

from North Korea and Iran which places the United States at risk. The administration should inform Congress of the effects of the abandoned and failed Obama administration phased adaptive approach and of their plan to complete the Bush administration's Alaska missile defense strategy.

Further, since completion of the Alaska missile field alone is insufficient for the full protection of the United States, I am calling upon the administration to support the site selection and completion of a United States east coast missile field to complement the Alaska site.

The world is not becoming a safer place. Offering to weaken our defenses in hopes of irrational nations suspending their weapons programs is not an effective strategy to protect the United States. Simply put, these offers are of greater benefit to our adversaries than to the protection of the American people. They are to the detriment of the American people.

THE PASSING OF HELEN L. DOHERTY APRIL 17, 2013

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

Ms. CHU. This month, the San Gabriel Valley lost a wonderful leader, the Native American community lost a true champion, and I lost a dear friend. Helen Doherty wore many hats throughout her years of public service, but one thing remained constant among them all: she fought to make life better for those around her. All people were her family; all children were her children.

Helen's actions were always guided by the needs of younger generations. An educator at heart, she spent four decades in public school classrooms. She taught where she was needed most—where the value of a lesson learned would have the greatest impact—places like the Bridges Community Day School, where she worked with young people who had worn out their welcome in the traditional school system through expulsion, drug use, or family problems. None of that mattered to Helen. What mattered was helping kids build a brighter future for themselves, one new lesson at a time.

But being an educator meant more to Helen than teaching in schools. It meant being a good colleague as well. She was a devoted member of the California Teachers Association and won their California Teacher in Politics award.

Helen's compassion for others led her to speak out and fight for those in need. Much of her activism was rooted in who she was as a member of the Cherokee Nation. She had personal insights into the needs of Native American communities, and she fought tirelessly to have them addressed. By the time she was in college at UCLA, she had personally felt the pains of intolerance directed at her and her heritage.

□ 1030

Determined to change the wrong she faced, Helen boarded a bus and rode clear across the country to hear Martin Luther King deliver his "I Have a Dream" speech. That dream was her dream. His message was her message, and she fulfilled it each and every day for the rest of her life.

Helen worked side by side with the Gabrielino Tribe to help them gain recognition and joined the Morongo Nation in promoting human rights. She took those challenges and struggles that are unique to reservation life and raised awareness for solutions.

Her efforts helped ensure those facing difficult conditions on reservation land had the education to build a brighter future. She held workshops on tribal lands to help people develop the skills needed to improve their quality of life, and she worked hard to ensure that textbooks in California accurately reflected the true history of the Native people. As her advocacy led to public service, Helen was a founder and chair of the Native American Caucus for the California Democratic Party—one of the first Native American caucuses for a State party.

Helen left us not long ago, but her impact lives on. The lives she touched are forever changed for the better as are the communities she fought to empower. Her life's work provides an inspiration for all of us. So, today, I bid farewell to a friend, a mentor, and a true role model to so many.

And I say thank you for all that you've done for us, Helen Doherty.

UKRAINE

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the recent actions taken by the President of the Ukraine, Mr. Yanukovych.

On April 7, President Yanukovych pardoned former Interior Minister Lutsenko, former Environmental Minister Filipchuk, and four others. These pardons demonstrate Ukraine's desire to integrate democratic policies and reform their justice system as the expanding Eastern European nation continues its transition towards democracy.

This action is a concrete step in the right direction for President Yanukovych's administration, but there remains much to be done in order for Ukraine's judicial system to be considered in line with Western standards. This would include an end to all political persecutions; and, today, I reiterate my call for the release of Ms. Yulia Tymoshenko, the former Prime Minister.

I have long been a supporter of our Nation's ability to assist new, emerging democracies as they develop the pillars for building successful and lasting governments. I am encouraged by

these recent steps and hope that Ukraine continues on its path towards full European integration. The United States Government welcomes President Yanukovych's decision to pardon Mr. Lutsenko and Mr. Filipchuk and hopes that such actions signal an end to the political persecution of other opposition figures.

KEEP YOSEMITE TOURIST-FRIENDLY

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I rise today in strong opposition to a proposal by the National Park Service to remove longstanding tourist facilities from Yosemite National Park, including bicycle and raft rentals, snack facilities, gift shops, horseback riding, the ice skating rink at Curry Village, tennis courts and swimming pools, the art center, and the historic stone Sugar Pine Bridge.

These facilities date back generations and provide visitors with a wide range of amenities to enhance their stay at and their enjoyment of this world-renowned national park. To add insult to insanity, all of this comes with a quarter-billion-dollar price tag to American taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, Yosemite belongs to the American people, and the Park Service's job is to welcome them and accommodate them when they visit their park, not to restrict and harass them. Indeed, Yosemite was set aside nearly 150 years ago by legislation signed by Abraham Lincoln specifically for "the public use, resort and recreation for all time." This proposal fundamentally changes the entire purpose for which Yosemite was set aside in the first place.

Tourists don't go where they're not welcomed. Yosemite competes with thousands of vacation destinations; and the more inconvenient and unpleasant Park managers make it for Yosemite visitors, the fewer visitors they're going to have. Now, that might be convenient to them, but it will devastate the economy of all of the surrounding communities whose economies depend upon tourism.

The Park Service is attempting to justify this as a court-ordered response to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This is disingenuous. The settlement agreement they refer to simply requires that a plan be adopted consistent with current law. It does not mandate such radical changes in longstanding visitor services and amenities.

Former Congressman Tony Coelho, who authored the act that designated the Merced under provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, has just released a strong letter condemning the proposal, saying in no uncertain terms:

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was never intended to apply to the Merced River within

Yosemite National Park at all. The Merced River within Yosemite National Park is protected and regulated by the National Park Service and has never needed an overlay of inconsistent and confusing regulation. The Merced River in Yosemite Valley has been recreational for almost 150 years. Yosemite Valley has never been wilderness. Any plan which proceeds should not change any infrastructure or ban any activities traditionally carried on in Yosemite Valley.

Indeed, when Mr. Coelho authored the legislation designating the Merced as "wild and scenic," these tourist facilities already existed, and nowhere in the bill's findings is there any mention of an intention to force their closure or to override Park policies. In fact, many of the facilities slated for removal are not even on the Merced River and do not in any way impede or affect its flow.

The officials of the National Park Service are clearly not required to take these actions. It's becoming increasingly apparent that they want to take them and that they intend to take them despite widespread public opposition from all but the most radical elements of the environmental left. Indeed, when 13 members of the California congressional delegation, including liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans alike, asked for an extension of the public comment period, the Park Service grudgingly extended it by only 12 days.

It is obvious that Park officials have already made up their minds and are merely walking through the formalities. I believe that this matter and related issues of public access cry out for a congressional investigation.

In the meantime, if members of the public want to protest the elimination of many of Yosemite Valley's tourist amenities and iconic landmarks, their time is running out. My Web site, at mcclintock.house.gov, provides guidance on how people can protest this action, and I strongly urge them to do so.

THE MAJORITY'S DEFLATING AGENDA

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, the 113th Congress has been in session for over 100 days; and so far, the majority has attacked worker protections, slashed important job-training programs, and has created one manufactured fiscal cliff after another.

This is the last week before yet another recess, but there is still no proposal to help Americans get back to work. Instead, we have another attack on the Affordable Care Act. Plus, we have on the floor today the Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act. I, in fact, had a balloon, Mr. Speaker, that I would have liked to have had on my wrist as I gave this speech this morning, but I was told it would not be appropriate—and maybe not.

But helium? Helium? Really?

I hate to burst the majority's bubble, but Democrats and Republicans actually agree on this bill. There was no need to take up a full day of our time to debate the bill. We could have considered it under the expedited procedures and saved time for proposals that created jobs instead of balloons. With leadership like this, it's no wonder the American people are feeling discouraged and deflated.

Helium? Helium.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Archbishop Oshagan Cholyan, Armenian Apostolic Church of America, New York, New York, offered the following prayer:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty God, we seek Your holy guidance in all our endeavors, especially in the deliberations of our leaders in this noble body, because strong and wise leadership is essential for the well-being of nations.

Today, we are mindful of another April 24—98 years ago, the beginning of the genocide of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, the first genocide among so many that followed in the 20th century.

We beseech You, O Lord, to bless this land of America and its people. Empower them to continue serving Your goodness as they did when they sheltered the remnants of the Armenian nation.

Give Your children wisdom, love, and compassion that they may live and prosper with the gifts of Your Spirit—justice, truth, freedom, and righteousness. Your name will be praised forever and ever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. VALADAO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING ARCHBISHOP OSHAGAN CHOLYAN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative for Rhode Island's First Congressional District, which is home to many Armenian American families, I am honored to rise today in order to thank His Eminence, Archbishop Oshagan Cholyan, for offering our opening prayer and for recognizing the 98th anniversary of the start of the Armenian genocide.

A native of Aleppo, Syria, Archbishop Cholyan was first ordained into the priesthood in 1967. He attended the American University of Beirut where he majored in history and later received two master's degrees from the Princeton Theological Seminary. Since 1998, Archbishop Cholyan has served as the prelate of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America and has focused his efforts on strengthening local faith communities under his jurisdiction.

On behalf of the Armenian community in my home State of Rhode Island, I am honored to welcome the archbishop here today and to join him in remembering the victims of the Armenian genocide—the systematic extermination of Armenians living under the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century.

I join members of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues in urging that our government finally recognize the Armenian genocide as a historical fact.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE CANCER DRUG COVERAGE PARITY ACT

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, America's biomedical research industry is