

Joseph A. Blick, Jr., a dedicated public servant and worthy recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, an honor awarded by the governor of North Carolina.

In the journey of life, it is a privilege to meet an individual like Joe Blick—a man of strong faith who always makes time for his family, church, and the local community. Joe rarely utters the word “no,” but instead eagerly seeks opportunities to help others. He has been a role model for the Greenville youth by volunteering to coach sports or help with the youth group at St. Peter Catholic Church. He is a man who teaches fairness and compassion in and out of the courtroom and has always led by example.

A prime example of Mr. Blick's generous nature comes in his decision to retire a year early, giving up his full retirement status in order to accept a teaching position at St. Peter's Catholic School. As always, he has chosen to follow the will of God and understands that teaching the young men and women who represent America's future is his calling.

This new position will represent a return to the classroom for Judge Blick, who taught and coached students in Moore County, North Carolina, before attending law school at Wake Forest University. After graduating, he went on to work for 16 years as an assistant district attorney before assuming the title of district court judge and presiding over the 3A judicial district for 14 years.

Joe's commitment to Pitt County has been admired by many, including myself. In recognition of his extensive record of public service, he has been honored with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine—a prestigious award presented to individuals who display a strong dedication to the state of North Carolina.

I join with Joe's wife, Mary; his two sons and daughters-in-law, Jeff and Caroline and Brian and Kristen; and his three grandchildren in congratulating him on his many achievements. During my many years of friendship with the Blick family, I had the distinct honor of nominating Brian to the naval academy, from which he graduated in May of 2012.

John Wesley once said that “[o]ne of the principal rules of religion is to lose no occasion of serving God. And, since he is invisible to our eyes, we are to serve him in our neighbor; which he receives as if done to himself in person, standing visibly before us.”

Judge Blick has certainly exemplified this spirit of service, and I am confident that his dedication to God, his family, and his community will continue as he takes this next step in life's journey. I am grateful for Judge Blick's tireless commitment to the Greenville community and pleased to have him recognized by the United States Congress, an honor which he truly deserves.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MARK SHEPPARD, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ALABAMA STATE PORT AUTHORITY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of an influential and beloved

Mobilian who played an instrumental role in the growth of the Port of Mobile and the regional economy. Mr. Mark Sheppard, Vice President for Trade and Development at the Alabama State Port Authority, recently passed away at the age of 61.

A native of Mobile and a graduate of the University of South Alabama, Mr. Sheppard enjoyed a maritime career which spanned more than 30 years, beginning with a management trainee position for United States Lines. He later worked for a number of companies along the Gulf of Mexico, including Hapag-Lloyd, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines and Nedlloyd Lines, where he managed direct sales, marketing and integrated logistics.

Mr. Sheppard joined the Alabama State Port Authority in 2005, where he led trade and carrier development for the Authority's intermodal investments. Most notably, he is credited—despite a global economic recession—with expanding both business and ocean carrier service at the authority's new container terminal between 2008 and 2010. That trend continued in 2011, when year-over-year container traffic increased by another 31 percent.

His leadership was further evident in 2012, when the Port Authority's containerized, steel and export coal volumes all posted significant growth. And growth is projected to continue with planned investments in intermodal rail, warehousing and terminal upgrades to expand capacity and market reach.

In addition to his responsibilities with the Port Authority, Mr. Sheppard also remained active in the broader maritime and international communities, serving on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council and as vice chairman and chairman-elect for the Alabama Germany Partnership.

Alabama State Port Authority Director James K. Lyons reflected on the loss of Mr. Sheppard and his valuable contributions to Alabama and the Gulf Coast: “Mark Sheppard's sudden passing comes as a deep shock to our maritime and international trade community. He was a key member of our team and a good friend.”

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to extend my personal condolences to his family, including his daughter, Jessica, who is a member of my Washington, DC office staff, as well as his brother Tim Sheppard; and two sisters, Brenda Sheppard and Sonya Bell. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

NELSON MANDELA
INTERNATIONAL DAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to President Nelson Mandela and to commemorate the 5th anniversary of “Nelson Mandela International Day.” On this special day, the thoughts, prayers, and wishes of all Americans, and peace loving people the world over, are with Nelson Mandela and his family.

In 2009, the United Nations dedicated this day in recognition of Nelson Mandela's commitment to humanity as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international

peacemaker, and as the first elected president of a free, democratic, and multiracial Republic of South Africa. Nelson Mandela dedicated his life to serving humanity in the fields of conflict resolution, race relations, the promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality, the rights of children and other vulnerable groups, the uplift of poor and underdeveloped communities, and the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a world culture of peace.

In honoring these dreams, hopes, goals, and acts, the United Nations calls upon people everywhere to devote 67 minutes today to helping others, one minute honoring each year that Nelson Mandela devoted to us, humanity. Through our service to others, we honor the achievements and sacrifices of Nelson Mandela.

Today we honor the life and work of a man who by his courage, commitment to justice, grace in the face of unearned suffering, and capacity to forgive continues to inspire the world.

In the words of Nelson Mandela: “For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

Happy birthday to one of the greatest men of our time.

EGYPT

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I watched with great interest the recent events in Egypt where millions took to the street in support of real democracy, real freedom, and the actual upholding and protection of fundamental human rights. Sadly, those who promote and preach violence continue to assert the dominance of their ideology and rights to the exclusion and detriment of anyone who does not agree with them.

In light of these recent events, I would like to submit for the Record a short letter from the Board of Governors of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt regarding Egypt and the desires of the Egyptian people.

The business community, the human rights and democracy activists, and even Egyptian government officials are asking for our support for democracy and freedom.

In light of these recent events, it is vital to note that due to the complete absence of an impeachment process and a working parliament, there was no established mechanism for a transition of power—the only course of action available and possible to the people was “popular impeachment.”

It is critical that the Egyptian people know that we stand with them in this time of transition as they seek, once again, to draft a Constitution that protects and upholds the rights of all Egyptians and maintains international norms and standards, and as they seek to build and strengthen institutions and processes of democracy, transparency, and freedom.

I urge the Congress to respond to recent events in Egypt by supporting and working with those in the country who desire to protect and uphold fundamental human rights and to

build and strength democracy and freedom for all Egyptians.

AMERICAN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE IN EGYPT,

July 7, 2013.

As Americans celebrated their Independence Day and reminded the world of the values of democracy based on the principles of inclusiveness, respect for the rights of minorities and equality for all, millions of Egyptians went to the streets, throughout the country, to demand their own democracy and the right to a better life and a better Egypt.

The historic developments that began June 30 included widespread demonstrations across Egypt's governorates involving more than 25 million Egyptians. The protests vastly exceeded the numbers that ignited the January 25th Revolution in 2011, and is believed to have been the largest peaceful demonstration in world history. This citizen-led "coup for democracy" was a genuine reflection of the fact that the peoples' desire for real democratic change remained unfulfilled.

The popular demonstrations, according to many Egyptians, stemmed from flagrant violations of democratic principles, starting with then President Mohamed Morsi's constitutional declaration in November 2012, in which he effectively declared himself above the law. Egypt's first democratically-elected president, whom we genuinely hoped would be a president for all Egyptians, wantonly expanded his powers and focused on implementing an ideological agenda rather than addressing the serious economic crisis facing the country. He deliberately blocked the creation of a constitution that guaranteed checks and balances and provided equality for all. The president's refusal to compromise and his gross mismanagement of government affairs jeopardized the stability of the region's most populous nation and directly affected its crucial strategic role.

It is important to note that it was not economic failures that precipitated the demonstrations of June 30, but rather, the vast majority of demonstrators saw a blatant attempt by the government to reshape Egypt's complex, multi-variant, pluralistic culture by dismantling the judiciary, suppressing the independent media, repressing freedom of speech and dissent and refusing to recognize the rights of minorities and women. The Egyptian people demanded these rights and values following the January 25 revolution, but they were dismissed and ignored by the government that came to power.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt is the leading business association in

Egypt and the Middle East with over 1,800 members. For over 35 years, we have promoted business relations between the United States and Egypt, during which time we have built a strong network of business leaders, Members of Congress and their staffs, executive branch officials, and other decision and policy makers in Egypt and the United States. Today, AmCham is communicating a message to its network of friends and business partners.

All of AmCham's members share a commitment to a strong U.S.-Egypt relationship at all levels and an Egyptian economy based on a free market, opportunities for youth, job creation, better education, entrepreneurship and active participation in the global economy. At this critical juncture, we believe that Egypt's relationship with the United States is critical to the long-term success of Egypt's revolutionary process and beyond. We therefore believe it is imperative that the United States:

acknowledge that June 30 was a "people's revolution" and nothing else;

support the transitional plan for new, free, transparent multi-party elections;

provide leadership in the international community to mobilize the economic assistance that Egypt requires in the short-term to stabilize its economy;

initiate a sustained high-level economic dialogue with Egypt designed to create the conditions for long term, private-sector led growth;

encourage U.S. businesses to invest in Egypt.

A strong, stable, moderate and truly democratic Egypt is in the best interest of both countries, and those interests would be adversely affected if current U.S. policymakers elect to disengage from Egypt and its people in their quest for true democracy or reduce current levels of support for the Egyptian military. Over the past two years, many of the largest U.S. multinationals who are active members of AmCham (including many Fortune 500 companies) have remained engaged in and committed to Egypt. They are bullish on Egypt's future and its future prospects. They are confident that the Egyptian people will settle for nothing less than a real democracy and an economy that offers opportunity for all.

In that spirit, and during this difficult period in Egypt's history, AmCham appreciates the support you have offered Egypt over many years and looks forward to stronger business ties between Egypt and the United States that are based on mutual respect and understanding. Most importantly, we appre-

ciate your continuous and invaluable support to Egypt and the Egyptian people.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF GOVERNORS,

The American Chamber

of Commerce in Egypt.

HONORING MAX DORIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Max Doria of Vallejo, California.

Mr. Doria has been a dedicated community volunteer for two decades. For the last 16 years, he has served as the Vice President of the Filipino Community of Solano County, Inc. (FCSC). The FCSC is one of the oldest Filipino organizations in Vallejo, and provides numerous services to its members and the community-at-large. He was also the past president of Sekder Day Pangasinan, another important local Filipino organization serving former residents of that Philippine Province.

Mr. Doria is a veteran who faithfully served our country in the United States Navy. After his retirement, he continued to work with other Navy and military retirees as a board member of the Filipino American Retired U.S. Armed Forces Association (FARASUFU).

Together with his son Mel, Mr. Doria operated Doria Protective Services. He often donated his time and resources to provide security for community events. Doria Protective Services is the official security company for the very popular Pista sa Nasyon Filipino Festival on the Vallejo Waterfront each June. He and his staff were responsible for the safety of over 30,000 festival attendees.

Mr. Doria is the building manager for the new Filipino Community Center in Vallejo, which just celebrated its grand opening last May. He is married to Dolly Doria. They have one son Mel, and three grandchildren, Andy, Alexis and Alex.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise and celebrate the accomplishments of Max Doria and to offer him and his family our appreciation for his many years of community service.