

It is time that Congress updates the VPPA to keep up with today's technology and the consumer marketplace. This bill does just that.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to reluctantly support H. Res. 268. I support the resolution because I strongly agree in principle that the Israelis and Palestinians must negotiate a two-state solution.

H. Res. 268 contains much with which I disagree. We have seen such resolutions in the past. Unfortunately, their intent is to advance a specific narrative that I believe is at odds with the urgency of a negotiated peace. The resolutions are brought to the floor without the ability for Members of Congress to provide input at either the committee level or during consideration on the House floor. As a strong supporter of Israel and her right to self-defense, I take issue with this approach.

My biggest concern with H. Res. 268 is its call to cut aid to the Palestinians. Such a move would be at best premature and at worst detrimental to the prospects of resuming negotiations. The unity agreement between Hamas and Fatah is tenuous and the path forward for a potential unity government is unknown. Let me be clear: I would never advocate United States aid for Hamas or any government that contains Hamas. Hamas' charter calls for the destruction of Israel; it has never supported the peace process and it sympathizes with America's enemies like al Qaeda and Iran. But at a time when much of the Middle East is shifting toward democracy, it is irresponsible and against our own interests to withhold dollars that we know are being used by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank to promote greater economic stability and physical security—for both the Israelis and Palestinians. Cutting off aid would be a setback for those working toward peace. Indeed, as the New York Times argues in its editorial on May 8, 2011, such a move may “shift the political balance dangerously toward Hamas.”

In addition, H. Res. 268 is as egregious for what it includes as what it leaves out. The resolution does not suggest that the United States should play a strong role in bringing both sides back to the negotiating table. It does not say that both sides must continue negotiating without preconditions. Nor does it say both the Israelis and Palestinians must cease unilateral actions. The omissions raise serious questions. How can we as leaders of our nation reaffirm our commitment to a lasting two-state solution without acknowledging that U.S. leadership is critical to bringing about that solution? How can we ask one side and not the other to make difficult concessions?

The stakes in reaching a negotiated peace agreement are as high as ever as the window for a two-state solution narrows. The United States must help both sides rejoin negotiations, not pass resolutions laden with threats,

grandstanding, and obfuscation. As the President stated in his speech at the U.S. State Department in May, “At a time when the people of the Middle East and North Africa are casting off the burdens of the past, the drive for a lasting peace that ends the conflict and resolves all claims is more urgent than ever. That's certainly true for the two parties involved.”

My stance on this conflict is well known. I support a two-state solution that results in a Jewish and democratic state of Israel living side-by-side in peace and security with a Palestinian state. H. Res. 268 does nothing to achieve this outcome.

CONGRATULATING DR. STEWART B. SIMMS

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Dr. Stewart B. Simms, Jr. for 30 years of excellent service at Beech Haven Baptist Church.

I am confident that Athens is a better place in which to live, work, and study because of the presence of his fine church. Beech Haven's building stands as a stunning landmark and the reputation of its members as a powerful testimony to the beauty of our God. Beech Haven's success and strength is due, in large part, to Dr. Simms' faithfulness and care.

Many blessings as Dr. Simms continues on his journey of devoted service to the Lord. I not only value his friendship, but I hold him in the highest regard because of his work (1 Thessalonians 5:13).

HONORING MAJORS MANUEL AND JOANN MADRID OF THE ST. CLOUD SALVATION ARMY ON THEIR RETIREMENT AFTER 4 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND 40 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE SALVATION ARMY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Majors Manuel and JoAnn Madrid of the St. Cloud Salvation Army on their retirement after 4 years of dedicated service in our community and 40 years of service with the Salvation Army.

Since their arrival in St. Cloud 4 years ago, the St. Cloud Salvation Army has grown from 28 to 64 beds for the homeless, opened a transitional apartment housing program and broken ground for a new chapel last May. In the last two years alone, 47,000 people have entered the St. Cloud Salvation Army's doors for a meal, but they were blessed with so much more. From simple prayers for provision to places to rest their head at night, the Madrids have guided countless numbers of people from despair to hope with inspirational sermons, warm meals, and open arms.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join with me in recognizing 40 years of service from

Majors Manuel and JoAnn Madrid. Manuel and JoAnn live every day reflecting the mission of the Salvation Army: “motivated by the love of God . . . to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination”. We are grateful for their service and wish them many years of happiness in their retirement beginning this fall.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF SOUTH SUDAN

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, it is with an immense sense of hope that I rise today to congratulate the people of South Sudan on the eve of their independence.

South Sudan has overcome incredible devastation brought on by decades of violence and famine that killed and displaced millions. After years of brutal fighting, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement signed a peace agreement in January 2005 that finally ended the civil war. And in January of this year the people of the south, by an overwhelming margin of 98.8 per cent to 1.17 per cent, peacefully voted for independence. The joy on the voters' faces as they cast their ballots, their hopes for the future, and their unshakeable resolve to determine their own fate was nothing short of inspirational.

South Sudan will face many challenges. There are still major issues to be addressed such as its frayed relations with Khartoum, the dispute over Abyei and the lack of agreement on borders, citizenship rights and other matters. In addition, there is the extremely worrisome violence that has grown in recent weeks in the northern border state of Southern Kordofan which has forced tens of thousands to flee. These tests will be difficult but I have no doubt that the people of South Sudan will continue to demonstrate the courage and strength of spirit that has brought them this far to take on these challenges. As they do so, the people of the United States will continue to support and stand by them as they build their new country.

However, tomorrow will be a day for celebrating a new nation that was able to overcome adversity and rise out of the ashes of genocide and civil war. On behalf of the people of the Ninth District of Massachusetts, I wish to extend my deepest congratulations to the people of South Sudan.

IN HONOR OF BETTY ROBERTS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Oregonians are mourning the passing of a pioneering female leader of truly historic dimension. Betty Roberts was a pioneer in every sense of the word.

There have been women in our community who as the first Oregon female Member of

Congress or first Portland Mayor over half a century ago were pioneers—but Betty was unique.

Yes, Betty Roberts was the first woman to serve on Oregon's Court of Appeals and State Supreme Court. Her most important contributions began when she was the only woman in the State Senate. In this unique position of leadership she willfully tackled the problems that face women in politics and society. She understood the challenges facing women who were pioneering these efforts. As she broke barrier after barrier she learned lessons the hard way. With grit and legislative leadership she fought to protect women's health and civil liberties and their efforts in the marketplace.

Betty ran amazingly strong statewide campaigns for Governor and U.S. Senate. While she didn't win the elections, she proved her strength, character, and vision. Her many accomplishments in politics, and a career as a successful educator, lawyer, legislator, and jurist stood out, but it was her strong will and sensitivity that made her an inspirational role model.

Betty demonstrated what was possible. Today there are hundreds of people that she inspired who have assumed leadership on the bench, at the bar, in government and through civic and business leadership. In turn, these women are inspiring the next generation which may be Betty's most enduring legacy—a legacy that will benefit our state for generations to come.

IN MEMORY OF CSM (RET) EDDIE ROBERTS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a decorated soldier, community leader, public servant, and my longstanding friend, CSM (Ret) Eddie Roberts. Sadly, CSM Roberts passed away suddenly on July 6, 2011, but he left a legacy and a personality that will never be forgotten.

Eddie was a native of Pensacola, Florida. Spurred by a love of country, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1965 and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Throughout his military career, he had 13 military assignments, which included tours in Korea, Germany, and Panama. He served two decorated tours in Vietnam, during which he displayed remarkable heroism and earned the endearing nickname, "Fast Eddie." During his tour in Panama, he trained soldiers to throw grenades. When one soldier dropped the grenade after pulling the safety pin, Eddie quickly grabbed the grenade and safely tossed it away from frightened soldiers.

His military career earned him many honors including: the Legion of Merit, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger Tab, Jumpmaster Wings and the Pathfinder Badge.

After his distinguished military career ended in 1995, he found other ways to give back to the community that he loved so much. He started work at Columbus Bank and Trust as Vice President and Military Sales Coordinator. He never forgot his experience in the military

and never forgot his love of soldiers. He used his position to help soldiers become better managers of their finances. Moreover, he advocated for their causes with a fervor and spirit that made you take notice and appreciate his passion for his comrades.

In addition to improving the lives of soldiers, Eddie was involved in many social and civic organizations dedicated to the improvement of his community. He was one of the founding members of the Controllers Civic and Social Club in Columbus, an organization that has given away more than 20,000 pairs of shoes to low-income children. Because of his infectious personality, Eddie never met a stranger he didn't like and always tried to put himself in the "shoes" of others. Consequently, thousands of young people have been able to walk in shoes with pride and dignity.

On a personal note, Eddie was my dear friend for many years. During my first Congressional campaign and subsequent campaigns, he was one of my drivers. He often joked that: "He was never paid for his services." He continued to provide me with treasured friendship and wise counsel over the years.

The phrase, "One of a Kind" is used too much in our everyday discourse. I can truly say that CSM (Ret) Eddie Roberts was one of a kind and will never be forgotten. One of my mentors, Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, once said that, "Every man and woman is born into the world to do something unique and something distinctive and if he or she does not do it, it will never be done."

Mr. Speaker, the world is a better place because CSM (Ret) Eddie Roberts passed this way. He did something unique with his life and the world is better for it. On behalf of my wife, Vivian and I, I extend my deepest sympathies to all those who knew and loved this special man.

A LOOK AT MEDIA BIAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I submit the following.

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS—A LOOK AT MEDIA BIAS

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman
Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA), CoChair
Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN), CoChair

MEDIA'S LIBERAL BIAS DISTORTS FAIR COVERAGE

From U.S. News & World Report:

"The liberal bias of the mainstream media tilts so far left that any outlets not in that political lane, like the Drudge Report and Fox News Channel, look far more conservative than they really are, according to a UCLA professor's new book out next month.

"In a crushing body blow to the pushers of the so-called 'Fox Effect,' which claims the conservative media is dragging the left into the center, UCLA political science professor Tim Groseclose in *Left Turn* claims that 'all' mainstream news outlets have a liberal bias in their reporting that makes even moderate organizations appear out of the mainstream and decidedly right-wing to news consumers who are influenced by the slant."

In the book, Groseclose writes: "Fox News is clearly more conservative than ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC and National Public Radio. Some will conclude that 'therefore, this means that Fox News has a conservative bias.' Instead, maybe it is centrist, and possibly even left-leaning, while all the others are far left. It's like concluding that six-three is short just because it is short compared to professional basketball players."

AMERICANS SEE MEDIA AS BIASED, LIBERAL

Two-thirds of Americans believe that reporters try to help the candidate they want to win an election, according to a recent Rasmussen public opinion poll. Only 2 in 10 think reporters try to offer unbiased coverage.

The survey also found that almost half of Americans think reporters would hide any damaging information about the candidate they wanted to win. And by more than two-to-one, Americans say the average reporter is more liberal than they are, rather than more conservative.

If the national media want to earn Americans' trust, they should give them the facts, not tell them what to think.

FIRST LADY THANKS MEDIA FOR "SUPPORT" AND "KINDNESS"

During a recent interview on CNN, First Lady Michelle Obama thanked the national media for their "support" and "kindness." Below is an excerpt from the interview:

CNN reporter: "How's the family ready for this [the election]? It's going to be quite vicious, isn't it? How do you prepare for that?"

First Lady Michelle Obama: "You know, it's . . . we're ready, you know. Our children, you know, could care less about what we're doing. We work hard to do that. Fortunately, we have help from the media. I have to say this: I'm very grateful for the support and kindness that we've gotten. People have respected their privacy and in that way, I think, you know, no matter what people may feel about my husband's policies or what have you, they care about children and that's been good to see."

A TRIBUTE TO NORMA DUFFIELD "DUFFY" STONG LYON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mrs. Norma Duffield "Duffy" Stong Lyon. Most Iowans would know her as Iowa's beloved "Butter Cow Lady."

For nearly a half-century, Mrs. Lyon shared her artistic skills with travelers from all over the world at the Iowa State Fair by creating a life-size sculpture of a dairy cow made from hundreds of pounds of butter. In fact, after crafting her first cow in 1960, she subsequently crafted 46 of the butter cow sculptures the Iowa State Fair has displayed over the past 100 years.

As many other community members know, Mrs. Lyon used her notoriety to raise funds for charitable projects in Toledo, Iowa for the betterment of the community.

Mrs. Lyon's family, including her husband Joe, nine children, twenty-three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren, along with hundreds of members of the community gathered