

PRESIDENT OBAMA: SERIOUSLY
PUSH HUMAN RIGHTS ON FRI-
DAY WITH XI JINPING

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this week, the world remembers the dream that was and is the "Tiananmen Square Protests of 1989" and deeply honors the sacrifice endured by an extraordinarily brave group of pro-democracy Chinese women and men who dared to demand fundamental human rights for all Chinese.

Twenty-four years ago this week, the world watched in awe and wonder as it had since mid-April of '89 as hundreds of thousands of mostly young people peacefully petitioned the Chinese government to reform and democratize. China seemed to be the next impending triumph for freedom and democracy, especially after the collapse of the dictatorships in the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact. But when the People's Liberation Army poured into and around the Square on June 3rd, the wonder of Tiananmen turned to shock, tears, fear and helplessness.

On June 3rd and 4th and for days, weeks and years after, right up until today, the Chinese dictatorship delivered a barbaric response—mass murder, torture, incarceration, cover-up and the systematic suppression of fundamental human rights.

The Chinese government not only continues to inflict unspeakable pain and suffering on its own people, but the cover-up of the Tiananmen massacre is without precedent in modern history. Even though journalists and live television and radio documented the massacre, the Chinese Communist Party line continues to deny, obfuscate and threaten.

In December of 1996 General Chi Haotian, the operational commander who ordered the murder of the Tiananmen protestors, visited Washington, DC as the Chinese Defense Minister. Minister Chi was welcomed by President Clinton at the White House with full honors including a 19-gun salute—a bizarre spectacle I and others strongly protested. Why do I bring this up? Minister Chi addressed the Army War College on that trip and in answer to a question said "not a single person lost his life in Tiananmen Square" and claimed that the People's Liberation Army did nothing more violent than the "pushing of people" during 1989 protests. Not a single person lost his life? Are you kidding? That big lie and countless others like it was—and is—the Chinese Communist Party's line.

As chair of Foreign Affairs' human rights subcommittee, I put together a congressional hearing within a couple of days—December 18th, 1996—with witnesses who were there on the Square in 1989 including Yang Jianli—a leader and survivor of the massacre—and Time magazine bureau chief David Aikman, two of the witnesses who testified at a hearing I held earlier this week. I also invited Minister Chi or anyone the Chinese Embassy might want to send to the hearing. He—they—refused.

I guess Minister Chi thought he was back in Beijing where the big lie is king and no one ever dares to do a fact check.

A few days ago, the U.S. State Department asked the Chinese government to "end har-

assment of those who participated in the protests and fully account for those killed, detained or missing." The response? The Chinese Foreign Ministry acrimoniously said that the U.S. should "stop interfering in China's internal affairs so as not to sabotage China-U.S. relations."

"Sabotage" Sino-American relations because our side requests an end to harassment and an accounting? Sounds like they have much to hide.

President Obama is scheduled to meet with China's President Xi Jinping on Friday to discuss security and economic issues. A robust discussion of human rights abuses in China must be on the agenda and not in a superfluous or superficial way. It's time to get serious about China's flagrant abuse.

Can a government that crushes the rights and freedoms of its own people be trusted on trade and security?

China today is the torture capital of the world and victims include religious believers, ethnic minorities, human rights defenders like Chen Guangcheng and Gao Zhisheng and political dissidents.

Hundreds of millions of women have been forced to abort their precious babies pursuant to the draconian one-child policy which has led to gendercide, the violent extermination of unborn baby girls simply because they are girls. The slaughter of the girl-child in China is not only a massive gender crime but a "security" issue as well. A witness at one of my earlier hearings, Valerie Hudson, author of *Bare Branches*, testified that the gender imbalance will lead to instability and chaos—even war, "that the One-Child policy has not enhanced China's security, but demonstrably weakened it." As Nick Eberstadt famously phrased it, what are the consequences for a society that has chosen to become, simultaneously, both more gray and more male . . . The other face of the coin from the missing daughters of China, are the excess sons of China . . . the abnormal sex ratios of China do not bode well for its future."

I hope policymakers pay close attention to the witnesses who testified earlier this week because Tiananmen was a tipping point and the lessons learned and employed ever since by the Chinese government required much better understanding and due diligence and a more effective response from us.

One of our witnesses, Dr. Yang Jianli, testified that soon after Tiananmen the Communist Party embraced a ubiquitous code of corruption to enrich the elite at the expense of the general public, believing that "economic growth means everything" to the survival and sustainability of the dictatorship. "All this was made possible thanks to the Tiananmen massacre and the political terror that was imposed on the entire country in the years following. . . ."

Earlier this week, we heard from activists who were in Beijing in June of 1989, another democracy advocate who was serving an 18-year sentence in prison at that time and a former Time Magazine Beijing reporter who was an eyewitness to these events.

Dr. Yang Jianli is a former political prisoner and survivor of the massacre. His insights into the repercussions on China from Tiananmen, the ongoing corruption and the unfinished business are elucidating.

Chai Ling was one of the most effective—and most wanted—leaders of the protest

movement in Tiananmen Square. Her courage and fight for democracy and remarkable escape is the stuff of legend. As a strong woman of faith, her testimony is a message of remembering the lessons of the past but also giving hope for the future.

Wei Jingsheng has been advocating for democracy in China for decades and has paid a heavy price in serving over 18 years in prison for his activities in fighting for freedom of the Chinese people. His perceptive and frequent analyses of the Chinese Communist system and the changing views of the population offer a profound view today of the events surrounding Tiananmen.

And we are also grateful to have heard from Dr. Sophie Richardson of Human Rights Watch who for many years has been an expert and advocate of political reform and democratization and human rights in China.

Dr. David Aikman, former Beijing Bureau Chief for Time Magazine, was also present during the Tiananmen massacre and covered the student protests prior to the conflict. He has also studied extensively on the status of religious freedom in China and the situation of Christianity in China today and the historical influences on its development. And we appreciated his insights and testimony.

We will not forget what took place in Tiananmen Square 24 years ago. The struggle for freedom in China continues. Someday the people of China will enjoy all of their God-given rights. And a nation of free Chinese women and men will someday honor and applaud and thank the heroes of Tiananmen and all those who sacrificed so much for so long for freedom.

RETIREMENT OF ROBERT E. RIVERS

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor Robert E. Rivers for his long-standing service in the Georgia House of Representatives. On August 1, he will celebrate his retirement from his role as Clerk after 21 years of dutiful service to lawmakers and citizens.

In this position, Rivers is the official custodian of all bills, resolutions, records, and documents filed in the general assembly. He and his staff were tasked with providing government transparency by keeping an accurate record of daily proceedings for Georgia's citizens, and serving as the Georgia Speaker's chief parliamentary procedure advisor.

During my tenure as a State Senator, I came to personally know Rivers as a true gentleman who treats his role with the utmost regard for his duty and respect for the history of the Capitol grounds. Throughout his career, he has served as a gracious host to the Capitol for thousands of Georgia citizens and will be a dearly missed personality in the general assembly.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of lawmakers everywhere, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to Robert Rivers for devoting himself to the integrity and prestige of the Georgia House of Representatives. I wish him a happy—and well-deserved—retirement.

TRIBUTE TO WAVERLY DISTRICT
IN COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Sixth Congressional District community that celebrating its centennial anniversary. The Waverly District in Columbia, South Carolina, is an historic African American neighborhood that has built a very proud history over its 100 years in existence, and it is my honor to represent it in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Waverly District was named a National Register of Historic Places District in 1989, and is the only African American residential neighborhood to hold that distinction in Columbia. There is good reason it qualified for this designation. By the early twentieth century, Waverly was a thriving community of African American artisans, professionals and social reformers, many of whom made significant contributions to the social and political advancement of African Americans in South Carolina and in the nation.

Among the Waverly District historic properties and sites are: the Heidt-Russell House, home of Edwin Roberts Russell, one of the few African American scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project in during World War II; the Matthew J. Perry site, location of a former home of South Carolina's first African American Federal Judge and 1963 Edwards v. South Carolina lead attorney. The landmark breach of the peace case and its impact on civil rights was featured in May 2013 on C-SPAN's LCV Cities Tour; the Modjeska Simkins childhood home, former home of the "Matriarch of the South Carolina Civil Rights Movement" Modjeska Monteith Simkins, who hosted former Justice Thurgood Marshall during strategy meetings for *Briggs v. Elliot*, which became part of the historic Brown v. Board of Education desegregation case; and the Visanska Starks House, one of the few historic sites in America with residential histories of an antebellum white Southern woman, a Jewish immigrant from Poland, and an African American scholar who became president of three historically black colleges. The House and its carriage house were featured on a segment of HGTV's "If Walls Could Talk" and the site is a member of the International Sites of Conscience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Waverly District and congratulate the Historic Waverly Improvement and Protection Association President, Doris Hildebrand, and Association Historian, Catherine Fleming Bruce, for their efforts to commemorate this great occasion. The current residents and members of the extended community have dedicated themselves to preserving the Waverly District and its history, and they deserve commendation for their extraordinary work. This is a model preservation effort that is dear to my heart and serves as an example of the significant impact such efforts can make for future generations.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2014

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2217) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes:

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Grimm amendment to the FY 2014 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill. I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of this amendment which would prohibit the Transportation Security Administration from moving forward with a policy to allow knives to be carried on to airplanes.

While I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, I commend the TSA for their announcement today that they will no longer pursue a policy to allow knives in carry-on luggage on planes. TSA is putting public safety first with this decision. They are listening to the serious concerns raised by flight attendants, pilots, TSA screeners, air marshals, airlines, and the American public.

It is our job to ensure that government takes common-sense measures to increase the safety of our commercial air transportation system. While we can never ensure complete safety, prohibiting passengers from bringing knives onto planes is a reasonable post-9/11 measure that should be kept in place.

Safety should always be our number one priority when evaluating changes to airline policy. I commend TSA for their commitment to keeping our skies and the American public as safe as possible.

I urge my colleagues to support the Grimm amendment.

HONORING DE'UNA WILSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. De'Una Wilson, the 2012 Valedictorian at Canton High School, in Canton, Mississippi. De'Una is the daughter of Mr. Derreco, Sr. and Ms. Regenia Wilson. She was born and raised in Canton and attends Canton United Methodist Church.

De'Una's accomplishments can be attributed to her desire to fulfill her grandmother's dying wish, which was for her to graduate at the top of her class. To achieve this, De'Una dedicated herself to her academics and completed her senior year with an "A" average, earning her the merit of Class Valedictorian. In addition to her academics, De'Una has remained active in her community by volunteering at the Open Door Community Outreach Center at Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Canton, and working a part-time job.

De'Una has been accepted into the Engineering Program at Jackson State University where all of her hard work was rewarded with a full scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. De'Una Wilson in being Valedictorian of Canton High School's 2012 graduating class.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE FRANK R. LAUTENBERG,
A SENATOR FROM THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened when I learned of the passing of Senator Frank Lautenberg. I am certain that anyone who had ever met Senator Lautenberg would agree, regardless of political party affiliation, that he was a remarkable statesman and hard working government servant. The longest-serving senator in New Jersey's history, he was gifted in interpersonal relations, and recognized for reaching across the aisle to benefit the people of his state, and the citizens of our nation as a whole. And as the last veteran to serve in World War II in the U.S. Senate, he represented a generation of leaders who left a legacy of service that continues to inspire all Americans.

A proud son of hard-working immigrants, Senator Lautenberg rose from humble beginnings to attain success in business and public service. He was an incredibly efficient entrepreneur who turned a small business into one of the largest computing services companies in the world; a soldier who put his life on the line to protect our country; a Senator who helped ban smoking in airplanes and around children, who worked to ensure parents could take time off to care for sick family members, and the Senator who helped modernize the G.I. bill to ensure today's veterans could benefit from the same opportunities he did.

Additionally, throughout his years in the U.S. Senate, he worked tirelessly to secure investments in infrastructure for the Northeast Corridor, and it was in the area of transportation that I personally worked with Senator Lautenberg as a close partner. Senator Lautenberg's staunch efforts to augment Amtrak and commuter rail parallel my own. And as the Chair of the House Transportation Subcommittee on Railroads under a House Democratic Majority, we worked closely to increase funding for Amtrak and passenger rail both in the Northeast Corridor and throughout the entire United States.

Senator Lautenberg, who served on four Commerce, Science and Transportation subcommittees, including aviation operations and surface transportation, helped save Amtrak from budget hawks; supported tarmac delay protections for airline passengers; was instrumental in increasing transportation spending for mass transportation and other infrastructure improvements; succeeded in getting stricter limits on drinking and driving, and managed to get smoking banned from airplanes, among numerous other transportation-related accomplishments.

In fact, Senator Lautenberg wrote the 2008 law to increase Amtrak funding and create the nation's high-speed rail grant program. And in