

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF US-ALBANIAN RELATIONS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my warmest wishes to the people of Albania on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Albania. For more than 50 years, our countries were separated by more than just distance, and Albania lived in darkness. But, twenty years ago, the Albanian people threw off the yoke of repression and ushered in an era of democracy and freedom.

I believe that the renewal of ties between the United States and Albania flowed naturally following the end of the dictatorship. With the strong hand of President Woodrow Wilson and the United States early last century, the European powers were not able to divide Albania among its neighbors, and Albania's territorial integrity and sovereignty were ensured.

Today, our relations are strong and Albania has taken its rightful place within Europe and on the international scene. It has joined NATO and has begun the process of moving toward the European Union (EU). As a member of NATO, Albania has sent members of its armed forces to fight along side US and other countries' troops in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. And, it is my fervent hope that through continued democratic progress, Albania will someday soon join the EU.

I have visited Albania many times since the early 1990s and have personally seen the immense progress the country has made. When I first walked the streets of Tirana, I was almost as likely to have seen a horse-drawn cart as a car driving down the streets and boulevards. Today, however, Albania's capital is a flourishing city and the country is full of life and has a European outlook.

So, again, on this twentieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Albania, I would like to offer my congratulations and my best wishes for the next twenty years of friendship and progress.

A TRIBUTE TO JEAN MARGARET ELIGON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Jean Margaret Eligon.

Ms. Eligon was born in Grenada, West Indies, and immigrated to the United States at the age of seven. She graduated from Bishop McDonnell Memorial High School, received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brooklyn College, and a Master of Science degree from Long Island University.

Ms. Eligon is a Teacher, Educator, Special Education Itinerary Teacher, and a Resource Room Coordinator; she is licensed in General Education and Special Education. Ms. Eligon

taught Communication Arts, Math and Global History at Samuel J. Tilden High School. She retired in June 2009, after working in the public school system for 35 years.

Today, Ms. Eligon works with at risk children and has formed her own agency, known as the JME Agency. This agency was created to service children diagnosed with various disabilities, providing one-on-one support in daycare centers and in the home.

She has two children: a son, who is an elementary school teacher, and a daughter, who is a high school teacher. Besides her love for people, Jean loves reading, cooking, baking, and traveling.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Jean Margaret Eligon.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,166,030,787,779.80.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,527,605,041,486.00 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING HENRY OGINSKY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Henry "Hank" Oginsky as he celebrates his 80th birthday. Hank is a dear friend, I have known for many, many years and I congratulate him on reaching this milestone in his life. A party will be held in his honor on March 27 in Corunna, Michigan.

Hank was born on March 1, 1931 in New Lothrop, Michigan. He graduated from Northeastern High School in Detroit and in 1950 he started working for Buick Motor Division of General Motors. He worked at Buick for 40 years. As a member of UAW Local 599, Hank was elected as a Committeeman, then Shop Committeeman, and as the Local's Financial Secretary. He served as Financial Secretary for 25 years. During this time he was also a member of the Executive Committee and continued serving when he became a retiree. Over the years he played a pivotal role in passage of the "30 and Out" retirement policy and obtaining dental benefits for the membership.

As a father of ten children, Hank also finds time to maintain two farms. He has his own farm in Lennon, Michigan and he operates his grandfather's farm in the New Lothrop area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding Henry "Hank" Oginsky as he celebrates his 80th birthday. I

have always welcomed his insight, thoughtfulness, astute judgment and assistance over the years. I wish him the best in the coming year and many, many more.

A TRIBUTE TO ANDREA PIPER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Andrea Piper.

Andrea Piper was born and raised in Albany, New York. She was fortunate to attend private school from kindergarten through eighth grade. She then attended Albany High School, where she graduated at the top of her class. Ms. Piper had a strong educational and ethical philosophy during her childhood, a philosophy that still remains with her. This foundation, along with continued support from family and friends, allowed Ms. Piper to embrace her dream of becoming an educational leader. After high school, Ms. Piper received a Bachelor's Degree from SUNY College at Cortland. She later went on to pursue a Master's degree from Cambridge College and a certification in Education and Administration from the College of St. Rose CITE Program.

Ms. Piper has been an educator for seventeen years with the New York City Department of Education. She started as a middle school science teacher, in 1993, at Intermediate School 55, in Brownsville. In 1999, she moved on to teach for another seven years at ACORN Community High School, in Crown Heights; during this time, she was recognized by the UFT as a Teacher of the Year. While at ACORN Community High School, Ms. Piper served on several committees and started various after school clubs, including the ACHS Chorus and the Forensics Science Club. Her Principal recognized her effectiveness as a classroom teacher and assigned her as Lead Teacher of the Science Department; this prompted Andrea to pursue her administrative license. Very soon thereafter, Andrea was offered an Assistant Principal ("AP") position at ACORN Community High School, where she served as AP of Supervision, Guidance, Security and Organization. Her hard work and devotion to educating the lives of the children of ACORN Community High School led her to her current position: Principal of ACORN Community High School.

Affectionately known as "Piper," Ms. Piper has been recognized by colleagues for her hard work and contributions to the legacy of the schools she taught in. During her tenure as teacher and educational leader, Ms. Piper strived to help students become aware of their self-worth and limitless potential. She sets the bar high for both students and staff members; she understands what it takes to succeed.

Ms. Piper's hobbies are singing, crocheting, shopping and drawing. She loves spending time with her two daughters, Akili and Cheyenne. Ms. Piper owes her success and work ethic to her parents, Hilliard Sr. (deceased) and Anna Piper, as well as her great mentors. Through their love and dedication, as well as their commitment to entrench her in a guided and religious background, Ms. Piper maintains her strength and identity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Ms. Andrea Piper.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION THAT THE PRESIDENT IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN IN ADVANCE SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE OF U.S. ARMED FORCES IN RESPONSE TO CIVIL UNREST IN LIBYA

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the President is required to obtain in advance specific statutory authorization for the use of United States Armed Forces in response to civil unrest in Libya. As many in the administration, Congress, and elsewhere clamor for the President to initiate military action to support those seeking to overthrow the Libyan regime, Congress sits by, as usual, pretending that Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution does not exist. According to this long-ignored section, "The Congress shall have Power To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water."

This is black letter law, not some aspirational statement by our Founders. Their intent was indisputably clear: Congress alone, not the Executive Branch, has the authority and the obligation to declare war if hostilities are to be initiated against a foreign state that has not attacked the United States.

Let us be clear about one thing: for the U.S. to take action to establish a "no fly" zone over all or part of Libya would constitute an act of war against Libya. For the U.S. to establish any kind of military presence on the sovereign territory, waters, or over the airspace of Libya is to engage in a hostile action that requires Congressional authorization.

Whatever we may think about the Gaddafi regime, we must recognize that this is a coup d'état in a foreign country. What moral right do we have to initiate military action against Libya? Libya has not attacked the United States. Neither the coup leaders nor the regime pose an imminent threat to the United States and therefore, as much as we abhor violence and loss of life, this is simply none of our business.

I would remind my colleagues that we have been here before. In the 1990s we established "no fly" zones and all manner of sanctions against Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq in an attempt to force him from power. When that did not work—at a high cost in Iraqi lives—the U.S. ultimately went to war to achieve these ends. The costs of this war, I do not need to remind my colleague; was much higher even, in U.S. military lives, in Iraqi civilian lives, in our diminished moral standing in the world, in our economy. Yet none of us seem able to learn from an enormous mistake made only a few years ago. Once again a bad man is doing bad things thousands of miles away and once again irresponsible voices are demanding that the U.S. "do something" about it. Will we ever learn? We continue to act as the policemen of the world at our own peril, and as we continue we only accelerate our economic collapse.

Let the supporters of yet another war in the Middle East come forth to make their case for a U.S. attack against Libya. I will strongly op-

pose such a move, but it should be very clear that if a war against Libya is to be initiated it must be declared by the proper Constitutional authority: the U.S. Congress.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. CHINWE OKONKWO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Chinwe Okonkwo.

Dr. Chinwe Okonkwo is board certified (and re-certified until 2018) in Internal Medicine. She is the Medical Director of Tina Medical PC, at 8925 Flatlands Ave., and Rutland Medical Plaza, in Brooklyn. She remains affiliated with and actively treats patients at New York Methodist Hospital, Brookdale University Hospital, Brooklyn's Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, and two Long Island hospitals: Good Samaritan Hospital and Southside Hospital.

Dr. Chinwe Okonkwo is experienced in both Medical and Epidemiological Research. She was one of the research investigators that participated in Blood Pressure Research on longitudinal observational study of blood pressure success. She also participated in a research program focusing on migraine headaches, helping to bring powerful migraine headache medication from Europe to the United States as part of the research investigation in 2003.

Dr. Okonkwo received numerous awards: a Certificate of Medical Achievement Awards by the Medical Society of the County of Kings Inc.; the Academy of Medicine of Brooklyn; State of New York Executive Chamber, Certificate of Recognition by Governor David Paterson; the New York State Senate 22nd District Certificate of Medical Achievement Award; the New York State Assembly Certificate of Medical Merit Award; the Kingsbrook Jewish Hospital's President's Award; the prestigious Family Service Network of New York Award; and the Strathmore's Lifetime Professional Membership Award, from 2004 to the present. She was also awarded one of America's Registry's Top 10 Members in HealthCare Profession by America's Registry of Outstanding Professionals 2009 to present. In light of this award, she participated in skilled training programs with the World Health Organization ("WHO") in the areas of Family Planning, Counseling and Management in Nigeria; in 1998, she was awarded a Certificate of Achievement by the Medical Director of WHO from the United States. She also played an essential role in establishing several rural medical centers for the poor in the Enugu State of Nigeria from 1986 to 1990, when she relocated to the United States for further education.

Dr. Okonkwo has more than 24 years of medical experience. She has lived, worked and been involved with the families of Brooklyn for the past 20 years. In spite of her hectic schedule, Dr. Chinwe Okonkwo remains a dedicated and family-centered mother and wife. She is also the CEO/Founder of Hope Outreach Inc, a not for profit 501(c)(3).

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Dr. Chinwe Okonkwo.

IN HONOR OF THE 163RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1848-1849 HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 163rd Anniversary of the 1848-1849 Hungarian Revolution and the valiant contribution of the Hungarian people to those efforts. The European revolutions of 1848-1849, known as the "Spring of Nations," will always remind us that independence, self-rule, and democracy can never be permanently extinguished in any society.

The year 1848 marked a momentous occasion for the nations of Europe. All across the continent, oppressed people rose up to attempt to secure their liberty and freedom. The people of Hungary followed suit and attempted to overthrow the oppressors in the Habsburg monarchy.

March 15th marked the day that the Hungarians made their stand. They marched, collectively as Hungarians, to demand their rights. In solidarity, they marched and demonstrated until their ruling governors had no choice, but to relinquish to them their freedom and liberty.

Today, we see Hungary as a regional success story for democracy and civil society. This eventual, if delayed, victory shows us that though the road to democracy is not always an easy one, the spirit of people will ultimately prevail in the determined march toward democracy.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the values of freedom, independence, and democracy that the Hungarians demanded in 1848. The Hungarian Revolution of 1848 stands as a reminder and inspiration of the undying desire of any society to be free and independent.

CONGRATULATING THE NEOSHO, MISSOURI, HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Neosho High School Wrestling Team for winning the Missouri Class 3 State Championship.

One might not think of a team when you think of wrestling, but wrestling is a team sport. These young champions, River Buttram, Tanner Schaack, Nate Rodriguez, Trevor Hughes, Paxon Fowler, Rimo Elwise, Carter Boatright, Ethan Pogue, Payne Hatter, Chase Espinosa, Blake Stauffer, Dallas Smith, Matt Millard, and Riley Plew are a team. They trained as one, they competed as one, and together though their hard work and dedication they won the Missouri Class 3 State Championship.

Of course, the wrestlers aren't the only champions; they had an outstanding team of talented coaches supporting them and guiding them along the way. I commend Head Coach Jeremy Phillips and assistant coaches Cody