

allegedly opened fire and killed 8 people—vividly illustrates how disputes at home can lead to violence in the workplace. To help employers address this issue, the bill reauthorizes the National Workplace Resource Center grant program. These grants will be made available to qualified organizations to establish and operate resource centers that assist employers on how to protect all their employees as well as those who are victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

The SAFE Act also protects victims of domestic abuse by prohibiting employers from making hiring decisions and insurance companies from refusing coverage based on an individual's history of abuse.

Finally, the SAFE Act makes it possible for a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking eligible for unemployment insurance if it is necessary for an employee to leave a job to escape the abuse.

The SAFE Act is a critical step towards helping victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to become survivors by giving them the financial security they need to seek help and end their dependence on abusive partners and ultimately break the cycle of violence in their lives.

I want to thank the many dedicated advocates and organizations who work tirelessly every day to empower victims of physical and sexual abuse. They face daunting challenges as the demand for their services continues to increase even as their funding sources at the local, state, and federal levels are being slashed. Their input, expertise, and support have been invaluable in crafting the SAFE Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and Congressman TED POE in co-sponsoring and helping to pass the SAFE Act. For far too many people, the safety nets in this bill are literally the difference between life and death. The time to act is now.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TROY COMMUNITY COALITION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the auspicious occasion of the Troy Community Coalition's twentieth year of service to the residents of Troy to recognize the profound impact of its members on efforts of communities across the Nation to combat and prevent substance abuse.

Born out of grass roots organizing by residents concerned with the rising incidence of underage drinking, the Troy Community Coalition, TCC, and its sister coalitions across the country have become the chief advocates in promoting the importance of preventing substance abuse. Like many of its younger counterparts, when the TCC was organized in 1991, its members focused on the need to educate area residents on the deleterious effects of substance abuse on their community. As the TCC grew, it assembled a broad alliance of community stakeholders and gradually shifted its mission from education to changing the environment and public policy of Troy to prevent substance abuse.

As one of the first community coalitions, the TCC has been a model for coalitions across

the country. Thanks to the advocacy of its members, in 1998 federal legislation was passed creating the Drug Free Communities program, which provides important resources to seed developing coalitions. Recognizing the innovation and knowledge base created by the TCC, its Executive Director at the time, Ms. Mary Ann Solberg, was tapped to be Deputy Director of the Executive Office of National Drug Control Policy in 2002.

Being a model coalition, the TCC has been the originator of many novel and innovative programs that have been implemented by its sister coalitions. The TCC's staff has even been tapped by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, a national advocacy group, to provide instruction to coalitions from around the country. Locally, the TCC has also gone on to mentor other area coalitions that are now recipients of Drug Free Communities resources.

Mr. Speaker, as families across my state of Michigan and the Nation feel the increasing pressures of our current economic environment, the work of community coalitions, like the TCC has become increasingly important to prevent individuals in crisis from turning to illicit substances. The TCC regularly engages thousands of members in the Troy community in activities which promote the strength of families and mold our youth into independent leaders of their generations. I congratulate the Troy Community Coalition and its members on twenty years of success in the fight to save the lives of youth across our community and I know its members will continue to lead the national dialogue in this important endeavor.

IN HONOR OF MR. PHILLIP MORRIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Phillip Morris, a columnist with the Cleveland Plain Dealer, who is being honored by the Press Club of Cleveland and inducted into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

Born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, Phillip attended Ohio Wesleyan University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in journalism. After graduating in 1987, he began working as a police and courts reporter for the Dayton Daily News. He would eventually work as an editorial writer for the paper.

In October of 1990, Phillip joined the Cleveland Plain Dealer's Editorial page. His responsibilities included editorial coverage of Cleveland city government, Ohio state government, the state and federal penal systems, education and children's issues. In 1995, Phillip began writing a weekly column for the Plain Dealer's Forum page and continued to do so for eleven years. In April of 2007, he became a metro columnist and gained national recognition in this role. Currently, Phillip is working as a Knight-Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan; he will return to the Plain Dealer in the spring of 2012.

Despite being at the Plain Dealer for less than twenty years, Phillip has garnered local and national recognition based on his work on criminal justice issues. He has been awarded

a National Association of Black Journalists award, a National Headliner Award and has been a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize twice. He is also a finalist for a second Association of Black Journalists award this year.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating the Cleveland Plain Dealer's Mr. Phillip Morris as the Press Club of Cleveland inducts him into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 810, I had district work that required my presence. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

THE WORSENING PLIGHT OF EGYPT'S COPTS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record a copy of Chuck Colson's recent Breakpoint Commentary which movingly speaks of the worsening conditions facing Egypt's Coptic community.

According to an October 25 Washington Post article, "Attacks on Christians have significantly increased since the uprising. The violence on October 9 began when about 1,000 Christians tried to stage a peaceful sit-in outside the state television building." The Egyptian military forcefully broke up their protest leaving at least 21 Christians dead in the single deadliest incident since the end of the Mubarak regime.

This carnage is evidence of an ancient faith community which is increasingly under siege. Not only are Coptic Christians not reaping the promise of the so-called "Arab Spring" but as Colson writes, "It's getting clearer for parts of the Arab world, its going to be a long, cold winter."

The Obama administration must press Egypt's ruling generals to uphold the rights of the country's vulnerable minority communities. Their sustained presence in the region is crucial.

[Oct. 24, 2011]

IONIC COPTIC WINTER: DEMOCRACY AND CHRISTIANS IN EGYPT

On October 9, at least two dozen Christians were killed by Egyptian police. Their only "crime" was in insisting that they be treated in a manner consistent with what the "Arab Spring" was supposed to be about.

It's getting clearer that for parts of the Arab world, it's going to be a long, cold winter.

The killings happened during a march organized by Coptic leaders to protest a church-burning by Islamists. The military regime responded lackadaisically to this outrage, just as it has to other outrages perpetrated against Egypt's Christian minority.

The junta's response to peaceful protest was a combination of tear gas, live ammunition, and armored vehicles ramming into the

crowd. A few protestors threw rocks in response to the attacks, which gave state-controlled media a chance to claim that protestors started the violence and urge "honorable," that is, Muslim, Egyptians to help the soldiers.

While I expect that kind of deception from Egyptian state-run media, I am appalled by The New York Times' characterization of the killings as "sectarian violence." For the Times, Christians are only victims if they endure violence without uttering the merest peep in protest. If they protest or try to defend themselves, however feebly, the Times paints them as the moral equivalent of their persecutors.

The situation in Egypt has become so dire that one Coptic bishop compares it to a "dark tunnel of violence." Quoting the Apostle Paul, he writes that he and his flock are "hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed . . . perplexed but not lost, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed."

While they pray for the victims and the offenders, it's our task to make sure they are not forsaken, which is what all the euphoria over the "Arab Spring" threatens to do.

Lost in the buzz over democracy, Twitter, and Facebook, was any recognition that ousting dictators and establishing democracy are means, not ends. In other words, it doesn't matter if you replace the rule of dictators with popular rule if, in the end, Christians and other minorities become targets for persecution and violence.

Our founding fathers, when they set out to "establish justice, insure domestic tranquility . . . [and] promote the general welfare," knew the dangers of an unchecked majority. That's why our Constitution is filled with checks and balances—between the people and the government, and between branches of government.

The "Arab Spring" has not resulted in greater justice and increased tranquility for Middle Eastern Christians. As John L. Allen wrote in the National Catholic Reporter, "many analysts wonder whether Christianity will be the first victim of the new order taking shape" in the Middle East.

There's no reason, as writer Rod Dreher reminds us, to assume that democracy and religious tolerance go hand-in-hand. On the contrary, recent history suggests that what the so-called "people" often want is to mistreat the "others" in their midst.

Now, there is little standing between them and what they want. If Christians resist, they are run over by armored vehicles and blamed for their fate. While God has not forsaken them, the world that cheered on the Arab crowds last Spring seems intent on doing so.

NATIONAL INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, last month was National Infant Mortality Awareness Month and was established to highlight the tragic occurrences of infant deaths across the nation and to raise awareness about those programs that can help save lives and ensure our children are healthy. As we know, infant mortality, the rate at which babies die before their first birthday, is an important measure of the nation's health and a worldwide indicator of health status and social well-being.

Although the overall infant mortality rate (IMR) in the United States (U.S.) steadily declined for several decades, it has leveled off for the past several years. In 2009, the rate of infant deaths before age one for the U.S. was 6.4 per 1,000 live births. Unfortunately, the U.S. IMR is higher than the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) average and that of most European countries.

Though the rate for Maryland has dropped from 7.2 to 6.7, the rates throughout the state remain astoundingly high. Last year, the infant mortality rate for Prince George's County was 9.0 or 22% of all infant deaths in the state of Maryland. Montgomery County realized a decline from 5.5 the previous year to 4.3 this year, but still had the fourth highest number of deaths in Maryland (behind Baltimore City, Prince George's County, and Baltimore County).

In our nation, minority communities are especially affected by higher IMR. For example, across the country African Americans have higher incidences of infant mortality than do their white counterparts. In Maryland, the IMR for African American mothers was 11.8 compared to 4.1 for white mothers. These statistics bring to light the staggering disparities between race, ethnicity, age, education, and socio-economic levels.

National Infant Mortality Month gives us an opportunity to raise public awareness about the levels at which this problem continues to affect our communities, and to educate women about ways they may reduce infant mortality with good health care during the mother's pregnancy and the early years of the child's life. Research indicates that a number of federal programs may reduce the IMR. Programs such as the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant and Healthy Start are vital programs tasked with bringing awareness to factors that contribute to the nation's high infant mortality rate, including low birth weight, congenital abnormalities, and sudden infant death syndrome. With the support of local organizations and clinics like the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and the Suitland Health and Wellness Center, we can advance a number of strategies to reduce infant mortality and help mothers and children live long and healthy lives.

I will continue to support and bring awareness to programs that increase access to health care and improve the quality of prenatal and newborn care to prevent the causes of infant mortality. As our nation recovers from these difficult economic times and families may experience gaps in health coverage due to job loss, transitions, and financial instability, it is especially vital that we continue to support adequate funding for these programs. We need to ensure that our babies get a healthy start to celebrate their first birthday and beyond.

I am pleased that even though the House of Representatives did not recognize National Infant Mortality Awareness Month by passing a resolution, the Senate did. By doing so, it brought much needed attention and awareness to the importance of reducing our infant mortality rate.

ROBERT B. COWDREY TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to rise in commendation of Sgt. Robert B. Cowdrey who served our country with great honor and pride. Sgt. Cowdrey gave his life for our country on October 13, while attempting a helicopter rescue of his fellow soldiers under fire.

Sgt. Cowdrey was raised in La Junta, Colorado. He graduated from La Junta High School in 1990. He was a devoted outdoorsman, who enjoyed bow hunting. Cowdrey enlisted in the Army in 2003 and was serving his third tour of duty in Afghanistan at the time of his death. Sgt. Cowdrey's duties included flying into active combat zones to deliver medical assistance and rescue troops while under fire. He was highly decorated for his heroic service, earning the Bronze Star and two army commendations for valor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sgt. Cowdrey, a selfless American hero whose bravery and sacrifice are examples of what makes this country great. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Jill, their three sons, Justin, Jacob and Nathan, and the entire Cowdrey family.

COMMEMORATING FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Filipino American History Month. We have, as a nation, commemorated October as Filipino American History month since 1988. The legislature in my home state of California also recognizes this month. California has long historical ties with Filipino Americans, and our state is home to over half of the Filipino population of the United States.

This month is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the rich culture and history of Filipino Americans, who have contributed so much both to California and to the United States. I'm pleased that recently there has been some legislative acknowledgment of their military contributions. Just this month in California, Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill 199 into law, which would encourage the inclusion of the role of Filipinos in World War II in social studies curricula. Over 250,000 Filipinos fought with the U.S. in World War II. Their valiant service was largely uncompensated and unrecognized until recently.

I'm hopeful that my colleagues will take a moment to recognize the Filipino American community. This country is a nation of immigrants, and we are so much richer for the contributions that Americans of every background have made, and will continue to make as we move forward.