

"A lady of grace and nobility. A legacy of inspiration and passion."

Alice Haigazian Berman, first generation American daughter of Armenian immigrants, Avedis and Baidzar Haigazian. She was born in Chicago, lived in Los Angeles, New York City, Ocala Florida. Wife of Harry Berman of the Music Corporation of America. Mother of Lloyd Berman Bellows.

Alice was a tenacious advocate for recognition of the 1915 Genocide that took the lives of over one and a half million Armenians, including several members of her mother's family. She was a classical Ballet instructor, a champion of the arts, a horse breeder, a registered securities broker. She wrote radio copy as a student. She appeared in traveling theatrical productions that included such personalities as Bob Hope, Harvey Korman and Dom Deluise. Alice was a mentor of young people and an inspiration and role model for all. Her character and undying spirit will be missed by all who knew her and all those whose lives she touched.

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF 2012 FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY COMMISSION AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of local Fairfax County historians and to congratulate the recipients of the 2012 Fairfax County History Commission Awards.

Established in 1969, the Fairfax County History Commission continues to pursue its goal of helping to identify, document, record, and preserve Fairfax County's historic past. Most recently, the Commission has focused on local aspects of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. The Commission consists of a 20 member board appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

The History Commission annually recognizes research and achievements in Fairfax County history as well as historic preservation. It is my honor to enter the names of the following 2012 recipients of the Fairfax County History Commission Awards into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

The Nan Netherton Award: C. Denise Barrett for her work in chronicling the history of the Lakewood Estates neighborhood in Southwest Fairfax County.

The C.J.S. Durhan Award: Lisa Friedrich Becker for her nomination of the Sydenstricker School to the National Registry and efforts to renovate that site.

The Beth Mitchell Award: David G. Farmer for his collection of Flint Hill Cemetery records going back to 1875.

The Distinguished Service Award: Evelyn Fox for her work on the play and subsequent video "Capitan John Smith: A History of McLean & Great Falls, Virginia."

The Lifetime Achievement Award: Suzanne Levy for her more than 30 years of service in the Virginia Room of the Fairfax City Library and her devotion to promoting history, genealogy and historical preservation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2012 Fairfax County His-

tory Commission Awards recipients and in commending the Commission's continued efforts to preserve, identify, document and record the history of Fairfax County.

IN HONOR MR. FRED ZIWICH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Fred Ziwich, who is one of the country's prominent polka musicians.

Mr. Ziwich began playing the accordion at the young age of five. In 1977, at the age of 14, he began studying the clarinet and formed his band, the International Sound Machine. Mr. Ziwich also began playing the button box in high school. Later, he would earn a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Indiana University.

As a child, Mr. Ziwich was heavily influenced by Slovenian polka artists, Johnny Pecon and Eddie Stampfl. He transformed that influence into a polka style that is unique and well-received throughout the world. Mr. Ziwich is best known for his Viennese Waltzes and Slovenian Polkas. He is an accomplished musician who is proficient at playing the accordion, button box, saxophone, clarinet, flute and drums among others. Throughout his career in the music industry he has collaborated with artists such as Hank Haller, Don Lipovac and Adam Barthalt.

A full-time musician, Mr. Ziwich has continued to play the accordion with the International Sound Machine for more than thirty years. In 2007, the band was nominated for a Grammy Award. In addition to being an international Grammy nominee, Mr. Ziwich has been honored on numerous occasions by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame. He is the recipient of accolades which include being named the Musician of the Year, Button Box Musician of the Year and producing the Recording of the Year.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Fred Ziwich, a polka legend from Northeast Ohio.

IN HONOR OF JOHN T. COLLINS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John T. Collins, II, MPH who served for the past ten years as an elected Trustee of the Santa Cruz City School Board. A native of Santa Cruz, California, Mr. Collins earned his Master of Public Health Degree from San Jose State University, and his Bachelor of Science Degree in Health and Human Services Administration from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. In addition, I am honored to know John on a personal level as a dear friend.

As the Senior Vice President of Workforce Development Programs to Goodwill Industries of Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. John brought his passion for creating opportunities into the Santa Cruz

schools as an advocate for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, ensuring services to children with disabilities. He also addressed the needs of the Spanish speaking community with programs to help early language learners, and promoted the School to Careers program.

During his tenure, the Board passed four parcel taxes enabling them to build a new pool and a stadium for two high schools, improve their IT infrastructure, make classroom upgrades, and place solar arrays on nearly every school. Those years also saw improved test scores and college admission rates including to the highest ranked colleges such as the UC Berkeley, Harvard, Princeton, UCLA and Stanford.

Mr. Speaker, as John steps down as Trustee, I know that the many projects, issues, and problems that he helped tackle and solve have made the school district a better place for learning and growing. His guidance enriched the lives of the students, as well as the Monterey Bay region as a whole, and I know the whole House joins me in thanking John for his years of leadership in public education—well done!

INTRODUCTION OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS ACT OF 2012

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Global Partnerships Act of 2012, a bill to establish a framework for effective, transparent, and accountable United States foreign assistance.

This legislation represents the culmination of nearly five years of effort, starting in March 2008 when I assumed the chairmanship of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In reviewing the vast array of issues and problems that demanded the Committee's time and attention, I decided that reform of our antiquated foreign aid system should be high on the agenda.

At a time when our headlines are dominated by urgent crises and new openings abroad—whether it's the rebellion in Syria, the humanitarian catastrophe in Congo or the transition in Burma—some have questioned why I would choose to focus on foreign aid reform. The answer is really quite simple: because our foreign assistance laws have a significant impact on our ability to respond to all of those events.

Regrettably, over the past few years we have witnessed an increasingly destructive and divisive assault on our foreign assistance program and on U.S. international engagement more broadly. It is easy to find fault with the current system, but rather than taking cheap shots and mindlessly slashing programs, I believe it is incumbent upon us to find a responsible way to fix them.

It makes no sense that, under the current system, it is almost impossible to give small grants directly to local groups that are leading the way towards peaceful, democratic change. Our diplomats and development professionals shouldn't have to sit at their desks writing reports that duplicate information that is easily available on the Internet. There ought not to be situations where two agencies are doing the same thing in the same place and aren't even aware of it—or worse yet, undermining each other's efforts.

I recognize that there have been many attempts over the years to correct the problems with U.S. foreign assistance, which include bureaucratic fragmentation, program incoherence, and obsolete, inconsistent and rigid laws. I regret that this process has taken much longer, and proven much more complicated, than I originally anticipated. The easy road would be to leave foreign aid reform to the Administration, and wash our hands of any responsibility to update and repair the laws under which these programs are carried out. But such inaction is neither wise nor consistent with our obligations as lawmakers.

The bill I submit today lays the foundation for real progress. It sets forth a comprehensive framework for advancing American interests by working in cooperation with other countries to make our world a better, safer place.

The Global Partnerships Act of 2012 replaces both the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, which covers economic and development assistance, and the Arms Export Control Act, which deals with arms sales and military aid. Together, these Acts, like this proposed rewrite, cover the full spectrum of foreign assistance programs, from development and democracy to peace and security. Each type of assistance has its own title in the bill, which describes the specific purposes, goals and objectives to be achieved.

This bill is the result of a long and complex process involving repeated consultations with interested groups, relevant committees, international partners, and federal agencies. We held hearings and roundtable discussions, issued concept notes and discussion papers, solicited written feedback, visited programs in the field, and read the academic research. Last September, we posted a draft bill on the Committee website and received detailed comments from hundreds of organizations, both individually and as coalitions. This bill encapsulates not only the direct feedback we've received in those forums, but also many of the recommendations of the Presidential Policy Directive on Global Development and the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review, or QDDR.

The most fundamental change that this bill would make is to transform the donor-recipient relationship to one of equal partners working toward mutually agreed and mutually beneficial goals. Instead of dictating what needs to be done from Washington, we will listen to what our local partners and our own development professionals are saying, and we will hold both sides accountable for achieving results. Instead of doing things "for" another country, we will build their capacity for self-reliance. Sometimes our partners will be national governments; other times we will join up with non-governmental organizations, businesses or local communities. But our aid is unlikely to have a long-lasting impact unless the people most directly affected feel they have a stake in its success. That's what we call "country ownership", and that's why we're calling this the "Global Partnerships Act".

Second, this proposal would convert assistance from an input-oriented process, where the primary issue is how much we spend, into an outcome-oriented process, where the focus is on what we achieve. Two programs that were initiated by the Bush Administration—the HIV/AIDS effort known as PEPFAR, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation or MCC—

have successfully pioneered this approach. Congress would be consulted from the outset, to build consensus over goals and priorities and establish agreement on what would constitute success.

To make this transformation, this bill brings more facts and evidence into the foreign aid process. Whether the purpose of our aid is to promote economic growth, stabilize a fragile peace, or ensure that a long-time ally is able to defend itself, our funding decisions should be based on reliable information about impact and performance rather than on hunches and intuition. Without solid empirical data about what works, it is impossible to ensure that our money is being effectively spent and achieving the desired results. And without evidence that our programs are having a significant, positive impact, we will lose the support and confidence of the American people.

There is a danger, of course, that the desire for tangible results could be misconstrued as a preference for short-term gains that can be quantitatively measured. This would be a grave mistake. Development is a long-term process, and no amount of goal-setting, indicator-selection, or measurement will give us a quick win. Objectives like promoting democracy are notoriously difficult to measure, and impossible to impose from without. We must always remember that monitoring and evaluation are tools to an end, not substitutes for good policy.

The bill also aims to make aid more strategic, in the sense of having a clear goal and a plan and timetable for pursuing it. We still need to preserve flexibility to respond quickly to changing situations on the ground. But for the most part, our aid suffers from a lack of clarity on what constitutes success and how we will know when we achieve it.

We also need to provide much greater transparency about what we are doing—not only for the American public, who deserve to know how their taxpayer money is being spent, but also for the intended beneficiaries, who can tell us whether the aid is reaching them and meeting the agreed objectives.

Let me say a few words about what is not included in this legislation. The first thing is spending levels. The bill contains no authorizations of funds, no mandatory spending, no entitlements, no recommended levels of appropriations. It is designed to change the way we provide assistance, rather than to dictate how much or to whom. It would not supersede the regular authorization and appropriations process.

Second, for the most part we did not include country-specific or region-specific provisions, which would distract from the main purpose of creating a new structure for assistance. Except for a few key sections, most of which were part of the old Foreign Assistance Act and required continuation, we have tried to write a generic framework that can withstand the test of time.

It is true that some of the reforms I have mentioned are already being implemented by the Administration. USAID has reinstituted a process for developing 5-year country strategies, with clearly defined goals and indicators. The Millennium Challenge Corporation has just released its first set of rigorous, independent impact evaluations, which provide important lessons for the broader development community. And under the policy guidance of the National Security Staff, the Department of

State and USAID created the Foreign Assistance Dashboard, a website that enables users to examine, research, and track aid investments in a standard and easy-to-understand format.

But each of these initiatives needs to be codified, accelerated and expanded. Without legislation, these improvements could be terminated or rolled back at any time. And none of them contain any requirement or standards for congressional consultation.

Through legislation, we engage in a process of give-and-take, consensus and compromise that is absent when the Administration charts its own course. Proceeding without congressional buy-in only increases the chances that each initiative will be second-guessed, blocked or reversed. And it risks triggering the same vicious cycle that created this vast web of convoluted rules and tortuous procedures, leading to waste, inefficiency, and increasing paralysis.

To overcome the fear and inertia that have made progress on reform so elusive, we must begin by building public awareness and clearing up misperceptions about foreign assistance. Many Americans think that foreign assistance accounts for 15 to 20 percent of the federal budget, when in truth it's just 1 percent, and less than half of that goes for humanitarian and development programs. People who don't understand what foreign assistance does or how it helps them, or who have no confidence that it works, are unlikely to support it, particularly in this economic environment. The failure to communicate the importance of foreign assistance only leads to calls for more cuts while ignoring the real solutions.

In this period of belt-tightening and economic uncertainty, some seem to think that foreign assistance is a luxury we can no longer afford. However, with one out of five American jobs tied to international trade, and our fastest growing markets—accounting for roughly half of U.S. exports—located in developing countries, America can't afford a course of isolation and retreat. Our economic fate is interconnected with the rest of the world, and the collapse of developing economies will unavoidably mean our own decline.

For all these reasons, it's time to overhaul not just the legislation, but also the terms of the debate on foreign assistance. We must recognize the historic achievements that have occurred with the help of our foreign aid programs—the eradication of smallpox from the face of the earth, the Asian miracle that began with the Green Revolution, the millions of lives that have been saved and the human rights that have been won. Of course, aid alone cannot solve all the world's problems, but it is one of the best, safest and least expensive tools at our disposal.

Today, more than ever, our health, security, and prosperity depend on a world in which basic human needs are met, fundamental rights and freedoms are respected, conflicts are resolved peacefully, and the world's resources are used wisely. There is no escaping our obligations to help foster this environment. Not only are we morally bound to do so, but our economic and political interests demand that we address widespread poverty and chaos in the world.

Our creditors and competitors understand this. China is aggressively investing in the very countries that steep budget cuts may force us to abandon. We will soon come to regret it if we fail to share our knowledge and

promote our values in the very places where they are in greatest demand.

I have said it before but it bears repeating: aid is not a gift. The United States provides foreign assistance because it serves our interests. Helping countries become more democratic, more stable, more capable of defending themselves and better at pulling themselves out of poverty is just as important for us as it is for them. Our task therefore, is to make sure that we provide this assistance in the most efficient and effective way.

The Global Partnerships Act of 2012 is the first comprehensive proposal to adapt our laws to reflect the lessons we've learned over the past 50 years. Previous reform efforts in the early 1990s sought to revise and streamline our statutes and repeal Cold War barnacles, but they did not fundamentally alter the way that we plan, manage, and carry out assistance programs. I recognize that there is not enough time to consider and pass this legislation in what remains of the 112th Congress. However, I believe this legislation offers a valid and constructive starting point for the future, and that is why I am so pleased that my distinguished colleague and good friend from Virginia, Mr. CONNOLLY, is joining me in introducing the bill today. He is well-acquainted with the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and acutely aware of the need for reform, and I am confident that he will take a leadership role in moving this process forward in the next Congress.

WE WON'T REALIZE HOW MUCH
WE MISS THE NEWS & MES-
SENGER UNTIL IT IS GONE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I share the pain of the many Prince William County residents and activists who are mourning the loss of the News & Messenger.

For the first time in 143 years, the Prince William community will no longer have a daily "newspaper of record" to document the births, deaths, and daily comings and goings of life in this vibrant county of nearly half-a-million people.

A community newspaper serves many roles for its readers. It is a necessary watchdog on local government. Its pages chronicle the triumphs and defeats of a community and its citizens. Its opinion pages reflect the varied views of county residents on issues of concern. It showcases the exploits of generations of high school athletes and awards bestowed on student scholars. And it provides a portal for local businesses to advertise their wares and services and local organizations to promote their activities.

No longer will the people of Prince William have a daily newspaper they can turn to and find out what happened at the previous night's Board of Supervisors, planning commission, or school board meetings. No longer will reporters localize the actions of the Congress or the White House so their readers understand how national policies and legislation will affect the county and its citizens. And no longer will proud parents be able to clip a story or photo about their child's game-winning goal, touch-

down, or homerun and paste it in a scrapbook for the next generation to enjoy.

The News & Messenger, and the Potomac News and the Manassas Journal Messenger before it, have served a vital role in Prince William County for generations. Over the decades, the paper's reporters and editors made it their business to become experts on their Prince William community, its government, and its characters. They've had the unique role of digging deep into the fabric of their community and reporting what they saw in an unfiltered manner and without interference.

Since Prince William voters elected me to Congress, I've had the pleasure of dealing with the News & Messenger and Potomac News reporters and editors on many issues, and the honor of winning the endorsement of the paper's editorial board. I can say, unequivocally, that the staff of the News and Messenger were professionals in every sense of the word and they've made lasting contributions to the community they have served.

To Keith Walker, Aleks Dolzenko, Kari Pugh, Kip Hanley, Amanda Stewart, and all of the other staff members, past and present, who gave life and breath to the News & Messenger, I say thank you for a job well done. I also wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

As the News & Messenger's 143-year run draws to a close, I join with Prince William residents in bidding farewell to this venerable publication. The newspaper will be missed, and most of us won't realize how much we miss it until it's gone.

IN HONOR OF MR. STEVE H.
TAYLOR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Steve H. Taylor, the Director of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Steve, who is also a constituent and resident of Rocky River in Ohio's 10th Congressional District, is retiring on December 4, 2012.

Steve became Director of the Zoo in January, 1989. Immediately, he worked on and completed the popular RainForest in November 1992. Since then, the Zoo has opened several major new exhibits, including Wolf Wilderness and Australian Adventure. In addition, the Zoo renovated all its food and gift facilities, built the Reinberger Education Center, and opened the \$10 million Sarah Allison Steffee Center for Zoological Medicine and the adjacent Rising Waters Safari Camp.

Steve has a passion for zoos and their conservation mission. He is active professionally and was on the Board of the Association of Zoo and Aquarium (AZA) between 1987 and 1993. He is an active member of the World Zoo and Aquarium Association. He has visited more than 210 of the 223 AZA accredited zoos and aquariums in North America, many of which were as chair of their accreditation visiting team. A California native, Steve was Director of the Sacramento Zoo, Children's Zoo Manager for the San Francisco Zoological Society, and Animal Keeper and Associate Curator at the Los Angeles Zoo before coming to Cleveland.

Since coming to Cleveland, Steve became a member of the Board of Directors of Positively Cleveland (formerly the Convention and Visitors Bureau) and is a graduate of Leadership Cleveland. Steve strongly believes in ecotourism as a way to help wildlife and wild places. Together with his wife Sarah, who is the Controller for the Cleveland Indians, he has led numerous ecotourism trips to Africa, Costa Rica, and Australia.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in wishing Steve much success in his retirement and the next phases of his life and career.

REGARDING THE IMPACT THAT
SEQUESTRATION AND OTHER
BUDGET DECISIONS WOULD
HAVE ON CHILDREN AND THEIR
FAMILIES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make my colleagues aware of a letter I was recently presented from Members-elect from California who are concerned about the impact of impending budget decisions on infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families in California and throughout the Nation. I commend our colleagues for this letter and I share their concerns.

The letter, signed by 11 Representatives-elect from California, led by Rep.-elect Julia Brownley with the support of First 5 LA highlights the impact of sequestration on children in California and urges Congress to "protect the youngest among us."

I join the Members-Elect in urging Congress to champion the needs of our most vulnerable population—our children—as we consider the pending decisions regarding the budget.

The full text of letter is copied below. Signers include Representatives-elect JULIA BROWNLEY (CA-26), SCOTT PETERS (CA-52), ALAN LOWENTHAL (CA-47), RAUL RUIZ (CA-36), MARK TAKANO (CA-41), JARED HUFFMAN (CA-02), AMI BERA (CA-07), TONY CARDENAS (CA-29), GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD (CA-35), JUAN VARGAS (CA-51), AND ERIC SWALWELL (CA-15).

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, November 28, 2012.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
U.S. SENATE.

DEAR COLLEAGUE: In January, we will take office in the 113th Congress. Joining many of you to work together to address the pressing issues facing our constituents and the nation. Today we write, in advance, to share our concern about the impact of sequestration and other budget decisions in the days ahead on infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families in California and throughout the nation.

According to the a report issued by Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations, allowing the automatic scheduled cuts to take effect the day before we enter into office would mean that 120,000 young children and their mothers in California will lose vital nutrition benefits through the WIC program and more than 11,900 Infants, toddlers and preschoolers in the state would be without Head Start services proven to alter their life trajectory and increase the chance that they