

I want to announce here tonight, that I am going to work to bring representatives of our Domestic Policy Subcommittee in the Congress here for a full Congressional hearing where preliminary to that we will gain access to the EPA's documents on this. I can promise you that, that we'll gain access to information that has not been brought forward in a full way with respect to the toxic emissions, with respect to public health impacts, with respect to the way that this thing has been set up, that the public has a right to have their health protected. And that as the person who has responsibility and jurisdiction over the EPA, I've already sent a letter to EPA Administrator Jackson to let her know that there are environmental health issues here, public policy issues, and also environmental justice issues.

We look very closely at the census track that this particular facility would be recycling. And there are compelling reasons under environmental justice principles why this should not be built. We need to involve the larger community here. It's good that you're all here tonight. We need to make sure that all of these questions that you have are on the record, are brought forward in the record and we'll put them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

And I can make one other prediction. There was a few years ago when people were rushing to try and get rid of what was then called Muni Light, now it's Cleveland Public Power, and there was someone who stood in front of the community and said, you know what? You may say that you're going to sell that system, but it's never going to happen. The people in this community made sure of that. The people in this community were the ones that helped protect what is now Cleveland Public Power.

I'm going to give the EPA a little bit of advice. If I know the people in this community, you're not going to shove this down their throats. Your bureaucratic process might be okay to satisfy some legal minutia, but it's not going to satisfy a community that is intent on protecting the quality of the air, the quality of the water, their children, their schools, their neighborhoods, the quality of health. Welcome to Cleveland.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the American Bureau of Shipping on its 150th anniversary.

What today is known as the American Bureau of Shipping, or ABS, was originally founded by John Divine Jones as the American Shipmasters' Association. Through a legislative act by the State of New York, the Association was formally incorporated on April 22, 1862.

From the time of its founding, ABS has been committed to its mission to promote the safety of life, property and the natural environment. To fulfill this mission, ABS has evolved into a global not-for-profit organization with more than 200 offices in 70 different countries.

ABS published its first technical standards, Rules for Survey and Classing Wooden Ves-

sels, in 1870. As the technology evolved, so too did ABS' rules. In 1890, ABS published its first version of the Rules for Building and Classing Steel Vessels. These Steel Vessel Rules continue to be revised and published annually, embodying the service, experience, and technological achievements accumulated since that first edition.

With the passage of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, ABS became the Agent of the United States Government on all matters of ship classification for government vessels. This led to ABS providing classification services for 2,710 Liberty Ships and 531 Victory Ships during World War II. This record of working side-by-side with our naval shipbuilders continues today as ABS provides classification-related services to a host of government vessels including the Navy's DDG-1000 and Littoral Combat Ships; the Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Cutter and Fast Response Cutters; and NOAA's Oceanographic Research vessels. ABS also works with the Military Sealift Command and Maritime Administration Ready Reserve Force in support of our national sealift capabilities.

ABS continues to be a leader in establishing technical standards for the commercial maritime industry as well. This longstanding technical experience has led to ABS providing over 3,000 inspections of commercial U.S.-flagged ships on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard this past year.

ABS has also provided guidance and support to the offshore energy industry for more than five decades. In recent years ABS has provided independent third party safety, security, and risk assessments to insurance, chemical, mining, nuclear power and renewable energy companies, as well as the U.S. Government.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating ABS on its 150th anniversary and in recognizing ABS' significant service to the American marine and offshore industries and our sea services. As the Classification Society of the United States, ABS continues to serve today as a vanguard to mariners, public safety, and our natural environment.

HONORING ROBERT ABRAMSON

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an old friend and personal hero, Robert Abramson of Cotati, CA, who turned 88 last month. Bob and his wife Barbara traveled the world for 17 years in connection with his work for the United Nations and the World Bank and were later active leaders in the United Nations Association of Sonoma County.

Born in San Francisco, Bob earned his BA in Sociology and Philosophy followed by an MA degree in Social Welfare at UC Berkeley. As a pilot in the Air Force in World War II, he flew 27 missions over Japan and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal Oak Leaf Cluster.

While at a Cessna aircraft factory in Kansas, Bob met local girl Barbara, and they married in 1945. The couple lived in the Bay Area for several years while Bob, with his social

welfare background, worked as a parole agent. During this time, he was introduced to a program at the University of Southern California that led to him setting up classes in management training in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The United Nations recognized his special talents in this field, and he embarked on a career teaching management training internationally to government officials who needed to work together to help their countries thrive in a rapidly changing world. Barbara frequently traveled as his aide, learning the niceties of social icebreakers in a large variety of cultures, including Bangladesh, New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and Brunei.

"Since Bob spoke only English fluently, we worked in former British colonies," says Barbara. "The colonials had kept the people in menial jobs, and Bob trained them in modern methods of governance." He was committed to ensuring that the new leaders of fledgling democracies had the skills to run their countries for the benefit of their people.

Bob was also a Professor of Public Administration at the University of Pittsburgh where he trained leaders in U.S. agencies that worked abroad.

The U.N. had a mandatory retirement age of 65, but Bob continued to take short-term work assignments for a number of years. The couple retired to the Bay Area where their best friends lived in Sonoma County. Twenty-two years ago, they settled in Sonoma themselves and became active in the United Nations Association of Sonoma County, a group whose purpose is to build public understanding and support for the United Nations and to foster constructive U.S. leadership to make the U.N. more effective. Bob served as President for four years and Membership Chair for many more ("because he has a good head for details," according to Barbara).

The Abramsons have two children and two grandchildren. Daughter Julie lives in southern California, and son Bruce lives in Healdsburg. Growing up, the children lived in different countries with their parents and experienced a broad view of global culture.

Mr. Speaker, I admire Robert Abramson's respect for different cultures and the passion he conveys for demonstrating that the path to peace is to engage cooperatively with other countries. His work and his volunteerism have exemplified the best of this approach. Please join me in honoring him on this special occasion.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. TONY J. SUSTARSIC

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Tony J. Sustarsic, the former Mayor of Euclid, Ohio.

Born in 1925, Tony was a lifelong resident of Euclid, Ohio and graduated from Euclid Central High School. Before he began his career in politics, Tony bravely served his country as a member of the U.S. Army's 3d Armored Division during World War II. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and the Normandy Invasion. During his service, he suffered almost a dozen injuries and was later honored

with a Purple Heart and four battle stars. Following his military career, Tony helped establish the Euclid Veteran's Club. He was also a member of the American Legion Euclid Post 343, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1056 and was an inductee to the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2008.

Mr. Sustarsic was appointed to the Euclid City Council in 1954 and served until 1968 when he was appointed Administrative Director. He was elected as the ninth Mayor of Euclid in 1975. During his term as mayor, Mr. Sustarsic expanded senior programs and facilities, and oversaw infrastructure improvements and the opening of Euclid Square Mall.

I offer my condolences to his wife, the former Helen Palsa; children, Jerry and Judy Malachowski; two grandchildren, Tony (Pam) and Paula (George); and great-grandchildren, Eddie, Alex, Tony III, Jordon and Joey.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Tony J. Sustarsic, who bravely fought for his country and valiantly served the residents of Euclid.

#### VETERANS WALK FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS

### HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and stand alongside four United States Army Veterans on a mission to raise awareness for our Wounded Warriors.

All residents of South Florida, Sgt. Larry Maroto, Sgt. Katrina Taylor, Staff Sgt. Lewis West, and Staff Sgt. Stephen Murphy are enduring a 101-mile walk from West Palm Beach to Homestead, as our brothers in arms endure injuries from a distant war.

"101" is a symbolic number for these Warriors, as they all served in the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army. Known as the "Screaming Eagles" the 101st Airborne Division was renowned during World War II and its role in Operation Overlord, the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944 in Normandy, France, and action during the Battle of the Bulge near the city of Bastogne, Belgium.

The 101st Airborne is one of the most highly decorated units in the United States Army.

Although our Military Warriors bear harsh conditions away from home and from the love of their friends and family, many Wounded Warriors find the return home can be even more harrowing. The Wounded Warrior Project, of which these Veterans are walking to support, seek to help injured veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars transition to civilian life.

My heart is always with my fellow comrades in arms and their families who are serving in Afghanistan and across our globe. Their sacrifice, courage, and patriotism are the lifeblood of our great nation. These Veterans' commitment to our brothers and sisters in uniform reminds us all why America is the greatest and most exceptional nation on the face of the Earth.

I believe that the United States Congress can learn a lot from these Veterans. They do not know personally all of the people they are helping with the money raised from this walk. They do not care whether they are Repub-

licans or Democrats. They care that at the end of the day, they did their best to help their fellow brothers and sisters.

I truly commend these Veterans for their unwavering service to our nation and to our Wounded Warriors. May they rendezvous with destiny on their mission.

Steadfast and Loyal.

#### THE ADMINISTRATION'S MIXED MESSAGE ON SUDAN

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 18, 2012*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a copy of a letter I received from the assistant secretary for legislative affairs at the State Department in response to a December 13, 2011, letter to President Obama expressing my disbelief that the administration had granted the necessary waiver for the genocidal government of Sudan to obtain legal representation from Mr. Bart Fisher, a lawyer in Washington. I also submit the December 13 letter to the president.

I have written various administration officials at the State Department, Treasury and the White House since I learned of this indefensible development. Every response I have received to date attempts, unsuccessfully, to put my mind at ease by assuring me that the U.S. government has a "firm policy of denying authorization to U.S. persons who seek to lobby or provide public relations services on behalf of the Government of Sudan for the lifting of sanctions or for any other purposes." However, the administration argues that "Our system allows even the worse actors to receive legal advice on how to comply with our laws and to challenge sanction enforcement actions in court."

I don't agree with their analysis. But even if I did, the restrictions on representation that the administration claims to have in place are inconsistent with what Mr. Fisher is actually being permitted to do. Mr. Fisher wrote me a letter claiming, "Although the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has granted my law office a license, that license does not authorize any lobbying activities, and my office will engage in none. We will respond (emphasis added), however, to requests, for information from Members of Congress or the Obama Administration."

As I pointed out in a December 15, 2011 letter to Treasury Secretary Geithner, I never requested information from Mr. Fisher. And yet, in the letter to my office, he tries to convince me, as a member of Congress, not anyone involved in court proceedings with the Government of Sudan, that the current sanctions regime should be altered. How can this not be understood to be lobbying?

Meanwhile, on Monday, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (UN) Susan Rice sent a strongly worded letter to the president of the UN Security Council about the tragedy presently unfolding in Sudan—specifically in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. Rice wrote, "It is clear that the Government of Sudan has instituted a deliberate policy to prevent humanitarian agencies from reaching vulnerable civilians impacted by the conflict. She said that the people of these regions have been pushed to the "brink of a major humanitarian crisis."

She warned of "famine conditions" and concluded, "A humanitarian disaster of this magnitude is unacceptable in any circumstance. It is particularly shameful when the path to averting large-scale loss of innocent lives is so clear. Mr. President, this crisis can be addressed by the Government of Sudan, if it were to allow the United Nations and other relied organizations immediate and unimpeded access to vulnerable civilians across Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile."

I would argue that that is not the only thing that is shameful. This administration is splitting hairs. It is blind to its own inconsistency. I agree wholeheartedly with Ambassador Rice's analysis. And yet, the administration, in the face of past crimes against humanity and genocide and present actions which jeopardize the lives of thousands of people, has given the Government of Sudan the privilege a legal representation in our nation's capital—representation which constitutes lobbying.

The administration must reverse course and revoke Mr. Fisher's license lest Secretary Clinton, Secretary Geithner and President Obama be complicit in aiding a genocidal government.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, DC, January 12, 2012.*

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,  
*House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. WOLF: Thank you for your letter of December 13, 2011, to President Obama and your subsequent call to Secretary Clinton concerning reports that the Government of Sudan has attempted to retain a lobbyist to represent its interests in the United States. While we cannot comment on specific cases, the United States government has a firm policy of denying authorization to U.S. persons who seek to lobby or provide public relations services on behalf of the Government of Sudan for the lifting of sanctions or for any other purpose. There are no current Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) licenses allowing U.S. persons to lobby or provide public relations services on behalf of the Government of Sudan.

We also recognize the importance of due process and opportunity for redress under the Sudan sanctions regime. Our system allows even the worst actors to receive legal advice on how to comply with our laws and to challenge sanction enforcement actions in court. However, such legal services do not include lobbying activities. There are investigation and enforcement mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with U.S. sanctions, which include the possibility of civil and criminal penalties for violations of sanctions regulations.

We hope this information is helpful in addressing your concerns. Please feel free to contact us further on this or any matter of concern to you.

Sincerely,

DAVID S. ADAMS,  
*Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*December 13, 2011.*

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,  
*The President,*  
*The White House, Washington DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I was appalled to learn yesterday that the genocidal government of Khartoum has hired a firm to represent it in Washington for the express purpose of trying "to lift American sanctions against it," according to a piece which ran in Africa Intelligence, on December 10. This is an outrage.

The publication reported that the Law Office of Bart S. Fisher would be paid \$20,000 a month plus expenses to represent this government which literally has blood on its