

U.S. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Nina Shea, Dr. Don Argue, Dr. Richard Land, Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou and Felice Gaer for their service on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). These commissioners have made significant contributions to USCIRF's work on behalf of the cherished right of freedom of religion or belief, including its deeper integration into U.S. foreign policy and national security. Since its inception, the commission has served as a voice for the voiceless, championing the plight of those whose most basic rights are threatened.

I would especially like to recognize the tireless efforts of Nina Shea, who has served on the commission since its creation. As a stalwart advocate, prolific writer and subject matter expert, Nina has played an invaluable role on the commission and her leadership will be sorely missed. She was at the forefront of much of the commission's work on Sudan and she took a prominent role in shining a bright light on extremist Wahhabi ideology coming out of Saudi Arabia. Early on, Nina recognized the precarious plight of religious minorities, notably Christians in the Middle East, and sought to develop policy recommendations that would ensure their continued existence and flourishing in the lands they have inhabited for centuries.

As director of the Center for Religious Freedom and a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, Nina will undoubtedly continue fighting the good fight on behalf of persecuted people worldwide.

TO HONOR AND CONGRATULATE LUMBERTON FIRE AND EMS ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Lumberton Fire and EMS on their 50th Anniversary.

Now 53 members strong, the proud ranks of the Lumberton Fire and EMS paid full and part-time EMS are preparing to grow again thanks to the leadership of Fire Chief James K. Philp and his team of operational officers and of course, organization President David Grass, Jr.

On Saturday, March 31, 2012, citizens from throughout Hardin County, Texas and Emergency Services District 2 will gather to celebrate the half century of service and safety that these brave first responders have provided for the people of this beautiful Southeast Texas community.

Serving some of the fastest growing communities in Texas like the City of Lumberton and its surrounding region, the Lumberton Fire and EMS serves 25,000 citizens and covers 122 square miles of territory. In 2011 alone, this Department responded to 2,102 calls for service.

Chartered on April 2, 1962 under the name Chance-Loeb Volunteer Fire Department, this department grew into the Lumberton Volunteer Fire Department just six years later.

In 1998, the name changed to Lumberton Fire/Rescue Services and then in 2003, the department began working in tandem with the EMS department in order to better serve the citizens of Lumberton and the surrounding community.

The two groups started the long process of merging both non-profit, tax exempt departments into one stronger, unified organization near the end of 2004.

In February of 2005, Lumberton Volunteer Fire-Rescue and Lumberton Emergency Medical Services were formally merged into the department we honor today—the Lumberton Fire & EMS.

This is a department that has been there throughout wildfires, hurricanes, tropical storms and so much more.

I am honored by their selfless service for these 50 golden years in the golden triangle. This is truly a significant milestone for this community and its dedicated firefighters, volunteers, and citizens who show their commitment every time someone calls 9-1-1 for help.

CDLS FOR VETERANS ACT

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, as our men and women return from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we have a duty to honor their sacrifice and service. They are returning to an economy that has not yet fully recovered and, especially for those veterans under 35, they will face a higher rate of unemployment than the national average.

These servicemen and women come home with valuable experience and training, but often find that there is a disconnect between their service and requirements for employment in the civilian world. These men and women should not be forced to start over in their training for good-paying jobs like commercial truck driving.

The men and women who operated heavy machinery and combat vehicles come home with a wealth of knowledge and first hand experience. Our communities cannot afford to let this expertise go unused. Currently, if these professionals want to use their skills to become professional drivers, they need to go through training for a Commercial Driver's License as if they had no experience at all.

That is why I am introducing the "Commercial Drivers Licenses for Veterans Act." This legislation will provide grants to states to provide for the expedited training and licensing of veterans with prior experience operating heavy machinery and combat vehicles.

By passing this bill, we will not only ensure that our communities have the professional drivers they need, but we will show the men and women who have served our country that we value their experience and expertise.

ALICIA CHAVEZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alicia Chavez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alicia Chavez is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alicia Chavez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alicia Chavez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING MS. MARY SCOTT RUSSELL

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Ms. Mary Scott Russell, a dedicated and committed individual to the community of South Florida.

Ms. Russell, a native to Miami, is currently serving her fifth year as president of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater South Dade. She has served South Florida with distinction and admiration over the past two decades in various capacities. Ms. Russell served as the third female Mayor for the City of South Miami, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, and as chair of the City's Environmental Review and Preservation Board. During her tenure as Mayor, she created the Junior Commission for Women, allowing young women in the community to participate in an advisory group to the Mayor and City Commission on issues that affect their gender and age group.

Additionally, Ms. Russell was appointed President of the Miami Dade League of Cities, the fourth female leader of the organization in 50 years. Her dedication to issues concerning children and the environment is evident through her service on the Board of the Children's trust, and on the Fairchild Palms Board of Directors over the past 7 years.

Amongst her many roles and duties, she has found time to be a member of many organizations including, the General Obligation Bond Citizen Advisory Committee, Miami Dade College Center for Service Excellence Advisory Board, the College of Business and Technology Advisory Board, and the Informed Families South Miami Drug Free Coalition.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Mary Scott Russell. She is not only a great mother, friend, and servant to the community, but also a leader who dedicates countless hours to making a difference for those

around her. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

A TRIBUTE TO DEBRA SUH, 29TH  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2012

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year during the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women.

I stand today to pay tribute to Debra Suh of Glendale, California, an extraordinary woman who selflessly works to strengthen our community and provide valuable resources where they are needed most. Debra worked at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles as an attorney, where she established the Asian Pacific Islander Legal Unit, geared towards increasing the low-income immigrant community's access to legal representation and services. Debra has continuously pushed to provide this population with opportunities and a voice that might be denied them otherwise.

Since 1999, Debra has been the Executive Director of the Center for the Pacific Asian Family, CPAF, which is nationally renowned for its inspiring work to support immigrant Asian and Pacific Islander survivors of sexual and domestic violence. CPAF offers programs, which are imperative to women and children survivors, such as the 24-Hour Crisis Hotline, Transitional Shelter, Emergency Shelter, and Community Outreach programs. These provide a safe haven to people in need, and allow survivors to feel supported by their community.

Debra is an accomplished leader and dedicated volunteer, and has always found time to volunteer for various vital organizations. She served on the Board of Directors of the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, and was Board Vice President from 2008 to 2010. She is Past President of the Women's Organization Reaching Koreans and Korean American Bar Association. Ms. Suh's efforts have not gone unrecognized. She has been awarded the Durfee Sabbatical Award and the KCET/Union Bank Local Hero Award. Currently, Debra serves as Co-Chair of the California Emergency Management Agency's Domestic Violence Advisory Council and is a member of the Los Angeles Emergency Food and Shelter Program Board, Blue Shield of California's Foundation's Strong Field Project Advisory Group, the Los Angeles County DPSS Welfare Advisory Council, and the Los Angeles City Mayor's Nonprofit Advisory Group. In addition, Debra is a tireless volunteer at the local public schools where her two children attend; she teaches art, helps raise funds, and helps in the classroom.

Debra and her husband, Robin Toma, have two children, Nina Suh-Toma and Julian Suh-Toma.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Debra Suh, for her outstanding service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE RICHMOND POLICE  
ACTIVITIES LEAGUE ON 30  
YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize and congratulate the men and women of the Richmond Police Activities League as they celebrate 30 years of public service.

The Richmond Police Activities League was first established in 1982 to offer positive and proactive activities for local boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 18. Over the past three decades, Richmond PAL's programs have expanded to serve over 3,000 youth annually with excellent recreational, educational, social, and spiritual activities. Basketball, soccer, track, golf, baseball, football, and games like pool and ping-pong are great favorites at the PAL Center. They even have a state of the art recording studio which provides a unique opportunity for members to develop and showcase their talents.

Furthermore, Richmond PAL's after school programs have helped increase the number of Richmond students staying in school, and have encouraged students to strive for academic excellence. With the help of volunteer teachers and tutors, many of these students have dramatically improved their reading and writing skills.

In addition to the programs available at the Center, Richmond's Police Activities League offers field trips to local institutions such as the Lawrence Hall of Science, a ferry boat ride to San Francisco, or a visit to Fresno State University to explore the options of higher education. These field trips have encouraged many students to broaden their imaginations and have motivated them to achieve their goals.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Richmond Police Activities League and the dedicated men and women who have made it a success over the past thirty years. These programs have made a difference in the lives of countless children, and PAL continues to be a positive force in our community and a priceless benefit to all residents. I am pleased to congratulate the organization for its accomplishments in public service and wish them well with all their future endeavors.

ALEXANDER GALLEGOS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexander Gallegos for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexander Gallegos is an 11th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexander Gallegos is exemplary of the type of achieve-

ment that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alexander Gallegos for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

SB 1070 AMICUS BRIEF

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 28, 2012*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on April 25, 2012, the United States Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *United States v. Arizona*, a case that could determine whether, through the guise of immigration enforcement, states can once again legally sanction discriminatory practices. Sixty-eight Members of Congress, including myself, have filed a brief to inform the Supreme Court that we believe that Arizona, through SB 1070, has unconstitutionally stepped upon exclusively federal domain. I stand before you today to explain why many of the leading Members of this Chamber have decided to take a stand against this law.

Arizona's SB 1070, like other state laws inspired by SB 1070, opens the gates for legally sanctioned racial profiling. If allowed to go into effect, Arizonans who look or sound "foreign" could be asked for their papers at any given moment—and punished for failing to produce them. We don't want to become a country where an accent or a skin tone could make you a suspect.

Our Framers gave Congress exclusive domain over immigration policy. Immigration policy, like foreign policy, must remain in federal hands. They understood that the United States needed a single immigration policy, because a patchwork of 50 immigration laws would create a logistical nightmare for U.S. citizens and immigrants alike. A family from Brooklyn, for example, shouldn't have to bring passports to visit the Grand Canyon, but that's what would be needed if a law like SB 1070 were allowed to go into effect.

Our Constitution guarantees that all people—no matter where they were born or what color of skin—have the same basic rights. These rights cannot be allowed to be threatened by a law like SB 1070, which, if allowed to go into effect, would undoubtedly lead to irreparable violations of these constitutional rights for anyone who appears to be "foreign." These "show me your papers" laws allow extremist legislators like those in Arizona and Alabama to turn back the clock on some of our hardest won and most important civil rights.

State-based immigration policy won't fix our federal immigration system. I call upon my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to put aside partisan rhetoric and work together on creating a federal immigration policy that puts our family, economy, and country first. We must create an immigration system that reflects our values and moves us forward together.

It is up to the Supreme Court to ensure that all Americans, no matter their appearance, are