

IN RECOGNITION OF
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of International Day of Peace. This year represents the 30th anniversary of this global celebration and focus on international peace.

In 1981, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly first established the International Day of Peace. It mandated that it be observed annually on the third Tuesday of September, coinciding with the opening of the General Assembly. The resolution was introduced jointly by the United Kingdom and Costa Rica. The first International Day of Peace, also known as World Peace Day, was observed in 1982. In 2001, a new resolution passed the UN General Assembly, specifying September 21st as the annual day of non-violence and cease-fire.

Today, September 21, 2011, marks the 30th anniversary of International Peace Day. This year's theme is "Peace and Democracy: Make Your Voice Heard." The UN welcomes nations throughout the world "to honor a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace." UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon will also ring the Peace Bell today at the UN Headquarters. The Peace Bell was donated by Japan in 1549 and is inscribed with the phrase, "Long live absolute world peace."

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me as the global community comes together to celebrate the UN's International Day of Peace.

HONORING THE COUNTY COLLEGE
OF MORRIS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the County College of Morris, located in Randolph, New Jersey, for its outstanding record as an academic institution.

CCM has long been representative of academic excellence in the State of New Jersey. Since the opening of its doors in 1968, the school has provided a diverse and enriching environment for both students and faculty alike. With the understanding that their institution provides our future leaders with the knowledge, education and experience they will need to excel in their lives, the faculty and staff of CCM have embraced the responsibility of creating a solid foundation from which our young people will grow.

Much of the CCM's success can be attributed to the exceptional leadership of Dr. Edward J. Yaw, who is celebrating his 25th Anniversary as President of CCM. In accordance with its mission to provide dynamic, challenging, high quality and accessible academic programs, Dr. Yaw helped to establish the CCM Foundation in 1987, which aims to help ease the burden of college. Since its inception, the CCM Foundation has raised more than \$7 million to support programs, scholar-

ships, staff development and numerous other projects that, while not funded through tuition and public support, are vital to the development of CCM students.

Under the leadership of Dr. Yaw, who was awarded the Community College Spirit Award in 2008 for his exemplary service to New Jersey's community colleges, CCM continues to modernize and expand the college's facilities. In a burgeoning society that is ever introducing new technology, CCM ensures its students have access to the resources necessary to develop the skills vital to success in the world beyond the classroom.

Since its founding, CCM has been a positive force in the lives of thousands of men and women who pass through its halls. Those it has influenced over the years continue to serve as leaders and role models in communities all over the world. Thanks to devoted faculty and staff, like Dr. Yaw, CCM continues to flourish and provide education for those seeking to further their knowledge and learning.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing the achievements of the County College of Morris and those who devote themselves to its continuing success as an institution of higher learning.

COMMEMORATING HUNGER ACTION
MONTH AND HONORING ARLINGTON
FOOD ASSISTANCE CENTER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Hunger Action Month and to honor the Arlington Food Assistance Center, located in the Eighth Congressional District.

Hunger Action Month was established to help inform individuals, communities, corporations and policy makers that hunger is a severe domestic issue and deserves our critical attention. The Arlington Food Assistance Center's sole mission is to feed the hungry. This important action allows their clients to make other necessary purchases, such as paying for rent and utilities, without having to sacrifice their health and nutritional needs.

Despite the fact that Arlington County is one of the wealthiest areas in the country, plenty of local residents do not have enough to eat. The Arlington Food Assistance Center seeks to remedy this problem by distributing fruit, vegetables, meat, milk, eggs, bread and other food items to those in Arlington who are in need. It currently distributes food to approximately 1,350 clients each week, amounting to 2.1 million pounds of food provided directly to Arlington families last year. About 65 percent of this food was donated from bakeries, supermarkets, farmers' markets, food drives, schools, congregations, businesses and private donors in the local community.

I would like to commend the staff and volunteers of the Arlington Food Assistance Center for their hard work providing food for Arlington's needy families and raising awareness of hunger in our communities.

HONORING PRINCIPAL MARTHA
GUSTAFSON

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Martha Gustafson, the Principal of Walt Clark Middle School in Loveland, Colorado.

In 2011, Ms. Gustafson was given the Colorado Middle Level Principal of the Year award by the Colorado Association of School Executives.

Just two years after being named Principal of Walt Clark, the school has improved significantly, most notably with strong growth by students in math.

In the Thompson School District of Colorado, Walt Clark Middle is a leader in academic growth for reading and writing. The tremendous leadership of Ms. Gustafson has provided the highest quality standards of learning.

Ms. Gustafson has utilized new and creative measures to motivate teachers. Walt Clark's academic achievements prove that Ms. Gustafson's plan is succeeding.

Each week, teachers analyze data regarding student performance and discuss strategies on how to improve. Ms. Gustafson's direction is innovative and illustrates that Walt Clark is consistently striving to better their students and surrounding community.

This dedication to public education is moving and I am privileged to have such an outstanding educator in my Congressional District.

Her commitment to public education gives inspiration to all educators that want to make a difference in every student's life.

I am proud to recognize Colorado Middle Level Principal of the Year, Martha Gustafson on the House Floor.

IN MEMORY OF RAYMOND C.
SINGLETERY, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American farm advocate, successful businessman and dedicated community leader from the State of Georgia, Raymond C. Singletary, Jr.

Mr. Singletary, a pillar in Georgia's agricultural community, recently passed away at the age of 99 at Pioneer Community Hospital of Early in Blakely, Georgia. His funeral service was held at the First United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 17, 2011.

He was born March 26, 1912 to the late Raymond Cook Singletary, Sr. and Emma Quillian Singletary. He was preceded in death by his loving wife Margaret Sparks Singletary, his two sons Raymond Clifford Singletary and Marvin Sparks Singletary, and a brother A.J. Singletary and a sister Alice S. Dunn.

A lifelong Georgian, Mr. Singletary attended Sewanee Military Academy and graduated from Emory University in 1932 where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Following his graduation from college, Mr. Singletary embarked on a tenured and successfully dynamic professional career in the

fields of agriculture, banking and community service. He was a member of the Blakely Peanut Company and served as President from 1944 until 1978, and as Chairman of the Board from 1944 to 1985. Additionally, he was a member of the National Peanut Council, and served as the association's Chairman in 1966.

Along with his advocacy efforts on behalf of Georgia's peanut farmers, Mr. Singletary was the Supervisor of the Flint River Soil and Water Conservation District from 1944 to 1971, and was Supervisor Emeritus from 1977 to 2011. Moreover, he served as a member of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger from 1979 to 1980.

Despite the demanding commitments associated with his occupational duties and agricultural advocacy initiatives, Mr. Singletary still found time to remain actively involved with other community organizations. He was a Mason, a Shriner, former Chairman of the Board of the First United Methodist Church and a distinguished member of the Blakely Rotary Club. In 2009, he received the Rotary Club's most prestigious award, the Four Avenues of Service Award.

He is survived by a daughter, Anne S. Hammack and her husband Albert of Dalton, Ga.; a daughter-in-law, Henrietta Singletary of Albany, Ga.; a sister, Emily S. Garner of Milledgeville, Ga.; 5 grandchildren: James Albert Hammack, III and wife Elizabeth of Atlanta, Ga; Margaret H. Long and husband Jason of Atlanta, Ga; McArthur Singletary and Duncan Singletary, both of St. Simmons Island, Fl. and Raymond Singletary of Atlanta, Ga.; 2 great-grandchildren: James Albert Hammack IV and Mary Moore Hammack of Atlanta, Ga.

I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in paying homage to Raymond C. Singletary, Jr. He lived a full life and the people of southwest Georgia will always be indebted to him for his unyielding support of our state's peanut farmers and our agricultural community at large. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and the Blakely, Georgia community at this time of great loss.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY PANETTA ON THE AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN STUDY GROUP

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit my correspondence with the administration on my call for an Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group. My letters to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta of July 19, 2011; August 1, 2011; and August 8, 2011 follow:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
July 19, 2011.

Hon. LEON PANETTA,
Secretary of Defense,
The Pentagon, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEON: I write today concerning the U.S. mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan. My amendment, which gives the Secretary of Defense the authority to establish an Afghanistan/Pakistan (Af/Pak) Study Group, was included in the House-passed FY 2012 Defense Appropriations bill. I pressed for the amendment because I believe fresh eyes are

needed now to examine the situation on the ground and the overall U.S. mission.

I envision the Af/Pak Study Group being modeled after the Iraq Study Group (ISG). Both you and your predecessor Bob Gates served on the ISG and know better than most the benefits it provided after three years of fighting in Iraq. Now that the U.S. is in its 10th year in Afghanistan, I believe a similar effort is necessary.

Before he was appointed as ambassador to Afghanistan, Ryan Crocker supported creating an Af/Pak Study Group, along with Ambassador Ronald Neumann and Jim Dobbins from the RAND Corporation. American men and women are fighting and dying in Afghanistan. If we are asking them to put their lives on the line daily, I believe we have an obligation to provide an independent evaluation of the U.S. mission. We owe our military forces nothing less.

I do not have the answers. But as you know, there is a movement building in Congress in favor of pulling troops out of Afghanistan. An amendment offered by Rep. Jim McGovern earlier this year to the National Defense Authorization Act to accelerate U.S. departure from Afghanistan was narrowly defeated 204-215. If six members had changed their vote, the amendment would have passed. I have talked to several members who voted against the McGovern amendment who are seriously concerned about the war in Afghanistan and could change their vote if the situation on the ground does not improve rapidly.

I also believe it is critical that Afghanistan be examined in tandem with the facts on the ground in Pakistan. It is clear that in order to be successful in Afghanistan, we must have a clear understanding of how Pakistan is influencing U.S. operations. Just look at the recent news from the region. Hamid Karzai's half-brother was murdered and his funeral bombed, Karai advisor Jan Mohammed Kahn was murdered, and militants attacked and laid siege to the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul. The enclosed article printed recently in the Washington Post states, ". . . optimism and energy vanished long ago, gradually replaced by cynicism and fear. The trappings of democracy remained in place . . . but the politics of ethnic dog fights, tribal feuds and personal patronage continued to prevail."

The men and women serving in Afghanistan deserve to have fresh eyes look at this region as soon as possible. With House passage of the A/Pak amendment, I ask that you use your authority as secretary and move quickly to create this study group. I have discussed my amendment with John Hamre at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and he has offered to coordinate the group with professionals with a wide range of expertise.

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this important initiative and look forward to working with you to ensure we are successful in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Best wishes,
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
August 2, 2011.

Hon. LEON PANETTA,
Secretary of Defense,
The Pentagon, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEON: I want to follow up on my previous letter regarding Afghanistan policy and bring to your attention a book I am reading, *The Wars in Afghanistan*, discussed in the enclosed Washington Post book review. Its author, Ambassador Peter Tomsen, is a veteran of the Foreign Service and has

an impressive background in the South Asia region. If you have not read his book, I highly recommend it to you. The Post review concludes: "This long overdue work. . . is the most authoritative account yet of Afghanistan's wars over the last 30 years and should be essential reading for those wishing to forge a way forward without repeating the mistakes of the past."

After three years of the Iraq war, the formation of the Iraq Study Group garnered the support of Secretary Rumsfeld, Secretary Rice, and Joint Chiefs General Pace. Our military men and women have been putting their lives on the line in Afghanistan every day for 10 years, seven years longer than when the decision was made to create the ISG to provide the independent assessment needed for U.S. policy in Iraq. I believe we owe it to our brave soldiers to focus now with fresh eyes on the target in Afghanistan.

I have spoken with Ambassador Tomsen about a framework for moving forward in Afghanistan, and he would be happy to meet with you and your team to discuss his breadth of experience there. I urge you to take him up on his offer.

Best wishes,
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
August 8, 2011.

Hon. LEON PANETTA,
Secretary of Defense,
The Pentagon, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEON: I want to draw your attention to the enclosed letter I received from retired Marine Corps General Charles Krulak regarding an Afghanistan/Pakistan (Af/Pak) Study Group.

General Krulak makes an important point that we cannot be successful in Afghanistan if we do not address the ongoing tensions and frequent hostilities between Pakistan and India. I again ask you to take the language in the FY 2012 Defense Appropriations bill and use your authority to create the Af/Pak Study Group. Every day we delay is another missed opportunity to successfully address U.S. policy in South Asia.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to meeting with you in the near future to discuss this important issue.

Best wishes,
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN COLLEGE,
Birmingham, AL, July 25, 2011.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: Thank you so much for your letter of July 20, 2011 forwarding me your letter to Secretary Panetta. You asked for my thoughts on the proposed Af/Pak Study Group and here they are:

I think you are spot on! It should be obvious to everyone concerned that the time has come to do a professional evaluation of the current policy in the region. When I mention "region", I believe it is important to include India. At the end of the day, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India are inextricably linked . . . you cannot establish policies in a stove pipe manner. The Study Group will immediately recognize that fact and accommodate it.

It is important to understand that conflict occurs at three levels . . . Strategic, Operational, and Tactical. Too often we look at the tactical level . . . see the heroism and accomplishments of our servicemen and women . . . and make conclusions re. the conduct of the war. Unfortunately, that is