

with the NASA Distinguished Service Medal. Three decades later, in 1998, John Glenn became the oldest person to ever go into space, at the age of 77, in order for NASA to study the effects of space travel on seniors.

John Glenn also served as U.S. Senator from 1974 until 1999. He served as chair of the Committee on Government Affairs, sat on the Foreign Affairs and Armed Services committees, and was the chief author of the 1978 Nonproliferation Act. His exemplary public service was recognized by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, which awarded him the Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service in 2004. He has also received the Congressional Space Medal of Honor and the Congressional Gold Medal. In 1998 he founded The Ohio State University's John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy, now known as the John Glenn School of Public Affairs.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of a national hero, John Glenn. His dedication to education and country serve as an inspiration to us all.

CONGRATULATING ALDERMAN
HELEN SHILLER

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Helen Shiller, Alderman of Chicago's 46th Ward. After 24 years of hard work and great service, she has decided to retire.

As Alderman, Helen was very responsive to the community she represented and worked continually to improve life in the 46th Ward. She introduced recycling programs to residential and commercial high-rises, helped foster economic and job growth, assisted senior citizens by placing CTA shelters near their buildings and simplified the application process for senior sewer rebates. She strived to make Chicago an easier place to live by creating affordable housing programs.

Alderman Shiller welcomed the diversity that makes up the 46th Ward and worked hard to make sure all aspects of her constituency were represented in City Council. In 1990, she passed an anti-apartheid ordinance and in 1992, tripled the City's funding budget for those living with HIV/AIDS. Alderman Shiller believed the best way to govern was to listen, and by doing so she was able to fairly represent her residents.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Alderman Helen Shiller for her 24 years of dedicated service to the 46th Ward of Chicago. I thank Alderman Shiller and wish her luck on all her future endeavors.

HONORING LEROY EDWARD HART
OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of community member Lee Hart, for his outstanding work in Napa County, California.

Mr. Hart was born in San Francisco in 1940 and moved to Yountville at the age of 3. He is the great-grandson of a Yountville pioneer, Mr. Mathias Van de Leur, who was a Napa County Supervisor and a mason who built the St. Helena Catholic Church, several stone bridges and the Manor House at Stag's Leap Winery.

Lee Hart has been on the Board of the Yountville Cemetery Association for 46 years and has been the President and proven leader since 1967. His love of Napa moved him to shift careers, from the banking world to serving as a police officer with the Napa Police Department, from where he retired after 26 years of service. Mr. Hart was recognized as "Police Officer of the Year;" he also taught self-defense at the Napa Valley College, and was an instructor for the Napa Police Academy. After retiring from the police force, he was a Marshall for the Napa Sheriff's Department for another 10 years.

Mr. Hart has been a lifelong member of Toastmasters, Ducks Unlimited, the California Waterfowl Association, and is the founding member of the George Yount Mountainmen organization. He has been known to participate in the Yountville Parade and dress as George Yount. Mr. Hart has been involved in martial arts since 1964, and is a 9th Degree Black Belt, having won several competitions with gold, silver and bronze medals.

"Anything done in moderation is boring," is one of Mr. Hart's favorite sayings and he can always be found sharing a good story and showcasing his duck decoy collection. Mr. Hart is fortunate to be surrounded by a large circle of loving family and life-long friends. He married Chrissy Hart in 1991. He has three children: Elizabeth, Victoria and Leroy-Mathias, and 10 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Leroy Edward Hart for his decades of devoted service to the Napa Valley community on this Memorial Day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
AZERBAIJAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, in October, 2011, Azerbaijan will celebrate 20 years of independence as a democratic republic, since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. However, Azerbaijan's desire for independence dates back much further to the collapse of Imperial Russia in 1918. On May 28, 2011, Azerbaijan will be celebrating the 93rd anniversary of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the first Muslim democracy. Azerbaijan also gave women the right to vote in 1918, over 2 years before the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution made women's suffrage a reality in our country.

Unfortunately, Azerbaijan's independence was short-lived, and was snuffed out by the Bolshevik Revolution and the crushing takeover by Soviet Russia. Many Azerbaijanis lost their lives in 1920, trying to keep their independence alive. After years of living under Soviet rule, in 1991, Azerbaijan regained its independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Azerbaijan is a secular, modern, Muslim, country, which practices broad religious tolerance. Religion does not play any role in the Government. The capital city of Baku has five Jewish synagogues and Christian churches abound. The country has a close relationship with Israel. Azerbaijani teams, this year, flew to Israel and helped the Israelis fight large wildfires. State visits, back and forth between the two countries, are common. They are strong trading partners.

Azerbaijan is a strong ally of the United States in a very important and very uncertain region of the world with Russia to the north and Iran to the south. Yet, not only is Azerbaijan stable, politically and economically, it was also the first Muslim nation to offer troops to support the United States in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Air fields in Azerbaijan continue to provide logistics support for American troops in both theatres.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Azerbaijan as it moves forward on the path to democracy and thank them for their strong support of the United States. My congratulations to the people of Azerbaijan on the anniversary of Republic Day, which symbolizes the universal quest for freedom and democracy.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the amendment to strike section 1034 from the bill. Let's be clear what we are debating here today: the bill before us would amend the authorization for the use of military force (AUMF) that Congress passed in the wake of the 9/11 attacks—not just reaffirm the existing authorization.

As a threshold matter, I question the premise for this amendment. Proponents argue that Congress needs to act now lest a court change its interpretation of the AUMF. Proponents also argue that the President has been hamstrung in his ability to detain and target groups linked to al Qaeda, like al Qaeda in the Peninsula (AQAP).

Yet Defense Department General Counsel Jeh Johnson made clear in public testimony that DoD has all the authority it needs to fight terror. And I've seen no evidence that the Administration feels any restraints on its ability to target threats like AQAP. In fact, the White House stated yesterday it "strongly objects" to section 1034. If the Administration, which stands to benefit most from the proposed amendment to the AUMF, is arguing against it, I have serious doubts we should proceed.

I support efforts to update the AUMF of 2001. The AUMF should reflect the diffuse terrorist threat faced by the US today and clarify that the President has the authority to target

groups closely linked to al Qaeda and the Taliban that came into being after 9/11 and that pose a direct threat to the United States. We should also update it as a matter of congressional prerogative. Congress should take ownership of the AUMF rather than let the courts and the Executive interpret the 2001 legislation unilaterally.

At some point, congressional failure to update the AUMF could force the President to rely on his Article II authority to target entities increasingly removed from 9/11.

But this provision in the NDAA is no way to do it.

Sec. 1034 was advanced with no hearings in the Foreign Affairs Committee—the principal

committee of jurisdiction—and with only a passing mention in an Armed Services Committee hearing.

There's been no floor debate beyond this amendment, and no opportunity for the Administration or outside experts to weigh in.