

When a regime loses respect for its own people, its days are numbered.

As he has done with thousands of other Iranian freedom fighters, Ahmadinejad came after Mr. Abbasi. So Mr. Abbasi fled to Sweden. But when he did, Iranian authorities started going after his family still in Iran. So they fled too, but could only get to Iraq before being imprisoned by Iraqi authorities for not having their immigration papers. Now the Iraqi government wants to deport his daughter, Iman Abbasi, back to Iran, which is all but a death sentence for her. I talked to the State Department about Iman today and they are working on making sure that Iman is allowed to remain in Iraq until they can sort out her refugee status.

We have seen enough of Iraqi authorities doing favors for its neighbor to the East. At Camp Ashraf, a camp in the middle of the Iraqi desert full of freedom fighters from Iran, Iraqis and their Iranian buddies psychologically torture the residents. They put up dozens of loudspeakers surrounding the camp and shout at residents around the clock, telling them to go home to their motherland and stop being traitors.

We must send a clear message to Iraq: as long as it is ruled by the tiny tyrant and his henchmen, Iran is not a friend you can trust. If you side with them, then you side with oppression and tyranny. So stop imprisoning political refugees and stand up for the freedom that so many of our countrymen and yours have given their lives for.

RECOGNIZING THE ACTIVISM OF  
MS. YOLANDA DE VENANZI IN  
RAISING HIV/AIDS AWARENESS  
AND EDUCATION

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Yolanda De Venanzi and her efforts to raise HIV/AIDS awareness and education within the Hispanic community in South Florida.

Yolanda De Venanzi is an outreach worker with the Comprehensive AIDS Program of Palm Beach County, working within the Hispanic community to help promote HIV/AIDS awareness, testing, and prevention. Among her many activities, she organizes discussion groups and distributes literature throughout the County. Her efforts indeed reach far and wide, including barbershops, the El Sol migrant labor center in Jupiter, and the Caridad Center in Boynton Beach, which provides health services to Hispanic farm workers.

Furthermore, Yolanda also trains volunteers to spread information about HIV/AIDS prevention. One of her ideas that has proven extremely successful is recruiting drivers who work for the Golden Cab Company to distribute packets containing condoms and brochures about the disease. As with all volunteers, they are trained to discuss and promote behavior that helps prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. This creative approach is truly a stroke of genius.

A native of Venezuela, Yolanda has had a varied career, working as a psychology teacher and a mental health counselor. This experi-

ence has no doubt benefitted her in her work with the Comprehensive AIDS Program. In addition, she still teaches online classes in stress reduction and coping for Empire State College.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. De Venanzi's compassion, concern, devotion, and brilliance are to be lauded. Moreover, her efforts represent the kind of community activism that is key to addressing the serious public health challenge that is HIV/AIDS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 8, I was unavoidably detained due to celebration of the Greek Orthodox Epiphany. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF PETER  
PAPANICOLAOU

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Mr. Panayiotis (Peter) Papanicolaou, the distinguished President of the Cyprus Federation of America. Last month, Mr. Papanicolaou was being honored by the Asgata Association at its annual Dinner at Towers on the Green in Floral Park, New York.

Peter Papanicolaou was born and raised in Nicosia, Cyprus, where he received his primary and secondary education. Following two years of service with the National Guard of Cyprus, he came to the United States to pursue a higher education. He attended the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), enrolling in a special program for honors students. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Construction Engineering and Construction Management.

He launched his business career with a research position at NJIT, where he developed new technology for industrial sites and military bases for the cleanup of soils contaminated by toxins. He is now a principal of J.F. Contracting, a Brooklyn-based construction and engineering firm. He is professionally affiliated with the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and he is a member of the Civil Engineering Honor Society.

Peter Papanicolaou is the Supreme President of the Cyprus Federation of America, an umbrella organization for all Cypriot Americans. He is also president of the Archdiocesan Metropolitan Youth Choir, a member of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council, and a member of the Advisory Board of Queens College, the Saint Basil's Academy, the Albert Dorman Honors College at NJIT, and the Harvard School of Public Health. He is a member of the board of the Cyprus—U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Vice President of the Cyprus Children's Fund.

Peter is widely recognized as a leader with significant civic and humanitarian achievements. In 1995 he was named Businessman of the Year, Borough of Bronx and in 1996 he was presented with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for his contributions to our national identity while preserving the distinct values and heritage of our ancestors. In 1998 he became an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, an honor conferred upon individuals for their services and dedication to the Greek Orthodox Church. He is a member of Leadership 100 and a founding member of the Faith Endowment of Orthodoxy. Peter was honored by various Greek American organizations, churches and professional associations.

Peter continues to serve tirelessly various causes of the Greek American community. He resides in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife Nasia. They have two daughters, Elizabeth and Elena.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise and join me in honoring Mr. Panayiotis "Peter" Papanicolaou, a great New Yorker and a great American who has made outstanding contributions to the civic life of our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning, Thursday, January 6, 2011, I was unable to record my presence on the Floor of the House at the quorum call, rollcall No. 7, because I was unavoidably detained in a meeting related to my role on the House Armed Services Committee.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTO ALOMAR

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the greatest players in the history of baseball, Roberto Alomar. This week, Alomar was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, a recognition for the many years he played the sport at its very highest level.

To many, being a 12-time All-Star, a 10-time Gold Glove recipient and a four-time Silver Slugger and batting over .300 nine times would suffice, but for Roberto Alomar, these were simply milestones along his route to the Hall of Fame. Induction into the Hall of Fame is a time-honored tradition in America reserved only for the game changers. It is not merely that these men played the sport with superior skill, it is that they so often transformed the game and our conception of what is possible. Roberto Alomar revolutionized the position of second baseman. He combined offensive power and consistency with a range and fielding ability few had ever seen and fewer still have been able to emulate.

Roberto is part of a Puerto Rican baseball dynasty that deserves recognition, too. His father and brother, Sandy Alomar and Sandy Alomar Jr. had distinguished careers in Major

League Baseball. They must realize that their guidance and support helped guide Roberto to his great career and that they, too, deserve recognition as he is inducted into baseball's most elite and hallowed club.

I am sure that the joy of winning the World Series twice was quite indescribable for Roberto, but the thrill of being inducted into the Hall of Fame must be just as sweet. It is a fitting end to a great career. Along with the rest of the baseball world and millions of Puerto Ricans on the island and in the 50 states, I applaud Roberto Alomar and look forward to seeing his plaque placed among baseball's other legends.

Mr. Speaker, induction into the Hall of Fame is more than the highest honor a player can receive—it is how fans and lovers of organized baseball are able to say 'thank you' to their heroes. Thank you, Roberto, for so many wonderful memories. Thank you for pushing the sport to new heights. Thank you for giving millions of people so many reasons to smile and celebrate and feel joy. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues now join me in saying thank you to Roberto Alomar, a player whose character and quality we may never see again.

#### SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE ACT

**HON. PAUL C. BROWN**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I am honored to introduce as my first bill in the 112th Congress H.R. 212, the Sanctity of Human Life Act, with the support of 54 original cosponsors. My bill will simply define human life as beginning with fertilization and guarantees the constitutional right to life in each human being.

The right to life is our most important fundamental right. Unfortunately, the judicial branch through court decisions has created a complex formula of when life can be taken. My bill makes clear that section two of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, which prohibits any state from depriving any person of life without due process of law, affords the right to life of each human being at conception.

As a physician, I know on the basis of medical and scientific evidence, that human life begins with fertilization, and I hope other Members of Congress will join me in supporting the Sanctity of Human Life Act.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE PARK AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City. The Church began commemorating its 200th anniversary year last year at its 2010 Homecoming Celebration.

The Park Avenue Christian Church began as a group of nine members of the Ebenezer

Baptist Church who branched off to form the Disciples of Christ on October 10, 1810. This makes them one of the oldest Disciples of Christ Churches in America. They were able to establish themselves as a permanent fixture on Manhattan's Upper East Side as the Park Avenue Christian Church in 1945, at a site that formerly housed the South Dutch Reformed Church and later the Park Avenue Presbyterian Church. The Park Avenue Christian Church has since become a blessed sanctuary for Disciples of Christ and a familiar and beloved institution in the community.

The Church's design by Ralph Adams Cram, Bertram Goodhue & Frank Ferguson provided a church of the purest gothic revival style, inspired by the famous Sainte Chapelle in Paris. It is constructed of local New York stone, salvaged from the construction of Central Park, with its spire surmounting the edifice, arches and fluted pilasters supporting the rounded ceiling that covered three naves, a wide cornice extending around the nave and at the middle height of the apse, soaring stained glass windows designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany, a majestic 52-rank William Jackson Jarman Memorial Organ, and an impressive approach of church-wide steps. The building's cornerstone at 1010 Park Avenue at the corner of East 85th Street was laid in 1909, and the new Church was completed two years later.

The Park Avenue Christian Church remains a thriving, vibrant institution to this day, offering spiritual sanctuary, education, social services, and a wide range of other programs to the people of our Nation's greatest city. In 1963, the church opened a day school, which has since become a top private nursery school in the area. Its "Camp Ten Ten" has provided children from diverse backgrounds with a safe and educational summer programming experience. The Church's lively musical programming, including several choirs, concert series, and other musical ensemble performances provide a wonderful outlet for community members. Its Saturday Community Lunch Program provides hot meals and warm companionship to some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers. Park Avenue Christian Church's interfaith program with the Temple of Universal Judaism has provided an invaluable forum for interfaith discussion and relationships. Under the able stewardship of the Reverend Dr. Alvin O'Neal Jackson, the Park Avenue Christian Church continues to uphold its proud and historic tradition of seeking justice, embracing diversity, and inspiring the imagination.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in recognizing the extraordinary contributions to the civic and spiritual life of New York City made by the historic Park Avenue Christian Church and its parishioners, past, present and future.

#### AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 7, 2011*

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the reading of the American Constitution on the Floor of the House of Representatives. Our founding fathers spent nearly four months debating the original Constitution dur-

ing the summer of 1787. They spent the following two and a half years securing the support of each of the thirteen original colonies. Since the constitutional convention in Philadelphia, the Constitution has been debated and successfully amended a total of 27 times. Today, we take an important step by recognizing this important history of debate and change.

When it was originally drafted, the American Constitution laid out a framework of government that reflected their best of understanding of the world as it existed in 1787. That document included many important insights and compromises, but the drafters realized that the Constitution—and the great Nation it created—would only last if the Constitution could adapt and change to meet the challenges of the day. That is why the drafters included a mechanism in the Constitution to change the very document they spent months crafting.

As we are all aware, the first exercise of this amendment mechanism concluded in December 1791 when our young Country ratified the Bill of Rights. Those ten amendments embody some of our most important protections from government power including the freedom of speech, protection from unreasonable searches and seizures, and the guarantee of due process.

During the 19th and 20th Centuries the American people amended the Constitution by adding to Congress's express constitutional powers and ensuring Congress has all the tools necessary to address national problems and protect the rights of all Americans. Shortly after the U. S. Civil War, the Constitution was amended to abolish slavery, guarantee the equal protection of the law to all Americans, and guaranteeing the right to vote. With these changes, "We the People" expanded the power to Congress to protect the promises of freedom and equality for all Americans.

I could go on, but my point is not to give a history of the Constitution but to explain how the Constitution has changed for the better. Without these changes, a Chinese-American woman, like me, would never be able to vote in this Country much less serve as a member of Congress. With these powers, Congress has not only been given great power by the American people, it has also been given great responsibility. That responsibility includes ensuring that all Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, creed, gender, gender identification, or sexual orientation, have the opportunity to pursue their own version of happiness.

I welcome this reading today as a symbol of the Constitution as a living document. Our understanding of the Constitution is constantly changing and evolving just as the words of the constitution have changed over time. If anything has remained constant, it is the principles espoused by that great document. Those principles ensure that we will have a representative government, "of the people, by the people, and for the people," and that this government will protect the core values of liberty, equality, and opportunity. I look forward to working with my friends across the aisle to ensure this Congress uses its broad powers to promote these values.