

honeycreepers such as the 'iwi, 'amakihi, and 'apapane and a native flycatcher, the 'elepaio. In addition, these lands are habitat for the endangered pueo, Hawaiian owl, and the 'io, Hawaiian hawk. The proposed expansion areas also include large numbers of native trees, primarily koa and 'ohia, some 31 endemic species of flowering plants, and 37 endemic ferns. Due to its geographic isolation—more than 2,000 miles from a major land mass—these bird species and plants only exist in the Hawaiian islands, and, in many cases, are restricted to this one island.

The current owners of the two parcels authorized for acquisition under this Act are willing sellers. Due to the ecological importance of these parcels, there is strong interest in the conservation community in Hawaii in assisting with bridge financing to secure the parcels for ultimate acquisition by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

As Members of Congress, it is our duty to help to preserve our precious natural heritage for future generations. Hawaii, much like the Galapagos, is a hotspot of species diversity and unique adaptations. And the Big Island of Hawaii, where this Refuge is located, is one of the world's great biological laboratories. This one island, comprised of 4,028 square miles, contains eleven of the world's 13 climatic zones. One of the most isolated relatively large land masses in the world, species arrived in our islands by chance and then evolved to take advantage of every ecological niche. And being an island, most of the animal species that arrived were birds and insects.

So much has been lost in our world and Nation due to extinction, but we also know that through our intervention much has been saved. The bald eagle has been taken off the Endangered Species List; I am hopeful that we can also see the recovery of Hawaii's magnificent forest birds through preservation and restoration of habitat. Opportunities like this—to secure such valuable habitat from willing sellers—doesn't come along often. I am committed to protecting our natural world's biological diversity. As the Member of Congress representing one of the most beautiful and ecologically important places in our world, I am determined to do what I can to help preserve Hawaii's unique animals and plants. I would be grateful for your support.

HONORING SPECIALIST WADE SLACK

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Specialist Wade Slack of Waterville, Maine who was killed while serving his country in Afghanistan.

Wade was a beloved member of the Waterville community. He is remembered for a kindness, compassion and wisdom that exceeded his years. On May 6th, Specialist Slack succumbed to wounds sustained by enemy mortar fire in the Wardak Province of Afghanistan. At just 21 years old, Specialist Slack's youth punctuates an already painful loss.

Wade Slack, a fan of video games and hunting, enlisted while still an honors student

at Waterville High School. After graduating in 2007, he completed his basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., and his advanced individual training at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama and Englin Air Force Base, Florida. He was an E4 specialist with a focus in explosive ordnance disposal, serving with the Army's 707th Ordnance Battalion.

Mainers come together during a crisis, and I know that everyone in Waterville and the state stand together to support the Slack family. Wade is survived by his parents Alan and Mary, his stepmother Rose, six bothers and sisters, two step siblings and countless close friends. He is mourned by all as a true American hero and a defender of the freedom we all hold dear.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of Specialist Wade Slack for his patriotism and devotion to his community and his country.

OBAMA IGNORES SUDAN'S GENOCIDE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit a piece by actress and activist Mia Farrow which ran in today's Wall Street Journal. It is appropriately titled, "Obama Ignores Sudan's Genocide." The President has failed to exhibit the necessary leadership on this issue. He has barely uttered a word on Sudan or Darfur since coming to office.

Having spent extensive time in the region, Farrow points out, "When Barack Obama was elected President of the United States, hope abounded, even in Darfur's bleak refugee camps." Later she continues, "Such hopes did not last long."

Were the President to move swiftly to empower Secretary of State Clinton and U.N. Ambassador Rice to take the reins of the administration's languishing Sudan policy, perhaps hope could be restored.

[From the Wall Street Journal, May 25, 2010]

OBAMA IGNORES SUDAN'S GENOCIDE

(By Mia Farrow)

Last week U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan Scott Gration told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that although he remains supportive of "international efforts" to bring Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to justice, the Obama administration is also pursuing "locally owned accountability and reconciliation mechanisms in light of the recommendations made by the African Union's high-level panel on Darfur."

Mr. Bashir is indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for war crimes and crimes against humanity, but the African Union Panel on Darfur has clearly aligned itself with Khartoum. One panel member, former Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Al Sayed, said in an interview with an Egyptian newspaper, "The prosecution of an African head of state before an international tribunal is totally unacceptable. Our goal was to find a way out."

The African Union panel is led by former South African President Thabo Mbeki, who in 2008 dismissed the ICC indictment, saying that it is "the responsibility of the Sudanese state to act on those matters." Then, late last year his panel proposed a counter initia-

tive to the ICC in the form of a hybrid, Sudan-based court with both Arab and African judges to be selected by the African Union.

But all this is moot since Mr. Bashir swiftly rejected Mr. Mbeki's proposal. Perversely, Mr. Gration has now thrown U.S. government support to a tribunal that does not and probably will never exist. Even if it did, the "locally owned accountability" he refers to is not feasible under prevailing political conditions, as any Sudan-based court will be controlled by the perpetrators themselves.

For seven years, the people of Darfur have been pleading for protection and for justice. They do not believe either peace or justice can come while Mr. Bashir—orchestrator of their suffering—remains president of Sudan. Nor do they believe "locally owned accountability" is remotely possible under the current regime.

When Barack Obama was elected president of the United States, hope abounded, even in Darfur's bleak refugee camps. Darfuris believed this son of Africa could understand their suffering, end the violence that has taken so much from them, and bring Mr. Bashir to justice. The refugees hoped that "Yes we can" was meant for them too. They believed President Obama would bring peace and protection to Darfur and would settle for nothing less than true justice.

I have held new babies named Obama and watched as Darfuris began to dream again. Fatima Haroun, a 24-year-old widow and mother, told me the day was surely near when the refugees could leave the filth and hunger of the camps and safely return to the ashes of their villages. First, she said, they would honor their lost loved ones; they would search the ashes for bones, wrap them in best cloths, and bury them with respect. They would gather wood and tall grasses to rebuild their homes, they would sing new songs and prepare their fields for planting. Hunger and terror would go away. Omar al-Bashir would rot in jail.

Such hopes did not last long.

Nearly three million souls are still waiting in wretched camps across Darfur and eastern Chad. Sudanese government bombs are still falling, murderers and rapists still roam free, and the refugees have not felt safe for a very long time. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has expressed concern over increasing levels of violence in Darfur.

In their darkest hours and through losses too grievous to fathom, the world has repeatedly abandoned the people of Darfur. Over more than seven years, two American presidents have used the word "genocide" to describe what has unfolded there, but they have done little to end it.

It is past time for us to step up and accept our moral obligation to protect a defenseless people. The American people should urge Mr. Gration and the Obama administration to lead a diplomatic offensive to convince the world to isolate Mr. Bashir as a fugitive from justice, and to wholeheartedly support the only body offering Darfur's people a measure of authentic justice: the International Criminal Court.

Ms. Farrow has visited Darfur and eastern Chad 13 times since 2004.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF ARTHA "LADY ARTHA" WOODS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of my friend

Artha "Lady Artha" Woods, of Cleveland, Ohio, whose joyous life was dedicated to advancing the rights and opportunities for women and minorities.

Ms. Woods was a valedictorian at Cleveland Central High School. She won several academic awards, including a district-wide award as a Latin scholar. Streetwise yet elegant, articulate and refined, Ms. Woods was an unyielding activist. She served as a Cleveland Councilwoman, representing the people of Cleveland's east side with a strong and effective voice. She is credited with the expansion of two of Cleveland's premier institutions: Playhouse Square and the Cleveland Clinic. Moreover, she served as a leader in organizing residents to demand improvements to the deplorable living conditions in the Woodhill Homes public housing units.

In 1941, after protesting for equal opportunity, Ms. Woods became one of 18 African-Americans who broke the color barrier at Ohio Bell. After becoming an employee, Ms. Woods boycotted the cafeteria which helped end segregation between black and white women. She rose to the level of public relations manager at Ohio Bell and stayed with the company for many years. While serving on the City Council, Ms. Woods ran her own businesses and founded one of the first-ever modeling and charm schools for African-American women. She managed the careers of two local boxers and she owned and operated the Cedar Avenue Millinery Shop, where she sold hats to celebrities. She founded the Fairfax Area Community Congress and created the Starlight Cotillion for female graduates of neighborhood public high schools. Additionally, Ms. Woods was designated an honorary Italian by Holy Rosary Church of Cleveland and was blessed by Pope Paul VI in Rome for her work with local Catholic leaders.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of my friend, Artha "Lady Artha" Woods. Ms. Woods was the loving mother of the late Eloise and Arthur. I offer my condolences to her grandchildren: Gaile, (Dominic) and Deborah (Richard); to her great-grandchildren, Dominic, Monique, Olivia, Joshua, Lauren and Richard; to her devoted companion, Stanley Tolliver, Jr.; and to her extended family and friends.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, since we just commemorated National Nurses Week 2010, I rise today to call attention to the important and essential role that nurses play in providing quality health care across our Nation. Nurses are the largest group of health professionals involved on the front lines of caring for Americans. Our Nation's health care system is complex and every day people with many different health needs are served by legions of caring, qualified, and professional nurses, who are integral to our Nation's health care delivery system.

I believe every person can remember an experience when someone they loved needed health care and a nurse was the first person by their side providing care and comfort. We

all know someone who works in the field of nursing and the commitment they make to their profession, despite extraordinary challenges every day.

The Nurse in Washington Internship program recently brought representatives of this noble field to our Nation's capital to give a voice to their needs and experience. I was pleased to meet with my constituent Jennifer Vaughn (RN, BSN) from Forest, Virginia.

An adequate supply of nurses is essential to ensuring that all people receive quality care and that our Nation's public health infrastructure is strong. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there is currently a nursing shortage of 2.5 million registered nurses in the United States. This figure is expected to grow to 41 percent by 2020.

Additional Congressional leadership is necessary to ensure that the Nation has an adequate supply of nurses to care for the patients of today and tomorrow.

CONGRATULATING THE COMMUNITY OF DES PLAINES, IL ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the community of Des Plaines on their 175th anniversary.

I am extremely proud to represent the "City of Destiny"—a hub of ethnic diversity, a home to hardworking residents, and a thriving business center that has drawn domestic and international companies alike. Des Plaines' 175 dynamic years have made it one of the premier communities in the Chicagoland area to live, to work and to do business—a testament to the individuals who make up the rich fabric of the community.

Since 1833, when pioneers first came to Des Plaines in search of a place to build their homes, their families and their futures, the city has provided opportunities for innovation, creativity and growth. Over the past 175 years, immigrants and native-born Americans have come to Des Plaines, attracted by its outstanding schools, its entrepreneurial ethic, and its diversity.

The sense of community in Des Plaines is one that residents cherish. Whether it is organizing to ensure an accurate census count or working to deal with the impacts of the Des Plaines River flooding, people routinely come together to help each other and promote the city's interests.

Des Plaines is truly a great place to live. From the beginning, the elected leaders of Des Plaines recognized the need to build a strong transportation network, so the city is connected outward in terms of business and travel. And from the beginning, the city has recognized the importance of creating a livable community, with its own art and theater guilds, recreational system, and cultural activities.

I have long enjoyed a great working relationship with the representatives of the City of Des Plaines, including former Mayor Anthony Arredia and now with Mayor Martin Moylan. I want to congratulate them and all the people of Des Plaines for maintaining the spirit which helped create Des Plaines and ensuring that

the city reaches new heights in the 21st century.

I wish the community of Des Plaines the best in the coming 175 years and look forward to working with you to assure your continued success.

RECOGNIZING SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF U.S. AUTOMOBILE DEALERSHIPS

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of H. Res. 713, which recognizes the significant contributions of United States automobile dealerships, and expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that automobile dealers that have been forced to close be given a fair opportunity to reenter the automobile market once it rebounds and stabilizes. The automobile dealer industry has an important place in our country's history and is a critical part of our economy. It is critical that we recognize the important role of automobile dealers, help them survive the ongoing economic downturn, and pave the way for their future success.

I thank Chairman WAXMAN for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this H. Res. 713, Congressman GREEN, for taking the time to recognize the important contributions of automobile dealers in our nation's history and their vital role in our rebounding economy.

Madam Speaker, the automobile and the automotive industry has long been a symbol of American ingenuity and a source of American prosperity. Franchised automobile dealers have played and continue to play a critical role in the automotive industry: the franchised dealership system in the United States is the independent link between the manufacturer's assembly line and the American consumer.

The automobile dealership industry is a vital part of the national economy. Virtually all new cars and light trucks are sold through franchised dealers. Dealers represent the largest retail business in the United States, with approximately \$693 billion in revenues in 2007. Franchised dealers employ over 1,100,000 people, comprise nearly 20 percent of all retail sales in the United States, and, in total, provide billions of dollars annually in tax revenue.

Madam Speaker, automobile dealers also play an important role in local communities across the country. Auto dealers have deep roots in local communities and have helped manufacturers with long-term customer relationships that create brand loyalty and maintain customer convenience. Dealerships across the country provide jobs, give direct investments to local economies, and supply tax revenue to State and local governments.

The economic downturn of the last two years has put thousands of jobs at risk, including those at automobile dealerships and automobile manufacturers. I have witnessed the effect of the recession on car dealerships in my district. That is why I recently introduced H.R. 4897, the Drivers AID Act of 2010. By making interest payments on new car purchases deductible, this bill will help consumers