

firsthand the very real threats Israel faces every day. The relationship between the United States and Israel is based on a shared commitment to democratic values.

Like the United States, but to a much greater extent and for a lot longer, Israel has stood against those who use terror against civilians as a means of bringing about political change.

Recent reports suggest that the Palestinian Authority may form a union with Hamas, a terrorist organization that intentionally targets Israeli civilians for political gain. Unless and until Hamas renounces violence and recognizes Israel's right to exist, any such union with Hamas would mean that the Palestinian Authority chooses violence and extremism over peaceful coexistence among the family of nations.

I urge all of my colleagues to stand up for Israel and to oppose any such alliance between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. WALSH of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALSH of Illinois. President Obama, why aren't you serious about securing the border? Why do you consult with Latino celebrities like Eva Longoria to get their take on immigration reform? Why do you bring up immigration reform again and again when you know there will be no reform until you secure the border?

You said the other day in Texas that Republicans wouldn't be satisfied unless you built a moat with alligators. You know what, Mr. President? A moat might not be a bad idea. And I wonder how many of these alligators it would take to secure the border?

But what will satisfy most Americans is if you'd get serious about securing the border. What will satisfy most Americans is if you'd quit campaigning on this issue and finally govern on it.

But, heck, if it will take introducing legislation calling for moats and these gators to get you to be serious about securing the borders, Mr. President, I'm game.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the Members they need to address their remarks to the Chair and through the Chair.

ASSAD MUST GO

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, the outrages perpetrated by Syrian President Bashar Assad against his own people have laid bare his regime's total lack

of legitimacy. The shelling of Homs evokes memories of the 1982 massacre at Hama, in which his father ordered the Syrian army into the rebellious city, killing up to 40,000 people.

After the elder Assad died in 2000, the new president, in interviews with western journalists, made several cautious statements that led many Syrians to believe that the new President would be willing to take at least the first steps towards democracy in their ancient land. Indeed, the first months of the new regime saw a period of intense political and social debate in Syria, which continued to some degree until the fall of 2001, when the government sharply reversed course and ended what had become known as the Damascus Spring.

Similarly, tentative Syrian cooperation in the months after 9/11 did not last, and in 2005, Syrian intelligence officers joined with Hezbollah in murdering Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri and provoking a war with Israel in the summer of 2006.

Now the Assad regime has turned on its own people who have been inspired by their fellow Arabs in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere.

We in Congress must use every diplomatic and economic tool to end this dictatorship. And I urge President Obama to support the Syrian people in their quest for an end to the corruption and brutality of the Assad regime.

JONESVILLE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION A GREAT SUCCESS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, one of the joys of representing an area like northwest North Carolina is participating in the many unique and volunteer-powered community celebrations that happen throughout the year.

Last weekend I had the honor of attending the Jonesville Jubilee and Bicentennial Celebration that marked the town's 200th anniversary. This event celebrated the distinct history and culture of the town of Jonesville and brought out the local community to participate and recall the past.

I was very impressed by the huge array of activities, the fantastic turnout, and the volunteers who pulled this off.

The weekend-long event featured trolley car tours through Jonesville, as well as a Civil War and wagon train campsite along with Civil and Revolutionary War reenactors, the opening of the history center, a Civil War-era mill, and historic displays from communities throughout the area.

This could hardly have been a better event, and the many volunteers who made it possible are to be praised for their dedication and hard work. It's what is so great about our country.

RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE IN EGYPT

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage over this weekend's religious violence in Egypt. Despite January's inspiring calls for freedom and democracy, religious minorities in Egypt, such as the Coptic Christians, are facing increasing attacks during Egypt's transition.

On Saturday, a religious clash broke out in Cairo involving an estimated 2,000 people. In the aftermath of this weekend's sectarian violence, six Muslims and six Christians were dead.

The Coptic Christians, like all Egyptians, are demanding freedom and respect. I am concerned that even with Egypt's transition, minority rights remain extremely limited, and I believe that the interim government is not doing enough to protect the rights and lives of its citizens.

Coptic Christians deserve to live and worship without being threatened, injured or killed. Violence in the name of religion is unacceptable, but when governments do not sufficiently address such behavior, the violence is far more troubling.

The United States must stand firmly with the people of Egypt, and the U.S. assistance to Egypt must be tied to a strong respect for human rights and freedom of religion.

□ 0910

SETTING NEW PRIORITIES IN EDUCATION SPENDING ACT

(Mr. HUNTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce the Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act, the first in a series of proposals to reform education in America.

There is an urgent need to fix what is broken in our Nation's education system. Roughly two-thirds of eighth graders lack basic reading and math skills. Only 70 percent of students graduate high school. Meanwhile, Federal education spending is at an all-time high.

The Department of Education currently administers more than 80 programs tied to K-12 classrooms. Many of these programs are duplicative, several have been deemed inefficient, and others are simply a poor use of taxpayer funds. It is time to trim the fat.

Today, I will introduce legislation that will eliminate, not consolidate and not defund, but eliminate 43 wasteful K-12 education programs. At a time when approximately one-third of American fourth graders can't read, we must concentrate on education initiatives that have a track record of putting the needs of the students first.

I encourage my colleagues to support the Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act.

THANKING STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES FOR TORNADO RESPONSE

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to again thank all of the agencies, both State and Federal, that have responded to the devastation caused by the April 16 tornados in my district in eastern North Carolina. Their response has been effective, and we are on the road to recovery.

I also thank President Obama for his quick response in issuing his Presidential declaration declaring these areas a disaster. One of my constituents called it Obamacare. I choose to call it Presidential leadership.

As we go back to our districts today, I urge my colleagues to listen to the demands of the American people that we work together in a bipartisan manner to meet the great challenges of our day. We will never get the Federal budget in balance until Democratic and Republican leaders sit together, reconcile their differences, and take bold steps.

I urge my colleagues to stop telling their constituents that we will balance the budget by simply cutting non-defense discretionary spending. That is doing a disservice to your constituents and to mine.

Please have a productive work period. Let's return on May 23 and begin that process.

RECOGNIZING RHODE ISLAND'S KATHLEEN DEVLIN AND JAMES SILVESTRI

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rhode Island's Small Business Person of the Year, Kathleen Devlin, who owns and operates All About Home Care in Middletown, Rhode Island.

The company provides seniors with the opportunity to live at home in their golden years and offers additional assistance for people who have moved to an assisted living residence or a nursing home.

All About Home Care deserves the national recognition, because not only are they putting people back to work and growing their operations, but they are helping our seniors in Middletown, Newport, and Bristol live independently at the same time.

I also congratulate Rhode Island business owner James Silvestri, the recipient of the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2011 Phoenix Award for Small Business Disaster Recovery.

Mr. Silvestri was recognized for his efforts to rebuild his business while helping his economy recover as a volunteer firefighter following the April 2010 floods in Rhode Island.

I commend these small business owners for their great contributions to

Rhode Island's economy and am pleased to join the U.S. Small Business Administration in honoring their work.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 754.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 264 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 754.

□ 0915

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 754) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, with Mr. BISHOP of Utah (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, May 12, 2011, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 112-75, offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY), had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. REED

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 112-75.

Mr. REED. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following new title:

TITLE V—HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR ROLE IN THE MISSION THAT KILLED OSAMA BIN LADEN ON MAY 1, 2011

SEC. 501. HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR ROLE IN THE MISSION THAT KILLED OSAMA BIN LADEN ON MAY 1, 2011.

Congress—

(1) commends the men and women of the intelligence community for the tremendous commitment, perseverance, professionalism, and sacrifice they displayed in bringing Osama bin Laden to justice;

(2) commends the men and women of the intelligence community for committing

themselves to defeating, disrupting, and dismantling al Qaeda; and

(3) reaffirms its commitment to using the capabilities and skills of the intelligence community to—

(A) disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda and affiliated organizations around the world that threaten the national security of the United States;

(B) eliminate safe havens for terrorists in Afghanistan and Pakistan; and

(C) bring terrorists to justice.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 264, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) and a Member opposed each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. REED. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to join with my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM), to offer an amendment honoring the brave members of the intelligence community for their role in the mission that killed Osama bin Laden on May 1, 2011.

As we all know, Osama bin Laden was killed on May 1 by members of the SEAL team 6. The heroics of this SEAL team have been well documented in the press over the past weeks, but the work of other professionals in the intelligence community is less well known and has received less attention.

Bringing Osama bin Laden to justice was the result of over 10 years of hard work and dedication. This historic operation was truly a team effort and an achievement shared by members of every intelligence agency and our entire Armed Forces.

The diligent, painstaking work of our intelligence services made possible the recent successful action carried out by our military against Osama bin Laden. For this reason, Mr. GRIMM and I feel the intelligence community is also deserving of recognition as a whole. They worked long hours in distant parts of the world, far from their families, far from their friends, to keep our country safe.

When the members of the American intelligence community do their job, no one really knows about it. They are silent warriors who keep us safe. They are deserving of our deepest gratitude.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment does exactly that. It commends our intelligence community for a job well done in bringing Osama bin Laden to justice. Thanks to the diligence of these intelligence professionals, the world is a safer place without Osama bin Laden.

Mr. Chairman, even though Osama bin Laden has been brought to justice, the war on terror is not over. This amendment commends the men and women of the intelligence community for committing themselves to defeating, disrupting, and dismantling al Qaeda and all terrorist organizations that will do harm to our great Nation.

This amendment also reaffirms our commitment to using the capabilities and skills of the intelligence community to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat terrorism once and for all from the face of this earth.