizens from Morocco without due process, which I believe calls into question the continuance of Morocco's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) funding.

In September 2008, the clock started for the official five-year period for project implementation under the MCC Compact with Morocco. The United States has pledged \$697.5 million in assistance to the Kingdom of Morocco through this Compact. As a precondition to receiving MCC funds, the government of Morocco was evaluated on 17 key indicators of eligibility, six of which fall under the category of “ruling justly.” I submit, however, that these recent events raise valid questions regarding the Moroccan government's willingness to abide by the principles outlined in the MCC indicators.

In early March, the Moroccan government deported approximately 40 U.S. citizens and scores of other foreign nationals for allegedly proselytizing, which is against Moroccan law. However, authorities presented no evidence or explanation of the proselytizing allegations. Among the individuals who were deported or denied reentry were businessmen, educators, and humanitarian and social workers. Many of these individuals have resided in Morocco for over a decade in full compliance with Moroccan law.

Additionally, those deported were forced to leave the country within two hours of being questioned by authorities, leaving all their belongings behind. The manner in which these expulsions were carried out and the

Moroccan government's refusal to grant those affected with a hearing flies in the face of the principles of due process. Furthermore, the manner in which authorities expelled these individuals violates not only the general principles of international law but Moroccan law, as well.

The mandate of the MCC is based on the assumption that “aid is most effective when it reinforces good governance.” Rather than making strides toward accountable and democratic governance since receiving the MCC grant, Morocco has regressed. Freedom House's annual Freedom in the World Report noted backsliding in Morocco “due to the increased concentration of power in the hands of political elites aligned with the monarchy” over the course of the last year.

At a time when the United States owes more in debts and commitments than the total combined net worth of all Americans, it is unacceptable to provide \$697.5 million in taxpayer dollars to a nation which blatantly disregards the rights of American citizens residing in Morocco and forcibly expels American citizens without due process of law.

The decision to suspend a MCC Compact due to a significant deterioration in good governance is not unprecedented. At my urging, the Board chose to suspend the MCC Compact with Nicaragua due to the violence and blatant thuggery exhibited by the regime of President Daniel Ortega surrounding the November 2008 elections.

The United States must send a message to the Moroccan government that it is unacceptable to expel American citizens without due process under the law. I ask that you withhold Morocco's MCC funding until the government of Morocco demonstrates that it is willing to follow its own laws thus ensure that those expelled receive a fair trial and work toward a mutually acceptable solution to this matter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on roll call no. 256, I was detained while attempting to reach the House floor to cast my vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, during the week of May 10, 2010, I was not in Washington, DC because I was surveying extensive damage that occurred in my Congressional District due to several tornadoes on May 10, 2010.

My vote explanations for the week are as follows:

On Tuesday, May 11, 2010, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 256, 257, and 258. Had I been

present and voting, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote No. 256: “aye” (On agreeing to H. Res. 1294); rollcall vote No. 257: “aye” (On agreeing to H. Res. 1328); rollcall vote No. 258: “aye” (On agreeing to H. Res. 1299).

On Wednesday, May 12, 2010, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, and 266. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote No. 259: “no” (On agreeing to H. Res. 1344—the Rule for H.R. 5116); rollcall vote No. 260: “aye” (On agreeing to H.R. 5014); rollcall vote No. 261: “aye” (On agreeing to H. Con. Res. 268); rollcall vote No. 262: “aye” (On agreeing to Gordon (TN): Manager's Amendment No. 1); rollcall vote No. 263: “aye” (On agreeing to Hall (TX): Amendment No. 6); rollcall vote No. 264: “no” (On agreeing to Markey (MA): Amendment No. 10); rollcall vote No. 265: “no” (On agreeing to Miller (CA): Amendment No. 12); rollcall vote No. 266: “aye” (On agreeing to Reyes (TX): Amendment No. 13).

On Thursday, May 13, 2010, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, and 273. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote No. 267: “no” (On agreeing to Boccieri (OH): Amendment No. 34); rollcall vote No. 268: “aye” (On agreeing to Halvorson Amendment No. 38); rollcall vote No. 269: “aye” (On agreeing to Quigley (IL): Amendment No. 50); rollcall vote No. 270: “aye” (On agreeing to the Motion to Recommit to H.R. 5116); rollcall vote No. 271: “aye” (On agreeing to H. Res. 1338); rollcall vote No. 272: “aye” (On agreeing to H. Res. 1337).

TRIBUTE TO DONALD DYE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donald Dye, English teacher at Belmont-Klemme Junior and Senior High School, on being named one of five finalists for a Top Teacher Search award sponsored by the “Live with Regis and Kelly” television show.

Mr. Dye is an English teacher and has been teaching at Belmont-Klemme since 1973. He is a native of Oskaloosa, Iowa and briefly taught in New Providence, Iowa before arriving at Belmont-Klemme. Mr. Dye was nominated by Jim and Dianna Sunkten of Belmont and Diane and Curt Stadlander of Goodell, Iowa. They submitted a letter describing Mr. Dye's positive impact on the lives of the youth he teaches.

Mr. Dye will be in New York City during the week of May 17th for the taping of the “Live with Regis and Kelly” television show. Each day of the week they will be featuring the top five finalists. This certainly is an exciting occasion to honor Mr. Dye for his hard work and dedication to opening the doors of opportunity to the students he reaches each day in the classroom.

I am honored to represent Donald Dye in the United States Congress, and I wish him the best of luck in New York City during Live with Regis and Kelly's Top Teacher Week. I also wish Mr. Dye the very best as he continues to serve as a mentor and role model to

the students at Belmond-Klemme Junior and Senior High School.

IN HONOR OF CRISTINA ROSE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cristina Rose, who today is receiving the prestigious Crystal Eagle Award at Coro Southern California's 35th Annual Awards Gala.

Cristina is co-founder and senior counsel at Rose & Kindel, one of the premier public affairs firms in California. But more importantly, she has a long and successful career in public service, communications and public affairs in California, stretching back to her days of service under Governors Ronald Reagan and Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

Cristina is a board member of the American Council of Young Political Leaders and the California Historical Society. She also serves on the Board of Governors of the HOPE PAC, on the Board of Directors of the Literacy Network of L.A., and on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Los Angeles Y.M.C.A. She is also a member of the Pacific Council on International Policy, the Trusteeship and the International Women's Forum.

She is former vice president of the city of Los Angeles Environmental Quality Board, served on UCLA Governmental Affairs Steering Committee, as a member of the Board of Trustees of the California Journal Foundation and on the Editorial Advisory Board of the California Journal, and was a founding board member of the California Channel.

The Crystal Eagle Award being presented to Cristina is given each year to four leaders "whose involvement in public life has made an extraordinary contribution to our region." Cristina is a perfect example of how we can make a difference in our communities.

Coro is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works to prepare leaders to deal creatively, ethically and effectively with the challenges of democratic governance. Its competitive fellowship programs give these leaders the tools to make responsible decisions in the face of change, ambiguity and differing points of view. Coro embodies that belief, and its many highly esteemed graduates have demonstrated that an individual can truly make a significant difference in society.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, I would like to extend our congratulations to Cristina on winning this well-deserved award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, on the evening of Tuesday, May 18, 2010, I was unavoidably delayed and not present to vote on the following bills:

H.R. 2288—Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Improvement Act (Rep. SALAZAR—Natural Resources) rollcall No. 273.

H.R. 4614—Katie Sepich Enhanced DNA Collection Act of 2010 (Rep. TEAGUE—Judiciary) rollcall No. 274.

H. Res. 1327—Honoring the life, achievements, and contributions of Floyd Dominy (Rep. SMITH (NE)—Natural Resources) rollcall No. 275.

In the event I was present, I would have voted "aye" on all of them.

RECOGNIZING THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALAN GINSBURG

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jewish American Heritage Month and to recognize an extraordinary businessman and philanthropist from Central Florida who is making a distinguished contribution to the Jewish community in the 8th district of Florida, Alan Ginsburg.

For over 45 years, Mr. Alan Ginsburg has been involved in developing real estate projects such as, single family and multi-family housing projects with HUD, LIHTC, and FHA in several States including the great State of Florida. His career began years ago at a local sporting goods store in Grand Rapids, MI where he did not make enough money to pay for parking and lunch. Determined to be a self starter, Mr. Ginsburg, quit his job to become a self-employed entrepreneur. In 1981, he founded CED Construction Companies specializing in building multi-family communities.

Mr. Ginsburg is a role model for generosity and selflessness not only with his money, but with his time and dedication. He serves as the Director of Greater Orlando Jewish Welfare Federation and was an active member of National Young Leadership Cabinet for the United Jewish Appeal. Mr. Alan Ginsburg's community activism is not just within the Jewish Community, but throughout Central Florida. He has served as a trustee for Rollins College, where he gave \$5 million for a scholarship endowment at Rollins College, and serves as a trustee for the Orlando Arts Foundation.

During the past few years, Mr. Ginsburg has donated millions of dollars to Central Florida organizations. In 2007, The Alan Ginsburg Family Foundation gave Florida Hospital \$20 million, the largest donation in its history, for its new \$255 million patient tower. The 15 story, 440 bed Ginsburg Tower opened in December 2008 and features one of the largest emergency departments and cardiac catheterization labs in the country. At his request, the tower's lobby was designed to be welcoming to people of all faiths and features a memorial to Ginsburg's late wife, Harriet, and son, Jeffrey.

Mr. Ginsburg's philanthropic values are a reflection of his philosophy in life, "to never forget the importance of the community in which you are creating new development and to give back as much and as often as possible." This philosophy corresponds with the Jewish concept of tikkun olam, repairing the world. Jews are not only responsible for helping to create a better world for themselves, but for the entire society as a whole. Mr. Ginsburg's community service has accomplished just that.

Madam Speaker, during Jewish American Heritage Month, it is my privilege to recognize this dedicated community member whose devotion to our community can be shown through his great contributions not only to the Jewish community, but the larger Florida community as well. Alan Ginsburg has given so much to the people of Florida and I applaud his accomplishments and service in our Central Florida community and our State of Florida.

NATIONAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 966 that will designate September as National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month and raise awareness around addressing childhood obesity.

As this public health crisis continues to grow, we can point to a host of factors that are complicating efforts to reduce childhood obesity such as: prominent advertising of unhealthy foods, the popularity of big-portion meals that are high in calories and fat accompanied with sugary beverages, spending more time in front of the television and sedentary electronic games and fewer school physical education programs. Childhood obesity has more than tripled in the past 30 years. A recent CDC report found that about 14 percent of low-income, pre-school-aged children in the Virgin Islands are obese, which is also the U.S. average.

Childhood obesity disproportionately affects low-income and minority children. Obesity rates are higher in African American, Native American, and Mexican American adolescents than in White adolescents. Type 2 diabetes is disproportionately seen in Hispanic, Native American, and African American adolescents.

Children that live in low-income neighborhoods often do not have access to recreational facilities, parks, or even sidewalks to walk on, limiting virtually any possibility of being physically active.

They often don't have access to grocery stores to buy fruits and vegetables; rather gathering their nutritional content from fast food restaurants and convenience stores. These food deserts are prevalent in poor communities all over the country.

As a physician I have also seen the adult consequences of childhood obesity: overweight and obese children grow up to be overweight or obese adults at increased risk for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, asthma, and some cancers—all of which are increasing exponentially, especially in communities of color.

The time to intervene is now! We must continue to champion legislation and initiatives that will reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity. So on behalf of our Nation's youth, I support this resolution that will bring awareness to this epidemic in hopes of securing brighter, healthier futures for children all across the country.