

hands. I have enclosed the article for your reference along with Mr. Fisher's documentation from the Foreign Agent Registration Unit which I accessed on the Department of Justice (DOJ) Web site.

I write today seeking immediate clarification on what appears to be an indefensible situation. According to this news report and information available on DOJ's Web site, Mr. Fisher is providing legal counsel to the government of Sudan and intends to make "representations (including petitions) . . . to U.S. government agencies regarding sanctions against the Republic of the Sudan." Was he granted a license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) at the Treasury Department to do so? If not, is his representation in violation of the law? If so, why would the administration allow this to move forward?

Sudan's president, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, is an internationally indicted war criminal. He is accused by the International Criminal Court of five counts of crimes against humanity (murder, rape, torture, extermination, and forceful transfer of civilian population) and two counts of war crimes (for directing attacks against the civilian population and pillaging). In June 2004 I led the first congressional delegation with Senator Sam Brownback to Darfur, soon after the world began hearing about the atrocities being committed against the people of that region. I witnessed the unfolding nightmare with my own eyes. I saw the scorched villages and teeming camps of displaced people. I heard the stories of murder and rape.

But Bashir's assault on his own people is not simply a thing of the past. My office has received regular reliable reports from individuals on the ground in the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states of aerial bombardments, extrajudicial killings, illegal detention, disappearances, and indiscriminate attacks against civilians.

Furthermore, evidence gathered through satellite imagery by the Satellite Sentinel Project have found at least eight mass graves in and around Kadugli, the capital of Southern Kordofan.

Thousands have fled the violence. More than 20,000 are living in Yida refugee camp just over the border in South Sudan. But it turns out they aren't safe there either. Yida was hit by air strikes in November. A November 16 APP story reported that, ". . . an Antonov aircraft flew in from the north and dropped five bombs in and around Yida." This cross-border assault by the government of Sudan has put humanitarian assistance to this vulnerable population in jeopardy. Bear in mind that it appears that this aerial assault on innocent civilians happened just days after the Mr. Fisher signed a contract with the government of Sudan.

Mr. Fisher's client has a notorious history of brutalizing its own people. No amount of "representation" can erase the images seared into the minds of many of charred bodies, brutalized women and mass graves.

I look forward to a prompt and detailed response from the administration about this important matter.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF SERGEANT AARON BENNETT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Sergeant Aaron Bennett, a highly decorated U.S. Army sergeant.

Sgt. Bennett was born in Mississippi and raised in Hawaii and Ohio. He attended Valley Forge High School in Parma Heights, where he was a member of the swim team. He graduated in 2003.

Sgt. Bennett joined the U.S. Army in 2007 and served as an infantryman with the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. He completed a yearlong tour in Iraq in June of 2011. Additionally, Sgt. Bennett was a member of the Presidential Honor Guard and was recently selected to participate in Scouts and Ranger Sniper School.

Because of his bravery and service to the country, Sgt. Bennett was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, an Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal and the Iraqi Campaign Medal. Sgt. Bennett was also the recipient of the Army Achievement Medal which he earned by saving the lives of two soldiers injured in a mortar attack.

I offer my condolences to his wife, Michelle; parents, David and Sally; and sister, Rachel.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of one of our country's heroes, Sergeant Aaron Bennett.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE "G.W." GRIFFIN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late George "G.W." Griffin, a successful businessman in the food industry and admired leader in his community of London, Kentucky.

George began his career in 1950, at Laurel Grocery, a local wholesaler based in London, KY, where he served as President for 34 years up until his retirement in 1997. Using honesty and wisdom as the secret to his business success, George taught his co-workers to be forthright in following through with their commitments and careful in not committing to something they could not accomplish.

George's other grocery industry activities included chairing the Food Marketing Education Council, as well as sitting on the boards of the National-American Wholesale Grocers Association, and the Kentucky Grocers Association, of which he was elected president in 1979. A passionate and highly regarded businessman, Griffin was named the "Grocer of the Year" in 1986 and in 2005 he was honored as the first inductee into the Kentucky Grocers Hall of Fame.

Outside of his professional commitments, George served proudly in the United States Navy during World War II, and was very active in civic events and in service to his community. An avid golfer and thoroughbred horse

owner/racing enthusiast, George traveled throughout the world to pursue his passions. As a graduate from University of Kentucky and a member of the board of trustees for 16 years, George was a diehard Kentucky fan, and never missed a home football game until he became too ill to attend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in memory of George "G.W." Griffin for his dedication and service to the leaders and families of Eastern Kentucky. His enthusiasm and zeal will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE UNITING OF TWO MARINE FAMILIES

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the uniting of two Marine families. On January 14, 2012, Lance Corporal Ronnie Porta met the parents—Chuck and Teri—of Corporal Charles Palmer II of Manteca, California.

LCpl. Porta and Cpl. Palmer served together in Iraq, braving daily dangers in order to protect our freedoms and liberty. Tragically, in March of 2007, Palmer and Porta's vehicle hit an improvised explosive device, severely injuring LCpl. Porta and taking the life of Cpl. Palmer, the first casualty of the war from the City of Manteca.

Palmer, who grew up in Manteca before joining the Marine Corps in 1992, received the Global War on Terrorism Service Award and Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal for his service.

Since the event in 2007, LCpl. Porta has undergone more than 120 surgeries over 4½ years at a medical facility in Texas. His ability to endure and succeed through the years is indicative of his good will and tremendous spirit. LCpl. Porta traveled from Texas to California to meet Chuck and Teri for the very first time.

At the January 14 event, members from all corners of the community rallied together in support of both families and to express their gratitude to those who serve. The City of Manteca, the Patriot Guard Riders, Marines, veterans' organizations, families, business leaders, and other members of the community worked as one to make this event possible.

As a nation, we are truly blessed to be represented by the brave men and women wearing the U.S. uniform.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this tremendous occasion and in honor of the sacrifices of Cpl. Palmer and LCpl. Porta.

IN MEMORY OF MR. ROBERT M. SEELIE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Mr. Robert M. Seelie, a former councilmember and council president for the City of Lakewood.

Mr. Seelie was born and raised in Lakewood, Ohio by his father, a police officer for

the City of Lakewood, and mother, a nurse at Lakewood Hospital. He attended St. Edward High School, where he played on the hockey team. He later earned bachelors' degrees in political science and communications from Cleveland State University. He also earned a master's in public administration degree from CSU in 1991.

Mr. Seelie dedicated his life to serving the residents of Lakewood and Cuyahoga County. He was a youth services coordinator for the county in 1979 and in 1980 began working as a county employment service specialist. In 1985 he began a seventeen year stint as an assistant in the county administrator's office.

Mr. Seelie served the City of Lakewood, Ohio as a councilman and council president from 1992 until 2007. He was elected as a councilman to Lakewood's Ward 3 in 1991, which he represented for 16 years. He was eventually chosen by the council as the council president for 10 years.

I offer my most heartfelt condolences to his children, Kelly and Patrick; two grandchildren, three brothers and his sister.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Robert M. Seelie, his service to the City of Lakewood will not be forgotten.

AID TO COUNTRIES WHO DON'T PLAY BY THE RULES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 1996, Evelyn Mezzich was driving drunk.

She fell asleep at the wheel and had a head-on collision with a telephone pole.

The accident barely harmed Evelyn, but it killed her 18-year old roommate Lindsay Brashier and permanently paralyzed another passenger.

Mezzich was indicted for intoxicated manslaughter in Texas.

After posting bail, she and her parents skipped town, heading to their native Peru.

But Peru refuses to extradite her in flagrant disregard for the provisions of the extradition treaty between Peru and the United States.

Evelyn Mezzich is living out her life in Peru, while Lindsay Brashier's family and the other victim are suffering.

Yet we still continue to give foreign aid to Peru.

This is just one example of a case in which countries who have treaties with the U.S. fail to comply.

This is an injustice for United States citizens.

Why do we continue to hastily give money to countries that hate us and refuse to cooperate with our government?

Members of Congress decide how to spend Americans' tax dollars overseas by voting on one big bill that sends money to various countries around the world.

I believe it is irresponsible and plain wrong to give money to countries who are denying justice to our citizens.

Let's start voting individually on every one of these countries that want our aid rather than put all countries in one massive bill.

We need to start taking care of America before we start sending American money to countries throughout the world.

We cannot continue to reward countries that do not comply with treaties and refuse to extradite criminals.

It's a time to reconsider foreign aid.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO SAN CLEMENTE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR COURTNEY SMITH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of San Clemente, California are exceptional. Courtney Smith is an exceptional young woman and on February 23, 2012, Courtney will receive a prestigious honor when the San Clemente Chamber of Commerce names her the 2012 Citizen of the Year at the organization's annual awards and installation dinner at the Talega Golf Club.

Courtney is the 15-year-old daughter of Christina and Jeff Smith, sister to Amy and Andrew, and sister-in-law to Bobby. Courtney Faye Smith was born with a genetic disorder called Spinal Muscular Atrophy; it is a rare form of Muscular Dystrophy. She has never been able to walk and has been driving a wheelchair since she was four years old and has a service dog, Michaela. Her body is in pain every single day of her life, but you would never know it or hear her complain. Through it all, she always remains light in heart and spirit.

Courtney is a freshman at San Clemente High School and is currently receiving straight A's. Besides choir, all of her classes are Advanced Academic. She is extremely social and attends every football game as well as school plays. She adores singing and is currently saving to go to Hawaii with her high school choir 'Acapella' to perform over spring break.

Courtney loves to sew and loves fashion design. She is contemplating the idea of going to college to become a costume designer. She also enjoys horseback riding, which she has done since the age of four and has won several blue ribbons. She also loves to train dogs and hopes to help train service dogs in the future. Courtney has been a Muscular Dystrophy Ambassador for close to 10 years and a Make-A-Wish Ambassador for 7 years.

Courtney is very humble; she never asks for anything, and despite life's challenges, she is happy and content with life. She loves her family dearly and they treasure her. This is a special year for Courtney, as she will see one of her dreams come to fruition, with the development of "Courtney's SandCastle."

The idea for "Courtney's SandCastle" was cultivated because, as most kids do, Courtney always wanted to play on playgrounds as a little girl. Her mom knew it was next to impossible, so they would drive to Los Angeles in order to play on an accessible playground where, amongst other things, she could reach the sandbox from her wheelchair and actually swing on the swing set by herself, safely buckled in. "Courtney's SandCastle" is a universal playground, which was developed as a part of the Vista Hermosa/La Pata Community Park. It will serve special needs children and adults

as well as able-bodied children. Special recreational equipment will also be available to handicapped veterans. Along with many amazing and supportive community members, Courtney has remained tenacious and followed this project through after almost 10 years to ensure that "Courtney's SandCastle" is completed.

In light of all Courtney has done for the community of San Clemente, the San Clemente Chamber of Commerce named Courtney their Citizen of the Year. I am humbled by the composure and tenacity of this young woman who has faced more challenges in her life than many of us will in our entire lifetime. I know that many community members are inspired and grateful for Courtney's service and I join them in saluting her as she receives this prestigious award.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. THOMAS F. O'MALLEY, SR.

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. Thomas F. O'Malley, Sr., a man who bravely served his country and selflessly worked on behalf of his fellow residents in Northeast Ohio.

Mr. O'Malley was born on May 13, 1928 to Thomas E. and Marie E. O'Malley. He was raised in Parma and graduated from St. Ignatius High School in 1946. He went on to Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland State University's Cleveland Marshall Law School. Mr. O'Malley served bravely with the U.S. Army before returning to Cleveland and beginning his career in law. He was the former law director for the cities of Fairview Park and Brooklyn. Overall, Mr. O'Malley practiced law for more than 52 years.

I offer my condolences to his wife, Colleen; children, Jackie Needham (John), Judge Kathleen O'Malley (Ray Gallucci), Brigid O'Malley, Judge Thomas F. O'Malley, Jr. (Kelly), Dr. Martin J. O'Malley (Marina), Joseph P. O'Malley (Cathy), and Jamie Farina (Gerald); grandchildren Kathleen Dunham (Josh), John and Tom Needham; Brian and Michael Cuiffo; Thomas III, Joseph, Farrell and Jack O'Malley; Quinn, Olivia, Micaela, Emmett and Cecelia O'Malley; Lauren and Colin O'Malley and Gennaro Farina; great-grandchildren James Dunham; siblings Carol Henry (Thomas), and the late Jeanne Schneider and Jack O'Malley.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Thomas F. O'Malley. His contributions to Northeast Ohio and the country will be missed.

HONORING HENRY HORBACZEWSKI

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Reed Elsevier, Henry Horbaczewski, as he is retiring from the company. Henry Horbaczewski has been with