

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF READING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rotary Club of Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

The Rotary Club of Reading was chartered on December 1, 1913 and was the 88th Rotary Club of over 30,000 now to be chartered. Throughout its proud 100 year history, the Reading Rotarians have committed themselves to making a difference in the community by providing meaningful service to those in need. Among the many projects the members of the Rotary Club of Reading have undertaken and completed include: establishing Rotary Park for the enjoyment of the citizens of Reading and Berks County; performing roadside cleanups; and awarding scholarships to Reading High School students.

The distinguished volunteer service by the members of the Rotary Club of Reading over the last 100 years has served to significantly improve the quality of life in the Greater Reading community.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of its 100th anniversary, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Rotary Club of Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

CRISIS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I held a subcommittee hearing that was not called an "emergency" hearing, but it very well could have been. Since we first decided to hold a hearing to spotlight the human rights situation in the Central African Republic, the situation has deteriorated even further so that today the country is on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe.

Coups and dictatorships have characterized the Central African Republic since its independence in 1960, but the current crisis is far more dangerous than what has come before.

Consider this: in a country of approximately 5 million people, roughly 1.1 million citizens face serious food insecurity. Some 460,000 CAR nationals are displaced, including 64,000 who have fled to neighboring countries as refugees and nearly 400,000 who are internally displaced.

This is because there has been a complete breakdown of law and order in the country following the ouster of former President François Bozizé in March of this year. After riding to power on the back of an insurrection known as Seleka, the current dictator, Michel Djotodia, has found it difficult to disengage. Seleka, originally a political alliance, has transformed into a militia of about 25,000 men, up to 90 percent of which come from Chad and Sudan and therefore constitute in the eyes of

many a foreign invasion force. They do not speak the local language, and are Muslim in a nation that is roughly 80 percent Christian. They have targeted churches for destruction and stirred up sectarian hatreds where none had existed previously. Indeed, the Sudanese contingent in particular are said to be members of the notorious janjaweed, who have spread slavery and destruction in the Darfur region of Sudan and now are doing the same in the Central African Republic.

And if that is not bad enough, elsewhere, the Lord's Resistance Army, or LRA, under the psychotic leader Joseph Kony is also loose in the Central African Republic. Both the LRA and Seleka are said to kidnap children to serve as soldiers, and UNICEF estimates that there are now as many as 3,500 child soldiers affiliated with armed groups in the country.

Djotodia has formally disbanded Seleka, but Seleka continues to wreak destruction in the countryside, and they have seized mines and other resources in the country. Djotodia's writ does not extend much beyond the capital city of Bangui.

Even in Bangui, the situation is chaotic. One of our witnesses, Mike Jobbins, related how "There have been nearly a dozen successful or attempted carjackings of humanitarian vehicles over the past two weeks and at least three aid workers have lost their lives since the crisis began."

In response to the depredations of Seleka, their victims have begun to form self-defense units referred to as anti-balaka, or anti-machete, gangs, which have begun to commit retaliatory outrages of their own. Rather than confront the Seleka rebels who are responsible for starting the cycle of violence, however, they often target Muslim civilians, who are deemed "soft targets." Thus, violence begets violence.

The situation is so bad that just this past week, John Ging, director of the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs warned, "We are very, very concerned that the seeds of a genocide are being sown."

All this is happening in a state which is, by any definition, dysfunctional.

In the words of PM Nicolas Tiangaye, who is the closest thing to a legitimate figure in the government of the Central African Republic and whom my staff and I met with this summer when he visited Washington, the Central African Republic is "anarchy, a non-state."

This descent into chaos has compounded the misery of the people of the Central African Republic suffered greatly and lagged substantially in terms of development. Prior to this year, the Central African Republic ranked 180 of 186 countries per the UN Human Development Index.

One area where the Central African Republic did lead bespeaks an irony: National Geographic ranked the Central African Republic as the nation least affected by light pollution. This is, of course, indicative of its low level of development, and the neglect and affirmative harm which generations of political leaders have subjected the country and its people.

Amid this darkness, however, there are bright spots. It is the leadership of churches and faith based organizations, as well as traditional Muslim leaders long resident in the Central African Republic who have sought to defuse communal tensions. These indigenous Muslim leaders who speak for peace need to be recognized and distinguished from foreign

fighters from countries such as Sudan—the same janjaweed who harrowed Darfur—who kill and sow destruction in the name of jihad.

We had the opportunity to hear from one such courageous faith leader, Bishop Nongo. I had the privilege of hosting Bishop Nongo in my office when he came to visit Washington this summer, and I was moved nearly to tears as he described the suffering of the people in his country. It is leaders such as Bishop Nongo, who provide assistance to all regardless of their affiliation, and who strive for peace, who provide the greatest hope for the Central African Republic.

DIGITAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, as a scientist, I know firsthand how important scientific conferences and meetings are. I opposed H.R. 2061, the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act, because it would cut by 30 percent the amount of travel federal employees could undertake for conferences, meetings, and other crucial events.

Although I appreciate the sponsors' efforts to ensure oversight on travel expenditures, I suspect they fail to realize the impact that this legislation would have on the progress of science and technology. Scientific conferences play a key role in American innovation. The informal conversations, formal presentations, and everything else that goes on between scientists from different institutions and different countries lead to new collaborations that have the promise of new discoveries.

Just about any scientific society in this country can give you examples where large numbers of federally sponsored researchers have teamed up to tackle pressing issues of our day at a conference. To give just one example, the American Chemical Society and the American Physical Society have stated that the development of an anti-cancer drug was the result of collaboration between a team of scientists from three laboratories that took place at one of these conferences.

We justifiably invest in federal research efforts, and we should ensure that we maximize that investment. When we deny federal scientists and researchers the ability to travel and collaborate with their peers, we leave them and our country with a diminished ability to make the most of that investment.

This affects not only scientists, of course. It is important for all federal employees to meet with their fellow professionals. If any of my colleagues wonder why face-to-face meetings are important, I would ask, why did they vote for House rules that require all of our votes to be taken in person here in the House of Representatives?

While H.R. 2061 takes some laudable attempts to increase transparency, it will undoubtedly stifle scientific collaboration, and thus I cannot support it.

TO RECOGNIZE THE 150 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of 278 simple words spoken a century and a half ago in a small town in my home state of Pennsylvania. When President Lincoln addressed the crowd assembled at the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, he noted in his speech that his words were ones that, "the world will little note, nor long remember". Yet, 150 years later, President Lincoln's words of sacrifice and strength still ring true. Even amidst the fog of a still raging civil war, Lincoln promised that "this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom"—and that "government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Today, we recognize the commitment of President Lincoln to reunite and ensure the continued success of our nation. Furthermore, we reinforce our efforts to protect his solemn pledge of a free government for a free people.

COMMEMORATING JOHN LANCE
LINDABERRY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Private First Class John Lance Lindaberry of Long Valley, New Jersey who honorably served his country during the Vietnam War. Mr. Lindaberry was a member of the 2nd Battalion of the 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, and killed in action on Nov. 16, 1967.

Mr. Lindaberry was graduated from West Morris Central High School in 1966, and joined the Army in 1967. He was loved by his family and the community, especially his fellow parishioners at the Highlands Presbyterian Church.

Long Valley continues to honor the memory of Mr. Lindaberry at its annual Memorial Day services, as well as other fallen service members.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS:
HUNGER IN AMERICA

SPEECH OF

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2013

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, as we begin to enter the holiday season, let us reflect on the devastating impact of hunger on individuals, families, and communities.

Mr. Speaker—hunger is no holiday for millions of Americans.

50 million individuals in this country are food insecure and 17 million of them are children.

Making sure children are well fed is necessary if America is to reach its health, education, economic, and fiscal goals.

In 2011, 679,900 children in Ohio lived in food insecure households.

On Nov. 1, the largest cuts in the history of our country's food stamp program, now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, went into effect when the increase given by the 2009 economic stimulus package expired.

This reduction, which totaled \$5 billion, has already touched more than 47 million people—1 in 7 Americans.

Moreover, billions more in cuts are scheduled to occur in the following two years, despite the fact that food insecurity in America has not even begun to return to pre-recession levels.

Mr. Speaker, we are in a hunger crisis.

When almost 50 million people in the richest country on the planet hungry, that is a crisis.

Moreover, food insecurity can have wide-ranging detrimental consequences on individual's physical and mental health, especially with the more vulnerable populations such as pregnant women and seniors.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 1 in 6 Ohio households faced food insecurity from 2010 to 2012, up 6.3 percentage points from a decade earlier.

Ohio trailed only Missouri and Nevada in hunger increases during that same time.

Ohioans have been left to cope with loss of employment, wage stagnation, slow economic recovery, and food insecurity.

Ohioans are hurting.

Shellie, a mother in my district expressed to me that by the end of every month, she has to tell her kids that all they have left to eat is enough food for dinner.

There is nothing left in the pantry to put on the table for breakfast or lunch.

Then there is Roberta, who was a county caseworker in my district for 25 years and a school board member for ten years, and suffered a serious and sudden illness.

Now, because of medical bills, she and her family rely on food stamps and food pantries.

Another touching example is Sandra in my district, who is disabled and lost her job during the recession.

Food stamps are her only recourse for food.

There are thousands of stories like Shellie's, Roberta's, and Sandra's throughout our country.

We must let our constituents know that we hear their struggles and we are fighting for them.

Preventing irrational cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a great first step to curbing hunger.

The large \$40 billion cuts in the House version of the 2013 Farm Bill are unprecedented.

SNAP should remain a part of the farm bill and I urge anyone who believes hunger and food insecurity should end to make sure that it does.

This is a practical and moral imperative.

I will continue to support the American people through their daily fight to preserve funding for these initiatives and to end hunger in America.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important issue.

HONORING BRANDT BEAUCHAMP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandt Beauchamp. Brandt is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 663, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandt has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brandt has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Brandt has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION IN
RECOGNITION OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN
DESCENT AND BLACK EUROPEAN
LEADERS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing people of African descent, and particularly Europe's Black community and political leaders, as we welcome a delegation of Black European Rights Leaders representing 10 European countries to Washington, DC this week, and continue working to address issues of inequality, discrimination, and inclusion in the 57 North American and European countries that make up the region of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

An estimated seven to ten million individuals of African descent currently live in Europe, particularly in France, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands, and form an influential part of the African diaspora. From labor and scholarship to politics and civil rights, they have contributed greatly to European history and culture over the past several centuries. However, the story of Black Europeans remains widely untold, rendering many of their past and present contributions to the political and social life of Europe invisible or forgotten. Furthermore, similar to the experiences of many African Americans, they have increasingly become the targets of discrimination, pernicious racial profiling, and violent hate crimes impacting equal access to housing, employment, education, and justice.

On April 29, 2008, I chaired a U.S. Helsinki Commission hearing entitled, "The State of (In)visible Black Europe: Race, Rights, and Politics," which focused on bringing to light the daily challenges of racism and discrimination encountered by Black Europeans, specifically with regard to their representation in leadership positions and political participation. Since