

year with the Fairfax Times that there was no county fire training academy in those days so he and his fellow volunteers learned the “hard way” by trial and error on the job.

Sam selflessly served on the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department for 70 years. He held numerous leadership positions including Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, multiple terms as President, and multiple terms as a member of the Board of Directors. Responding to innumerable emergency calls over many decades, it is impossible to calculate the number of lives and properties he helped save. As a life member of the VVFD, Sam continued to actively perform various administrative jobs in the department after he retired from operational duty.

Sam also contributed greatly to other community causes. In the early years of the station, the VVFD sponsored the Old Dominion Baseball League and Sam was instrumental in the construction of Waters Field. After the VVFD stopped sponsoring baseball, the Vienna Host Lions Club in 1954 called on Sam to organize little league baseball in the town. Sam set up the program, coached teams, and helped construct the necessary fields. The Jessup-Savia Field at Nottoway honors Sam in recognition to his tremendous contributions to little league and youth in Vienna.

Sam also served as president of the Vienna Lions Club and on the Vienna Centennial Coordinating Committee. In recognition of his years of service to the community, Sam was named the 2006 Citizen of the Year by the Vienna-Tyson's Regional Chamber of Commerce.

On July 25, 2011, the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department hosted a ceremony honoring Sam for his seven decades of service to the Department. During this ceremony, July 25, 2011 was proclaimed Sam Savia Day by the Town of Vienna in recognition of his contributions to the community, and the Commonwealth of Virginia followed suit by approving House Joint Resolution 5170 commending Sam for his service. The department also renamed its apparatus building the Sam Savia Apparatus Facility so future generations of firefighters and citizens in Vienna will remember this man who dedicated his life to public safety, his family, and his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me to celebrate the life and deeds of Sam Savia, and to express our deepest condolences to his wife Gertrude, their children, and their entire family.

FARM DUST REGULATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1633) to establish a temporary prohibition against revising any national ambient air quality standard applicable to coarse particulate matter, to limit Federal regulation of nuisance dust in areas in which such dust is regulated under State, tribal, or local law, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise to strongly oppose H.R. 1633, the Farm Dust Regula-

tion Prevention Act. Regrettably, the House Republican majority is choosing to waste precious floor time debating this political statement instead of allowing a vote on President Obama's American Jobs Act.

Contrary to the claims of my Republican colleagues, H.R. 1633 has nothing to do with job creation or economic growth. This legislation addresses a nonexistent issue since the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stated repeatedly it has no intention of regulating “farm dust.”

However, it cannot be said that H.R. 1633 would have no effect. This legislation creates new loopholes that allow open-pit mines, gravel mines, smelters and coal-processing facilities to escape public-health protections under the Clean Air Act. Enactment of this legislation would result in more pollution leading to more premature deaths, asthma attacks, respiratory disease and heart attacks. House Republicans say they are standing up for family farmers when in fact they are aiding corporate polluters.

While the Minnesota family farmers I have heard from have serious challenges, they assure me that farm dust is far down on their list of priorities. Their real concerns relate to rising costs for seed, fertilizer, land, rent and machinery. They worry about protecting their land for the next generation in the face of federal cuts to conservation programs. They struggle with consolidation in the agricultural sector and the ability of the biggest farms to expand at the expense of smaller ones. Political debates in Washington about farm dust are not a factor in their lives.

H.R. 1633 is just another veiled Republican assault on our nation's landmark clean air laws. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and return our attention to the real problems that are impacting job growth in our economy.

MAYOR CHARLES CROWLEY RETIRES AFTER A JOB VERY WELL DONE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on December 27th, Mayor Charles Crowley of the city of Taunton will be chairing his last City Council meeting. It has been a great privilege and pleasure for me during the last four years and nine months to work with Mayor Crowley, as the Member of the U.S. House of Representatives for the city of Taunton. Officially, he is an extremely thoughtful and creative chief executive, who combines a capacity to do serious policy analysis with important management skills. We have collaborated on a number of issues important to the city of Taunton, involving transportation, housing, and economic development, and I have found it easy to represent the city under Charlie Crowley's mayoralty, because he does his homework in a way that makes being the advocate for the city he presides over easy.

For someone who is interested in history, talking with Charlie Crowley is always fascinating. Mayor Crowley is a first-rate historian, and I have rarely been with him dealing with a particular policy when I haven't learned something relevant and interesting about the

history of the events or the place we are addressing.

Charlie Crowley has been a friend as well as a colleague. He retires entitled to a sense of satisfaction about the great job he has done—especially in an era when being Mayor of a city is one of the hardest jobs around.

URGING TURKEY TO SAFEGUARD ITS CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I'm thinking about why Congress is raising the issue of Christian properties in Turkey at a time when that country has already addressed these concerns. It is very unfortunate that at a time when our country is facing so many challenges, that we are focusing on an issue that should be settled internally by a foreign country. I strongly support religious freedom but this is not an appropriate issue for the United States Congress to be involved in.

Last August, while Congress was in recess, the Turkish Government took the decision to return to non-Muslim community foundations the immovable properties registered in the name of Turkish public institutions, or compensate (at market rates) those foundations if such properties are held by third parties.

Secretary Clinton publicly praised and “applauded” Turkey and Prime Minister Erdogan for this “serious step to improve the climate for religious tolerance” during a briefing on the release of State Department International Religious Freedom Report. The Report itself emphasizes Turkey's “steps to improve religious freedom.” Furthermore, during the American Turkish Council 2011 Annual Conference, Secretary Clinton said: “I was particularly impressed by Prime Minister Erdogan's statement during Ramadan that property would be returned to religious minority groups, and we also hope to see other positive steps, such as reopening of the Halki Seminary.”

The simple truth is that we shouldn't single out one country when we know there are similar issues throughout the world. If we're going to be involved with calling attention to the faults of one country, we are setting a dangerous precedent where the House of Representatives can be distracted by focusing on the problems existing anywhere else in the world. We need to be promoting religious freedom and tolerance all over the world and this resolution does not accomplish that goal. A better use of our time and energy would be for all of us to foster stronger bilateral relations with all of our allies.

CAMP ASHRAF

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Camp Ashraf is a small little camp in Iraq made up of a few thousand Iranian freedom fighters. They are unarmed civilians who, like us, don't like the tiny tyrant in the desert.

But the Camp is under siege.

PM Maliki wants to close the camp by December 31.

If the Camp is closed, many of the residents could be killed.

You see, Iraqi soldiers can't be trusted. In 2009 and 2011, they killed dozens of innocent civilians in the Camp.

Now Iran is promising all sorts of goodies if Iraq closes down the Camp.

Iran hates anyone who disagrees with its regime, so it wants nothing better than to have all these people in the Camp forcibly removed and eliminated.

But there is one tiny problem with Iran and Iraq's dirty little scheme: The world is watching.

Since the massacres, Camp residents have applied for UNHCR political refugee status.

It will take the U.N. 6 months to process their applications.

The U.N. Secretary General just wrote me yesterday to say that he has personally encouraged Maliki to not close the Camp down.

Sixty-five of my colleagues asked President Obama to raise this issue when he met with PM Maliki yesterday—we don't know if he did or not.

Maliki could be tried with war crimes if there is a New Year's massacre.

It should be the official policy of the United States to urge the government of Iraq to protect the residents, not return them to Iran, and not close the Camp until the U.N. can finish its political refugee process.

I am thankful to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs committee for their support of this policy.

We cannot allow Maliki to once again slaughter innocent civilians.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE MORTGAGE-BURNING SERVICE AT LITTLE UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Little Union Baptist Church, in Dumfries, Virginia, on the occasion of its June 11, 2011, "Mortgage-Burning Service."

The Deed for the first site of Little Union Baptist Church was signed on September 9, 1901, a gift of the land from John Thomas and Mary Bates Thomas to church trustees. For Mary Bates Thomas in particular, this gift represented a great achievement in the life of a truly amazing woman. Mary Bates was born into slavery in Northern Virginia. As a slave, Ms. Bates learned to read and write and participated in the camp meetings praising God and maintaining her undying faith in the face of such great hardship.

Following emancipation, Mary Bates Thomas became a pillar of her community, running a small general store with her husband John Thomas, reading and writing letters for the illiterate, and acting as a healer and midwife. Recognizing the need of her community for a church of its own, Mary Bates Thomas and her husband donated the land on which the church, which would come to be known as Lit-

tle Union Baptist, was built. Its diminutive name may have reflected its intimate membership early on, but the church acted as a focal point of the community and a great source of comfort and pride in times of both joy and difficulty.

In over one hundred years of serving the community, the Little Union family has grown in size, yet its mission, handed down from Mrs. Bates Thomas to the church leadership and today through the guidance of Reverend James Green, has always remained: "to establish a fellowship in Jesus Christ that will promote the Gospel throughout the community and the world."

Mary Bates Thomas would surely be proud to see what her church has become. Due to the generosity of the congregation, the able leadership of the church, and God's grace, today we may celebrate Little Union Baptist's satisfaction of its mortgage. Now in complete ownership of its house of worship, the church will be able to use its resources in even greater support of other outreach ministries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the "Mortgage Burning Service" for Little Union Baptist Church. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Little Union church family for establishing and maintaining a healthy house of worship that spreads the spirit of charity and provides counsel to those in need of guidance.

URGING TURKEY TO SAFEGUARD ITS CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter of religious freedom, I share the desire of many of my colleagues that our international relationships and foreign policy should reflect our values. A legacy of intolerance and violent conflict is still palpable in Turkey, decades after the upheavals and population transfers that took place as the Ottoman Empire collapsed. Greeks, Armenians, Assyrians, and others still live with this legacy, and for many decades Turkey's government failed to account for it or to take any steps to recognize it.

Yet, Turkey is undergoing profound and very hopeful changes today. The current Turkish leadership demonstrates an understanding of these changes. They are challenging entrenched, conservative orthodoxies and facing the past in ways that I believe we should encourage. That is why I cannot support the resolution before us today. It is out of step with the reality of today's Turkey, the U.S.-Turkish alliance, and the political realities in the Eastern Mediterranean.

I am concerned that H. Res. 306 would not only send the wrong signal, it would cause the deterioration of a relationship with an important ally without advancing the laudable goal of religious freedom.

The fact is, the Turkish government is moving in the right direction on this issue, and of their own accord. Prime Minister Erdogan of Turkey announced last August that his government would return hundreds of properties that were confiscated from religious minorities by

the state or other parties since 1936, and would pay compensation for properties that were seized and later sold.

I don't think such a gesture should be repaid by a sense of Congress that claims that "the Republic of Turkey has been responsible for the destruction and theft of much of the Christian heritage within its borders" and which accuses our strongest Muslim ally of "official and unofficial acts of discrimination, intolerance, and intimidation." This is a government that has fought beside our soldiers in Afghanistan, and has provided training, overflight and logistical support that have been critical to the United States in Iraq.

While we debate this resolution, we can't ignore the fact that Turkey has taken important steps forward regarding civil and political rights, and is even now developing a new constitution to reflect Turkey's diverse society and its aspirations to become a more active member of the global community. This orientation should be encouraged. The resolution before us, in my view, does nothing to encourage Turkey on that path, regardless of what its backers are claiming.

Only in the last few months, Turkey has taken some very difficult and controversial steps that support the foreign policy of the United States. Perhaps the best example, and least well-known, is in Libya. While U.S. and N.A.T.O. forces were protecting Libyan civilians from a depraved dictator, the Republic of Turkey agreed to serve as a "protecting power" on behalf of the United States. In that capacity they represented the United States in Libya, including acting as consular officers on behalf of U.S. citizens in Libya and looking after American diplomatic facilities in the country. They also fully supported our goal of protecting the Libyan opposition, and pledged financial and material support to NATO to bring about a free, democratic, secure, stable, and united Libya. Is this how we repay them?

Another example of Turkey's positive role in the Mediterranean region is their government's decision to host a U.S. radar warning system in the southeastern region of the country. This is a landmark agreement for the alliance. NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen called the installation a "critical contribution" to the Alliance's efforts to address the growing threat of proliferation. This effort is not inconsistent with Turkey's leadership on issues of international security—only last month Turkey hosted an important international security conference on Afghanistan, and Turkey continues to participate in military and civilian efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

And Turkey has also demonstrated a willingness to challenge undemocratic and despotic neighbors, despite the risk to its own economic interests. The Turkish government has imposed sanctions on the Assad regime in Syria, and erected trade barriers that will make it harder for the dictatorship to remain in place. And the Erdogan government has also distanced itself from Iran by pushing for secular, democratic governments in Egypt, Tunisia and Syria. These are not easy steps for the Turkish government to take—Iran and Syria account for much of Turkey's eastern border and a large part of its trade. But they are pushing ahead, because they share our concern for democratic values. Turkey's government is showing that there can be no real peace without moral principles.

The resolution before us seems utterly ignorant of these critical developments. I cannot