

Mr. Speaker, Shawn was a dedicated public servant, but he was first-and-foremost a loving father and husband and a fierce friend. Those who knew Shawn adored him for his generous, considerate nature and robust sense of humor. It was impossible not to take notice of his stature as we watched the community rally behind him and his family, doing all they could to help the man they had come to love. Sadly, last week Shawn's long battle with cancer came to a close. He leaves behind his wife of almost sixteen years, his two teenage daughters and too many friends to count.

William Faulkner once said he refused to accept the concept of death "because [man] has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance." Faulkner continued, saying that it is our duty to ensure this endurance by reminding men of "the courage and honor and hope and pride and compassion and pity and sacrifice which have been the glory of his past." Mr. Speaker, it is doubtless that Shawn Webb's story is one that is filled with all of the virtues that Faulkner described. It is my honor to rise today in his remembrance, and to commit to the record of history Shawn's legacy of love, service and honor.

HONORING LAURIE ANN MELROOD
FOR HER LIFETIME OF SOCIAL
SERVICE AS AN ADVOCATE AND
EDUCATOR FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
IN LATIN AMERICA

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laurie Ann Melrood. For more than 40 years, Laurie Melrood has dedicated her life to social justice, speaking as a voice for people with no voice in the United States and other countries. Her initiative and persistence have changed the lives of countless individuals and communities.

The oldest of three children of Paul Melrood and Gitel Kastrul, Laurie Melrood is a second generation American. Her Jewish relatives survived pogroms in the Ukraine from which her father fled as an infant. Her life has been characterized by service since her earliest days.

As a young person in the 1960's, she advocated with African American and Jewish youth for desegregation of Milwaukee Public Schools.

She lived, worked, and studied in Israel during the late 1960's.

She was a member of the International Association of Yiddish Clubs.

In 1971, for her undergraduate internship at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she started Pathfinders, a shelter for runaway teens.

In 1972–1973, Laurie served as a community mental health worker in the "Back of the Yards" neighborhood in South Chicago.

In 1975, she graduated with a Master's Degree in Community Social Work from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. For her graduate internship she started a community service project for high school seniors who received credit for their service.

In 1974–1982, Laurie served as the Program Director of Jewish Social Services in

Madison, Wisconsin. She established the culturally-based and ground breaking model L'Chaim Program for seniors at Madison Jewish Social Services, breaking the social isolation of Jewish and non-Jewish seniors.

From 1981–1982, Laurie was the Director for Community Action on Latin America in Madison, WI.

From 1982–1986, she was a principle organizer in South Texas and Wisconsin for the Underground Railroad and Public Sanctuary of the National Sanctuary Movement helping refugees from Central America to find shelter in the United States. She also assisted numerous refugees immigrate from Russia and Iran to the United States through HIAS, a Jewish Refugee Aid Agency.

From 1986–1990, Ms. Melrood assisted Central American refugee minor children who were detained in Texas by placing them with sponsoring families.

In 1992, Laurie became a staff member for the Pima County Juvenile Court's Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, she recruited volunteers to accompany and advocate for youth in the juvenile justice system. At Pima County Juvenile Court she also served as the Adoptions Examiner, specializing in foreign adoptions.

In 1994, she was one of three co-founders of a health training project in northern Guatemala, specializing in acupuncture and medical aid. The program is unique in training rural health promoters in acupuncture for curative medicine.

In 2000, Laurie was a principle program organizer and collaborator; starting the Kinship and Adoptions Resource Center KA.R.E. Family Center (KARE) in Tucson, Arizona in 2002. KARE is a full service family program helping grandparents and relatives who are raising grandchildren. This center has become a model of social services of its kind for the nation. Laurie has presented this model at child welfare conferences, written about the unmet need of this growing national population of Americans, and strongly advocated for their empowerment.

Mr. Speaker, Laurie Ann Melrood is a true leader of social justice. Her lifetime work of social service and advocacy in the United States and Latin America profoundly affected the lives of innumerable individuals. I want to thank her for her service to this country and to the international community.

IN HONOR OF ALFIE TEWFICK
KHALIL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a good friend and great American who passed away tragically on November 18, 2006. The Defense Language Institute is dedicating its newest classroom building for Middle Eastern languages in honor of Alfie Tawfick Khalil.

Alfie, who was a native of Egypt, came to this country in the late 1960s. In 1979, Alfie joined the faculty of the Monterey, CA Defense Language Institute (DLI) where he taught Arabic to U.S. military personnel. He soon stood out as a leader among the DLI

faculty. In 1980, he became a shop steward with AFGE Local 1263, the union representing the DLI faculty. By 1987 he was elected president of Local 1263.

In the post 9–11 world, foreign language capacity is a national security tool. In 2005, General John Abizaid, former Commander of U.S. Central Command, testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, that the "ability to cross the cultural divide is not an Army issue. It is a national issue. We have to be able to deal with the people in the rest of the world as the globe shrinks in terms of communication and problem solving and sharing." As the world's largest foreign language school, DLI plays an indispensable role in moving this defense strategy forward. But DLI can't do it without its faculty. They are native speakers of their mother languages who, like Alfie, come from the distant places of the globe to help our nation better defend itself.

Alfie understood this and made the advocacy for DLI faculty and staff his life's work. After my first election to Congress, I learned quickly that there were two people I needed to know at DLI: the commandant, a Colonel who would move on or retire after a two year stint, and Alfie, who would always be there representing the best interests of the faculty. Alfie made his presence felt in so many ways.

One of the best examples of this was his hard work on behalf of "locality pay"—the small salary boost for federal workers based in particularly high cost areas. Alfie pointed out that Monterey County was, indeed, one of those areas, but that the federal government still considered it rural so paid DLI faculty at much lower rates. Alfie and I worked together for more than three years to secure a decision by the Office of Personnel Management that Monterey County based civil service workers deserved locality pay. This hard work on Alfie's part has helped DLI attract and retain the best language teachers in the world.

However, Alfie was about more than just pay at DLI. He was about professionalism. That became clear in the most recent fight to keep DLI off the base closure list. Alfie was a never-ending resource to my office and the BRAC Commission. He provided information and statistics on the level of expertise and depth of training of the DLI faculty. With this information it was easy to make the case that DLI could not be recreated anywhere else—that it was dependent on and unique to the talent of the Monterey area. Alfie was a key player in keeping DLI open and in Monterey.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the entire House of Representatives in sharing our sincere condolences to Alfie Khalil's family both here in the United States and in Egypt and to his extended family of students and colleagues throughout the DLI community.

TO HONOR THE CHINESE EXPULSION
REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer special recognition to my constituents and friends at the Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project as they commemorate the

125th anniversary of the expulsion of Chinese residents from the State of Washington.

Thousands of Chinese immigrants were forced to leave their homes and businesses in the greater Seattle area during the fall of 1885 and winter of 1886.

The expulsion of Chinese workers in Washington State stemmed from the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, a measure passed in Congress at the request of labor unions because of competition from Chinese laborers. A few years after the expulsion, Chinese immigrants were welcomed back, and they helped rebuild the city after the Great Seattle Fire of 1889.

The Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project reminds us of the critical role immigrants have played in the development of our community, city, state and country. A deeper understanding of our past gives us a strong context for understanding immigration issues as we move forward.

The Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project also helps us to better understand the vital role that Chinese immigrants, as well as immigrants from other countries, play in Washington State. This results in our communities being more educated and less inclined to allow fear and intolerance to go unquestioned.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the organizers of the Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project for their time, talent and contributions. Thanks to the vision and leadership of Bettie Sing Luke, Ron Chew, Maxine Chan, Edward Echtle, Tim Greyhavens, Theresa Pan Hosley, Kathy Hsieh, Brian Lock, Debbie Louie, Chieko Phillips, Cynthia Kan Rekdal and Connie So, the awareness and appreciation of Chinese American history has greatly risen in our community.

As Seattle commemorates the 125th anniversary of the Chinese expulsion, it is important for us to remember that our country's diverse population has been, and will continue to be, a key factor in growing our economy and creating jobs. The efforts of the Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project have touched so many of us, and they have shown that education is an invaluable asset to the Seattle community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANK
WOODRUFF BUCKLES

HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, our country lost its last American Doughboy on Sunday. Frank Buckles was our last living connection to an era in which a 16-year-old could lie about his age in order to join his nation's army to fight the "Great War." It would probably be impossible for a 16-year-old to enlist today without being discovered, but there are many young Americans that share Mr. Buckles' spirit of patriotism.

Although we have lost this last Doughboy, we have not lost the spirit of patriotism and sacrifice in the name of country that Frank Buckles and so many of his comrades embodied. That spirit is present all across Amer-

ica, including in my district, the 19th district of New York, where we are the home of 4,400 cadets at the United States Military Academy. These young men and women have also dedicated service to our country before turning 18. Their devotion to duty, honor and country continues a great tradition of military service and embody the life Frank Buckles and the millions of service men and women they follow.

I hope that Mr. Buckles' legacy continues to serve as an inspiration for future generations of Americans, who continue to fight for our protection and freedom. May God bless America and our men and women in uniform.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
SHARON SCOTT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Sharon Scott, who passed away on February 24, 2011. Sharon was a tremendous public servant and valued member of our community, and I am honored to recognize her life of dedication and service.

Mrs. Scott has been a long-time member of our Northwest Florida family. As a former council member for the town of Century, Florida, she served with both honor and distinction. Century, a small town in Escambia County with a population of less than 2,000, is well-known for its active politics and citizens. The town is full of local pride, exemplified by Sharon, who always let others know she was from Century and not from its bigger-city neighbor, Pensacola. Sharon was the consummate small-city council member, responding to those she represented as if they were an extension of her own family with a sense of humility required of those who serve their community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life of Sharon Scott of Century, Florida. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for her entire family. She will be truly missed by all of us.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the legislation before us, which will extend funding for our federal transportation programs through the end of this fiscal year in September.

This will be the seventh short-term extension we have passed—hopefully this will be the last. I commend Chairmen MICA and DUNCAN, and Ranking Members RAHALL and DEFAZIO, for their work on crafting this measure, and look forward to working with each of them as the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee continues its work on a long-term surface transportation bill.

Madam Speaker, this so-called "clean extension" of our nation's transportation programs is vitally important for the travelling public. Not only does it continue federal construction projects that we know create jobs—it also extends programs that keep our families safe on the road.

This extension gives our states and communities certainty, at least until the end of this fiscal year, with regard to critical infrastructure projects. It will also provide a level of stability for those working to improve our roads and bridges and build new transit and commercial systems—and the families that are dependent on their income.

While members of both sides of the aisle have spoken of the importance of infrastructure, to date, we have not been able to come up with a forward-looking transportation bill. We all should share a sense of urgency about getting this done. Meanwhile, without continuing the authority for the programs under this bill, more than \$800 million in highway reimbursements and transit grants to states and urban areas would not be dispersed. This inaction would endanger more than 28,000 jobs nationwide.

And so, for the second time this week, we have averted catastrophe—which begs the question, is this how we will continue on for the next two years?

This is a legitimate question, one which was raised at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' annual meeting earlier today. These are the people who have to figure out how to complete long-term projects—and plan new ones—while we lurch forward in short increments. They live in a world where they have to think in months and years, not weeks or news cycles.

In response to a question about getting a long-term bill done, all Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood could say was: "If we don't get something significant done this year I think it will be very difficult." I'd say that is an understatement.

Certainly, the irresponsible, indiscriminate, and short-sighted 24 percent cut to transportation funding contained in H.R. 1 did not inspire a great confidence. We need to do better.

Every community has transportation needs for which federal help is vital. For example, in Hawaii, we are using federal funds to expand the capacity of our ports, and to build new rail transit for our citizens. These are projects that are putting people to work now, and will pay significant dividends for our economy for years to come. These projects will help to connect people with businesses, and businesses with workers. They will help to get cars off our streets, and expand the amount of commerce that can move in and out of our islands.

Again, I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will now come together on a long-term transportation bill. This is our opportunity to show that we can do something that will be a game-changer for our economy in the 21st century. Over the few months that this bill gives us, we can spend our time wisely debating how best to direct federal dollars to help our states and cities. I hope that this is a bipartisan effort, and look forward to working with my colleagues on the Committee to make this happen.