

move forward on this complex but critical issue.

As the budget request states, the Federally sponsored vote is to be among options that would resolve Puerto Rico's political status. The only way to resolve the island's status is through statehood or national sovereignty. Puerto Rico cannot resolve its status by maintaining the same undemocratic status that my people have endured since 1898 and that they soundly rejected in November. The current status is the root cause of Puerto Rico's political, economic, and social problems, so it cannot also be the solution to those problems.

In addition, the budget language clearly states that the Department of Justice shall not provide funding until it certifies that the ballot and voter education materials are consistent with the Constitution, basic laws, and policies of the United States. The purpose of this language is to ensure that the ballot does not include impossible status proposals that have been repeatedly declared unworkable as a matter of both law and policy by the Federal Government. I am pleased that the administration understands that true self-determination is a choice among options that can be implemented, not an exercise in wishful thinking.

The President's request represents one path forward, but it is important to underscore that it is not the only path forward. In the coming weeks, I will introduce stand-alone legislation on the status issue that will both complement President Obama's request and reflect the undisputable fact that statehood won the November referendum.

Puerto Rico stands in a far different place today than it did six months ago. A historic referendum was held, the President responded to the results, and Congress now has a responsibility to act. Those who seek democracy, equality, and progress for Puerto Rico are on the forward march, while those who support the failed status quo are in retreat. We drive the debate, while they merely react to the debate. And, in the end, mindful that the arc of history is long but that it bends towards justice, I am confident we will prevail.

#### HONORING MAUELLE SHIREK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, let me first send my thoughts and prayers to the city of Boston, the families and friends of all of those touched by Monday's horrific tragedy. Incredible strength was in full display in the streets of Boston when untold numbers of people—the police, firefighters, volunteers, runners, and bystanders—ran towards the explosions to try to help in any way they could without regard for their own safety.

As we learn the details of this attack, let us remember that what makes

us strong as a Nation is the tremendous care we have for our fellow Americans, especially during the hardest times. This is a lesson that I learned deeply from my friend and mentor, Maudelle Shirek. Maudelle died last week at the age of 101. She would have been 102 June 18. My heart and my prayers go out to her friends and family.

□ 1020

Maudelle was truly the "godmother of East Bay progressive politics." The former city of Berkeley vice mayor and eight-term council member was born and raised in Jefferson, Arkansas. As the granddaughter of slaves, she was passionate about justice and civil rights.

After moving to Berkeley in the 1940s, she became active in the antiwar movement, fought on behalf of unions, advocated for HIV and AIDS awareness, care, and treatment, and helped organize the Free Mandela Movement. She was also the first elected official in the United States to advocate for needle exchange programs.

During her tenure as a Berkeley elected official, she was instrumental in creating multiple city commissions, including the Berkeley Commission on Labor. When she retired, mind you, at 92 years of age, she was the oldest elected official in California at that time. In 2007, the Berkeley City Council renamed city hall in her honor.

She not only urged me to get involved in politics, but also inspired my predecessor, Congressman Ron Dellums, to run for Congress. Her understanding of the importance of investing in people won the solid support of voters in her district and across the country.

I met Maudelle in the early seventies while I was a student at Mills College. She widened my perspective on global politics during our travels around the world. She reinforced the idea that we are all part of a global family and what happens here in the United States affects our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world and vice versa. Maudelle was a personal friend, mentor, and confidante.

Maudelle actually was a health aficionado. She was committed to educating seniors and the entire community on the benefits of healthy living. She loved shopping for fresh fruits and vegetables, and you would often find her cooking nutritious meals at the West Berkeley Senior Center.

We loved to walk Lake Merritt and the Berkeley Marina together, where she talked to me about acupuncture and natural remedies like cayenne pepper and warm water for colds and the importance of exercise.

Maudelle was a woman of great faith. During the seventies, we enjoyed attending the Church for Tomorrow, which formerly was the Church for Today. We went there together, and this is where I realized that her passion for service and justice was driven by

her commitment to what she called doing the Lord's work on this Earth.

She was a woman who understood that she had to have a comprehensive agenda. It just couldn't be a single issue like health care or seniors or peace and justice, but it had to be about being committed to comprehensive and positive changes that seek to improve the lives of all Americans.

Maudelle worked at the Berkeley Co-Op Credit Union. She engaged all of us, in the seventies, mind you, in financial literacy, and urged me, as a young single student to buy a house because she reminded me over and over again that one's equity in one's home was the primary path to the middle class, and that that was the main way that I could get the resources to take care of my kids and send them to school, a lesson we should teach our own children today.

Several years ago, I tried to name the Berkeley Post Office after Maudelle. While this body has a tradition of supporting post office bills in a bipartisan way, Congressman STEVE KING from Iowa came to this floor and tried to tarnish her character. He brought groundless accusations, and this body voted against—mind you, against—naming the post office in my district after this great icon. I hope one day, in her memory, Representative KING will apologize to Maudelle and her family and the city of Berkeley for such an unfair and unwarranted attack. She was deeply hurt by it, but kept her head high and lived to see the Berkeley City Hall named after her.

Maudelle refused to accept arbitrary limitations. That's one of the best things we all respected about her. Maudelle is one of the best examples of how one person can make a difference. She was a fearless and inspirational woman who tirelessly fought to make this world a fair and just place. She spoke for the voiceless and was such a staunch defender of our basic civil rights.

I believe, like many, that Maudelle's legacy of over 70 years of service to Berkeley, the East Bay, the Nation, and the world will inspire many to speak for the voiceless and to stand up for justice, both here in America and around the globe. I will deeply miss her wise counsel, love, and support.

#### LET'S DO OUR PATRIOTIC DUTY AND VOTE ON GUN CONTROL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, our hearts as well go out to the victims and the families of those who were killed and seriously wounded in Boston on Patriots' Day.

This has been a very difficult time for our country. At that event in Boston were families from Newtown, Connecticut, invited to celebrate Patriots' Day in Boston. The Red Sox play in the

morning, the Marathon takes place, families gather, and again, America faces another tragedy.

Last week, family members from Newtown came to the Hill to lobby Congress, to ask Congress what the President of the United States has asked of us, both in the State of the Union and in his two trips up to Connecticut.

What the President has said is: however you feel about the issue of gun violence, however you feel about the Second Amendment, we deserve a vote, both in the other body, in the Senate, and here, on the floor of the House of Representatives; a vote not only for the 20 children and six teachers and administrators who died in that tragedy on December 14, but for people in Tucson and Aurora and on virtually every street in cities all across America where we have seen this needless and senseless violence take place. Patriots' Day, another act of violence.

Strides are being made in the United States Senate. Compromise is being offered on something that 92 percent of the American people agree with: universal background checks, universal background checks to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists.

The United States of America is currently mocked by Adam Gadahn, an American al Qaeda on the FBI's Most Wanted List, who taunts America and says this, and you can see it on BuzzFeed:

America is absolutely awash with easily attainable firearms, large-capacity clips. You can get them, even without any identification.

This from the most wanted on the FBI list.

We need to vote in the United States Congress. If these young children had the courage to go after their assailant, if the teachers stepped in the way to protect, does Congress have the will and the courage to stand up and merely do what it was elected to do? Cast a vote in both Chambers. Cast a vote on behalf of the American people. Cast a vote on behalf of these children, on behalf of these parents who have come here to beseech the United States Congress only to do its responsibility, to do what we take the oath of office for.

Ninety-two percent of the American people believe that we need universal background checks. We have to make sure that our bodies, both the Senate and the House, take up this legislation. In the aftermath of yet another tragedy, on Patriots' Day, the most patriotic thing we can do is vote.

□ 1030

#### AWARDING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO PROFESSOR MUHAMMAD YUNUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, for centuries, we have lauded the achieve-

ments of great entrepreneurs, whether the automobile industry of Henry Ford or the iPhone of Steve Jobs. Business was the province of people with money. As the old cynical joke goes, banks would loan money only to people who don't need it.

So throughout the world, and especially in the post-colonial developing world, the chance of escaping poverty and living a dignified life seemed an impossible dream for millions and millions. One person has helped transform the dream into a possibility—in fact, a reality—of family sufficiency for people all over the planet.

When the Nobel Committee awarded Dr. Muhammad Yunus and the financial institution he created, the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, the Nobel Peace Prize a few years back, the Committee made the award for "their efforts to create economic and social development from below." I'll phrase it differently. Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank received the award for treating people with dignity and giving millions around the world hope.

Today, in the rotunda here at the U.S. Capitol, we honor Dr. Yunus with the Congressional Gold Medal. Muhammad Yunus has shown us being a visionary does not mean promoting the impractical or the impossible. Unlike some economic theories advanced over centuries, Dr. Yunus' theories have been proven to work. To date, the Grameen Foundation and the bank and its partners have helped 9.4 million of the world's poorest people receive microloans. The bank has given loans of a few dollars to millions to those who, by traditional standards, are not worthy of credit.

His idea of a socially conscious business focused on serving the poor flew in the face of conventional economic theory and certainly in the face of existing banking practice. But it worked. Recipients paid back the loans and got ahead financially.

The Grameen Foundation's financial outreach to people living below the poverty level has been life-altering for women in Nigeria and Haiti and Cambodia and Peru. Dr. Yunus has inspired similar local efforts in dozens of nations, including our own. His life and work are a testament to the difference a single person can make here on Earth.

Dr. Yunus' legacy will be measured not simply by the many awards he has won over his career, such as we honor him with today, but by the current and future generations of people who will travel the road from poverty to success and sufficiency because of Dr. Yunus' vision and commitment. He believes that we have the power to end poverty—not just to alleviate it, but end it—and we should take him seriously. Muhammad Yunus is showing us how.

I ask my colleagues to join me in giving Dr. Yunus congratulations on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal today, and join me in giving thanks to him for making many, many lives around the world better.

#### WVON RADIO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. I rise to congratulate WVON Radio on 50 years of broadcasting.

On April 1, 1963, WVON Radio in Chicago, Illinois, was launched, and since that time has gone from being "the voice of the Negro" to "the voice of the Nation."

WVON began when two brothers, Leonard and Phil Chess, the owners of a successful music business, Chess Records, with a plentiful supply of local music under their banner such as Muddy Waters, Lil' Howlin' Wolf, Jimmy Reed, and others, needed a way to express their music. Therefore, the brothers bought WHFC-1450 AM, a 1,000-watt station licensed in Cicero, Illinois.

On April 1, 1963, WVON hit the airwaves in Chicago with a group of hand-picked personalities: Franklin McCarthy, E. Rodney Jones, Herb Kent, Wesley South, and Pervis Spann. They became known as "The Good Guys." Ric Ricardo, Bill "Butterball" Crane, Ed Cook, Joe Cobb, Roy Wood, Ed Maloney, Bill "Doc" Lee, Don Cornelius, Richard Pegue, Isabel Joseph Johnson, Cecil Hale, and McKee Fitzhugh eventually joined the roster.

Under the direction of the station's general manager, Lucky Cordell, and its "Ambassador of Goodwill," Bernadine C. Washington, The Good Guys held black radio listeners hostage in Chicago for a number of years. It became the hottest station in the market. Not only did it convey music, it also conveyed public information, public events, and what was going on. It was the voice during the civil rights movement, and individuals were often given the opportunity to speak. Dr. Martin Luther King was interviewed by Leslie South, as well as Elijah Muhammad and others.

These personalities became so informational and influential that during the riots after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, they called for calm and peace. And people began to listen to them. They were very influential throughout what was called the civil rights movement, and individuals often went to them.

They also had a relationship with Berry Gordy in Detroit, when he formed Motown Records; and every time a record would come out, he would send it to the WVON station before sending it anywhere else.

WVON actually was instrumental in electing Harold Washington, the first black mayor of Chicago. Lou Palmer, who had a radio series called "Lou's Notebook," had a slogan: "We shall see in '83." And that became the rallying cry. It was also instrumental in electing Carol Moseley Braun to the United States Senate, electing Barack Obama to the United States Senate, and ultimately electing Barack Obama President of the United States of America.