

Azerbaijan and Turkey will immensely contribute to energy security in Europe by exporting Azerbaijani natural gas to the European markets.

On a security front, Azerbaijan has been a key ally in a post 9/11 era, emerging as one of the first countries to offer strong support and assistance to the United States. Actively participating in joint operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has also extended important overflight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights and provided key supply routes to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities. The transit route through Azerbaijan accounts for roughly 40 percent of the Coalition supplies bound for Afghanistan.

As the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 95th anniversary of Republic Day and to recognize the valuable bilateral relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan. I also encourage my colleagues who are interested in supporting Azerbaijan to join me as a member of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, a bipartisan group of more than 40 Members of Congress working to help foster the growing partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan and to advance U.S. interests in this pivotal region.

THE GREATEST GIFT IN HONOR OF
THE FALLEN THIS MEMORIAL
DAY THE ONES WHO GAVE THAT
LAST FULL MEASURE

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in gratitude, for all of the fallen and their families this Memorial Day. I submit this poem penned in their honor by Albert Caswell.

THE GREATEST GIFT

The . . .
The Greatest Gift!
As such as this,
is a many splendor thing!
To lay down ones life,
is but the brightest of all bright!
To go off to war,
all for your Nation . . . to so insure!
Our freedom to so bring!
As throughout the years . . .
As have so come here!
All of our most precious of all Daughter's
and Son's,
who have so persevered!
With courage clear,
as the face of death upon them so appeared!
And for all of their lost loves,
we now hold so very high above so very dear!
The ones who so went off to war,
all for our freedoms to so insure!
To do what must so be done!
For these are the ones,
who so lived and so died and did so not ask
why!
As the Angels up in heaven all for them so
cried!
And, all of those families who so now live
without!
As their pain and their heartache so seems
to mount!
Until, up in Heaven again they all so meet
on this you can count!
As all of their loved ones tears now so fall to
the ground!

The Mother's! The Father's! The Sister's!
The Brother's!

The Son's and The Daughters!
Who together no longer so remain!
Who so gave all that they so could!
But For The Greater Good!
The Ones Who So Heard The Call!
The Ones Who So Stood So Very Tall!
To Do What Must So Be Done!
On Earth as it is In Heaven,
In Thy Kingdom Come!
To take up that flight,
in The Army of Our Lord to so overcome!
To so watch over us all day and night!
And This Is Their Blood,
that which now so runs!
And these are the tears,
that which your families have now so begun!
And these are all of their dreams that which
will so never become!

For this is The Day . . .
that which so all portrays . . .
America's very heart to so everyone!
So give thanks,
to all of those Yanks who lie now deep in the
cold dark ground!
On This Memorial Day,
forget not what they all so gave!
And the families who with their tears will all
so pay!
As on your knees,
I bid you please to so say a prayer for all of
these!

Who but with their fine lives so bought us
peace!

The ones who so lived and so died,
while all of their families so cried . . .
Who so fought all of those Wars which were
waged!

With but their fine lives that they gave,
was but the high price of Freedom paid!
Sadly,

for any Nation to so live free!
For any Nation to so find her most blessed
peace!

Her most precious of all Son's and Daugh-
ters,

must lay down into the ground so very deep!
Is but the cruel and high cost of most pre-
cious liberty!

North, South, West, and so East!
On This Memorial Day,
please . . . please . . . Remember All of
These!

And so say a prayer!
Amen!

ROBERTO MAESTAS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Roberto Maestas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Roberto Maestas is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Roberto Maestas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Roberto Maestas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedi-

cation and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.)

CHARLES CURRIE, RET.

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, there are citizens making up this great country who never cease in offering themselves to their communities while improving the quality of our lives. They are the lights of our neighborhoods and families that bring hope long after they are gone. I rise today to celebrate one such glorious light and honor the legacy of Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles Currie, Ret.

Chaplain Currie dedicated his life to the calling of the Almighty and in service to the country he loved. During World War II, Currie played the trombone in the 11th Airborne Division Band. He returned to the Army as a Chaplain after graduating from Dallas Theological Seminary with a Master's Degree in Theology. He preached of the goodness and hope of the Almighty at Ft Bragg, Ludwigsburg, Germany, Fort Campbell, Pajori, Bayreuth, and Nuremberg, Germany, Vietnam, and Fort Knox. He retired as a Lt. Colonel with more than 20 years of service and began to travel the world serving and leading mission trips to more than 38 countries.

From all of Judea to the ends of the Earth, Chaplain Currie's legacy will be long remembered. Mr. Speaker, the Tennessee 7th Congressional District is better for his lasting goodwill. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the life and service of Chaplain Charles Currie.

HONORING CAPTAIN EMERY BURK

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the valiant services of Captain Emery Burk and thank him, as he retires, for serving Wayne State University and wider Detroit communities for 36 years.

Captain Emery Burk is retiring from the Wayne State University Police Department after 36 years of dedicated service. Born in Detroit, Michigan, Emery Burk attended Hamtramck Public schools and then attended Michigan State University, graduating in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. Mr. Burk was hired by the Wayne State University Department of Public Safety on June 21, 1976, and started the Detroit Police Academy the same month. Upon his completion of the Police Academy, Emery was assigned to patrol, often leading his shift in arrest and other related statistics. During his patrol operations, Emery was a Field Training Officer and trained many of the officers who came through the department.

Mr. Burk was the recipient of the Valor Award for heroic service as a patrol officer. At the time, he was only the second officer in the department to receive this high award. As an

officer, in addition to patrol and field training, he was also assigned to the Crime Abatement Team. He led the team to a record number of quality felony arrest and crime prevention efforts.

Captain Burk received promotions to Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain, and currently serves as the Coordinator of Line Operations. In this capacity he has shaped and directed the Department's Comparative Statistic Model of data-driven policing, directed the campus high visibility campaign, and restructured the Field Training Program for all incoming officers.

All the while, he has worked on various university committees, including the Commencement Committee and Major Special Event Coordination Committee. In serving as Coordinator of Line Operations, he also managed the additional duties of Coordination of Auxiliary Functions, handling budget and grant management, and human resource functions.

Captain Burk has received 52 Letters of Appreciation from citizens, two Presidential Award for exceptional service to the University, a Lifesaving Award, 14 Commendations for outstanding police work, a Merit Award for exceptional service to the department, and a Valor Award for Heroic service. I applaud his career and wish him a wonderful retirement.

HONORING FATHER THEODORE HESBURGH

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, seventy years ago, a young man was ordained as a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross and immediately volunteered to serve as a Navy Chaplain in World War II. At the time, duty to his church and commitments to his studies prevented him from serving in the Navy. Yet earlier this year, Father Theodore Hesburgh finally realized his dream: earning recognition as an Honorary Navy Chaplain.

This honor paid tribute to Father Hesburgh's extraordinary contributions—as a patriot of our country, as a leader of his Church, as a teacher and mentor, as a champion of the civil rights movement. He has been recognized by American presidents from Eisenhower to Obama. President Lyndon Johnson awarded him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom; President Clinton presented him with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can bestow. These all paid tribute to a life that exemplified and gave meaning to the Navy Chaplain motto: “vocati ad servitium”—“called to serve.”

It is only fitting that Father Hesburgh would be honored by the Navy, which has a rich history with Notre Dame. As he has noted in the past, during World War II, “The Navy came in and kept us afloat until the war was over,” using the Notre Dame campus for the Midshipmen's School, constructing drill halls and headquarters at the school, and building classrooms on the site of what is now the Hesburgh Library.

Father Hesburgh was called to serve his faith and his fellow Catholics. He would take his first job at Notre Dame as chaplain for married veterans and would rise to serve as

President of the University. But what he has embraced most is performing the most basic duties of a C.S.C. priest: saying mass; assisting the needy and giving voice to the voiceless; serving the poor and the abandoned, the hungry and the homeless.

Father Hesburgh was called to serve the future of our country through his leadership in the field of higher education. He led Notre Dame for an incredible 35 years, yet his imprint extended further than a single campus. He demonstrated how to transform Catholic universities into exemplary institutions of higher education in modern times. He championed academic freedom and the pursuit of academic excellence. He has earned 150 honorary degrees, more than any other person in history.

Father Hesburgh was called to serve to advance the cause of human dignity and justice in our society. Appointed by President Eisenhower to the Civil Rights Commission in 1957, he would shine a light on the need for voting rights in the south. He would become known as an architect of the Civil Rights Act. He would find himself standing hand-in-hand with Martin Luther King Jr. at Soldier Field in Chicago, singing “We Shall Overcome”—a photograph of which is proudly displayed in the National Portrait Gallery.

Known as “Father Ted” to many, he understood the purpose behind the call to service, once charging a group of graduates to “be the kind of person who not only understands the injustices of this life, but is also willing to do something about them.” That is what Father Hesburgh has done every day for the past 70 years.

His students have been inspired by his message. Our country has been blessed by his leadership. The people have been strengthened by his presence. We are all grateful that he answered the call to serve.

On the 70th anniversary of his ordination and as we approach his 96th birthday, we know that Americans will long be blessed by the legacy of Father Theodore Hesburgh.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 164, “yea;” on rollcall No. 165, “yea;” on rollcall No. 166, “yea.”

SARAH BOOTHBY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sarah Boothby for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Sarah Boothby is an 8th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sarah Boothby is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Sarah Boothby for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING MR. RODRIC J. MYERS UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today Ranking Member ROBERT BRADY and I join together on behalf of the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Rodric J. Myers, Director of House Garages and Parking Security with the Sergeant at Arms, on the occasion of his retirement on June 14, 2013. Rod has served this institution with distinction for over 40 years—both as an officer with U.S. Capitol Police and with the Office of the Sergeant at Arms. His capable guidance, trusted mentorship, and steady leadership have been invaluable assets not only to his staff and colleagues, but to every Congressional office.

A native of Indianapolis, Indiana, Rod Myers joined the U.S. Capitol Police in June 1972. He both began and ended his career with the U.S. Capitol Police in the Capitol Division, first as a uniform patrol officer in and around U.S. Capitol, and eventually as the Administrative Specialist for the entire Capitol Division. Rod was responsible for time and attendance for approximately 100 officers, the daily roster assignment of officers, as well as working an assignment of his own outside of his administrative duties. Rod was—as everyone who ever worked with him will attest—the man who made the trains run on time. His 29 years of service with the department were marked by a remarkable devotion to detail and a demonstration of professionalism in the highest degree.

During Rod's long tenure with the U.S. Capitol Police he had the honor of working ten Presidential Inaugurations, as well as 40 State of the Union addresses. Needless to say, he had the opportunity to meet and greet numerous dignitaries and heads of state over the years, but perhaps his most cherished moment was a visit by his beloved Dallas Cowboys football team. Rod—being the U.S. Capitol Police administrative specialist—got this assignment himself.

On July 9, 2001, Rod was appointed Director of House Garages and Parking Security with the Sergeant at Arms. Throughout the past 11 years, he has worked tirelessly to establish parking protocols and procedures that enhance both the safety and security of Members and staff. Rod has crafted a comprehensive on-going training program for all Garages and Parking Security staff, coordinating with the U.S. Capitol Police and the Office of the Attending Physician to ensure that his staff is