

INTRODUCING THE LENA HORNE RECOGNITION ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Lena Horne Recognition Act, a bill to posthumously honor Lena Horne with a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of her many achievements and contributions to American culture and the Civil Rights Movement. A symbol of elegance and grace, the legendary Lena Horne entertained America and broke racial barriers as a singer, dancer, and actress for over 60 years. Ms. Horne passed away in New York City on May 9, 2010 at the age of 92. My thoughts and prayers go out to her daughter, Ms. Gail Lumet Buckley, and the rest of her family and friends at this most difficult time.

Lena Mary Calhoun Horne was born on June 30, 1917, in Brooklyn, New York. Her path to international stardom would take her from Harlem's famous Cotton Club, where she was hired as a chorus dancer at the age of 16, to Charlie Barnet's jazz band, where she became one of the first African American women to tour with an all-white band, to Hollywood and Broadway.

In the 1940s, Ms. Horne was discovered by a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) talent scout and moved to Hollywood to be an actress, becoming the first black artist to sign a long-term contract with a major studio. Despite her extraordinary beauty and talent, however, she was often limited to minor acting roles because of her race. Among many lost opportunities, studio executives cast fellow actress Ava Gardner as Julie in the film adaptation of *Show Boat* instead of Ms. Horne because they did not want it to star a black actress. However, she dazzled audiences and critics in a number of films, including *Cabin in the Sky* and *Stormy Weather*.

The struggle for equal and fair treatment was an inseparable and increasingly political part of Ms. Horne's life. During World War II, Ms. Horne toured extensively with the United Service Organizations (USO) on the West Coast and in the South in support of the troops. She was outspoken in her criticism of the way black soldiers were treated, refusing to sing for segregated audiences or to groups in which German prisoners of war were seated in front of African American servicemen.

During the period of McCarthyism in the 1950s, Ms. Horne was blacklisted as a communist for seven years because of her civil rights activism and friendship with Paul Robeson and W.E.B. Du Bois. Although she continued to face discrimination, Ms. Horne's career flourished in television and on nightclub stages across the country. It was during this time that she also established herself as a major recording artist. In 1957, she recorded *Lena Horne at the Waldorf-Astoria*, which reached the Top 10 and became the best-selling album by a female singer in RCA Victor's history.

Sharing the stage with such names as Count Basie, Tony Bennett, Billy Eckstein, Vic Damone, and Harry Belafonte, Ms. Horne rose to international stardom and toured the world. She also starred in musical and television specials with such giants as Judy Garland, Bing Crosby, and Frank Sinatra.

Ms. Horne used her talent and fame to become a powerful voice for civil rights and equality. In 1963, she participated in the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, at which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech. She also performed at rallies throughout the country for the National Council of Negro Women and worked with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), of which she was a member since the age of two, the National Council of Negro Women, the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, and the Urban League throughout her career.

In 1981, Ms. Horne finally received the big break she had waited for her whole life. Her one-woman Broadway show, *Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music*, was the culmination of her triumphs and struggles. It enjoyed a 14-month run before going on tour and earned her a special Tony and two Grammy awards.

Madam Speaker, Lena Horne was an extraordinary woman who refused to give up her dreams and used her beauty, talent, and intelligence to fight racial discrimination.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPLOY NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS TO THE BORDER ACT

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of bipartisan legislation I introduced earlier today with my colleague Representative DANA ROHRBACHER of California: The Deploy National Guard Troops to the Border Act.

The Federal Government has a responsibility to secure the border, and it simply hasn't done it. As a result, we are once again facing an emergency. Not just an emergency at the border, I might add, but an emergency in the interior—in places like Phoenix, where smugglers and Mexican drug cartels have set up vast networks of drop houses, which operate as way stations for their illegal activities. The crime and violence associated with these drop houses is horrendous. Phoenix has become a kidnapping capital.

This is completely unacceptable.

While, undoubtedly, Congress needs to secure the border and fix our broken immigration system—the situation at the border cannot wait simply because it is an election year. This is an urgent threat to our national security.

I have urged President Obama to send additional National Guard troops to the border, much like I urged President Bush to extend the deployment of National Guard troops to the border in 2008. Sadly, to no avail.

That is why, today, I am introducing legislation to deploy 3,000 National Guard troops to the border to assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Taking this step will help secure the border while Congress works on a more comprehensive, permanent fix.

The National Guard has successfully assisted with border security in the past. Operation Jump Start, which concluded its mission in 2008 proved remarkably effective. According to the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, the Yuma Sector experienced a 68-percent decrease in apprehensions between October

1, 2006, and July 31, 2007, compared with the previous year. Border-wide, the National Guard helped seize more than 1,080 vehicles used to transport drugs and/or illegal immigrants, more than 300,600 pounds of marijuana, and 5,060 pounds of cocaine.

I thought the National Guard was drawn down too quickly and offered an amendment at the time to extend their deployment. Unfortunately my amendment was blocked from floor consideration.

I know there are strong views about immigration reform, and I know this is an election year. But we cannot let petty political concerns or inflammatory rhetoric to continue to compromise our national security. We cannot continue to kick this down the road for future Congresses to deal with. Now is the time to tone down the rhetoric, come together and take this critical step.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this bill, and continue to work on a permanent security solution, as well as a fix to our broken and ineffectual immigration system.

UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ROCKET AND MISSILE DEFENSE CO- OPERATION AND SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5327, the United States-Israel Missile Defense Cooperation and Support Act of 2010. This legislation authorizes \$205 million dollars for the development and implementation of the Iron Dome—a missile defense system—that will be placed on Israel's borders with Gaza and Lebanon, and professes support for the security of Israel. I strongly support that. However, like many Israelis, I believe that Israel's security depends upon a stable and peaceful relationship with its Palestinian neighbors.

H.R. 5327 proposes that the means to achieve security for Israel is through investing in a missile defense system. I do not support that, and neither should anyone truly supportive of the security of Israel. Physicists have amply demonstrated that missile defense systems do not work. They can't hit a missile with a missile without rigging the tests in ways that are not simulations of realistic operation conditions. The missile system offered in H.R. 5327 will not stop any missiles, except by sheer luck, coming from Gaza or Lebanon.

This missile defense system will give a false sense of security to the Israelis, and it will serve to threaten countries in the region. The missile system proposed in H.R. 5327 will cause more destabilization, not less. It will cause nerves in the Middle East to become more frayed, not less. It will bring about the prospect of a military conflict more than it will bring about peace and reconciliation in the region.

I am also concerned that 43 years of military occupation in the West Bank, and the crippling siege of Gaza that has entered its fourth year, continue to undermine Israel's security. Investment in a missile defense system will not eliminate the need to address these

issues that are a fundamental part of securing Israel's future.

Last week, U.S. Special Envoy George Mitchell announced the beginning of proximity talks that require him to address the concerns of both the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government prior to an attempt to restart direct negotiations on the final status issues. The United States has a responsibility to act in good faith as an honest broker.

Negotiations will not be successful as long as the United States continues to stand by idly as illegal settlements continue to be built in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Furthermore, 1.5 million people in Gaza continue to suffer without basic services and Palestinians in the West Bank are denied the freedom of movement and prosperity by the separation barrier and hundreds of check points.

The United States can better demonstrate its strong support for Israel by helping it move toward good-faith negotiations that ensure a peaceful and prosperous future for Palestinians as well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, on roll call No. 277 taken May 19, 2010, H.R. 5325, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, had I not had a family emergency which required my immediate return to California, I would have proudly voted "yes".

With increasing global competition, it is critically important that we boost our country's research potential and expand our commitment to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. Economic growth requires innovation; innovation requires robust research; and effective research requires a broadly educated workforce. I am deeply saddened that COMPETES fell victim to short-sighted Republican political gamesmanship, and I look forward to working with House Science and Technology Chair BART GORDON to get COMPETES reauthorized through another legislative vehicle.

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the rich heritage and invaluable contributions that Jewish Americans have made to our Nation and to the community that I am proud to represent in Missouri's First Congressional District.

The earliest Jewish immigrants came to St. Louis over two hundred years ago.

Like most new Americans, they came seeking a refuge from persecution and discrimination, with the hope of building productive lives and practicing their faith, without fear.

In St. Louis, and across the Nation, Jewish Americans have excelled in every facet of our society. From commerce, to the arts, to edu-

cation, medicine, the law, government, and in our armed forces.

Jewish Americans have enriched our Nation and contributed much to our shared cultural heritage.

I also want to make special mention of the long and historic partnership between the African American and the Jewish American communities, in the pursuit of social justice, civil rights, voting rights and equal protection under the law.

During the most trying times of the civil rights movement, Jewish Americans and African Americans marched together, stood together, protested together, prayed together, and even died together, to advance the cause of full citizenship and real equality for all.

That partnership and common pursuit of justice endures today.

In my district, I am blessed to represent a large, vibrant Jewish community with many outstanding congregations, educational and cultural groups and social service agencies; including: the Jewish Federation of St. Louis; the Jewish Community Center; Jewish Family and Childrens Services; the Jewish Community Relations Council; the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, the Central Agency for Jewish Education, and many others.

Jewish Americans have helped shape our Nation's history, and their unending commitment to faith, family, learning and social justice will continue to strengthen the United States.

I am proud to join with my colleagues to mark Jewish American Heritage Month.

COMMENDING DAVID BARTON FOR EDUCATING AMERICA ABOUT OUR NATION'S RELIGIOUS HERITAGE

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, recently, I had the opportunity to tour our nation's Capitol building with one of our nation's leading scholars, David Barton. David Barton is an accomplished author, speaker, and historian who focuses on helping Americans explore and understand our nation's moral, religious, and constitutional heritage. It is critically important that all of us have a deeper understanding and appreciation of our nation's founding.

Mr. Barton has dedicated his life to studying historical documents from the foundation of our nation and helping Americans understand the impact moral and religious teaching and beliefs had on our nations' Founding Fathers and the direction of our nation. Through his work, he teaches that in addition to a constitutional foundation, our nation has undeniable religious and moral underpinnings.

Mr. Barton is founder and president of Wallbuilders, a national organization that presents "America's forgotten history and heroes." The organization seeks to educate citizens about the important role that religious faith had on our Founding Fathers and our nation's institutions, including our government.

Mr. Barton has received substantial recognition for his work, including being named "one of the 25 Most Influential Evangelicals" by

TIME magazine and receiving several Angel, Who's Who in Education, and Telly Awards, as well as the George Washington Honor medal.

I commend Mr. Barton for his commitment to fostering a scholarly understanding of America's heritage and for the important work he does in studying and teaching regarding the Biblical values that guided our Founders during the birth of our nation more than 225 years ago. I have been on several Capitol tours with Mr. Barton, and his knowledge about the religious foundation of our country never ceases to amaze me. It is through this type of work that Americans gain a better understanding of what the Founders expected our nation to be like and what we should expect from our elected leaders and the laws they create.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Barton and the work that he does to educate Americans about our nation's past so that America can be a beacon to the world.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,975,292,327,567.97.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,336,866,581,274.10 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR CONGREGATION OLAM TIKVAH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Congregation Olam Tikvah on the occasion of the Dedication Ceremony for their recent expansion.

Congregation Olam Tikvah was formed in 1964 by six Fairfax County families who recognized the need for a synagogue that would serve the Kings Park, Springfield, Fairfax and Annandale areas. The congregation was initially led by Reb Jack Frankel who, although not an ordained rabbi, provided religious leadership and guidance in those early days.

From these modest beginnings, Olam Tikvah has grown into a vibrant community and is the spiritual and religious home to over 620 Jewish families in the Northern Virginia area. Along with this growth in membership has come an expansion of programs which now include a preschool, child and adult education classes, ritual support, a Men's Club, a Sisterhood and a senior social group.