

President Otunbayeva's government, as well as the government of her successor, must continue to fully investigate incidences of violence in the southern part of the country and to prosecute those responsible. In addition the government of the Kyrgyz Republic must continue to work with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to reform its law-enforcement agencies to ensure that these agencies are properly trained to prevent and respond to incidents of violence.

The Kyrgyz Republic is a key ally in the fight against terrorism. The country declared its support for the United States immediately after September 11, 2001 and quickly granted the United States access to Kyrgyz airspace in support of counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan. Since December 2001, the Manas Transit Center located at Manas International Airport near Bishkek has served, according to the U.S. Air Force, as the "premier air mobility hub supporting military operations in Afghanistan." In addition to serving as a key transit point for personnel and materials moving into Afghanistan, the Manas Transit Center supports aerial refueling and medical evacuation operations. I applaud President Otunbayeva's continued support for the Transit Center and call on her successor to honor the agreement made between the United States and the Kyrgyz Republic in 2009 that guarantees American use of the facility through 2014.

Under the leadership of President Roza Otunbayeva, the Kyrgyz Republic is moving in the right direction; however, the country's democratic transition must continue. I call on the government of President Otunbayeva and the Kyrgyz people to continue developing strong institutions that uphold the fundamental rights of all citizens and residents of the Kyrgyz Republic and to hold free and fair presidential elections in December.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, I missed rollcall vote 283. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" or "aye."

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF JOHN KELLY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary contributions of John Kelly, an outstanding humanitarian and former Executive Director of Samaritan House in San Mateo, California. Samaritan House is honoring John Kelly at its May 7th Gala for a lifetime dedicated to helping the least among us.

John Kelly grew up in the community he watches over. A San Francisco native, he earned a Master's Degree in Theology from the University of Notre Dame and a Master's Degree in Psychology from Berkeley's Graduate Theological Union. He spent 25 years as

a Catholic priest and nearly two decades teaching at Serra and Menlo Atherton High Schools.

In 1985, Samaritan House hired John Kelly to unite a San Mateo City Information and Referral Agency for low-income residents, with a free meal program. Under John Kelly's fifteen years of unparalleled leadership, Samaritan House expanded to include many new programs and help many more people in need, including a 90-bed shelter, free medical clinic, food pantry, clothes closet, and holiday assistance. They offer classes in learning English, household budgeting, nutrition, and parenting skills. Today, more than 3,000 volunteers help Samaritan House provide more than 12,000 San Mateo County residents with free food, clothing, and counseling. Primarily relying on private donations, Samaritan House proudly models its services on the idea of "Neighbor Helping Neighbor."

John Kelly is one of the best neighbors in the Bay Area. His public spiritedness truly encompasses the entire community. Since 1991, John Kelly has volunteered several days a week at San Quentin State Prison, where he teaches self-help courses, and offers spiritual guidance and discussion. "I relish seeing so many men turn their lives around," he always says. John Kelly also serves on the boards of several civic organizations, and I'm proud to sit alongside him as a member of the advisory board of the Service League of San Mateo County. In recognition of his outstanding commitment to his community, John Kelly received the Bay Area's 2005 Jefferson Award for Public Service.

The term "Good Samaritan" is used so often that we occasionally forget what was so extraordinary about the story, where one man recognized a kinship, a common humanity, and stopped to help a person in need. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the priest passes by the hapless victim. For John Kelly, the seminary strengthened his desire to help. It is his calling, and he has immeasurably transformed the lives of so many.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life's work of John Kelly and the Samaritan House. He has said, "The most important thing you can do is help another human being." In this sense, John's entire life has been filled with doing important things. He has spent his life recognizing and resolving the problems of poverty, and I'm honored to recognize him in turn in Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLINT MASONIC TEMPLE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Flint Masonic Temple. The building was dedicated on May 16, 1911 and has been in continuous use since that time. A celebration will be held in honor of this milestone on May 7th at the Temple.

The Flint Masonic Temple is the home to several Masonic organizations including Flint Lodge 23, Fellowship 490, the Flint Shriners, the York Rite, the Scottish Rite, and the Order

of the Eastern Star. Over the years many other organizations have utilized the building for their meetings and events. In 1947 the Battiste Family opened the Temple Dining Room and it became a very popular eating spot in downtown Flint. The third generation of the Battiste Family continues to operate the Dining Room today.

Many prominent citizens and leaders of Flint were involved in the planning and construction of the Flint Masonic Temple. The cornerstone was laid in 1909 and the building itself was constructed to incorporate the ritual work themes given to candidates as they progress through the first three degrees for full membership in a Masonic Lodge in Michigan. The building's east-west orientation and the use of big blocks are reminiscent of the Masonic ritual of building King Solomon's Temple. The State of Michigan listed the site on its State Registry of Historic Places in 1981.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Flint Masonic Temple. The Masons devote their time, talent, and resources to make the Flint community a better place. The Flint Masonic Temple is a landmark and stands as a testament to the goodwill of our Masonic organizations. I pray that the Flint Masonic Temple will continue to be a place of fellowship for many, many years to come.

HONORING FREEDOM RIDERS ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to recognize the lasting impact of a coalition from all across the country, now known as the Freedom Riders, who showed great acts of courage fifty years ago in 1961 to help pave the way for all Americans—regardless of color and background—to have the same opportunities to pursue their dreams. They traveled to the deep South to challenge the codified injustice in place and bring about an end of segregation.

James Farmer, the head of the Congress of Racial Equality, and his colleagues planned demonstration rides through the South because the Supreme Court's ruling of integration of bus and train stations and airports was not yet enforced. On May 4, 1961, thirteen riders—men and women, blacks and whites—left Washington, D.C. bound for New Orleans on May 17, the seventh anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.

Between May and September of 1961, people of all ages, color and gender throughout the country traveled to Jackson, Mississippi. The Riders desegregated stations by entering the 'wrong' waiting room, sitting at the 'wrong' lunch counter, using the 'wrong' restroom. They encountered severe prejudice and brutality. My dear friend and patriot, Representative JOHN LEWIS, was struck by a crate. Another good friend and colleague of mine, Representative BOB FILNER, was arrested and incarcerated for two months after refusing to post bond.

Through their courage and determination, the Freedom Riders won. In September the

Interstate Commerce Commission issued new regulations mandating an end to segregation in bus and train stations. Their success inspired more people to participate in Freedom Rides elsewhere around the South during 1961. These Rides eventually led the movement to its landmark victories—the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. They continue to inspire a new generation of activists, such as the students of the New York State Youth Leadership Council, who invoked the memory of the Freedom Riders as they marched from places like Washington Heights in my hometown of New York City all the way to our nation's capital to demonstrate their support for the DREAM ACT.

Fifty years ago, Freedom Riders envisioned a country where everyone was given the equal opportunity to pursue their dreams. Thanks to their efforts, anyone in America can make his or her dream a reality by working hard with a can-do spirit. Today we honor the Freedom Riders by remembering their struggles and resolve, and by renewing our commitment to uphold their vision of promoting equal opportunity for all.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HONORABLE MADRITH CHAMBERS FORMER CITY OF BECKLEY COMMON COUNCILWOMAN

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, being honored this Sunday, by her hometown church, the Heart of God Ministries in Beckley, West Virginia, Madrith Chambers remains a woman of distinguished character, who early on dedicated her life to the betterment of her community. She knew that to make such service her destiny, she needed proper tools.

She enrolled in school and became a successful model. Then she became an assistant buyer for a major department store. Mrs. Chambers developed the poetry of style, which she still exudes to this very day.

In Washington, D.C., she served our troops and their families from Bolling Air Force Base to Walter Reed Army Medical Center to become an Air Force liaison to military families.

She came home to West Virginia, and did work as a legal secretary and cared for her growing family. She also took a job as a taxi cab driver.

An active citizen, Mrs. Chambers was appointed to the Beckley Human Rights Commission, where she served as Chairwoman for 9 years.

While working for the Social Security Administration, and knowing the value of a good education, Mrs. Chambers again pursued her educational goals while attending night classes at Bluefield State College. She obtained her long desired Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration and Law Enforcement in 1985.

Upon Mrs. Chamber's retirement after 25 years at the Social Security Administration, she was elected in 1991, to the City of Beckley's Common Council, where she served for 12 years.

During Councilwoman Chambers' tenure on the Common Council, she was instrumental in

accomplishing major improvements for Ward 5, and in the Beckley Community. In her first two years as Councilwoman, she was instrumental in getting the City of Beckley to annex the Red Brush community of East Beckley, providing families with fire and police protection, water and sewage, and door to door mail delivery, by getting the City of Beckley to pave the "red dog" dirt roads, throughout the Red Brush community of East Beckley. This project is one that she is most proud of accomplishing.

She possesses "no fear" in her determination to overcome obstacles to make life better for others. Councilwoman Chambers was also the first African-American City Council member in West Virginia to request and receive funding for projects through the Budget Digest of the West Virginia Legislature and was recognized for her efforts by former West Virginia House of Delegates Speaker, Bob Kiss.

Being a mother, and seeing the need for children to have fun and educational activities during the summer months, she was first to organize the now annual "Kid's Classic" in the City of Beckley. The "Kid's Classic" is a weeklong celebration that allows all children who live throughout Beckley and Raleigh County, an opportunity to come together during the summer, in a safe environment for educational and fun activities in downtown Beckley.

Throughout Councilwoman Chambers' public service career she has been a driving force in the Beckley community. She was instrumental in the recruitment and training of minorities to serve as Beckley City police officers and increased the total number of African-Americans serving as police officers from two to seven officers during her tenure on the Common Council, a major accomplishment. Councilwoman Chambers brought Community Policing to the East Park, East Beckley, and the Maxwell Hill communities with satellite police stations.

Councilwoman Chambers, under the "Undoing Racism Project," facilitated training in the City of Beckley for various city personnel to develop sensitivity awareness in promoting fair housing and lending for minorities, health care, jobs and criminal justice. When entering the City of Beckley from the 1-77/64 interchange at Harper Road, travelers will be greeted with the words on an erected sign which states, "We Respect Diversity." The sign was posted by the City of Beckley at the request of Councilwoman Chambers.

While serving as Mayor Emmett Pugh's representative on the Mountain State Centers for Independent Living, she advised the Mayor on how to help bring the City of Beckley into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, in meeting the mobility needs for individuals with disabilities. A short time after her tenure as Councilwoman, she secured donated land for the City of Beckley for the establishment of the Family Dollar Store, a national chain store built on the site of the former Pack's Supermarket in East Beckley. The opening of the Family Dollar Store in East Beckley provided employment opportunities for many of East Beckley's residents and is a source of great pride in the community.

Councilwoman Chambers' accomplishments are many. She has served as 1st Vice President of the Beckley-Raleigh County NAACP and was the first to run an African-American Girl Scout Troop in Beckley, under the Black Diamond Girl Scouts of West Virginia.

There were many firsts for Mrs. Chambers, she was the first African-American woman to become President of the Beckley Business and Professional Women's Club, the first African-American President of the Board of Directors for the Raleigh County Hospice Association, first African-American member of the Beckley Kiwanis Club, first African-American Woman inducted into the Women of the Moose in Beckley and continues to be active in that organization.

Councilwoman Chambers has been recognized for her many civic achievements in life. She was recognized by former West Virginia Governor Bob Wise for her leadership in the City of Beckley. Councilwoman Chambers received the "Seat for Social Justice" award from the Citizens Conservation Corps of West Virginia. The "Seat for Justice Award," a uniquely designed artwork depicting a bus seat, is now on permanent display at the Beckley-Raleigh County Public Library.

Councilwoman Chambers is among two living employees who worked at the old Conley High School in Mullens, West Virginia, and was recognized for her professional achievements by the West Virginia Black Hall of Fame in 2010.

Councilwoman Chambers, a woman of deep abiding faith in God is a member of the Heart of God Ministries in Beckley, West Virginia. She is an accomplished pianist and over the years has served as pianist for several churches. Being the mother of three girls and two boys, she has a passion for life and endeavors to bring all brethren together for the good of the community.

In the old gospel hymn that she loves dearly, "Let My Works Speak for Me," Councilwoman Chambers desires that her life be a living testimony of what God has allowed her to do and achieve in her public service throughout Beckley and the State of West Virginia. Her favorite scripture is from Psalm 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." With God, all things are possible is her motto.

I hope all West Virginians will join me in recognizing the Honorable Madrith Chambers.

HONORING DOMINIC J. CIARAMITARO

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dominic J. Ciaramitaro, a courageous Marine and noble soldier, who died on April 23, 2011 at the age of 19. Lance Corporal Ciaramitaro laid down his life while bravely conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Ciaramitaro was an antitank missileman assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force based in Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was a 2009 graduate of South Lyon High School who as a member of the football team. Lance Corporal Ciaramitaro enlisted in the Marines the day after his high school graduation and began his career as a Marine in November 2009. Lance Corporal Ciaramitaro deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in December 2010 and