

The Chinese government actively engages in cyber-espionage. It steals state secrets. It aligns itself with countries directly at odds with U.S. interests. It supports genocidal governments and buttresses rogue regimes.

There's a legal term, "willful blindness," that aptly described our dealings to date with China. Faced with these painful truths, blindness is no longer an option.

In the words of British abolitionist, William Wilberforce, "Having heard all of this, you may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say that you did not know."

#### HONORING TERESA HUGHES

#### HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Teresa Hughes, former California State Senator and Assemblywoman from the Los Angeles area, who passed away on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at the age of 80. As the second black woman elected to the Assembly, Ms. Hughes proved to be an influential lawmaker, breaking barriers and proving to most leaders that it is necessary to have women in significant leadership roles because their constituents demand it.

A former New York social worker, teacher and school administrator, Ms. Hughes was a fervent supporter of education. Her candidacy for the 47th Assembly District in California, which included a large part of South L.A. and the cities of Bell, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Downey and Compton, came with much support because the constituents wanted to elect a professional educator committed to expanding educational opportunities for their community.

Ms. Hughes' accomplishments as a state legislator are many. During her 17 years in the California State Assembly, she authored a bill dedicating \$800 million in bond money to build school classrooms as well as the creation of a state School of the Arts. In 1983, as chairwoman of the Assembly Education Committee, she co-authored an education bill setting state graduation standards, lengthening school days and the school year, raising teacher salaries and standards, and requiring prospective teachers to pass a basic skills test. Ms. Hughes also authored the bill that established the California Museum of Afro-American History and Culture within the Museum of Science and Industry in Los Angeles.

There were 15 women state lawmakers in 1985 when the Joint Rules Committee formally recognized the new bipartisan Caucus of Women Legislators. As the senior woman in the Assembly at the time, Ms. Hughes was selected to chair the caucus.

Elected to the state Senate in 1992, Hughes represented the 25th District, which stretched from Marina del Rey to Paramount.

Before she retired in 2000, she became the first woman and first African American to serve on the Senate Rules Committee.

Her State Senate achievements include establishing the Senate Select Committee on College Admission and Outreach and writing a school violence prevention bill that led to the creation of the Task Force on School Safety.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in remembrance of Teresa Hughes, a towering fig-

ure in the history of California. I ask my colleagues to join me for a moment of silence in the memory of the great Teresa Hughes.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF KENSINGTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kensington Intermediate School, a recipient of a Federal Blue Ribbon Award.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program is a program designed to highlight schools which have proven records of academic excellence. These schools have demonstrated a dedication to their student bodies which prepare their students for higher education and life beyond the classroom. Such institutions serve as examples to be emulated in schools across the nation.

Kensington Intermediate School is one of 305 schools in the nation to be awarded the title of a Blue Ribbon school. It has shown itself to be among this group of elite institutions. In 2010, Kensington was named Excellent with Distinction, which is the Ohio Department of Education's highest award. Last year, the school system ranked 5th in Cleveland Magazine's prestigious Top Ten List of Cleveland Area Schools.

Kensington has continued on its path of academic excellence by scoring 96.5% and 92.5% proficiency in the Ohio 5th grade Science and Math Achievement Assessment tests, respectively. The 3rd grade Reading Achievement Assessment score has repeatedly been the highest in the county.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Kensington Intermediate School, a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School.

#### HONORING TOWN CLERK RUTH ARGO MAZZEI

#### HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ruth Argo Mazzei of Southeast, New York for her service as Town Clerk for the past 20 years.

Mrs. Mazzei was first elected to serve the people of Southeast as Town Clerk in November of 1991. Certified as both an International Municipal Clerk and New York State Registered Municipal Clerk, Mrs. Mazzei has served the residents of Southeast with honor and integrity. She is known for her love of her community and her loyalty to friends and family. Mrs. Mazzei and her husband of 44 years, Joseph Mazzei, have four sons: T.J., Christopher, Michael, and Robert.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the Honorable Ruth Argo Mazzei. As the face of Southeast Town Government and Town Hall for over two decades, the residents of Southeast and New York's Nineteenth Congressional District are fortunate to have benefited from her service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND CHIEF OF THE NAVY'S BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY, VICE ADMIRAL ADAM M. ROBINSON, JR.'S 34 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

#### HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Vice Admiral Adam M. Robinson, Jr. for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America as the 36th Surgeon General of the United States Navy and Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Vice Admiral Robinson will retire as the Senior Healthcare Officer in the United States Navy and the principle medical advisor to the Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations and Commandant of the Marine Corps. His military service spans across more than three decades of active military duty to the United States Navy and the Nation.

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Vice Admiral Robinson was commissioned into the Navy through the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program after graduating with a Doctor of Medicine degree from Indiana University, School of Medicine. In 1978, Vice Admiral Robinson was assigned to the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda for the very first time of many in his superb career. While assigned there he completed his residency in the area of general surgery. After his assignment in Bethesda, Vice Admiral Robinson was forward deployed to the United States Naval Hospital in Yokosuka, Japan. He was then selected as a ship's Surgeon on the USS *Midway* during his first duty at sea. After completing various operational assignments, Vice Admiral Robinson attended the University of Illinois School of Medicine, Urbana-Champaign, for a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at the Carle Foundation Hospital. After his fellowship he was again assigned to the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda to head the Colon and Rectal Surgery Division. While at Bethesda, he was again deployed as a ship's surgeon for the USS *John F. Kennedy* and the USS *Coral Sea*.

He became a Medical Director for the first time in his career in 1994 at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth after serving and earned his Master's in Business Administration from the University of South Florida. In 1999, while serving as the Fleet Hospital Jacksonville Commanding Officer, Robinson commanded a detachment of the fleet hospital as for a medical contingent to Joint Task Force Haiti (Operation New Horizon/Uphold Democracy). In August 1999, Robinson reported to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery as the director of Readiness and was selected as the principal director, Clinical and Program Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. Vice Admiral Robinson was assigned as the Commanding Officer United States Naval Hospital, Yokosuka, Japan from September 2001 to January 2004. In July 2004, he returned to the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda as the Commander. In 2007 Vice Admiral James A. Robinson was

chosen as the 36th Surgeon General of the United States Navy and 40th Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

An accomplished and published academic, Vice Admiral Robinson holds fellowships in the American College of Surgeons and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery. He is a member of the Le Societe Internationale de Chirurgie, the Society of Black Academic Surgeons, and the National Business School Scholastic Society, Beta Gamma Sigma. He holds certification as a Certified Physician Executive (CPE) from the American College of Physician Executives.

Vice Admiral Robinson has been instrumental in preparing the United States Navy for the merger of the National Capitol Region's major health care facilities. He oversaw the planning, construction and execution of the new Joint Medical Facility and ensured that best practices of the Navy and other services were preserved throughout the transition. Vice Admiral Robinson was also never afraid to be an outspoken opponent of policies and issues from the merger that would sacrifice care for Service Members of any service. Without his foresight and wisdom throughout the process, the new National Military Medical Center at Bethesda would not be the shining medical facility model it is today for our Service Men and Women and their Families.

Throughout his career, Vice Admiral Robinson has demonstrated expertise in medicine that ranks him among the very best in the world. However, I would say his most shining achievements have been his exceptional care for our Nation's most important treasure, our wounded Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, throughout the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Bethesda's renowned reputation as the gold standard of care for wounded Service Members improved throughout his tenure and will be the lasting legacy of the 36th Surgeon General of the Navy.

The United States Navy, the Department of Defense and the Nation will dearly miss one of its most respected and valued leaders as Vice Admiral Adam M. Robinson leaves active duty. We will all miss his humility, his selflessness, his candor and his integrity. When history looks back at this leader and his legacy it will be clear that he saved countless Service Members lives with his policies and daily practices.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work closely with Vice Admiral Robinson over the last several years of his long and decorated career. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Vice Admiral Adam M. Robinson for a lifetime of service to his country. For all he and his family have given and continue to give to our country; we are in their debt. We wish him, his wife Yuko, all the best in his retirement.

H.R. 2838, THE "COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2011"

**HON. KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2011*

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2838, "the Coast Guard and Mari-

time Transportation Act of 2011," and to salute the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard for their service to our nation.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee and the Armed Services Committee, I recognize the critical role the Coast Guard plays in combating piracy, interdicting illegal drugs, preventing acts of terrorism, and assisting our coastal communities when they are afflicted by natural disasters. That is why I am saddened that controversial provisions were attached to this bill.

I cannot support this legislation because it would strip New York State of its right to protect itself from invasive species introduced through ballast water, putting New Yorkers and New York State waters at risk.

My home state is blessed to sit on two Great Lakes: Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. These waters are of critical importance to the Western New York economy and support recreation jobs, fishing jobs, tourism jobs, shipping jobs—jobs at our ports, harbors and canals. The people of New York are all too aware of the havoc that invasive species like Asian Carp and Zebra Mussels can wreak on the Great Lakes and the threat they pose to our economy. That is why I oppose this legislation and urge my colleagues to preserve New York's right to protect our citizens, protect our waters and protect our jobs.

#### THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN LATINO MUSEUM ACT

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2011*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce with Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (FL-18) the Smithsonian American Latino Museum Act—a companion bill that is also being introduced today in the U.S. Senate by our colleagues Senator ROBERT MENENDEZ (NJ), Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID (NV) and Senator MARCO RUBIO (FL).

The Smithsonian American Latino Museum Act we introduce today advances the work of the National Museum the American Latino Commission—a 23-member bi-partisan, congressionally authorized commission of experts that investigated the potential creation of a museum. Through an exhaustive process that involved consultations with national experts, forums in eight cities (Chicago, Albuquerque, Austin, Miami, St. Paul, Los Angeles, New York City, and San Juan, Puerto Rico), and communication via several online platforms that engaged tens of thousand supporters, the commission generated valuable input regarding the feasibility of an American Latino museum Washington, D.C.

Over the past eighteen years the call has grown stronger and stronger to establish such a museum on our National Mall that shares the rich and full story of what it means to be an American. The effort to create the American Latino Museum dates back to 1993, when a Smithsonian Task Force on Latino Issues formally called for the creation of a national museum dedicated to sharing the story of Latinos' historic, cultural and artistic contributions to the U.S. I was proud to introduce the

legislation in 2003 that created the National Museum of the American Latino Commission. Five years later, in 2008, Congress passed the bill and it was signed by President George W. Bush. Once appointed by Congress and President Barack Obama, the Commission began its work in 2009 with the support of the Department of Interior and Secretary Ken Salazar. The Commission's final 2011 report and recommendations can be viewed at <http://www.americanlatinomuseum.gov>.

The bill we are introducing responds to the Commission's call for the creation of a national museum in Washington, D.C. that "illuminates the American story for the benefit of all" by preserving, presenting and interpreting American Latino history, art, cultural expressions, and experiences. Specifically, the bill:

(1) Establishes within the Smithsonian Institution a museum to be known as the "Smithsonian American Latino Museum."

(2) Designates the museum's site as the Arts and Industries Building on the National Mall, at 900 Jefferson Drive Southwest in Washington, D.C.

(3) Authorizes the Smithsonian Board of Regents to prepare a plan of action for the museum, as referred to in the May 2011 Report to Congress submitted by the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino, in consultation with the Secretary of Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission and federal and local agencies.

(4) Authorizes the Regents to identify and evaluate viable funding models for both the construction and operation of the museum, within 18 months after the bill is enacted.

(5) Authorizes the Regents and Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement that allows for the planning design and construction of an underground annex facility, in a manner harmonious with and to protect the open space and visual sightlines of the Mall.

Today marks a key moment in our effort to ensure that the contributions of Americans of Latino descent receive respect and recognition earned by a patriotic community of Americans who have served this nation since its inception and now number over 50 million. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and to supporting the Smithsonian Institution in an important new chapter of its work to increase understanding of the American experience.

#### STANDING AGAINST VOTER SUPPRESSION

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 17, 2011*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, voter suppression efforts are well underway in my home state of Colorado. In September, the Colorado Secretary of State actually sued the City and County of Denver because the Clerk and Recorder's office over sending election ballots to every registered voter in Denver, including inactive registered voting men and women of the military and citizens living overseas. Our Secretary of State took exception because the law states ballots shall be mailed to all active registered electors. Last month, a Denver judge ruled that Denver County could in fact