

was to say to the Senate, "Please take a look at this and please look at this seriously because this is important to a large number of people in both the Navy and Marine Corps."

There is no cost to this. This does not affect the budget. It doesn't affect even the stationery. It would just make it so that in the future, as changes come about, it would be known as the Department of Navy and Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell a story about a news conference. About 6 weeks ago, the Marine Corps League held a news conference in the Cannon Office Building to announce their support of this legislation. At the news conference we had Senator PAT ROBERTS, a retired Marine officer who serves in the United States Senate, who has put in a companion bill, S. 504. In addition, we had a former Commandant, Al Gray, to speak on behalf of this legislation. We had a four star Marine General, Anthony Zinni, to speak on behalf of this legislation.

In addition, we had a young man named Eddie Wright. Eddie Wright lost both hands in Iraq for this country. And he told a very compelling story. He is a Marine, and he said, "I love the Navy." He said, "I love the corpsmen who came on the battlefield and saved my life."

Then we also had a father named Dick Lynn from Richmond, Virginia. Dick Lynn's son was killed in Iraq. He was a Marine. And Mr. Lynn told the story of his father, who had served as a World War II Navy veteran, and the fact that in Culpeper, Virginia, his son, a Marine, is buried next to his grandfather. And Dick Lynn told the story of having the headstone that says "United States Navy" that identified his father who was deceased, and then beside his father was his son's headstone that had "United States Marine Corps".

I bring that up, Mr. Speaker, because we can see beside me is a poster of an actual condolence letter from the United States Navy to the family of a Marine captain who was killed in Iraq. And it says, "The Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C.," with the Navy flag. I certainly took the names out of the condolence letter for this poster. Mr. and Mrs. Joe American Marine. "Dear Marine Corps Family: On behalf of the Department of the Navy, please accept my very sincere condolences."

Mr. Speaker, the Navy and Marine Corps are one fighting team. They deserve to be respected as one fighting team by carrying the name Navy and Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, if this bill is accepted by the Senate, what we would see in a condolence letter would be "The Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps," with the Navy flag and the Marine Corps flag. And it would say, "Dear Marine Corps Family: On behalf of the Department of Navy and Marine Corps, we extend our condolences." That's the story that Mr. Lynn tried to say at the news conference.

Why cannot the Senate understand the importance of paying the respects with the recognition to the Marine Corps which the Navy has, the Army has, the Air Force has? This is a very simple change of three words, with no cost to the American taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to say there is a national Web site. It's called MarineCause.com. Gunnery Sergeant Lee Erme, a movie star who himself served in the Marine Corps, in the movie Full Metal Jacket, which is about Vietnam, he is the DI in that movie. He is also on the Military Channel with Lock 'N Load and Mail Call. He is our national spokesman on this Web site. So I hope that the American people would join in this effort.

#### TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, this week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and I rise today to say a heartfelt "thank you" to the teachers across the country. This apple is but a symbol of my gratitude for all that teachers have given to me. I have been fortunate enough to live the American dream.

My teachers were ones who made it all possible, whether it was Ms. Barber, who taught me in my early years at Cleveland School; or Coach Bruce Coats, who taught me that it was not enough just to work hard, but that you had to work smart; or Coach Fred McCall, who helped me focus my hard work in college both on and off the basketball court; or any of those who came in-between. My teachers helped shape who I am.

I recently received a letter from a teacher in Johnston County who was worried about our children. And she said, "In these tough budget times, cutting funding in education now means shortchanging an entire generation of learners for the future."

I urge my colleagues today to join me in thanking teachers and working to support funding for the teachers who will shape our Nation's future. As Americans, let us work to make every day a day we say "thank you" to the teachers who mold the future.

#### FLYING PIG MARATHON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize not only all of those who participated in Sunday's Flying Pig Marathon, but most importantly, our male winner from my area, Milford, Ohio.

Let me tell you the conditions 18,000 participants faced on Sunday. Six-thirty in the morning, torrential downpour, with a forecast of a 90 percent chance it wouldn't let up. And unfortu-

nately, they were right. But as 18,000 of us decided to go at least part of the distance, 6,000 of us decided to go the full 26.2-mile distance.

The Flying Pig Marathon was the brainchild of Bob Coughlin 12 years ago. Twenty-five thousand people participated in the weekend event. And it took an enormous amount of folks, including 3,000 volunteers, to help make that event happen. For all of us that participated, we want to say "thank you".

But I think this year's winner, Brian List, really wants to say thanks to those that helped because his dream came true. This young man, Milford High School graduate, cross country participant in high school, cross country participant in college, came back to his hometown to raise a family and to continue to pursue his dream of running. This was his fourth try at the marathon in Cincinnati. He never really thought he had what it took to actually be a winner. But on Sunday, he was. He posted a great time, 2 hours, 32 minutes, and 20 seconds. He followed his dream, his heart, and achieved his goal. And I am so proud of him.

I don't want to not recognize Lauren Arnold from Colorado, the female winner, but I do want to brag about Brian List, because as a runner I know what it takes to go the distance, and he certainly did that for us.

In conclusion, I would like to say that for most of us I think we adopted Barry Manilow's song, "I Made It Through the Rain." But I know that for Brian and Lauren they were more like Gene Kelly, because at the end they were singing in the rain.

I want to thank all of those that participated, especially the volunteers. And I really want to thank Bob Coughlin for putting this brainchild together and allowing all of us to have fun. Because you know, Mr. Speaker, in Cincinnati pigs do fly at least 1 day out of the year. And next May, the first Sunday in May, it will be our 13th running. Let's hope that the weather will compete as well as it has for 11 of the 12.

I again want to say "thank you" to Brian List for following his dream, keeping his pedal to the metal, and getting that crown.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, this month marks Jewish American Heritage Month. So now seems a fitting

time to look back on the history of the State of Israel and remember it accurately. In recent weeks there has been much attention paid to the announcement of new construction in East Jerusalem. Lost in the debate were some basic facts about settlements and the historical context that must be remembered.

Today I want to set the record straight and outline six key facts about settlements. No. 1, the construction under debate is not in Arab East Jerusalem, but in a Jewish neighborhood in northern Jerusalem. Not only has this area never been governed under Palestinian authority, but there has never been a question of to whom the land belongs. Under every possible two-state plan, including the plan produced by President Clinton at Camp David in 2000 and the scenario and the letter from President Bush to Prime Minister Sharon in 2004, this area would be part of Israel.

No. 2, Jerusalem is not a settlement. Jerusalem has been a Jewish majority since 1870. And every Israeli Government since 1967 has recognized Jerusalem as the sovereign capital of Israel, not part of the West Bank. To reduce Jerusalem to anything less undermines the very foundation of Israel.

No. 3, settlements are not an obstacle to peace. This is where remembering history is especially important. Twice Israel has given up land and removed settlers in an effort to make peace, and each time peace was rejected. In 1980, after its peace accord with Egypt, Israel removed settlements from the Sinai Peninsula, but peace was rejected. Again in 2005, settlers were forcibly removed from Gaza, but peace was rejected. Settlements can be dealt with in any future negotiations through land swaps and border adjustments. But the issue of settlements should never prevent the two sides from sitting down to negotiate.

No. 4. The 10-month moratorium on new construction in the West Bank issued by Prime Minister Netanyahu is unprecedented. Despite staunch domestic criticism and incredible political risk, Prime Minister Netanyahu announced a 10-month moratorium on new construction in the West Bank. The move was praised by the Obama administration. U.S. Middle East envoy George Mitchell called the move significant, stating that "for the first time ever an Israeli Government will stop all new construction in West Bank settlements." Yet the Palestinian Authority continues to refuse to resume peace negotiations.

In the past, settlement construction did not prevent negotiations. In fact, both Yasser Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas negotiated with Israel even while building in settlements continued.

No. 5, only Israelis and Palestinians together can create a lasting peace agreement. The U.S. must continue to play a central role in peace negotiations, but ultimately the conflict must

be resolved through direct talks between the two parties. Requiring preconditions for negotiations simply allows the parties to avoid direct dialogue and ultimately a resolution. Any rhetoric that prevents the parties from resuming negotiations must be tempered.

No. 6, this constant focus on settlements distracts us from the greater threat, a nuclear Iran. The most significant threat to Middle East security is Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon. Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons would surely spur nuclear proliferation throughout the Middle East, and even result in terrorist groups obtaining nuclear weapons. Our focus now must be on preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear power, not on debates about Jerusalem's construction policies.

Yes, settlements must be addressed, and they will be addressed in any peace process negotiations. We know this because over the years numerous proposals to solve the settlement issue have been floated, and Israel has twice shown it's willing to take action, pulling its citizens out of Sinai and Gaza. But settlements cannot be an excuse not to negotiate. Settlements cannot be considered an impediment to peace. And settlements cannot distract us from the looming threat of a nuclear Iran.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HONORING DR. RODRIGO NOGUERA CALDERON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an admirable educator and scholar from Bogota, Colombia, Dr. Rodrigo Noguera Calderon. During his long and highly acclaimed professional career after receiving a doctorate in law with a specialization in socioeconomic sciences from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, he has been an exceptional jurist and academician.

His humanistic formation led him to defend from the outset the values and principles of western civilization, the defense of which is today manifested in the formation of professionals educated with the same principles.

□ 1545

As a corollary of his humanistic formation, Dr. Noguera has been an ardent defender of democracy and of its liberties, and he has been a fighter against totalitarian and so-called

"populist" regimes which seek to destabilize democratic governments.

Dr. Noguera has also stood out for his unwavering and constant defense of the principles on which human rights are based and for the correct application of international norms that regulate them against those who, in the name of human rights, violate the very principles they say they seek to protect. To further this cause, Dr. Noguera established the Human Rights Institute in collaboration with academic institutions on three continents.

Regarding the United States of America, his positions and those of the Universidad Sergio Arboleda, which is the university founded in 1984 by his father, Rodrigo Noguera Laborde, and at which he has presided since 2003, have always been of friendship and in defense of the postulates and values of this great Nation.

The Universidad Sergio Arboleda was the main academic institution in Colombia that supported and assisted with the entire negotiation process of the Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Colombia.

The Universidad Sergio Arboleda also maintains very close relationships, by means of specific shared programs and projects, with many American universities, such as Florida International University, Florida Atlantic University, Georgetown University, American University, and the New York University School of Law. The Universidad Sergio Arboleda was a leader in the creation of joint degree programs with American universities. It was also a leader in other innovative and groundbreaking agreements, which have benefited both the United States and Colombia.

The Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute, of which I am honored to chair, will also enter into an agreement of collaboration with the Universidad Sergio Arboleda.

Dr. Noguera has held very prestigious public-sector positions by presidential appointment, including supervisor of corporations, national electoral council judge, and associate judge of the National Constitutional Court of Colombia. He was presently named by Colombian President Alvaro Uribe as a member of the Committee on Political Reform. He has received many important distinctions, including the Order of Democracy Simon Bolivar in the degree of Cruz Gran Caballero, which is one of the highest civilian honors of Colombia, granted by the Colombian House of Representatives.

For my late father, for my brothers, and for me and my wife, our friendship with Rodrigo Noguera and his wife, Zayda Barrero de Noguera, is an extraordinary honor.

#### H.R. 2927—THE BORDER TAX EQUITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) is recognized for 5 minutes.