

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH PASTORAL APPRECIATION OF BISHOP CLARENCE E. STEWART, JR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special Alabamian today, Bishop Clarence E. Stewart, Jr.

Bishop Stewart has served as pastor of Ambassadors for Christ Ministries in Montgomery, Alabama, since 2002. Over the past decade, the church has grown tremendously and he's also created a successful television and radio ministry.

Bishop Stewart received his education in Montgomery County, Alabama and continued his studies at Alabama State University. He is the son of Clarence E. Stewart, Sr. and Annie Ruth Gilmore, and is father to three daughters, Jennifer, Shay, and Joia, and one son, Clarence III (Tre').

I am proud to honor the 10th Pastoral Appreciation of Bishop Clarence E. Stewart, Jr., and applaud him for his ministries in Montgomery.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL JOHNSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 186, I recall voting on the entire series in this voting session. I was standing with Rep. RENACCI (OH-16), and we both voted the entire series. We both used the same voting machine, and he was also flagged as a missed vote.

I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING TEDDY OSBORN ON HIS ACCOMPLISHMENT OF EARNING 129 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA BADGES

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Teddy Osborn of Grove City, Ohio for making Boy Scouting history in Ohio. Teddy, a highly decorated Eagle Scout, is an active member of Ohio's largest Boy Scout troop, Troop 200, chartered out of Northwest Methodist Church in Columbus.

Today I would like to commend Teddy for earning the maximum number of Boy Scouts of America badges—all 129. While accumulating the mandated number of 21 merit badges can be tough; earning all 129 badges is not only going above and beyond, but is an outstanding accomplishment.

An 18-year-old senior at Columbus Bishop Ready High School, Teddy attained what less than one percent of all Boy Scouts annually achieve when he earned his 100th merit badge. In earning all 129 merit badges, Teddy

is the first boy scout in Ohio's 100 years of scouting history to earn all available merit badges.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 15th Congressional District, I congratulate Teddy Osborn on this historic scouting accomplishment.

REMEMBERING ROBERT CHAUNCEY MYERS

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Robert Myers of Roseville, California.

Robert was born in Ohio in 1937 and as a young child moved with his family to Los Angeles where he was raised. At age 17, Robert enlisted in the United States Air Force and after completing his training as an aircraft mechanic, deployed overseas to Europe. Robert's post was the front lines of the Cold War, where he was charged with guarding and maintaining strategic nuclear assets. Robert left the service in 1962 rising to the position of Crew Chief to USAF General Bernard Schriever, who oversaw the U.S. strategic missile program and over 40% of the Air Force budget. After leaving the armed forces, Robert continued a career of service to his community as a firefighter with the Torrance Fire Department in Torrance, California, a post he held to his retirement in 1993.

Following his long career of public service, Robert and his wife, Gwen, moved to Sun City in Roseville, California. It is doubtless that by the time Robert moved to Roseville he had already provided more service to this country than could reasonably be expected, both through his service in the United States Air Force and the Torrance Fire Department, but he wasn't finished yet. While living in Sun City, Robert became one of the founders of the Tea Party group there: leading book clubs, discussions and activities devoted to educating citizens and advocating for the founding principles of our country. Mr. Speaker, it is the patriotism of men like Robert that will ultimately lead to the salvation of our country from our current trials, and I believe that his contributions to this fight at home are every bit as valuable and important as the years he spent guarding nuclear weapons at the height of the Cold War.

Robert is survived by his wife, Gwen, his four children: Christine, Steven, Richard and Elizabeth; and his three grandchildren: Alice, Oscar and Sophia. The quality of Robert's dedicated life of service is only matched by the remarkable family he supported and raised as a loving husband, father and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, patriots such as Robert Myers have ensured the safety and success of our union from its earliest days to the present time, and I have no doubt that his life has served to further that cause. It is with a grateful and humbled heart that I rise today to honor his memory and thank him for his many years of service.

RECOGNIZING LINDSAY CZARNIAK

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Lindsay Czarniak for her outstanding work in sports broadcasting as an anchor and reporter for NBC Washington. This month we are celebrating Women's History Month in the District of Columbia by honoring Lindsay Czarniak, whose excellence in a field dominated by men has made her a favorite on television here.

Lindsay, who was born in Pennsylvania and raised in Northern Virginia, is seen by her viewers as a quintessential Washingtonian because of her credibility and effectiveness in connecting with residents while reporting on our teams for NBC4 sports. After serving as co-host of the George Michael Sports Machine, Lindsay struck out on her own on NBC4 with her signature show, Lunch with Lindsay. She has interviewed many great sports figures, including Art Monk, Sugar Ray Leonard, and James Brown. Lindsay also has covered the 2008 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China, as well as NASCAR races as a pit reporter on TNT.

This year, our celebration of Women's History Month will honor not only Lindsay Czarniak, but also another female groundbreaker, Natalie Randolph, the only current female boys high school varsity head football coach in the nation. Lindsay also has generously agreed to participate in an assembly, where she will interview Natalie Randolph, a member of the D.C. Divas, a woman's professional football team, and a member of the Calvin Coolidge Senior High School football team concerning Coach Randolph's football and coaching career.

Lindsay Czarniak is an inspiration to young girls, to women, and to all Americans who support equal opportunity on the basis of ability and hard work. The excellence of her work in the male-dominated sports world makes all who are fortunate to see her on television understand that nothing is beyond a woman's capability, and that no field, sports or otherwise, is off limits to women.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Lindsay Czarniak, as a trailblazing example of excellence in her profession.

BAHRAIN, IRAN AND THE GCC

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEAGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. FALEOMAVEAGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the threat posed by the Islamic Republic of Iran to Bahrain, a U.S. ally and a member of a group of U.S. allies, The Gulf Cooperation Council or the GCC.

Bahrain is a small country with a free economy and a government that is friendly to the United States. It plays host to the Fifth Fleet of the United States Navy, which patrols the waters of the Persian Gulf and protects world shipping there. Bahrain has been declared a

major non-NATO ally by the United States Government, and has established a Free Trade Agreement with us to facilitate better relations between our countries.

But today, Bahrain is under attack, in a proxy war between Iran on one side, and the entire GCC and their allies in the United States and Europe on the other. As the demonstrations sweep through the Middle East demanding democracy, Iran has seen its opportunity to fish in troubled waters by stirring up long-time resentments among Bahrain's majority Shi'a population.

Not that the Shi'a protests are without merit, or are completely foreign imports: to the contrary, they have real complaints that the Bahraini government will have to address, and has committed to address. But Iran, which has long been probing Bahraini defenses and stress-testing the social system, believes that its chance has finally come to achieve one of its cherished foreign policy goals: the weakening of the GCC by picking off one member state at a time.

Iran has long desired to export its so-called Islamic revolution, and to expand its influence in the rest of the Islamic world. The preamble to the Iranian Constitution states that their armed forces, "... will be responsible ... for fulfilling the ideological mission of jihad in God's way; that is, extending the sovereignty of God's law throughout the world." Iraq and Bahrain, Lebanon, Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan, all have come in for special attention because of their substantial populations of Shi'ite Muslims. In fact, those who committed several terrorist acts during the 1980s in GCC countries proudly claimed allegiance to and sponsorship by Iran, leading Bahrain to break diplomatic relations with Iran in protest.

Iran has long used its military and intelligence assets to destabilize neighboring countries. And it aims to destabilize the entire GCC, and peel its member states away from the United States and the West, starting with Bahrain. A perfect example is what has been happening in Bahrain since last year—long before the current protests started. In the run-up to last year's elections, Bahrain disrupted a terrorist plot to instigate a violent overthrow of the government. Although some of those arrested may have been caught unfairly in a wide net, others were shown to be complicit in subversive and violent plots against the state.

Another example of Iranian pressure before the February outbreak of protests is the constant burning of tires and setting of fires, almost every night, at various points in Bahrain. The youth involved claimed that they only were trying to make a point, and to protest their political marginalization. But the government recognized that the fires targeted power lines and communications towers more often than not, and suspected that the real aim may have been not only to weaken infrastructure, but also to test response times of security and emergency personnel. This would be roughly equivalent to 'probing' attacks such as sending fake bombs through air cargo, to see whether and how security forces reacted.

These tactics are consistent with a continued pattern that we have seen from the Islamic Republic, in Lebanon for example, of using unwitting young people, inciting them to extremist sentiments and radical action, to inflame popular opinion. They convince youth to rebel, and get themselves arrested; then their families and friends rise up to defend them,

and security forces fear them and overreact, and this instigates a pattern of resentment and fear on both sides that seems—and becomes—autonomous to the participants themselves.

This is how a terrorist threat ends up shutting down an entire society: the tactic is to provoke, provoke, and provoke the rulers of society, until they react harshly in fear or anger, and then to provoke the people to rise up when the rulers impose harsh measures. Iran already had been engaged in these activities in Bahrain for some time, when the people of Tunisia and Egypt rose up against corruption and repression. They had their networks already established, and had only to stoke the flames of resentment they had been slowly fanning over the previous years.

With the security forces already strained to the breaking point—in resources and in nerves—it was no great surprise that they snapped. The resulting violence and loss of life was execrable, and it is a mark of honor to the Crown Prince that he stepped in so quickly to take control and instantly to offer reconciliation to the protesters. International observers breathed a sigh of relief, and felt as if Bahrain had dodged a bullet, and was ready to begin cooling off.

In order to make it clear to the protesters that he was serious about negotiations, so that they would not dismiss the offer as window dressing, the Crown Prince specifically named every issue the protesters have named. For example, giving the parliament full authority—one of the first demands of the demonstrators—and ensuring that the government represents the will of the people. His plan addressed setting up new procedures for contracting that will be transparent and include outside audits, to reduce opportunities for corruption by increasing overall transparency.

He even brought up specific matters of law that may seem obscure, but that result in disparate impacts on the two major communities in Bahrain, the Sunni and the Shi'a. For example, the Crown Prince promised to work with the opposition to determine fair ways to draw the lines of voting districts because critics have charged that the current districts dilute Shi'a voting power.

The Crown Prince described all these measures as ways to achieve the overall goal, which is to reduce sectarian tension, and "bring an end to envy and division among [the] population." When these overtures were first offered, the protesters initially stopped demonstrating. Many of us believed that a crisis had been averted, and that reason and good judgment would prevail. But within a couple of days, the protests were renewed, and the opposition derided the offer as not serious, and refused to participate. The protests increased in their intensity, and swept into the financial district. According to BBC reporting, young Shi'a protesters began to set up illegal and intimidating checkpoints in key places around the country, "paralyzing business and choking off the economy."

The government acted to relieve the overstressed security forces by invoking the mutual self-defense provisions of the GCC charter. This treaty provided for the establishment of a multinational force called "Peninsula Shield," with headquarters in Saudi Arabia, which would be available to help any member state defend critical infrastructure against the threat of attack. 2,000 troops from Saudi Ara-

bia and the U.A.E. arrived on the 14th of March and were immediately deployed to protect threatened infrastructure.

The foreign troops were not brought in to confront protesters, in spite of immediate claims to the contrary from opposition sources. In fact, with the Peninsula Shield troops guarding the infrastructure, the Bahraini troops can devote more time and resources to crowd control, and avoid committing violence sparked by fear or desperation.

In reaction to the arrival of the foreign troops, the Prime Minister of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmedinejad, issued a bizarre threat to his neighbor, warning the Bahrainis not to seek help from their allies. At the same time, the protests took an even uglier turn, with demonstrators no longer calling for democratic reform, but for the complete removal and even death of the entire al Khalifa family.

Mr. Speaker, I have to ask why the demonstrators returned to protesting again, even after all their demands were agreed to. What lies behind this stubborn refusal to accept their long-stated goals? Is there some other goal, some hidden agenda, behind the protests? Is there indeed an influence from abroad, from Iran, which is fueling these protests and fanning the flames? There is no doubt that the Shi'a population of Bahrain has legitimate grievances, and I am pleased that the government of Bahrain has agreed to address them. There is no doubt that many in the crowds of protesters are loyal, patriotic citizens of Bahrain who are sincere in their desire for reform. We should support those desires, and we should be pleased any time we see a nation that is asking for a greater voice for the public in running their political affairs. Democracy entails a great responsibility, and it should be pleasing to every American to see other peoples that are willing to accept that awesome responsibility.

But we cannot be pleased at the prospect of anarchy, or worse, of the violent overthrow of an allied, peaceful government by the worst kind of seditious infiltration from a foreign enemy. We cannot sit idly by while a country—whose founding document calls for spreading its revolution—uses its influence to undermine a peaceful neighbor and an entire alliance.

Iran wants to dominate Bahrain for many reasons. Among them are that Bahrain has a Shi'a majority population, and the Iranian regime has appointed itself the international guardian of Shi'a rights. Another cause for Iran's animus is, of course, the presence of the U.S. Fifth Fleet. Using its base in Bahrain, the U.S. Navy can not only patrol the waters of the Arabian Gulf and protect the international shipping lanes; it also is well-positioned to conduct surveillance missions, and even potentially to send missile strikes into Iranian territory with only seconds' warning, should that ever become necessary.

Furthermore, Iran's aim is not just to dominate Bahrain: it is to destroy the GCC alliance. Since its inception in 1981, the GCC has been a thorn in Iran's side. It has bound together previously fractured (and sometimes competing and even divided) countries into a strong partnership, with a united economic market and foreign policy. It has shown itself an ally of the United States, and an effective bulwark against the encroachment by Iran on the foreign relations and even military policy of its member states. If Iran succeeds in splitting

off even one member state from the GCC, the alliance will crumble and disappear as its member states are picked off one at a time.

Bahrain is also a great prize to be taken by a greedy despot. As the Bahrainis have worked very hard to diversify their economic base, they have discovered that creating an inviting legal and regulatory framework can attract an inordinate amount of foreign direct investment—disproportionate to their size, or the original size of their economy. They have succeeded in making their country a banking haven, especially for the increasing number of institutions and high net-worth individuals who want to invest without paying or receiving interest, or otherwise want to comply with Islamic rules of investing and finance. Anyone who controlled that sector would have power greater than the size of the country would seem to predict. Bahrain's Free Trade Agreement with the United States has doubled our bilateral trade volume since it was signed in 2006, again increasing the value of the national GDP.

Finally, Bahrain and its leaders have incurred the wrath of the leadership of the Islamic Republic by doing the unforgivable (and, in many circles, unthinkable). They have reached out to Iran's arch-enemy, the only country Iran hates more than it hates America: the nation of Israel. In an unprecedented opinion editorial article, published in the Washington Post July 16, 2009, Crown Prince Salman bin Hamid Al Khalifa called for direct communication with the people of Israel, and for a new approach that treats peace as a process, not an event.

Mr. Speaker, later that same year, the Bahraini Foreign Minister echoed the sentiments of the Crown Prince, in a formal address to the United Nations General Assembly. This served to emphasize that the proposal was an official government position, not a private initiative from a senior member of the royal family.

Iran, like other nations once characterized as 'rogue states', has a vested interest in extending and exacerbating the friction between Palestinians and Israelis, and in fact has called for the extermination of Jews worldwide. Ahmedinejad cannot countenance an outreach by his neighbor to a nation he hates so completely.

Why does Ahmedinejad hate Bahrain? It is easy to see. Bahrain is a member of the GCC.

It is the host of the hated U.S. 5th fleet. It is rated the 10th most free economy in the world by the Heritage Foundation's Index of Economic Freedom. It is politically free, where women are educated at state expense, can dress as they please and are not bound by law to dependence on male relatives; where there are Christian, Jewish, and female Members of Parliament; and where the royal family has maintained peace and stability for over 300 years. In short, it is, and stands for, everything that Ahmedinejad has sworn to destroy.

Mr. Speaker, it is in the interest of the United States to see that Bahrain continues to be a haven of peace and prosperity in a troubled neighborhood. It is in our interest to support the integrity of the GCC, and to provide diplomatic and political support for GCC and Bahraini initiatives. It is in our interest to support a government that has provided freedom and opportunity for women; freedom for its citizens; tolerance for religious minorities; economic freedom, growth and prosperity; and a peaceful haven for the region. It is in our interest to support a government that has reached out to call for peace with Israel, to put an end to the vicious cycle of anger and despair that has characterized the Arab-Israeli relationship for far too many decades.

For all these reasons, it is important to the United States to help its Bahraini allies in their time of need, to withstand the threat and the increased pressure from Iran. We support the reform agenda laid out by the Crown Prince, and call on all parties to show calm and to meet together around the negotiating table. We call on the Bahraini government to demand restraint from its security forces, to avoid at all costs any repeat of the bloodshed we have seen. We call on the demonstrators to sit down and negotiate their differences, and find a way to achieve the progress that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, this is a critical time for one of our most important allies. The U.S. Congress should do all in our power to show our support, to encourage peaceful negotiations that will preserve the stability of the country, the continuation of the ruling polity, and the achievement of the aspirations of all the people of Bahrain.

HONORING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUMBOLDT ARTS COUNCIL OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 45th anniversary of the Humboldt Arts Council in Humboldt County, California.

Since 1966, the members of the Humboldt Arts Council (HAC) have been dedicated to promoting Humboldt County's rich artistic heritage. Incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in 1971, HAC is the County's largest multidisciplinary arts organization. The HAC serves as a community leader to provide opportunities for artists of all ages, including the development of art education and partnerships, as well as ensuring accessibility of the arts through innovative and multicultural programs.

Beginning in 1996, the Humboldt Arts Council began a successful capital campaign for renovation of the Carnegie Library Building, a historic symbol of community pride and local culture, into a regional art museum and art center. On January 1, 2000, the community ushered in the new millennium by celebrating the grand opening of the Morris Graves Museum of Art. Embarking on its new "Century of Service" to the community, the Museum was enthusiastically welcomed and has since been the leading contemporary arts exhibition and performance facility in the area.

On the first Saturday of each month, thousands of visitors are welcomed to the Morris Graves Museum of Art and its seven galleries to celebrate local artists during Eureka's Arts Alive. This includes a Courtyard Sculpture Garden, classroom facilities, an Arts Resource Center, a Performance Rotunda, and more.

The Humboldt Arts Council will be celebrating its 45th year of advancing the arts in Humboldt County on April 6, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor the Humboldt Arts Council on the occasion of its 45th anniversary of continuing the rich legacy of the arts on California's North Coast.