

Now compare the plight of this American citizen with millions of people who have crossed into this country illegally. They proudly attend rallies and speak on television, openly proclaiming that they are in this country in defiance of our laws. Many do not pay taxes while many others are receiving monetary benefits from the government.

It is reprehensible that our federal law enforcement would falsely and recklessly arrest one of our own citizens who owns a small business, pays taxes, and employs other Americans, while allowing lawbreakers from other countries to openly flaunt their violation of our laws. American citizens are not being served when the priorities of the federal government are so twisted.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 805

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, there are not many of us who have not heard of the horrific battleground stories experienced by our young men and women who have served in Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom. These stories reveal a gruesome and difficult war in which servicemembers often sustain long lasting emotional and physical injuries. Of these injuries, none is more deafening than the amputations undergone by servicemembers as a direct result of the widespread use of roadside bombs otherwise known as improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

This class of injury, which has spiked significantly since the onset of the Operation New Dawn, requires special consideration within the Department of Veterans Affairs. After returning home, these individuals must embark upon extensive rehabilitation and special treatment to receive a shot at living a normal life, and this is why I have introduced H.R. 805.

H.R. 805 instructs the VA to actively inform veterans and educate employees at each VA prosthetics and orthotics clinic of the Injured and Amputee Veterans' Bill of Rights. In addition, this bill requires the VA to monitor and resolve complaints from injured and amputee veterans alleging mistreatment.

I believe that this bill will do much to protect the rights of our injured and amputee veterans, as well as bolster the consistency of prosthetic and orthotic care throughout the VA health system.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 193, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TAIWAN WOULD BE A CONSTRUCTIVE MEMBER OF THE UNFCCC

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is one of the most geologically sensitive regions of the world and they are keenly aware of their vulnerability to the various threats of accelerating global environmental change.

Taiwan recognizes that the climate system is a shared resource whose stability can be affected by industrial and other emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. For these reasons, Taiwan would be a constructive member of the global organizations of the United Nations (UN) through its Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As a member of UNFCCC, Taiwan will be able to contribute their skills and experiences to the world community such as gathering and sharing information on greenhouse gas emissions, national policies and best practices, providing financial and technological support to developing countries and preparing for adaptations to the impacts of climate change.

Since 2008, Taiwan's new administration has proactively engaged in many UN activities. In 2009, UN member states for the first time accepted Taiwan as an official observer for the World Health Assembly. The UN should further consider Taiwan's inclusion in the United Nations' environmental conventions and activities.

END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, research tells us that veterans are over represented in the homeless population. VA is the largest single provider of homeless services reaching about 25 percent of that population.

VA operates a wide variety of homeless veterans programs designed to provide outreach, supportive services, health care as well as counseling and treatment for mental health and substance use disorders. They rely heavily on their partnerships with the community and faith based organizations to provide these services.

Many of VA's homeless population:

Have had a serious psychiatric problem defined as psychosis, mood disorder or PTSD.

Were dependent on alcohol and/or drugs.

Were dually diagnosed with serious psychiatric and substance abuse problems.

Have suffered from a serious medical problem.

The number of homeless women veterans is rising.

Prior to becoming homeless, a large number of veterans at risk have struggled with PTSD or have addictions acquired during, or worsened by, their military service. These conditions can interrupt their ability to keep a job, establish savings, and in some cases, maintain family harmony.

Veterans' family, social, and professional networks may have been broken due to extensive mobility while in service or lengthy periods away from their hometowns and their civilian jobs. These problems are directly traceable to their experience in military service or to their return to civilian society without having had appropriate transitional supports.

VA reports that approximately 1,500 homeless veterans are from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. This is a growing population. It took roughly a decade for the lives of Vietnam veterans to unravel to the point that they started showing up among the homeless.

Concern has been expressed by many that such an early showing of more recent veterans in the homeless population does not bode well. It is also believed that the intense repeated deployments leave newer veterans particularly vulnerable.

We know the Department of Veterans Affairs has many programs to address currently homeless veterans, and they do a great job. However, the most important piece to ending homelessness among the Nation's veteran population is to prevent it in the first place.

It is unacceptable that even one of our veterans sleep on the streets or in shelters after risking their lives on behalf of this country.

My legislation, H.R. 806, will go a long way in strengthening our efforts to ultimately end homelessness.

This bill increases funding to successful programs for homeless veterans; requires each VA medical center that provides supporting housing services to provide housing counselors; requires housing counselors to conduct landlord research; strengthens permanent housing programs, and pays special interest to the needs of homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children.

The time to act is now. We cannot afford to let history repeat itself.

I urge your support of this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH TAYLOR

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Elizabeth Taylor last week, America, and the world, lost much more than a great movie actress, more than a celebrated legend and cherished celebrity, and more than a woman of enduring beauty and appeal.

We lost a champion fighter for the survival and dignity of those with HIV/AIDS.

Of many causes which Elizabeth Taylor embraced, such as her support for the State of Israel and the Jewish people, it was her great courage and selfless commitment that defined her work to support every effort to find a cure for HIV/AIDS, and to protect the rights of every person living with HIV/AIDS.

We forget how long and hard the struggle has been—precisely because of the heroic progress that has been made, medically and socially, in treating and living with HIV/AIDS. It's hard to remember, but in the early 1980s, people knew very little about AIDS. The nation went on a publicity roller-coaster, going from complacency to panic and back again.

She was among a handful of people in those early days of the epidemic who managed to get us to the right level of urgency. One, obviously, was Surgeon General C. Everett Koop. Another was Tony Fauci at NIH.

But many people got their most memorable information from an unexpected source—Elizabeth Taylor. Beginning with her concern for her friends who were sick, she became an ambassador for people living with AIDS, for their doctors, and for AIDS research. When the Reagan White House was refusing even to acknowledge that tens of thousands of Americans were sick and dying, she went public.

To those who would shun our fellow citizens with HIV/AIDS, Elizabeth Taylor literally embraced them—showing us how to respond to a terrible illness that exacted a relentless toll on millions.

And so it was Elizabeth Taylor who called us to account every day, as individuals and as a society, for the humanity of those with HIV/AIDS.

Working with Dr. Mathilde Krim, Elizabeth Taylor championed the American Foundation for AIDS Research, a group that advocated for AIDS research and found funding for research that no one else was financing—functions it serves to this day.

To her enduring credit, Ms. Taylor leveraged her unique celebrity to speak truth to power, going to the media, the Administration, and Congress to urge ongoing attention and funding to the epidemic.

She testified before the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the House Commerce Committee about the need for research, prevention, education and treatment and about the Congress' responsibilities to find funds for them. Her efforts helped seal public support for the 1990 Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act.

She was a movie star. But she used her star power to do something that scientists, doctors, and public health officials could not have accomplished on their own. She made the nation stop, look, listen, and understand what was at stake for those with HIV/AIDS and for us as a society.

In this way, Elizabeth Taylor helped motivate us to start doing needed work.

For that we owe her more than movie-star fame. She may be remembered most for her screen roles. But it was her living role as a healer for which we owe Elizabeth Taylor a debt of profound gratitude—for lives improved and lives saved, for advances in treatment and prevention, and for the hope of one day finding a cure for HIV/AIDS.

SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI'S VISION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud those who are leading America toward equality and equity for all people—and, especially, to commend Maryland's Senior Senator, BARBARA MIKULSKI.

As a father, my greatest hope is for the continued social progress that will allow my daughters to achieve the full measure of their

dreams. That is why, during Women's History Month each year, I am thinking more about our future than about our past.

Recently, President Obama, also the father of two daughters, expressed the same perspective.

"While enormous progress has been made," he observed, "there is still work to be done before women achieve true parity."

His observation is backed up by "kitchen table" economics. When women are not treated fairly, their families suffer as a result.

One would think that the concept of equal pay for equal work is so American that it would already be a "done deal" in this country. Yet, we know that equal pay is not yet a reality.

Family hardships result from the harsh reality that women, on average, make just 77 cents for every dollar earned by men in comparable jobs (just 69 cents if you are an African American woman—and 59 cents if you are a Latina woman).

Last week, Senator MIKULSKI was afforded another opportunity to remind everyone of this still-to-be-achieved civil rights goal as we participated in an event honoring Lilly Ledbetter, the woman whose Supreme Court equal opportunity case led to the "Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009."

As she was applauding Ms. Ledbetter for the courage and determination she had shown fighting for fair pay, I had the opportunity to reflect on BARBARA MIKULSKI's vision for America—and upon all that she has achieved in public life.

Maryland's senior Senator is a remarkable human being—and a person I am honored to call my friend.

When I first entered the Congress after a Special Election in 1996, BARBARA was there for me, helping us to get our office up and running as quickly as possible so no one in Maryland's 7th Congressional District would lack representation.

I have never forgotten that kindness. It was a practical demonstration of the same human compassion that BARBARA MIKULSKI has offered to tens of thousands of Marylanders over the years.

It is why she has become a national leader—and why her colleagues in the Senate have supported her work and leadership on two of its most prestigious committees: Appropriations and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

We all have an interest in women and their families receiving fair pay for the work that they perform. Maryland's Senior Senator was one of the essential leaders in our efforts to enact the Affordable Care Act, as well as the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

Yet, despite the national prominence that she has achieved, "Senator BARB" has never lost that candor, honesty and strength that are so typical of the Highlandtown of her youth.

In her family's grocery store, she learned the challenges faced by working families. Then, as a social worker, she perfected the skills that she needed to become an effective leader in our cause.

Today, I doubt whether there is a single person in our home State of Maryland who does not know what Senator MIKULSKI stands for. Her progressive values are solid and clear. We know that she is going to fight for all of us every single day.

Less well known, however, is BARBARA MIKULSKI's lifetime vision of bringing all of Amer-

ica's working families together in support of progressive change. It is a dream that ties together her roots in Highlandtown with my own South and West Baltimore heritage: "Unfortunately, because of old prejudices and new fears," she observed back in 1970, "anger is generated [within European ethnic communities] against other minority groups rather than those who have power. What is needed is an alliance of white and black, white collar, blue collar and no collar based upon mutual need, interdependence and respect—an alliance to develop the strategy for new kinds of community organization and political participation."

All Americans are better off for our progress toward achieving BARBARA MIKULSKI's dream—and the movement toward a better America that her dream sustains.

LIZBETH BLANCO-RAMOS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos is a 12th grader at Warren Tech North and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during rollcall votes on H. Con. Res. 28 and H.R. 1076. Had I been present, I would have voted against both of these bills.

HONORING MR. JONATHAN SMALLS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, a tenacious man from Frogmore, South Carolina utilizes his gifts, talents and wisdom everyday to insure that veterans and