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TWO MIGHTY OAK TREES:
SYMBOLS OF THIS GREAT STATE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my grandfather, Theodore Otto Herman Hill, or "Thunderhead" as he was more appropriately known, was a hunter, a taxidermist and a Teddy Roosevelt conservationist. He was the frontiersman type. He could tell the type of tree by looking at the bark or observing the leaves. He predicted the weather by watching the actions of animals. He found and collected arrowheads on his land in central Texas. His love of nature was impressed on me as a child.

Being born near where Texas independence was declared, Washington-on-the-Brazos, he told me many stories of famous Texas trees. Two trees in particular stand out in my mind.

In Gonzales, Texas, stands the "Sam Houston Oak." This tree was made famous 175 years ago this month during the War for Texas Independence. Before towns were settled, unusual or gigantic trees were often used as landmarks for people to gather under to worship, to hear campaign speeches or to prepare for battle.

William Barrett Travis and 187 volunteers sacrificed their lives on the altar of freedom after 13 glorious days at the Alamo. Sam Houston and his boys regrouped with Seguin and his company of Tejanos at this mighty oak. This tree became a rendezvous place for the new Texas Volunteers to organize and to later fight dictator Santa Anna.

The "Sam Houston Oak" site is considered by most historians as the beginning of the "road to San Jacinto" taken by General Sam and his ragtag bunch of freedom fighters on April 21, 1836, in the final battle for independence along the marshy banks of the San Jacinto River. Today, a historical marker along St. Louis Street in Gonzales recognizes this historical tree.

Another tree my outdoorsman grandfather told me about was the "Treaty Oak." The Treaty Oak is an immortal symbol of Texas history that holds a special place in the hearts of all Texans. It is more than 500 years old. The Treaty Oak was a place of worship for the Comanches and Tonkawa Indians. The story goes that Stephen F. Austin signed the first boundary treaty with the Indians under the Treaty Oak, which is located in downtown Austin.

The Treaty Oak has endured multiple threats throughout its life. In 1920, the land that the Treaty Oak lives on was put up for sale, and the tree was almost cut down. There was a massive outcry to save the Treaty Oak. Texans felt a loyalty to this tree and so in 1947, the city of Austin purchased the land so that the Treaty Oak could remain untouched as a historic treasure for the state of Texas forever.

Back in 1989, a criminal by the name of Paul Cullen poisoned the great tree. In some

sinister deliberate effort to kill the great tree, Cullen poisoned it with enough pesticides to kill a hundred trees. And as most outlaws do, he bragged about his crime, resulting in his swift arrest and incarceration. He was charged with felony criminal mischief.

Of course, I promptly volunteered to try that case while I was still a judge in Houston. Although I didn't get to hear the case, a jury of 12 tree-loving Texans in Austin found him guilty and sentenced the culprit to nine years in prison for trying to kill the mighty oak. The nation was stunned that Texans would send a person to prison for so long for "just" trying to kill a tree. But this wasn't any old tree. This tree was a symbol of Texas.

Amazingly, the Treaty Oak survived the attack, and her survival has astonished cynics who predicted the tree would certainly die. While she may not stand as mighty as before, she continues now to be a new symbol of Texas perseverance, ruggedness and determination.

Two mighty oaks of Texas . . . symbols of no place but Texas.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
THE 2011 HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 2011 Hispanic Heritage Month, as we celebrate the members of this community and their invaluable contributions to the Greater Cleveland Area and to our country.

In 1968, Hispanic Heritage Week began; the week was expanded to a month in 1988. Every year, Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15, a day that is celebrated in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua as the anniversary of their independence. Mexico and Chile's independence days also fall within the month. This year's theme is "Many Backgrounds, Many Stories . . . One American Spirit."

Hispanic Heritage month celebrates and illuminates the significant contributions that Americans of Hispanic heritage have had on American culture. Hispanic Americans have contributed immeasurably toward efforts to elevate the human condition. Americans of Hispanic descent have served our country in numerous ways—as elected officials, teachers, musicians, physicians, veterans, community activists, and dedicated employees in virtually every sector of the economy. Their rich and diverse culture has touched the life of every American and has been an invaluable addition to Cleveland's diverse social fabric.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Hispanic Heritage month of 2011, as we recognize the great contributions made by Hispanic Americans in my district and around the country.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF DR. C.J.
HUANG ON THE OCCASION OF
RECEIVING THE DEAN'S MEDAL
FROM THE STANFORD UNIVER-
SITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. C.J. Huang who was awarded the Dean's Medal on Saturday, September 10, 2011, by Dean Philip Pizzo of the Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Huang called the event the 'happiest day of his life' and he spoke eloquently about his philosophy and that of generations in his family of giving and the privilege of philanthropy. Dr. Huang was described in the event program as follows:

"Dr. Chang Jen Huang was born in 1916 in Liu Yang City, in Hunan Province, China. He received a Master's degree in engineering from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and is a special member of the Stanford Research Institute. Dr. Huang has established a number of graduate scholarship funds and fellowships at Stanford supporting surgical oncology, cardiovascular research, and the exchange of medical education and research between China and the United States.

Dr. Huang is a passionate supporter of Dr. Sam So, Lui Hac Minh Professor in the School of Medicine and Director of the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University. Dr. Huang is the honorary founder of the Asian Liver Center, established in 1996, to address the disproportionately high prevalence of Hepatitis B and liver cancer in the Asian and Pacific Islander populations) with the ultimate goal of eradicating Hepatitis B worldwide.

A dedicated philanthropist in many areas related to education and global health, Dr. Huang has most recently given a gift to establish the C.J. Huang Building at Stanford University. When constructed, this building will be the future home of the Asian Liver Center and other medical school programs."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a great philanthropist, one whose life's work has been to promote science and education. Dr. Huang's support of the Asian Liver Center will help eradicate this disease and his gifts to Stanford will ensure that future generations will enjoy a high quality of life because of his extraordinary vision and generosity.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO STAND
WITH ISRAEL

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, this past week-end's shocking attack on Israel's embassy in Cairo reminded us of the ongoing challenges faced by Israel as it continues to take risk after risk in the name of establishing lasting peace in the Middle East.

Thousands of rioters knocked down a recently installed protective barrier, ransacked the embassy, burned Israeli flags, and held six

security guards hostage. These shameful acts had the potential to do great harm to the hard-won 1979 peace treaty—a treaty penned barely a generation after the Holocaust and in the wake of the blatant 1973 attacks by Egypt and Syria that opened the Yom Kippur War.

Yet even in the face of evidence that the rioters seek an end to the peace treaty, Israel remains dedicated to it. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu paid rich tribute to the ultimate actions of Egyptian authorities to quell the riot and rescue the embassy guards. He pledged that the ambassador and the embassy's staff will return to Cairo when security can be better guaranteed. Israelis well know that peace with Egypt is in the best interest of both nations and the entire region.

As Prime Minister Netanyahu said in his May address to Congress, Israel is "the one anchor of stability" in the Middle East. Unwavering, self-sustaining, and yet faced with threats to its sovereignty from many sides, Israel has taken every chance to secure peace over its six-plus decades of existence. The prime minister has repeatedly said that Israel is willing to make "painful compromises" to achieve a two-state solution and quell violence in Gaza and the West Bank. In response, Israel is vilified in the United Nations, mocked for its attempts to survive, and met with open calls for its elimination.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel, a vanguard against the terror states of the Middle East. Our two nations share a strong, long-lasting partnership based on mutual democratic values and freedoms. We must remain united against all threats to Israel's peace, stability, and its very existence—which, as we were reminded just days ago, cannot be taken for granted.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM REFORM AND REAU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2867, a bill to reauthorize the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

Around the world, millions of people suffer persecution merely because they practice a different religion than other people around them. No one should be made to feel that the practice of their religion is a crime or a source of shame. Such persecution violates their inalienable human right to practice the religion of their own choosing and promotes political instability. The historical record is replete with incidents of violence and conflicts that have their source in sectarian and religious differences and rivalries.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom is an important advocate for the freedom of religion and helps promote the issue as an integral part of the U.S. foreign policy and national security agendas. Additionally, by providing data analysis and assessment of conditions in affected areas, USCIRF enables the U.S. to impact acts of religious re-

pression and intolerance in countries around the world.

USCIRF helps to advance the visibility of religious freedom as a priority of U.S. foreign policy and helps to address the challenges of religious extremism, intolerance, and repression throughout the globe.

I support the USCIRF and its mission and I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 2867.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. JOSEPH
LECZNAK, SR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Joseph Lecznar, Sr., a dedicated leader of Greater Cleveland's Polish community.

Joe was born to Anthony and Mary Lecznar on July 25, 1921 in the southern province of Lancut, Poland. After attending elementary and junior high school, Joe began working on his family's farm. He served in the Polish Armed Forces, 2nd Corps during World War II and was wounded in action. He fought in many battles throughout the War and was honored with many medals and commendations for his bravery. He transferred to England and was honorably discharged in 1947.

Following the War, Joe immigrated to Toronto, Canada and later Cleveland, Ohio to join his siblings. He attended the Westside Technical Center to study to become a tool and die maker. He worked for the Chrysler Corporation for 30 years, where he was awarded with a citation and plaque for excellence.

Joe was an active member of his community; in particular the Greater Cleveland Polish community. He was a member of the Polish Army Veterans Association of America, Alliance of Poles, Polish National Alliance, Polish Legion of American veterans, Association of Polish Women, Polish American Congress, Parma Polish American League, Foundations and Center of the 2nd Polish Corps and the Chopin Singing Society.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mr. Joseph Lecznar, Sr. I offer my condolences to his wife, Irene; four children, Joseph, Barbara, Daniel and Nancy; and nine grandchildren, Joseph III, Julie, Jessica, Nicholas, Lindsey, LeAnn, MacKenzie, Morgan and Macy.

HONORING CHRISTIAN CHURCH
HOMES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of Christian Church Homes of Northern California (CCH). Since its debut in 1961, CCH has provided quality, affordable housing in creating caring communities for low-income seniors, as well as assisting its residents with accessing critical services to maintain their well-being.

It was the vision of church members in 1959 that led to the start of a committee that explored innovative ways to take action to the issue of fewer housing choices for seniors in northern California. In 1961, the committee moved forward to incorporate, and three years later, they received their first U.S. Department of Housing and Development (HUD) loan and began construction on Garfield Park Village in Santa Cruz, CA.

Today, CCH serves more than 6,000 residents in over 60 properties in six States—California, Colorado, Florida, Missouri, Oregon, and Texas. CCH employs around 450 experienced people and works with 350 dedicated volunteers to keep and maintain a high quality of life for its residents through community events, activities, and services such as fresh produce markets, "feel good bingo," computer labs, wellness clinics, exercise rooms, and education workshops.

CCH takes pride in its Service Coordination Program that provides resident assessments and referrals to services that match the needs of the residents. Through the guidance of service coordinators, residents can access the resources available in the greater community, which ultimately can allow for extended ability to remain in their CCH community.

Moreover, CCH has been leading the "Aging in Place" movement that blends health and human service provisions into affordable senior housing. These features allow for our senior citizens to live comfortably and become better acquainted with their community, while maintaining dignity and independence.

As a private non-profit corporation, CCH has benefitted from leveraging public and private resources for affordable housing development. By accessing all available funding on the Federal, State, local, and private levels, it allows CCH to provide additional services and benefits to its residents. In addition, a majority of its communities are funded through HUD, and many communities offer Project-based Section 8 or other subsidy programs which allow residents to pay 30 percent of their income in rent.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, I want to extend my congratulations on this important milestone. I want to thank all of the many people who have contributed to the continued success of Christian Church Homes of Northern California. I wish you the very best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2011

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed three votes on September 12, 2011, which included roll call votes 699, 700 and 701.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 699, H.R. 2076, the Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act of 2011.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 700, H.R. 2633, the Appeal Time Clarification Act of 2011.

Finally, if I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 701, H.R. 1059, to protect the safety of judges by extending