

A TRIBUTE TO THE ARCADIA HIGH SCHOOL BAND

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Arcadia High School Band from Valley County, Nebraska. On May 26, 2011 the band visited Washington, D.C. for a special concert at the National World War II Memorial. Performing 12 patriotic anthems at the memorial, the talented group of students captured an audience from around the world who were visiting our nation's capital.

The Arcadia High School Band traces its roots back to 1930 when 17 students joined. Today, 77% of the student body plays in the band. Throughout the years, the band has regularly performed outside of the Arcadia community from Mount Rushmore, South Dakota to Grand Island, Nebraska. For 8 of the last 10 years the band received the highest rating at District Music Contests, including a standing ovation and superior ratings from all three judges.

Led by Mr. Randall Warner, the Arcadia High School Band exemplifies a long standing commitment to excellence in musical performance and high academic standards. The band makes their community and the State of Nebraska extremely proud.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the exceptional talent and dedication of the Arcadia High School Band.

TRIBUTE TO PIKEVILLE MEDICAL CENTER

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a world class hospital and the American Alliance of Healthcare Providers' 2010-2011 "Hospital of the Year," Pikeville Medical Center.

Each year, the American Alliance of Healthcare Providers selects a recipient of its hospital of the year award. This year, Pikeville Medical Center became the Nation's only repeat winner over hundreds of applicants from across the country. I am proud to report that this top notch institution in the heart of Eastern Kentucky was judged to be the nation's most patient friendly hospital.

This distinguished honor truly reflects an unwavering commitment to world class treatment by every one of Pikeville Medical Center's over 2,000 employees and 250 physicians. The honor of being named "Hospital of the Year" for the second consecutive year is simply the latest example of the Pikeville Medical Center's stellar reputation among its peers and fellow medical professionals; in fact, the hospital has been named the #1 hospital to work for in Kentucky in Best Places To Work for three straight years, and has been nationally recognized for best practices and out-

standing doctors by numerous organizations. Needless to say, the Pikeville Medical Center is clearly committed to their noble mission of being a "quality, regional health care in a Christian environment."

For 86 years, Pikeville Medical Center has served as a beacon of healing for the people of Pike County, Kentucky and the surrounding regions. Since its humble beginnings in 1924, the hospital has expanded numerous times to meet regional needs. Today, the Medical Center complex boasts many specialties and services such as its award winning cancer center, state-of-the-art Diagnostic Equipment, 4-D Echocardiograms, a cardiac rehabilitation center, a sleep studies laboratory, and a neonatal intensive care unit. The Pikeville Medical Center has also fashioned a teaching program that is second to none and will ensure that our talented young medical professionals will not have to leave Eastern Kentucky to learn and develop their skills.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a fine example of patient care and community wellness, the Pikeville Medical Center. I congratulate the Center on this latest achievement and wish the employees and hospital leadership many more years of success.

H.J. RES. 68 AND H.R. 2278

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today the House considered two bills that focused on United States involvement in Libya. Both failed to adequately address our role in that country.

H.J. Res. 68 is the less objectionable of the two. I reluctantly supported this Resolution because it reaffirmed the United States limited participation in an international coalition to deal with the humanitarian crisis in Libya and bars all funds from being used to deploy, establish, or maintain a presence of Members of the Armed Services or private security contractors on the ground. It also sets a clear deadline for U.S. involvement there.

What I would have liked to see offered was the Resolution sponsored by Senators KERRY and MCCAIN. The Kerry/McCain Resolution goes further and clearly defines our interests and objectives in the region.

It makes clear that it is the sense of this Congress that we will support the Libyan people and political reform in the country; it clearly defines our goal in Libya as the removal of Mummur Qaddafi and his family from power through the NATO mission outlined by U.N. Security Council Resolution 1973, which includes diplomatic and economic pressures; and that we must support the Libyan people transition to a representational democracy.

H.R. 2278 would prevent the Department of Defense from using any funds to support NATO in its mission to stop the slaughter of civilians by a dictator who has time and again made clear his disregard for the lives of innocents.

Of equal concern is the fact that H.R. 2278 sets an unfortunate precedent and undermines

key global institutions by turning our backs to a unified call for intervention.

Preventing U.S. action would endanger the recent display of democratic aspirations by so many in the region and only emboldens the other despots of the world such as Syria, Iran, and Yemen, suggesting there are no consequences for murdering peaceful protesters.

As I have said from the start, I would support thoughtful legislation that acknowledges the U.S. has chosen to answer the cries of the innocent Libyan people, but makes clear that our commitment to their aspirations of self governance is not open-ended, and which clearly defines our goals and—more importantly—limits. That is why I voted for H.J. Res. 68 and look towards the Kerry/McCain Resolution to carry the day because it sets the right tone.

STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S MAY 19 SPEECH ON U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a very important issue which has generated much debate and misinformation in recent weeks. When President Obama articulated his vision for U.S. policy in the Middle East on May 19th at the State Department, he laid out an historic call to support the democratic aspirations of people living under decades of autocracy and tyranny.

President Obama also reaffirmed our commitment to finding a peaceful solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. He restated the need for a negotiated settlement, and he opposed the Palestinian attempt to unilaterally seek UN recognition of their statehood. He also called for a resolution of the disputed lands based on the "1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps."

President Obama's call to use the borders that existed before the Six Day War as a basis for future borders was also made by President George W. Bush and President Bill Clinton. This is an almost two-decade old U.S. position. This policy position is well understood as the mainstream position by every diplomat, pundit, and scholar familiar with this issue.

The position is shared by Israel's own Defense Minister, and by Israel's former Prime Minister. It is shared by Israel's Opposition Leader, and it is shared by a majority of the Israeli public.

The issue of a negotiated peace settlement between Israelis and Palestinians is far too important to cede to those who criticize the President for their own political aims. We must emphasize the facts. Support for Israel as a secure Jewish democratic state is a bipartisan priority, and this Administration has done at least as much as any other to expand and improve our security cooperation and diplomatic ties with her.

I call on each of my colleagues to refrain from distorting or misrepresenting this issue, and to join together in support of a negotiated settlement that will bring peace and prosperity to a region riddled with conflict for far too long.

H.J. RES. 68 AND H.R. 2278

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I support limited U.S. involvement in NATO military operations in Libya because I believe it is the right thing to do. The Qaddafi Regime was threatening to show "no mercy" against the rebels and swore to go "door to door to hunt them down like rats." In contrast with our NATO allies and the Arab League, the President decided to act to prevent a massacre. Failure to act will have also sent the wrong signal to other dictators trying to snuff out the Arab Awakening.

The president assured us that, in time, leadership of military operations would be handed over to NATO and that the U.S. would then assume a supportive role. True to that pledge, the U.S. now plays a non-combat, support role comprised primarily of intelligence gathering, logistics, surveillance and search and rescue. Three-quarters of sorties, including the majority of the strike sorties flown in Libya are being conducted by our coalition partners; all 20 of the ships enforcing the arms embargo of Libya are European and Canadian; and no American troops are on the ground.

It is for these reasons that I am supporting H.J. Res. 68, a resolution authorizing limited use of U.S. Armed Forces in support of the NATO mission in Libya and opposing H.R. 2278, a bill to defund all but a specified list of U.S. actions in support of the NATO effort.

H.J. Res. 68 authorizes for one year the continued supportive role the U.S. is already playing in Libya while expressing Congress' concurrence with the language in the UN Resolution forbidding the use of ground forces in the military action.

Conversely, I cannot support H.R. 2278, a bill to defund all operations other than search and rescue; intelligence gathering; aerial refueling; and operational planning. This bill threatens the mission and the safety of coalition forces.

Under the specific set of circumstances the president faced in Libya, I believe he made the right decision. To undermine the effort at this moment would be a serious mistake.

IN RECOGNITION OF MITCH
AVALON

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, Representatives GEORGE MILLER, JERRY MCNERNEY and I rise today in honor of Mitch Avalon, who has served the Contra Costa County Public Works Department for the last 32 years. As his colleagues, friends, and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, we ask all of our colleagues to join us in saluting this outstanding public servant.

Mitch Avalon began his journey with the Contra Costa County Public Works Department in 1979 as a civil engineer, where his diligent hard work was recognized and he quickly assumed the title and duties of Deputy

Public Works Director, a position which he has held to this day. In addition to his position with the Contra Costa County Public Works Department, Mr. Avalon has also served as the Deputy Chief Engineer for the Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, further demonstrating his commitment to public service.

While working for Contra Costa County, Mr. Avalon contributed to the creation of numerous county public works projects and programs, including the Capital Road Improvement Program, Clean Water Program, and the Contra Costa Watershed Forum. His work was instrumental in creating the annual Contra Costa County Watershed Symposium, which has become an incredible asset to the community. If not for his efforts, many of Contra Costa County's public works projects and programs would not have come to fruition.

Mitch Avalon's contributions have not only been an incredible asset to Contra Costa County but to the entire Bay Area. Mr. Avalon sits on the boards of directors for Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, California Central Valley Flood Control Association, and San Francisco Estuary Institute. In addition, he was the founding chair for the Bay Area Flood Protection Agencies Association.

In recognition of the integral role he has played in establishing sound public investment throughout the region, Mr. Avalon has been the recipient of many outstanding community awards over the years. In 2005 he was presented with the California State Association of Counties "Circle of Service Award" and in 2007 he was honored by the Contra Costa County Watershed Forum with the "Watershed Champion of the Year Award." His legacy will live on through the series of public works projects, programs and associations he helped create and the communities they serve.

The long-lasting benefits of Mitch Avalon's career accomplishments not only benefit our generation but will improve our communities for generations to come; they stand as a testament to what diligent work and true commitment to community can produce.

Mr. Speaker, we are truly honored to pay tribute to our friend and dedicated public servant Mitch Avalon. We ask our colleagues to join with us in thanking Mr. Avalon for his long and dedicated service to the citizens of Contra Costa County and wishing him continued success in all his future endeavors along with a happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING BRITNI, A SENIOR
AT EXCELSIOR PREPARATORY
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a student of the Month from the Sixth Congressional District of New York.

Every month I seek to recognize students for their outstanding achievements and exceptional stride.

I am here to recognize a student who warmed my heart. Britni is a senior at Excelsior Preparatory High School and is set to graduate this month. She is a very determined young lady who has served as the manager of

the soccer team, was involved in the school's talent show, and participated in other school events despite her unique needs.

Britni participated in the Upward Bound Program at Queens College, which focuses on improving academic achievement.

Britni has excelled academically, passed Regents Examinations in various subjects, received commendations for passing all her classes, and has gone above and beyond to overcome social and academic challenges.

Her family and friends have encouraged and motivated her to focus on her strengths and abilities. I am confident that she will be accepted into a college that will continue to support her academically and socially to ensure her success. Britni's Principal was extremely proud to recognize her hard work in school and the positive accomplishments that she continues to achieve. She is a great inspiration and a true example that if you work hard to achieve your goals, you can succeed.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DR. EDWARD R. CULVERT'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to join the First Central Baptist Church of Harlem and the International Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons to pay tribute and celebrate the birthday of my dear friend and ally, the Honorable Dr. Edward R. Culvert, Publisher of the Culvert Chronicles Community Newspaper.

Rev. Dr. Edward R. Culvert is a man who possesses great qualities. He is a writer, educator, and philosopher. He attended Texas Baptist University in Austin, Texas from 1950 to 1959 graduated cum Laude. Dr. Culvert obtained his Bachelor in Arts, Master in Arts, Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity degrees.

Dr. Culvert has been a professor at the City University of New York for forty-four years. He has served in many capacities including Special Assistant to the President of City College in regards my Empowerment Zone legislation and initiative, and was on the committee that helped form the Urban Legal Studies Program. He has held many positions throughout his career and lifetime, such as the Commissioner of Labor Relations from 1977 to 1983. During that time, He handled most of the labor problems, actions and strikes that occur throughout the State of New York, and was the first and only African American to hold that position.

In addition to working at City College, he also teaches Religion, Sociology, Criminal Justice, History and Philosophy at Herbert Lehman College; and is currently teaching African American Studies. He has dedicated his entire life advocating for African American Studies, particularly stressing the importance progressive education, which is not limited to the classrooms.

The Culvert Chronicles is the brainchild of Dr. Edward R. Culvert, who observed that the African American community needed a vehicle of free expression. The paper is bi-partisan and prints positive and informative news to all of the residents of the greater New York Metropolitan area. He is quick to point out that the paper does not deal with tabloid news.