

so-called Protect Life Act and urge my colleagues to join me. This bill is not only unconstitutional, but it is dangerous. A more accurate name for this bill is the "Endanger Women's Lives Act of 2011." In a time of such tough economic hardship, we should be concentrated on created jobs and stabilizing the economy, not advancing extreme legislation that is nothing less than the most comprehensive and radical assault of women's health in our lifetime.

REMEMBERING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was not only a culmination of Hungary's struggle for freedom, democracy and independence, but also presaged the collapse of the Soviet Empire. Indeed, the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and Fight for Freedom was the first tear in the Iron Curtain. Hungarians from all walks of life rose up against insurmountable odds to fight the brutal Soviet-installed Hungarian communist government. Many died fighting, others were tortured and executed, while 200,000 were forced to flee. 2011 marks the 55th anniversary of that historical chain of events.

The American Hungarian Federation, founded over 100 years ago and the oldest and largest umbrella Hungarian American organization in the United States, honors those whose enormous sacrifice seemed futile 55 years ago but that today is universally recognized as having contributed to the ultimate demise of Soviet domination of central and eastern Europe and the restoration of freedom and independence in Hungary and the region.

We must never forget the heroes of 1956—the students, the intellectuals, the workers, the farmers and the cross-section of the entire Hungarian nation—who knew exactly what they wanted 55 years ago and were prepared to realize their dreams at great personal sacrifice. They fought and died for freedom, a multi-party democracy and independence from the Soviet Union.

Two of our great presidents, among many others who cherish freedom and the courage to struggle for it, remembered the Hungarian Revolution as follows:

"October 23, 1956, is a day that will live forever in the annals of free men and nations. It was a day of courage, conscience and triumph. No other day since history began has shown more clearly the eternal unquenchability of man's desire to be free, whatever the odds against success, whatever the sacrifice required."—John F. Kennedy, on the first anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution.

"The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was a true revolution of, by and for the people. Its motivations were humanity's universal longings to live, worship, and work in peace and to determine one's own destiny. The Hungarian Revolution forever gave the lie to communism's claim to represent the people, and told the world that brave hearts still exist to challenge injustice."—Excerpt from Ronald

Reagan's Presidential Proclamation issued on October 20, 1986.

We also recall the impact the massive Soviet invasion had on the Hungarian communities in states neighboring Hungary. One consequence was the solidly Stalinist Romanian government's virtual liquidation of the Hungarian-language Bolyai University in Romania, which was implemented by the secretary of the Central Committee, Nicolae Ceausescu. Five years ago Nobel Laureates and Wolf Prize Laureates, including Elie Wiesel and George Olah, and 69 other internationally acclaimed scholars called upon Romania to take "immediate steps" to "re-establish the public Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár." The university has yet to be restored.

Another victim of communism was Janos Esterhazy, who despite being the only member of Slovakia's parliament to vote against the deportation of Jews in 1942, nevertheless died in a Czechoslovak prison in 1957. While Russia has done so, Slovakia has yet to exonerate him.

Righting wrongs against Hungarian minorities (e.g., the Esterhazy case and the Bolyai University matter) that extend back to the Cold War period and respecting the rights of such minorities would be a fitting commemoration of 1956 and a tribute to the memory of thousands of unsung heroes who did not compromise but sacrificed their lives for the cause of liberty fifty-five years ago. Moreover, in order to strengthen democracy and safeguard freedoms throughout the region, today's generation—the beneficiary of the restored freedoms following the demise of communism—must be vigilant and guard against the curtailment of democracy and infringement of fundamental human rights and Western standards relating to minority rights.

Consistent with its practice of fifty-five years, the American Hungarian Federation is committed to keep the memory of the heroes of 1956 alive. As we contemplate the promise of Hungary 1956, we are reminded that that promise must never be forgotten or abandoned, as the heroes of 1956 deserve nothing less.

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 639, THE CURRENCY REFORM FAIR TRADE ACT

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my continued support for H.R. 639, the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act. This legislation will provide the United States an important tool to address unfair currency manipulation practices, and I hope that it can receive a debate and a clean, up-or-down vote in the House.

I voted against the Motion to Recommit to H.R. 3078, the U.S. Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Act because it was a poison pill motion that would have derailed this important, carefully negotiated trade agreement that enjoyed the support of President Barack Obama as well as 262 bipartisan members of the House. Were one word to change in the U.S.-Colombia agreement, this agreement, that has taken years to reach,

would have lost its legislative protections in the Senate under the Trade Promotion Authority Act. Doing so would have killed this agreement and further delayed action to level the playing field for U.S. workers and create jobs here at home.

VETERANS' BENEFITS TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2349, "Veterans' Benefits Training Improvement Act of 2011," which directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to annually assess the skills of appropriate Veterans Benefits Administration employees and managers responsible for processing VA compensation and pension benefit claims, implement individualized training plans related to such skills, provide remediation for deficiently skilled employees or managers receiving a less than satisfactory result on any portion of the assessment, take appropriate disciplinary actions with respect to individuals failing to receive a satisfactory result after being given two opportunities for such remediation, and requires the Secretary to submit a related annual report to Congress.

It is essential that employees and managers responsible for VA compensation receive sufficient training to better assist our veterans. These employees need to be well aware of the range of possible benefits and packages that are available for our service men and women so that they can take full advantage of every opportunity that they rightfully deserve. I suspect that this legislation will address any areas of concern in regard to training so that the Veterans Benefits Administration can be of better service to our veterans.

As the Representative from the 18th Congressional District of Houston I am thoroughly familiar with the issues faced by our veterans when they return from deployment. I believe that any man or woman who risks their lives for the freedom and rights of others deserves to receive the benefits they have earned. I know first-hand how my constituents feel regarding this issue. In the State of Texas, we have nearly 1.7 million veterans, and 18th District is home to 32,000 of them. I feel that it is my duty, as well as that of my colleagues to ensure that employees and managers who are responsible for VA compensation and pension benefit claims adhere to proper protocol when processing funds for our veterans.

My office receives calls from disheartened constituents who cannot understand why it is such a challenge to receive the appropriate VA benefits. The fact that anyone has to call and to seek help outside of the VA regarding VA benefits deeply concerns me.

This matter can be addressed by properly training those responsible for determining the benefits in the first place. The role of these individuals is to assist veterans in the process and to adequately educate veterans about what is and is not available to them. We must remember that there is no greater love than for that of a man or a woman who is willing to lay down their life for their country. I hope

that my colleagues would agree with me when I say there is no greater love than this. We owe it to the men and women who have risked their lives for our freedom to ensure that procedures are being adhered to where VA benefits are concerned.

H.R. 2349 will benefit the well-being of the public by ensuring that employees and managers of the Veterans Benefits Administration possess the adequate skills that are necessary to fulfill their duties, and if any train employees when necessary. This is the least we can do to assist our service men and women when they seek to attain the benefits that they have already earned.

HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMUNIDADES LATINAS UNIDAS EN SERVICIO (CLUES)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) on its 30th anniversary celebration. For three decades, this vibrant non-profit community organization has been a life-line support for the Latino community in Minnesota.

Since its inception in 1981, CLUES has been charged with a noble mission to promote equality for all, seek to improve the health of individuals and families, and to transform the lives of all families in Minnesota, this organization has made a positive impact on the lives of so many individuals and families. The support services provided by CLUES that help individuals and families recover from chemical dependency, help people become self-sufficient through employment and educational opportunity, and offer a comfort zone for senior citizens to maintain their well-being are commendable.

As the representative in Congress for Saint Paul, Minnesota and the east metropolitan area, I have had the opportunity to work with CLUES executive director, Jesse Bethke Gomez and the staff and board to address the needs and challenges facing Latinos and our entire community in Minnesota. CLUES would not be successful without the caring and dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters who serve the public each day. They deserve congratulations for reaching this milestone, and gratitude for all that they do to make our community and our state a caring place that helps families and individuals realize their dreams for the future. I wish them the very best, and I look forward to celebrating their continued success.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESTORATION OF AZERBAIJAN'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan

Caucus, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan as it celebrates the 20th anniversary of the restoration of Azerbaijan's independence.

Located in a geopolitically dynamic region between Europe and Asia and sandwiched between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan is a secular county with a predominantly Muslim population that has also been home for more than a millennia for vibrant Christian and Jewish communities.

Azerbaijan and the United States enjoy a strong partnership founded on shared interests in global and regional security, energy and economic development, democratic reforms, and respect for human rights. President Obama has called Azerbaijan a "young democracy" during his meeting with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev in September 2010, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stressed during her July 2010 trip to Azerbaijan that "the bonds between the United States and Azerbaijan and deep, important, and durable."

The past 20 years have seen Azerbaijan make great leaps in consolidating its sovereignty and political independence, and they are on the path towards building strong democratic institutions and a diversified economy that will further contribute to the welfare of the people of Azerbaijan. As I frequently remind my colleagues, the United States has more than 230 years of experience developing into the modern democracy we are today. It is critical that the United States provide our support and friendship to our partners in Azerbaijan as they continue to develop.

Azerbaijan has opened Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project is the most successful project contributing to the development of the South Caucasus region and has become the main artery delivering Caspian Sea hydrocarbons to the U.S. and our partners in Europe. Notably, in 2009 Azerbaijan provided nearly one quarter of all crude oil supplies to Israel and is considered a leading potential natural gas provider for the U.S.-supported Nabucco pipeline. It is important for the United States to continue to provide support for the development of the Southern Corridor that will further strengthen energy security.

On the security front, immediately after 9/11 Azerbaijan was among the first to offer strong support and assistance to the United States. Azerbaijan participated in operations in Kosovo and Iraq and is actively engaged in Afghanistan, having recently doubled its military presence there. Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights to support ISAF and has regularly provided landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces. Also, Azerbaijan, as highlighted by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, plays an important role in the Northern Distribution Network, a supply route to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities. Moreover, Azerbaijan provides vital support for U.S. nonproliferation efforts.

Again, as the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate the people of Azerbaijan and President Ilham Aliyev on the occasion of this important anniversary. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this important milestone in the history of Azerbaijan also

encourage my colleagues who are interested in supporting Azerbaijan to join me as a member of Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, a bipartisan group of nearly 40 Members of Congress working to help foster the growing partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan and to advance U.S. interests in this pivotal region.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LANCE CORPORAL TRAVIS M. NELSON, USMC

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great respect and honor that I rise today to recognize the life of Northwest Florida's beloved Lance Corporal Travis M. Nelson.

Lance Corporal Nelson succumbed to wounds sustained in combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan on August 18, 2011. At the time, he was assigned as a rifleman with 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Born in Orlando, Florida on August 5, 1992, Lance Corporal Nelson was a true American patriot. Drawn to military service at an early age, with the support of his family, he joined the Young Marines of Pensacola at 14. He later participated in the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Pace High School, where he graduated from in 2010. He then enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, and upon completion of basic training in January 2011, Lance Corporal Nelson chose to serve in the infantry. He knew of the challenging role; however, he felt that the job should not be left for someone else. His decision to join the Marine Corps is a true testament to his character's strength and selflessness.

Lance Corporal Nelson was a beloved member of his community, remembered as an athlete, an avid fisherman, and a friend by those who knew him. He is survived by his parents, Scott and Beckie; his sisters, Anna and Jenna; his brother, Daniel; and his fiancée, Madeline Cates.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Lance Corporal Travis Nelson for his selfless service and sacrifice in defense of our nation. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his entire family. He will be truly missed by all.

VETERANS OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2433, "the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act 2011." This legislation would provide honorably discharged, unemployed veterans who are between the ages of 35 to 60 with who are currently not eligible for certain veterans benefits