

In addition, freedom of expression continues to be under fire. The current interim government has been arresting and jailing journalists critical of the military government, jamming the broadcast signals, deporting foreign reporters, and otherwise closing the offices of news outlets that are "broadcasting lies."

In his September 23rd speech to the United Nations General Assembly, the President stated that his "... approach to Egypt reflects a larger point: the United States will at times work with governments that do not meet the highest international expectations, but who work with us on our core interests." These core interests were earlier defined in the speech to include the "Camp David Accords and counter-terrorism" efforts but not, I believe mistakenly, to include human rights.

Human rights, and the intrinsic dignity of every human being from womb to the tomb, are important in and of themselves. But for those who fail to grasp this, there is another important point to be made: It is in the strategic interest of the United States to encourage governments to respect the rights of their people, because governments that fail to do so are in the final analysis unstable: This should be the abiding lesson of the Arab Spring.

The president also stated that future U.S. support to Egypt "will depend upon Egypt's progress in pursuing a democratic path." Again, it is unclear what criteria this entails. What if the democratic path does not include protection of human rights, such as what we saw under the Morsi government and now the interim government?

It is not democracy per se that is to be the goal, but rather a duly-elected constitutional government that respects minorities, the separation of power, and human rights. Tyranny of the majority is not an acceptable option.

What is clear is that the U.S. needs a new approach. This administration's short-sighted approach of not clearly linking aid to the protection of human rights in Egypt has been unequivocally ineffective. It is my hope that our hearing today will shed light on what went wrong and how the United States can be more effective in protecting human rights going forward.

HONORING BISHOP PRINCE E.W. BRYANT, SR., OF HOUSTON, TEXAS, "SOLDIER OF THE CROSS" WHO HAS MINISTERED THE GOSPEL FOR 50 YEARS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bishop Prince E.W. Bryant, Sr., the legendary pastor of the legendary Island of Hope Church of God in Christ Church in Houston, Texas. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Bishop Bryant's service in the ministry of the Gospel.

To mark this great occasion, Bishop Bryant is being honored as a "Soldier of the Cross" by the Texas South Central Jurisdiction of The Church of God in Christ, Inc.

Born in East Texas, Bishop Bryant was the fifteenth child of Deacon Bishop and Mamie Bryant. He was saved and filled with the Holy

Ghost on March 18, 1963, and began preaching on March 25, 1963 at the age of 15 under the late Elder Eddie Davis. He was licensed under the late Bishop C. H. Nelson and ordained by the late Bishop S. M. Crouch of Los Angeles, California.

Bishop Bryant was attended public school at Concord High School in Mt. Enterprise, Texas. He later attended LIFE Bible College, Los Angeles, California, from which he received his Bachelors of Theology; and the Family Bible Institute in Denver, Colorado, from which he was awarded a Doctorate of Divinity in 1993.

Bishop Bryant began his pastoral ministry on August 6, 1969. Over the next 50 years, pastored six churches: Bethlehem COGIC in Mt. Enterprise, Texas; Evangelist Temple COGIC in Bay City, Texas; Eastside COGIC in Lufkin, Texas; and The City of Refuge COGIC, Livingston Memorial COGIC, and The Island of Hope COGIC (formerly Anderson Memorial), all in Houston, Texas. He remodeled or built three of these churches.

Bishop Bryant has served the church from his youth to present in many capacities: as Sunday School Superintendent, Jurisdictional Chaplain, Jurisdictional Young People's Willing Worker President, District Superintendent, Jurisdictional Executive Secretary, President of Jurisdictional Minister's and Worker's Institute, Chairman of Jurisdictional Annual Leadership Conference, and as Administrative Assistant to the late Jurisdictional Bishop, Bishop N. H. Henderson.

Nationally, Bishop Bryant has served the Church of God in Christ as a member of the General Assembly Executive Committee, Commissions for Constitutional Convention Committee, General Council of Pastors and Elders Judiciary Review Committee, and Executive Board Member of the Church of God in Christ Urban Initiative.

Bishop Bryant has also actively involved himself in the civic life of the community. He served two terms as President of the Advisory Board to the Mayor of Houston under Mayors Kathryn J. Whitmire and Mayor Bob Lanier.

Bishop Bryant also served on the Civilian Review Committee for the Houston Police Department, as Chairman of Religious Committee, as founder of the Project David Ex-Felon Re-Acclimation Job Program, as Vice President of the Houston Northeast Quadrant Citizens Chamber of Commerce, as Chairman of Houston-Harris County Regional Substance Abuse Faith-Based Task Force Committee, and member of the Executive Board of the Minister's Conference at Prairie View A & M University.

In times of disaster, Bishop Bryant can be counted on to provide comfort and assistance. In 1983, he organized and chaired the Emergency Disaster Relief Texas Inter-Jurisdictional Council, which coordinated government entities and non-profit charity organizations such as FEMA, Red Cross and United Way.

When Tropical Storm Allison hit in 2001, Bishop Bryant facilitated a benefit service. In 2005, during Hurricane Katrina he organized the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund and was the Coordinator of the Church of God in Christ Distribution Center, a 20,000 square foot warehouse which distributed food, clothing, and non-perishable goods to thousands of displaced Katrina victims.

In 2008, in response to Hurricane Ike, Bishop Bryant again chaired the Emergency Disaster Relief Texas Inter-Jurisdictional Council.

During his fifty years of ministry, Bishop Bryant has been the recipient of many awards and honors, including the following: Meritorious Services To The Community by Mayor Fred Hofheinz; Meritorious Service To the Community by Mayor Kathryn Whitmire; Houston Police Department Public Service Award; Service Recognition Citation by Councilman Shelia Jackson Lee; Distinguished Service Award and Outstanding Leadership Award from COGIC Texas South Central Jurisdiction; Excellence In Service Award by United Minister's Institute of Texas Southern University; Special Achievement Award from The Religious Workers Guild; Outstanding Leadership AIM 2000 Church of God in Christ National Auxiliaries In Ministry Convention; by Bishop J. W. Macklin-AIM Chairman, Charles Harrison Mason Award The Religious Workers Guild, Visionary Pastors Award from the Houston Forward Times.

On October 17, 2013 in Abuja, Nigeria, the African Children's Hostel was named The Bishop Prince Bryant, Sr. African Children's Hostel in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Bryant is married to Mrs. Yolanda Howard Bryant and they are the proud parents of five children: Superintendent Prince E. Bryant, II (Candies); Dommonique Jeannie Bryant; Phillip Paul Bryant; Elder Desmon Ryan Bryant (Franchell); and Tymorra Mishon Bryant.

They also have been blessed with five wonderful grandchildren: Prince E. Bryant, III, Paiton Anise Bryant, Pierce Edward O'neal Bryant, Madison Danielle Bryant, and John Patrick Bryant.

Mr. Speaker, for 50 years Bishop Bryant has provided remarkable service to our nation as a community, state, and national leader.

I am proud to call this remarkable American hero my friend and I offer him my heartfelt congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of his service in the ministry of the Gospel.

Bishop Bryant truly is a "Soldier of the Cross." I offer my best wishes for his continued success in ministering the Gospel for many years to come.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Lance Corporal John Wangler served in the United States Marine Corps from 2007 to 2011. His commitment to the military began at

a young age, learning from his grandfather, a Korean War Veteran, the value of placing duty to country above self. Immediately after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in February 2007, because eighteen years was long enough for him to wait to serve. In 2008, Mr. Wangler deployed to Iraq where he completed more than 200 combat patrols throughout the Al-Anbar province. The following year he deployed to Afghanistan where he led mortar missions as the adjusting gun squad leader and commanded a six-man vehicle checkpoint that implemented security measures and registered local population. Because of his service and leadership, he was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign Medals, as well as numerous other medals.

After returning to civilian life, he redirected his commitment to the college classroom at Collin College. Recognizing the difficulty of transitioning from military to civilian life, Mr. Wangler became an officer of the Student Veterans of America (SVA) organization where he currently helps other student veterans navigate through the GI Bill. He also volunteers as a mentor in the new Veterans Welcome and Resource Center on campus. Additionally, he is one of only three student veteran advisors, which plans and hosts events to honor the sacrifice of our service members. Mr. Wangler truly represents the best of our young generation. We need more young people like him who will give their time, energy, and efforts to make this community a better place.

Lance Corporal John Wangler, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

GABRIELLA MILLER KIDS FIRST RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill, the so called Kids First Research Act.

The bill that we are considering here today has been brought up under the pretense of providing funding for pediatric research at the National Institutes of Health by redirecting the funds from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund to the amount of \$12.6 million per year.

As I am sure my colleagues know, I have always been a strong supporter of research at the NIH.

But the legislation before us is nothing more than a duplicitous attempt by Republicans to act as if they are providing support to the NIH. Yet in reality, NIH has seen its budget attacked and slashed in recent years. In 2011, the Republican budget proposed a \$1.6 billion cut to the NIH in a single year. I wonder where the compassion for children was then.

This very day the Republicans are bringing forward a budget agreement they want us to support that cuts \$172 billion in discretionary spending from levels President Obama and Democrats proposed in 2011. This so called

compromise will maintain a majority of cuts imposed by sequestration.

When sequestration went into effect, the NIH saw a \$1.55 billion cut to its budget. Of that, sequestration cut \$255 million from the NIH's cancer institute and \$66 million from the child health institute. Where was the outrage when those cuts went into effect?

If we truly cared about research at the NIH, we would not be proposing a \$12.6 million dollar increase in funding, we would be talking about restoring the \$1.55 billion cut by sequestration and then some.

The Kids First Research Act has a nice name and a noble intent, but no substance, and thus I cannot support this sad pretense.

JONATHAN SEROTA YALE MODEL CONGRESS SPEECH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, for 408 hours, the government of the United States of America shut down its facilities and closed its doors. Over the course of that tumultuous time, national parks, museums, and public grounds were barred to visitors. 800,000 Federal workers were sent home from their jobs, and many more were forced to work with delayed pay. Veterans, and active duty military personnel and their families were kept in a constant state of fear, worried about making ends meet. This period of panic was not caused by some foreign aggressor, some archenemy of state, or some ruthless tyrant. No, the crisis that shook the very faith that the American people had in their government, was caused by that very body itself. So who is to blame for the government shutdown? Shall we point fingers at Republicans? How about the Democrats? It must be someone's fault right? That is what our political system has taught us isn't it? Well, it appears that recently, that is just what it has done. As the ominous clouds descended upon the capital in the early hours of October the 1st, the government shutdown that took place in the District of Columbia, and all across the country, had effects that will continue to be impactful for years to come.

Model Congress. The word 'model' implies a want or desire to replicate, to recreate and imitate. For years now, thousands of students have come to Yale and other conferences alike, and taken pride in acting as Senators, Representatives, Cabinet Members, and Presidents. We have touted our accomplishments on our resumes, shined our gavels and framed our certificates. My question to you tonight is: Do we really, want to model Congress? The body which we have all gathered here tonight to replicate has, over the past several years, produced a stalemate and inefficiency that has rarely been seen in the long and arduous history of both man and this nation. Complete ideological division, refusal to compromise, and the inability to put national interest above self interest has weakened our country, as well as its image both at home and abroad. Why is it as teenagers, we are able to sit down, talk, work out our problems, and come to productive agreements, but as adults, we put our fingers in our ears and stomp our feet on the ground until we get

what we want? The roles seem to be backwards if you ask me.

People would like to have you believe that we are naive, we are inexperienced, and we know too little about the world to make decisions on our own. Well I argue the contrary. I think that they are too rigid, they are too closed minded, and they are too pleased with pushing the blame onto others, that they fail to see that the problem is caused by no one else but themselves.

Is this what America is about? Surely the land of the free and the home of the brave is not just some idealistic nonsense that we were told about in second grade, and then by the cruel hand of fate, forced to rule out as anything but true. The American ideal that we all hold dear to our hearts, the feeling of honor that sweeps over our senses and rushes down our spine when we publicly declare, "I am proud to be an American!" is only true because our government is about us, the people. We, the people, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. We are that posterity.

We have come to this conference to argue for things which we are passionate about, and argue against those which we are passionately not about. We have come to this conference to test each other, and our ability to work together to shape both foreign and domestic policy. We have come to this conference to gain experience, to gain knowledge, and to make progress not only for ourselves, but also for those who feel that their opinion doesn't matter. While most of us came here tonight with distinct political agendas, we have always been able to open our minds, challenge our beliefs, and move together in the hope that we may one day truly create what Ronald Reagan famously described as, "that shining city on a hill".

I love what we do here at Model Congress. If you ask me, I don't think we imitate Congress, we act better than it. We don't aspire to be like them, we aspire to be better than them. Here, at this conference, we have come together to act like the body of government that the founders intended. There are no special interest groups, no superpacs, no shady campaign deals, and no political parties. There is only the work we have set out to do, and the goals which we wish to achieve.

As I sat to write this speech, I decided that I wanted to talk about something that really mattered to us, the youth of America. Now, I could have simply gotten up here, shouted a couple of phrases like "legalize marijuana", "Make the playing field fairer", "lower taxes", "feed the hungry" and "help the poor." And while I'm sure that I would have gotten a couple of apathetic rounds of applause, I thought that it would be more prudent to get up here, and as I have, talk about something that we, both as citizens and as young adults, are frustrated with in the hopes of bringing about change.

If elected I vow to each and every one of you, that I will help us take those first frightening steps into the obscure and unsure future. I will do my best to lead this conference in a way so that Congressmen, Senators, Governors, and Presidents alike know that we won't accept anything less than that second grade idealistic dream, so that our peers both