

rockets and they are terrifying because they are on top of you before you know it. You have no warning.

They are very loud and so the terror that this incites in people, even if you survive these attacks, is enormous.

They can continue for hours on end. You can imagine how awful that is for women and children and men, rural farmers who have no military background whatsoever. And when they sense that this is not an enemy from outside that is attacking, this is their own government, they just do not understand why this is happening.

There are so many poignant, heart-breaking stories.

A local farmer was lying on the floor of a hospital in enormous pain, with a large piece of shrapnel that had gone through his leg, with blood and flies over him. Again and again he was asking the same desperate questions: "Why is our president doing this to us? Why is he bombing us?"

He kept saying: "This is wrong".

Then there was a young man who had fled a village that was attacked and when the SAF [northern] troops withdrew, he found to his horror that his wife and children had been abducted by the army.

With anguish in his voice he said he would rather have been killed than his wife and child taken.

"I don't know what they will do to them, I don't think I will see them again," he said.

No less than 75,000 people have been displaced, and because the bombing and shelling is continuing, that number is probably going up every day.

This is not a war of north versus south—this is about a people within north Sudan who want a peaceful existence in the north just with social and economic opportunities and access to justice.

The Nuba, a large percentage of whom are Muslims, feel their future is with north Sudan.

The people of South Kordofan, both the Nuba and people from the nomadic Arab tribes, feel marginalised by Khartoum. They feel they are not granted basic human rights.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE EXECUTIONS

The area offers a remarkable alternative vision of how Christian and Muslims and animists can live together. I have witnessed after Eid, the Christians bringing breakfast for their Muslim brothers and sisters, and at Christmas and Easter all the people from the mosque coming to say "congratulations".

But people there feel the government in the last few weeks has revealed it has no interest in allowing a political solution that gives rights to an alternative voice in the north, where there is religious tolerance and Christians and Muslims living together.

There is so much anguish. People say they don't want war but they say until the policies of Khartoum change, they see no alternative.

They are asking for help from all northern Sudanese to come back from this madness and have a look at how to build a peaceful, tolerant society in the north.

We are getting very strong reports that house-to-house executions are going on by internal security forces where summary executions are taking place based on ethnicity, political affiliation and even how black you are. These are civilians, intellectuals, teachers, community leaders, Muslims and Christians, and often they are killed by their throats being slit.

This may be only the beginning and it could well continue for many months and intensify. There is a complete lack of access—we learnt that the only airstrip that was left had been bombed and we have heard the government of Sudan will shoot down UN flights

operating in South Kordofan so humanitarian flights are no longer an option.

We know that there is no access from the north by road so we are looking at a population that is now effectively besieged—without access to services or humanitarian aid and who are under fire.

I fear the government has started these military operations to try to ensure that opposition voice is completely squashed before the 9 July, so that no thought of help of any sort could come from the south, knowing that the emerging republic of South Sudan would be very unwilling to get involved as it would endanger their independence.

The great majority of Nuba people that I have spoken to are very worried the Egyptian forces that make up a large percentage of the UN peacekeepers are not seen as sufficiently neutral. Their cultural and religious background and their behaviour and attitude towards black Nuba people are unhelpful.

HONORING THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, 76 years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the National Labor Relations Act, which continues to protect the rights of employees and employers, encourages fair bargaining, and blocks harmful practices that hurt our Nation's workers, businesses and the economy.

This important piece of legislation in our Nation's history has allowed working Americans to enjoy their rights to assemble and organize into labor unions. Unions have been instrumental in strengthening the middle class. Leaders like AFL-CIO President Dennis Hughes, DC 37 Executive Director Lillian Roberts, Teamsters Local 237 President Gregory Floyd, SEIU Local 1199 President George Gresham and SEIU 32BJ President Mike Fishman, and AFT and UFT Presidents Randi Weingarten and Michael Mulgrew have all marched in the spirit of A. Philip Randolph and Thomas Van Arsdale to protect the civil rights of all Americans in the workplace and I stand by my fellow soldiers in our continued struggle to preserve the Labor Movement and all the victories fought and won.

With the recent change of rules enacted by the National Labor Relations Board, working Americans will be able to quickly unionize and cut the time businesses have to mount anti-union campaigns. There is still more to do for our workers. That is why I co-sponsored the Employee Non-Discrimination Act which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender in the workforce. I will keep on supporting other bills that ensure labor rights and will work hand in hand with union leaders to create an equal partnership in revitalizing our economy."

IN RECOGNITION OF TEMPLE EMANU-EL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Temple Emanu-El of Edison, New

Jersey, as its members gather to celebrate its 50th Anniversary. Under the leadership of Rabbi Emeritus Alfred Landsberg and Rabbi Deborah Bravo, Temple Emanu-El is a respected educational and religious institution for many families whose members remain committed to various community service activities. Their hard work and dedication are worthy of this body's recognition.

Since its founding in 1961, Temple Emanu-El's membership remains open to persons of any race, sex, ethnic background, physical capability, sexual orientation, national origin or marital status. The synagogue is a sanctuary for interfaith families, gay and lesbian groups as well as numerous organizations and religious communities interested in pursuing the Jewish faith. Its rich diversity ensures the organization's ability to provide various religious programs for all ages. The synagogue is proud to be the first religious school within the region to offer special education programs to its members. Pre-school students have the opportunity to celebrate Shabbat through song and craft programs. Teens also get together at Temple Emanu-El to study Judaism with their friends while community members remain engaged in the sacred work of 'tikkun olam', the repair of the world, through various social action programs.

The worshipers of Temple Emanu-El are committed to participating in various community programs and service endeavors. Food and monetary funds are collected by the worshipers and delivered to the members of the community. The members also partake in the weekend meals-on-wheels delivery program as they continue to reach out to members of their community in need.

The synagogue also maintains a commitment to provide various educational opportunities. Temple Emanu-El provides programs for the children to learn Hebrew and various Jewish traditions while adults are given the opportunity to study with Scholars-in-Resident and participate in Bar/Bat Mitzvah programs. Many congregants also join together on a weekly basis to study Torah. In addition to the plethora of activities offered at Temple Emanu-El, the synagogue remains a serene house of worship for its members to congregate and reflect.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Temple Emanu-El on its 50th Anniversary and thanking the members for their continued contribution to the Jewish community.

AFGHANISTAN DRAWDOWN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, in October, our troops will have been in Afghanistan for ten years. It is the longest war in our country's history. I am concerned that the mission has become more ambitious and our exit strategy has become increasingly vague.

This year is on pace to become the deadliest of this war. Over 1,600 Americans have been killed and 11,000 wounded in Operation Enduring Freedom. A 2008 study by RAND Corp. estimates that over 26 percent of troops may return from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with mental health issues. In terms of financial costs, California taxpayers alone have

spent over \$50 billion on the war in Afghanistan. According to the Congressional Budget Office, ending the wars could save \$1.4 trillion.

The President's announcement that he will begin removing surge troops does not reflect a significant policy change in Afghanistan. Removing the 30,000 surge troops from Afghanistan over the next year and a half only means that by the end of next year, we will be exactly where we were before the surge in December of 2009. Roughly 100,000 American soldiers will remain in Afghanistan to fight a war that I have serious reservations about.

I urge President Obama to reconsider his Afghanistan policy and commit to a meaningful drawdown of our troops.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE MCCOLLUM AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentlelady from Minnesota, Ms. MCCOLLUM.

The amendment would prohibit the Department of Defense from advancing their recruitment and retention goals through various athletic sponsorships.

At a time when our forces are undertaking operations in multiple theaters, I think it is wise that this body not end the very successful platform used by the Department of Defense to recruit men and women into their ranks.

Contrary to popular belief, sponsorships also go far beyond driver appearances, commercials and decals on race cars. In fact, the National Guard's Sponsorship of the Panther Racing IndyCar team has not only been successful in recruitment efforts, but it also has been successful in technology sharing.

J.R. Hildebrand, who drives the National Guard Indy car, wears ear sensors that measure the G-forces he experiences during a crash. That information is very useful for neurosurgeons who treat soldiers suffering from Traumatic Brain Injury, often the result of roadside bomb attacks.

Understanding the nature and effects of Traumatic Brain Injury advances the ways in which we protect and treat our fighting men and women, and those same sensors worn by J.R. Hildebrand will soon be deployed to our soldiers downrange.

These athletic sponsorships are great recruitment and marketing tools, and they also help improve the lives and care of our service men and women. I urge my colleagues to oppose the McCollum Amendment.

HONORING TERRY DRESSLER

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Terry Dressler, recently retired after 33 years of public service devoted to protecting the air quality along the Central Coast of California.

Terry has had a distinguished career in his field, beginning his work with air pollution control in Ventura in 1978. He then worked in San Luis Obispo for almost eight years before coming to serve the Santa Barbara community for more than twenty three years, most recently serving for the last seven years as the Air Pollution Control Officer for the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD).

As a result of the work of Terry and his team, the County of Santa Barbara has improved its air quality through attainment of federal standards and has made major progress towards meeting state standards. Terry has effectively instituted and enforced programs that reduce stationary, marine shipping, and mobile source emissions while raising community awareness of air quality issues. Additionally, he was instrumental in the creation of the District Community Advisory Council and has worked with its members on state and federal clean air strategy. These initiatives have enhanced the agency's reputation for excellence in local and statewide communities.

My staff and I have worked closely with Terry in his efforts to lead the district towards its clean air mission and I have seen firsthand the great progress and improved air quality standards instituted by Terry and the APCD. His strong leadership and knowledge have directly, and positively, influenced the health of the residents of the County of Santa Barbara.

Terry is recognized as a dedicated public servant who has devoted his career to protecting the health and safety of the citizens of the County of Santa Barbara and the State of California. Terry's accomplishments in the field of air quality and his charismatic presence have left a lasting impact on his colleagues, staff, and community members, and we can all breathe a little easier as a result of his outstanding efforts. I am pleased to commend Terry for his commitment to excellence in the field of air quality, and I wish him a happy retirement surfing the Central Coast.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LINDA S. MULLER

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and salute Linda S. Muller, who is marking her 20th Anniversary as President and Chief Executive Officer of The Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center. Under Linda's diligent and tireless leadership, The Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center has grown from a small facility located in the basement of St. Luke's Hospital serving 4,000 patients each year to a greatly expanded and

modern health center providing comprehensive primary and preventive health care to more than 18,000 patients annually in the City of Newburgh and the surrounding towns in eastern Orange County. As a result of Linda's tremendous commitment and passion for universal health care, many thousands of medically underserved families and individuals in our region receive the highest quality of care from the dedicated physicians and staff at The Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center.

In addition to overseeing the historic expansion of the health center's physical facilities, including the recent construction of a state-of-the-art new facility in the City of Newburgh, Linda has devoted a great deal of energy to increasing the services offered to our local community. The obstetrical health program developed by Linda in 2005 has now assisted more than 3,000 women in delivering healthy babies, many of whom now continue to receive health care at the health center. Linda also has responded to the urgent medical needs of our local community. This included creating programs to improve chronic health care management for diabetics and those with cardiovascular disease and initiating a model treatment program for people in our community living with HIV. Similarly, when it appeared that urgently needed treatment for people with substance abuse and chemical dependency problems might be lost to the City of Newburgh, Linda stepped in and created The Center for Recovery, which has now supported more than 800 patients in making a transition into healthy lifestyles free from drugs and alcohol.

Linda has led The Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center through her strong dedication to the premise that health care is a right and not a privilege. She has imparted to every one of the more than 200 employees who work at the health center the importance of fulfilling the center's mission to provide high-quality, affordable, and easily accessible health care to everyone in our community, regardless of their status or ability to pay for care. Linda and her husband Charles will also celebrate another anniversary this summer, celebrating 40 years of marriage. They have three wonderful children, Jonathan, Christopher, and Jessica and three beautiful grandchildren, each brought into this world by one of the health center's extraordinary obstetricians.

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGIA CARAWAY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a very special constituent of the 26th District of Texas, Georgia Caraway. After 13 years of service as the Executive Director of the Denton County Museums, Mrs. Caraway will retire later this month.

As Executive Director, Mrs. Caraway's professionalism and dedication has greatly impacted her community; she has spent her career striving to preserve Denton County's history through projects such as the Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum and the establishment of Denton County's Historical Park. Mrs. Caraway believes her greatest accomplishment