

GI Forum. The organization raises money for scholarships for veterans and future military, but Mr. Alvarez and another member had the idea of starting a scholarship for teachers to help augment the money they pay out of pocket for classroom costs.

"He was a district attorney, but he was real down to earth," said Fred Garcia, an American GI Forum vice commander. "He never was assuming. He could deal with people from all walks of life, from homeless people to dignitaries."

Mr. Alvarez is survived by his wife, Sandra; daughter, Tanya; brothers Carlos, Alex and Luis; and sister, Sylvia, as well as nine nieces and nephews.

Please join me in honoring the life of Frank Alvarez and his dedication to our nation and community. He will be missed by all of us as we look to comfort his family during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT MA AND THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, on May 20, 2012 the Honorable Ma Ying-jeou will be sworn in for a second term as President of the Republic of Taiwan. President Ma has already served four years as president and his tireless dedication to public service has been rewarded by the people of Taiwan with a well-deserved reelection this January.

During President Ma's first term, Taiwan has been accepted as an Observer in the World Health Organization, reduced tensions with the People's Republic of China, and crafted 16 trade agreements. I rise to congratulate President Ma on his election and the people of Taiwan for their decades of dedication to democracy and freedom.

As demonstrated over the decades, the United States of America and Taiwan enjoy a close and strong relationship based on shared democratic values and free market economies. Today, Taiwan remains a major trading partner and friend.

Our strong economic and cultural ties go back nearly a hundred years. I know this strong bond will continue for another 100 years, and, under President Ma's leadership, thrive in the immediate future.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Taiwan, I offer my sincere congratulations to President Ma and the people of Taiwan and look forward to our continued cooperation.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, Iran's failure to comply with U.N. Security Council resolutions

regarding its nuclear program, or its responsibilities as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, are deeply troubling.

A nuclear-armed Iran would represent a grave threat to the interests of the United States, Israel, and our other allies in the Middle East. This body has forcefully and repeatedly emphasized the singular importance of contributing to Israel's defense and well-being, most recently only last week when we overwhelmingly passed H.R. 4133, affirming the strategic relationship between Israel and the United States.

Sadly, the resolution before us does not contribute in any appreciable way either to Israel's security or to the goal of compelling Iran's cooperation on their nuclear program. The ambiguous language of H. Res. 568 effectively redefines the circumstances that could be used to justify a military strike against Iran. This could make it harder to reach an agreement through negotiations, since it could be argued that Iran—and indeed any country with a civilian nuclear program—already possesses "nuclear weapons capability." The consensus in the U.S. and Israeli intelligence community remains that Iran has not made the decision to move ahead with the development of a nuclear weapon.

Furthermore, the resolution declares that, of all possible responses should Iran make that decision, our government cannot consider containment. By combining these two provisions, even in a non-binding resolution, the Congress risks accelerating a drive to war.

Since President Obama took office, the United States has carefully built a comprehensive regime of multi-lateral sanctions in response to Iran's intransigence. After extensive diplomatic efforts by this administration, Iran agreed to reengage with the international community, and the second major negotiations session will take place in Baghdad on May 23.

The United States and our partners enter the dialogue with Iran from a position of strength and unity, while reports indicate Iran's leadership is divided and weak. With the P5+1 negotiations, we have a unique opportunity to demonstrate our resolve to achieve the goal of full compliance by Iran with IAEA expectations, while reversing the clock on Iran's nuclear efforts and building toward a permanent agreement that ensures Iran will never develop a nuclear weapon.

The United States built a global alliance against Iran with the support of close, like-minded allies Britain, Germany and France. But our efforts also rely heavily on Russia and China, partners that have at times seen this issue very differently. It is critical that we maintain a consistent and reasoned approach towards Iran that will help us maintain this network of partners.

As we wind down two wars in the region, it is urgent that we make the most of our extensive diplomatic efforts and the platform of stringent sanctions the world community has imposed on Iran. We must capitalize on the opportunity presented by the Baghdad talks. This resolution is inconsistent with that aim.

HONORING RIMA PATEL

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great Nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Rima Patel is a junior at Dawson High School in Brazoria County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

The government is a colossal term which is defined in a variety of ways by different people in different places. Government means a multitude of things depending on country, region, and geography. Many people are shut out in the darkness by their government and have to struggle to learn even the basics truths of life because their government is so secretive. Living in a democratic country, I believe that since the idea of democracy was conceived in the western hemisphere, the ultimate goals of the government should be: to serve as a guardian, to be a force that leads people, and to always highlight the people before itself. I also believe that government's responsibility comes directly from the people because they are the ones who vote and put trust into the people who will be leading them. However it seems in this day and age that people often times do not make decisions based on issues that they believe in but more so on the public image the candidates display. Slowly it seems as if the democratic ideals of our nation are shattering, the public who should be the true force behind the government, is fading away into the distant background. I believe it is the government's job to not let their power grow unchecked and restore the people with the power that belongs to them. We've often heard the term that those who serve in the government are public servants meaning they are there to uphold the people and assist them with their needs. Therefore the government needs to aid people in obtaining a secure life and perhaps giving people a path to go down. The people in the government are the leaders that people look up to so that means they need to be uncorrupt, trustworthy, and above all dedicated to the people. It is this that people look for in the government someone who fosters development and expands the nation in the most positive way. The government should not barge into people's life and try to control people who have different ideas but should instead spark enthusiasm for the people to be ideal citizens. It seems that in a decade where TVs and computers are so prominent, that the government has simply forgotten to keep the public educated at every step. It is not the job of the government to protect people from the truth but instead it is their job to help guide the people through the truth. The government should not conform the masses of people but instead take into account the different beliefs, and create a unity. It is my vision, hope, and belief that one day the government shall be the upmost example of

unity and truly uphold the people. It will truly be the strength behind the people and see the people reflected within it. The government in essence should be "for the people, by the people," forever and always.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 252, due to other representational obligations in Hannibal, Missouri, I had to miss this vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ARMENIAN REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 97th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. Today, I remember the one-and-a-half million Armenians that endured unspeakable suffering and loss at the hand of the Ottoman Empire during the first World War.

Only with a thorough examination of history and open acknowledgement of the past will the plight of the Armenians be fully understood. As my colleagues know, last month was Genocide Awareness month. In addition to the genocide of Armenians, the 20th century bore witness to the loss of 6 million Jews and 400,000 other persons deemed "non-desirable" by the Nazis, and the modern-day horrors in Cambodia and Rwanda. All too often, we have not learned from past genocides.

As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" and that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." Though nothing changes the fact that mass killings and unspeakable acts of brutality occurred, today I wish to learn from the past to better bring about hope for a brighter, more peaceful future and reconciliation of the people of Armenia and Turkey.

HONORING ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Asian-Pacific American community on the 20th anniversary of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month.

The achievements and successes of Asian-Pacific Americans demonstrate, above all, that the greatness of our Nation lies in its diversity. And no other community in the U.S. represents the diversity of our great Nation more than the Asian-Pacific American community.

An inherently diverse population, Asian-Pacific Americans comprise over 45 distinct ethnicities and over 100 language dialects. Now numbering 18.5 million people, the Asian-Pacific American community grew 46 percent in the past decade—more than any other major racial group.

The Pacific Islander population, while significantly smaller in comparison to the overall APA population, has also grown at a rapid rate over the past decade. According to the 2010 Census, the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, NHPI, population grew to over 1.2 million, an increase of 40 percent over the past decade.

The NHPI population in the U.S. traces their roots to several island cultures in the Pacific. They include Native Hawaiians, Samoans, Tahitians, Tongans, and Tokelauans; Chamorros, Marshallese, Palauans, Chuukese, Mariana Islanders, Saipanese, Carolinians, Kosraeans, Pohnpeians, Yapese, and the people of Kiribati; as well Fijians, Solomon Islanders, Papua New Guineans, and the people of Vanuatu—all who have made their home in this great Nation.

Pacific Islander heritage runs deep in NHPI communities across the Nation and the ancient cultural values of service to the family and the village carry on in NHPI's service to our Nation. In any arena of society in which Pacific Islanders have attained success, one common thread we see is their unending devotion to giving back to the community.

Just last Friday, I had the honor of speaking at the funeral of a beloved son of Samoa and NFL Great, Junior Seau, who not only shined on the football field but who also devoted much of his time off the field to helping underprivileged youth through the Junior Seau Foundation.

I was fortunate enough to have been able to meet Junior and one memorable occasion was right here in the Nation's capital. In 2005, I had the privilege of attending an award ceremony at the White House to witness President George W. Bush present to Junior the distinguished President's Volunteer Service Award for his work in helping youth through the Junior Seau Foundation. I remember Junior's genuinely humble spirit evident of his continuous connection to his roots and humble beginnings.

And many others follow in these steps. Even stars such as Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, who by the way was recently awarded "Action Star of the Year" at the prestigious CinemaCon Awards Ceremony, are heavily invested in enriching the lives of those less fortunate.

Pacific Islanders also have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defending the freedoms of our Nation. As a Vietnam veteran, I would be remiss if I do not say something to honor and respect the hundreds of thousands of Asian-Pacific Americans who serve and have served in our armed forces.

In closing, as we celebrate Asian-Pacific Heritage Month this May, let us also honor our Asian-Pacific Americans who display the virtue of servanthood in every arena of society, and especially those who have dedicated their lives to serving our Nation in the U.S. Armed Forces, including those from my district of American Samoa. Let us pay tribute to their sacrifice as we celebrate our heritage and freedoms.

EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, due to mechanical problems on my flight en route to Washington, DC from Lafayette, Louisiana, I was unable to return in time for votes on the day of May 15, 2012. Had I been present to vote, my voting record would reflect the following: H.R. 365—"yea," H.R. 3874—"yea," H.R. 205—"yea."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CAPTAIN THOMAS GRAMITH, USAF

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Captain Thomas Gramith of the 336th Fighter Squadron, Seymour Air Force Base, United States Air Force.

Captain Gramith died in an F-15E crash while providing air support to ground troops during Operation Enduring Freedom near Ghazni Province in Afghanistan.

Captain Gramith is survived by his wife Angie, their daughters Stella and Eva, and his father and step-mother Frederick and Cynthia and his mother and step-father Patricia and Robert.

Captain Gramith was an honorable and dedicated airman who died serving his country. His commitment to his country will stand as an inspiration to all Americans. To his family and friends, I offer my humble thoughts and prayers. May God bless them in this time of remembrance.

CONGRATULATING THE OUR LADY OF LOURDES ACADEMY CONSTITUTION TEAM

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Our Lady of Lourdes Academy Constitution Team for yet another remarkable performance in the annual We the People Competition. Having won the right to represent the State of Florida by winning the State Championship in January, Lourdes came to Washington DC and placed an impressive 7th place nationally.

For 25 years, the We the People Competition has helped further civic education and awareness by testing students' depth of knowledge and ability to apply constitutional principles to both historical and current issues. The competition, conducted on the campus of George Mason University and in hearing rooms of the U.S. House of Representatives, takes the form of simulated congressional hearings. Students testify as constitutional experts before panels of judges acting as congressional committees who then score the groups.