

way to hit them is to hit them where it counts.

No military planes or any other equipment to the Iraqi Government until boom, boom, boom. Don't say we are not a party to this. We were a party to stopping the slaughter in Benghazi. We never promised we would.

We are a party to this because, number one, we promised. And number two, because we are the United States of America.

HONORING KAREN KELLEY-
ARIWOOLA FOR HER SERVICE TO
THE MINNEAPOLIS FOUNDATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, after 18 years of outstanding service Karen Kelley-Ariwoola is leaving her position as Vice President of Community Philanthropy for The Minneapolis Foundation.

During her tenure, Karen has made a deep and lasting mark on both the Foundation and the metropolitan Minneapolis community. Her leadership in education, early childhood, and racial equity issues is renowned nationwide and her persistent, collaborative, and compassionate efforts have contributed to many of Minnesota's recent gains in each of these areas.

In the aftermath of the May 22, 2011 tornado that struck Minneapolis, Karen has played a critical role in raising and distributing well over \$1 million dollars in relief. She also has assisted many local agencies in creating a new model for collaboration and a new vision for North Minneapolis. She implemented the same collaborative leadership strategy after the I-35W Bridge collapsed and fell into the Mississippi River just over 4 years ago.

Karen's great work has helped The Minneapolis Foundation maintain its commitment to transforming education, promoting economic vitality, and building social capital. These efforts enable us to create a more equitable community and Minnesota's 5th Congressional District is grateful for her service.

As the U.S. Congressman representing Minnesota's 5th Congressional District, I honor Karen Kelley-Ariwoola for her accomplishments and wish her and her family health, happiness, and prosperity.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOAN AND
ALAN WALNE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Joan and Alan Walne for their dedicated service to the city of Dallas and Fair Park. On April 3, 2012, the Friends of Fair Park will present the Walnes with the 2012 Spirit of the Centennial Award.

As long time residents of the Lake Highlands neighborhood in Dallas, Texas, the Walnes have worked hard over the years to actively improve their community through numerous civic and nonprofit organizations.

Joan, a graduate of Baylor University, has devoted much of her time and effort to improving the local school system. She has served as PTA President, on various Richardson Independent School District committees and local school councils. Additionally, she is active in the Junior League of Dallas, Equest, Children's Medical Center of Dallas and is currently serving as President of the Dallas Park and Recreation Board. Similarly, Alan, a graduate of Texas Tech University, has generously given of his time and spirit to various organizations and charitable causes, including the East Dallas Chamber, the Down Syndrome Guild of Texas, the Lake Highlands YMCA, and the Salesmanship Club of Dallas. His strong belief in service led him to run for Dallas City Council where he faithfully represented District 10 for seven years.

I am proud to count Joan and Alan among my good friends. Their dedication and service to the city of Dallas epitomizes community spirit and selflessness. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Joan and Alan as they receive this year's Spirit of the Centennial Award for their years of service and commitment to Fair Park.

COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN VIC-
TIMS OF POGROMS AND ETHNIC
CLEANSING

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the victims of pogroms against Armenians in Sumgait (1988), Kirovabad (1988), and Baku (1990), and the ethnic-cleansing of the Armenian population of Azerbaijan.

I hope that by speaking out publicly against these atrocities I will help reaffirm America's commitment to an enduring, peaceful and democratic resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

It is sickening that even during modern times, less than 25 years ago, brutal attacks on Armenians occurred in Azerbaijan.

Thomas de Waal, in his book *Black Garden*, described the massacres of Sumgait as:

"Gangs, ranging in size from about a dozen to more than fifty, roamed around, smashing windows, burning cars, but above all looking for Armenians to attack. The roving gangs committed acts of horrific savagery. Several victims were so badly mutilated by axes that their bodies could not be identified. Women were stripped naked and set on fire. Several were raped repeatedly."

But shockingly most of the Azeris who committed these horrific acts and their accomplices in government were not brought to justice.

The Sumgait Massacres are part of a long and disgraceful history of violence against the Armenian people that also includes successive massacres in Kirovabad and Baku.

It is past time for the United States to officially recognize the Armenian genocide and to support the security and self-determination of the independent Republic of Nagorno Karabakh.

This anniversary should serve as a reminder that we can stay silent no more.

Let's take this moment to remember all those who lost their lives at Sumgait,

Kirovabad, and Baku and pledge to prevent ethnic cleansing from occurring anywhere in the future.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE ANNI-
VERSARY OF CÉSAR CHÁVEZ'S
85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of civil rights leader and labor organizer César Chávez. On the anniversary of what would have been his 85th birthday, I stand before you to pay tribute to a man who sacrificed and dedicated his life to championing the rights of farm workers and all working families.

A true pioneer and hero, César Chávez inspired a nation by organizing immigrant and minority farm workers to courageously fight for fair pay, fair benefits and fair working conditions. His legacy serves as a testament that every worker deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

As a child, I too learned about the significance of the movement he began. When my brothers and sisters begged our mother for grapes, she refused. It was her way of standing in solidarity with Americans across the country who were supporting the grape pickers' strike led by Chávez' United Farm Workers Union.

Almost 50 years after the creation of the United Farm Workers Union, Chávez' contributions to our country live on. Thanks to him, thousands of Latinos and farm workers can now work with the dignity and respect they deserve. He inspired a generation of labor leaders to use non-violent protest to accomplish powerful things.

As a proud union member myself, I am honored to commemorate and celebrate the memory and work of César Chávez.

THE SUPREME COURT OF ISRAEL
AGAIN DEMONSTRATES ITS IN-
TEGRITY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important examples Israel gives to the world is how an independent judiciary, committed to the rule of law, can act even in a nation in which security considerations are paramount—as they have had to be in Israel since 1948, when it was attacked at the very moment of its birth.

Earlier this week, the Supreme Court of Israel issued a ruling that Migron, an illegal settlement established in the West Bank, must be dismantled and the occupants removed. While it is clear that some of the areas that are now reserved for Jewish citizens of Israel should remain in place after a two-state peace agreement is signed, these are the areas immediately adjacent to Israel, especially in and around Jerusalem. Those settlements far from that area should never have been allowed to

be established, and they should now be removed. Those of us who believe strongly in Israel's right to a continued existence as a secure, democratic, independent state have a particular responsibility to point out that those who create and defend these settlements may undermine the chances of achieving such a result.

There are strong public policy reasons for objecting to these unauthorized, illegal settlements, as we learned when the Obama administration was so successful in blocking a U.N. vote to recognize Palestinian statehood. The defeat of that effort, led by the Obama administration's aggressive diplomacy, was a far better result for Israel in the U.N. than we have seen in many years. And it is clear that it was because President Obama has expressed his disagreement with the existence of many of these settlements that he had the credibility to achieve that diplomatic victory.

But the Supreme Court of Israel is not motivated by these political considerations. Rather it is committed to the rule of law—a strong distinction between Israel and most of its neighbors. Given the pressures that are brought to bear against the Judiciary in the name of security, a phenomenon we have seen in our own country at various times, the decision by the Israeli Supreme Court to order the dismantlement of an illegal settlement deserves praise and it is important that the Netanyahu administration carry out this court order. It would be a gift to critics of Israel if there were to be any faltering in the Israeli Government's standing behind this decision of its Supreme Court.

Mr. Speaker, the New York Times, in an editorial on March 28, noted this, and because the example of a Supreme Court, in a nation that is engaged in a serious effort to protect itself against external enemies, is standing up for the rule of law in the face of pressures to the contrary is so important, I ask that the editorial from the New York Times, entitled "Israel's Top Court vs. Outposts" be printed here.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 25, 2012]

ISRAEL'S TOP COURT ORDERS SETTLERS TO LEAVE OUTPOST
(By Ethan Bronner)

JERUSALEM.—Israel's Supreme Court on Sunday ordered a West Bank settlers' outpost built on private Palestinian land to be dismantled by Aug. 1, rejecting a government compromise with the settlers that would have allowed them to stay put for another three years.

The decision was much anticipated, because the panel of three judges who decided the case included the court's conservative new chief justice, Asher Grunis, and because the case involved the politically explosive issue of moving settlers in the face of potentially violent resistance.

Whether the government will remove the 50 families living in the outpost before the deadline will also be closely monitored.

In their ruling, the judges chided the government for having failed to evacuate the outpost in accordance with an earlier high court decision.

"This is a necessary component of the rule of law to which all are subject as part of Israel's values as a Jewish and democratic state," the decision said.

The case concerns Migron, a settler outpost near the West Bank city of Ramallah. Migron is one of the largest of dozens of small enclaves that have a different status under Israeli law than the 120 full-blown settlements in the West Bank.

Although the larger settlements, home to about 330,000 Israeli Jews, are considered in violation of international law by a vast majority of foreign governments, Israel views them as legitimate; not so for the smaller outposts, which Israel views as illegal because they went up without its authorization. Despite that status, most of the outposts have been provided with basic infrastructure by the government.

Nearly a decade ago, Israel promised the United States that it would dismantle a number of the outposts in preparation for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Palestinians want to build a state on land that is now partly occupied by the settlers. But almost no outposts have actually come down, and Israeli-Palestinian negotiations are frozen.

Meanwhile, Migron stands out among the outposts because its land is not simply part of a theoretical future state of Palestine but also because it has been shown to belong to private Palestinian owners. The state did not dispute that finding, although the settlers say that no proof of ownership was provided.

Palestinians represented by an Israeli lawyer took the case to the Supreme Court, along with Peace Now, a left-wing Israeli group that opposes the settlements. The case dragged on for years, but last summer the court said the outpost had to be dismantled by the end of March 2012, a deadline the new ruling extends to Aug. 1.

The government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which is a strong defender of the settlers and wanted to avoid a confrontation, suggested a compromise—let the residents of Migron remain until a new authorized community could be built nearby where they could relocate upon its completion in 2015.

The plaintiffs returned to the court last week and told the court that to accept such a deal would be to flout the rule of law.

One of the three justices who heard last week's arguments, Salim Joubran, indicated the court's leanings at the time: "You say the outpost will move in three years, but I know this type of behavior. Three years will inevitably turn into eight."

Right-wing legislators said Sunday that they would introduce legislation to legalize Migron and other outposts. Dani Dayan, a leader of Israel's settler movement, said that the court's ruling would empower the violent extremists in his community who have long argued that there was no point in seeking compromise.

Tzaly Reshef, a founder of Peace Now and a lawyer, said the decision would not change the fact that "supporters of the settlements remain in power." But he called it "very meaningful in terms of the constitutional system in Israel."

Mr. Reshef said that had the case been decided the other way, "it would have been almost the end of the existence of the courts as the protectors of the rule of law in this country, as well as the ultimate victory of the settlers."

He continued, "The government, threatened with violence if it tries to remove settlers, tried to convince the court that it should pull back from its decision, which is based on the basic right of ownership of private property."

The next test, Mr. Reshef said, would be whether the government is "able to change facts on the ground."

Mr. Netanyahu said the government would honor the court's decision and uphold the rule of law.

A TRIBUTE TO JOANNA VARGAS,
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.

Today, I pay tribute to Joanna Vargas of Alhambra, California, an accomplished woman who has brought multi-generations together and joy to the lives of many, through her extraordinary vision for the arts. Born and raised in Alhambra, Joanna is a graduate of Alhambra High School and opened her first dance studio at the age of 26.

Joanna's passion for the arts has been evident throughout her career. She is the creator of an astounding number of projects and has an exhaustive list of accomplishments. Joanna has launched various dance companies for adults and teens, created Alhambra's Monthly Mosaic Art Walk, Jayvee Dance Center, the Annual Maxt Out Dance Competition, "Streetease Fitness and Dance" classes and instructional DVDs, and the Alhambra Hot Spot, which is home to an annual art event that celebrates music, dance, art and fashion. She is also the Chief Executive Officer of Dance for Peace Charity, a non-profit she established two years ago.

In addition to her projects, it is noteworthy to mention Ms. Vargas's unparalleled service to the community. Joanna is a Board Member of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, a member of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce, charter member of the Rotary International New Generation Club, and President of the City of Alhambra Downtown Business Association.

Joanna is a charitable woman who gives back to her community through her invaluable service. She has awarded scholarships to deserving underserved teens and children, and to people who have the desire to further their dance training.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Joanna Vargas, for her exceptional service to the community.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
JOHN L. COOMBS

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Lieutenant Colonel John L. Coombs who has served this great Nation in the U.S. Army since 1989, most recently as the Acting Director of Operational Contracting Support and Policy with the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement.

John L. Coombs enlisted as a Private and began his Army career as a Light Infantryman with the 7th Infantry Division in Fort Ord, California. He was soon recommended for and