

the North Korean regime are more widely known than they are now.

The first step toward that is to listen to experts who have presented testimony on the horrific situation in North Korea, where political prisoners serve as virtual slaves, where starvation is used as a political weapon, and where religious believers—Christians in particular—are imprisoned, tortured and killed with such ferocity that some say it amounts to genocide.

Unfortunately, however, today the world's attention is distracted by manifold crises which seem almost to overwhelm us. To enumerate just a few, there is the: breathtaking collapse-in-progress of the Maliki regime in Iraq, which we had supported at the cost of so much American blood and treasure; various humanitarian catastrophes in Africa, most notably in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, but also the presence of violent Islamist movements such as Boko Haram and al-Shabaab in the major nations of Nigeria and Kenya; the ongoing tensions in Ukraine, as a restive Russia seeks to reassert its imperial hegemony over neighboring states; and clashes in the South China Sea as an increasingly-bellacose China makes a gambit to become a maritime power and fill a perceived vacuum.

We have always lived in a wounded world, but today the tourniquets required to stop all the bleeding the world over would tax even the most compassionate of souls.

Yet it is precisely this exhaustion of compassion that we must fight against, and we must summon the necessary conviction to address the sufferings of the people of North Korea.

At last week's hearing, we had an eyewitness to the barbarity of North Korea's cruel regime—a defector from North Korea who was born in a “total-control zone” political prison camp in the North, and who gave us an unsettling first-hand account of what he experienced. The torture he endured—and not simply physical torture, as horrific as that was—was a psychological barbarity of such ruthlessness that once you have heard what he underwent, your imaginations will forever be affected.

We heard stories of starvation by design—how the denial of food is used as an instrument of wide scale torture.

We also heard about a North Korean nuclear program that goes beyond the headlines. Yes, we do know that North Korea, in its quest for nuclear weapons, threatens to destabilize the world, but what many of us did not know, is the extent to which the North Korean nuclear program is built upon the cadavers of its own people. The United Nations Commission of Inquiry report, as important as it was, never explored the full extent to which workers in uranium mines are exposed to high levels of radiation, and how even the most basic concern for the safety needs of workers are routinely ignored.

Finally, I want to call attention to H.R. 1771, the North Korea Sanctions Enforcement Act. It is my hope that Congress—both the House and Senate—will take to heart the testimony that was presented, and, with a renewed focus on North Korea's human rights record, pass this important legislation, which takes a step toward holding this rouge regime accountable for the sins committed against its own people.

TRIBUTE TO THE ILLINOIS NATIONAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the Illinois National Baptist State Convention (INBSC) on the occasion of the celebration of their 100th year Centennial Anniversary.

The state affiliate of the National Baptist Convention of America, International, INBSC has been formally structured and rooted in the Baptist Doctrine since its inception. INBSC has a longstanding commitment to the advancement of the Kingdom of God on earth through the teachings of Jesus the Christ. Their dedication to Christian education, evangelism, and home and foreign missions has been the strength of their ministry.

We are encouraged and uplifted by their efforts to help grow and develop church ministries and are reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in his Ephesian writing: “and he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

Mr. Speaker, the Illinois National Baptist State Convention has been a strong beacon of light in the State of Illinois and indeed the nation. I salute their State President, the Reverend Dr. Joel D. Taylor, the Convention officers, Member churches and Pastors and pray that they remain steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that their labor is not in vain in the Lord. I am honored to pay tribute to their historic 100th anniversary celebration and am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

ROD DOWNEY CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rod Downey, a mail carrier from Pueblo, Colorado. Mr. Downey has been awarded the United States Postal Services' inaugural Postal Hero Award for going above and beyond in his service to his county and its citizens.

On January 10, Mr. Downey was delivering mail when he heard the cries of Louise Grebenc. Ms. Grebenc, who was 81 at the time of the incident, had fallen on her porch the day before and could not get up. She called for help throughout the night as the temperature dropped below freezing. She had given up until Mr. Downey arrived. He quickly assessed the situation and called 911, staying with Ms. Grebenc until an ambulance came. Mr. Downey's actions saved her life.

Mr. Speaker, Rod Downey's exemplary performance and dedication are an example to us all. I stand with the residents of Pueblo County

and the United States Postal Service in thanking Mr. Downey for his service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 350 regarding the “Palone of New Jersey Part B Amendment No. 1” (H.R. 3301). Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

DOMESTIC PROSPERITY AND GLOBAL FREEDOM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries, and for other purposes:

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 6, legislation calling for expedited approval of the exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization (WTO) countries.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I believe passage of this legislation is critical to strengthening the United States' presence in Asia, and encourages the growth of the American economy.

Several weeks ago, my Subcommittee held a hearing to examine the implications of increasing exports of U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the Asia-Pacific region. The Subcommittee specifically examined the impact that doing so would have on our strategic interests in the region, as well as on the U.S. economy.

It is very evident that increasing exports of LNG would be immensely beneficial to both the U.S. and our strategic partners in the region, and I commend my colleagues for moving this important legislation forward.

The energy landscape is changing drastically in Asia. Asian economies are expected to be the largest consumers of energy in the world by 2035. Current models predict that China will account for nearly 25 percent of the total world energy demand alone. Japan is paying a premium for access to LNG, as a result of a near total shutdown of its nuclear reactors in response to the Fukushima disaster. And as India's economy advances, so too does its demand for energy and the price of natural gas. Vietnam, Taiwan, and others are also expressing strong interest in purchasing U.S. LNG.

The U.S. has the opportunity to promote a more free market in the region, by selling natural gas that is less expensive than the gas supplied by other providers in the region who link their gas prices to the price of oil.

And consequently, shipping U.S. LNG to Asia may free up Malaysian and Qatari natural gas resources which, alternatively, could be

shipped to Europe and alleviate their reliance on Russian energy supplies.

Expanding LNG exports to include WTO countries offers the U.S. a chance to bolster our domestic economy and revitalize the U.S. manufacturing sector. In 2012, the increase in unconventional energy production resulted in over 2 million jobs and reduced our trade deficit by more than \$164 billion over the last five years.

Increasing LNG exports stamped “Made in the USA” brings many benefits both at home and abroad. By passing H.R. 6, we are taking an important step that strengthens our long-term strategic interests in Asia, and also boosts our own domestic economy. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,535,731,914,061.53. We've added \$6,908,854,865,148.45 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING DEBBIE A. JOHNS

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Debbie A. Johns who has been a valuable asset to the Office of the Crystal City Clerk for over 38 years. Debbie has shown her dedication to the Office of the Clerk by continuing to obtain certifications in Computer Management, Grant Applicant Processing, Grant Administration, Department of Transportation Management Training, NID Certification in Emergency Management Training-Corps of Engineers and the Municipal City Clerk Certification (MOCCFOA.)

Debbie has shown outstanding dedication to the Office of the Clerk throughout her 38-year career while progressing through many positions therein; Water Clerk, Administrative Assistant, City Collector, Budget Officer, Finance Officer and City Clerk. Throughout her distinguished career Debbie has shown excellence in her handling of many responsibilities: Managing city investments, monitoring all leave taken and accrued by city employees, managing and organizing drug screening and testing of city employees, emergency management policy, grant coordination, and as the first line of contact for concerns by citizens and public interests of Crystal City.

It is with the utmost respect and deepest gratitude that I recognize and thank Debbie A. Johns for her 38 years of service to the Office of the Crystal City Clerk. I wish her health and

happiness in her retirement beginning July 1, 2014. I am grateful that we have such caring members of the Crystal City community; it is my pleasure to recognize her achievements before the House of Representatives.

NEWBORN SCREENING SAVES LIVES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with my friend and colleague from California, Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, to thank the House of Representatives and leaders on both sides of the aisle for their support of H.R. 1281, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act, which passed the House last night.

In 2008, Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD and I introduced the original Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, which encouraged states to uniformly test for a recommended set of disorders and provided resources for states to expand and improve their screening programs.

Before this legislation, state screening tests varied greatly, and only 10 states and DC required infants to be screened for all the “core conditions” recommended by the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children.

Today, most states require screening for at least 29 of the 31 treatable core conditions.

This bipartisan reauthorization builds upon the foundation of the original bill and ensures infants continue to receive comprehensive screenings—which consists of a simple prick on the heel of newborns before they leave the hospital.

That blood sample tests for serious genetic, metabolic, or hearing disorders that may not be apparent at birth. Without this test, parents may have no way of knowing their child needs treatment.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of newborn screening is undeniable.

About one in every 300 newborns in the United States has a condition that can be detected through screening. Left untreated, these conditions can lead to serious illness, lifetime disabilities, or even death. These newborns appear healthy, but their conditions can deteriorate quickly and with no warning.

In addition, newborn screening is a powerful tool for savings in our overburdened health care system. As a former dentist, I have seen the value of diagnosing and treating a condition early in a child's life.

One example of the merit of newborn screening comes from a 2012 study on severe combined immunodeficiency, known as SCID. SCID is one of the 31 conditions recommended for state screening.

The Medicaid cost of treating a baby with SCID in the first two years can be \$2 million or more. Yet an infant diagnosed early can be cured through a bone marrow transplant in the first three months of life, costing \$100,000. Without the early intervention, families suffer enormous economic and emotional burdens.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all those who have worked so hard to make this legislation

a reality, particularly Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, who has led the way in making this a reality, and the public health organizations who worked day and night to help move this bill through the process. I look forward to my Senate colleagues passing this important legislation and sending it to the President's desk.

AUTISM COLLABORATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4631—the Autism CARES Act of 2014. As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I would like to commend the author of this legislation, CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey, for his leadership on this issue. I would also like to commend Full Committee Chairman FRED UPTON of Michigan and Health Subcommittee Chairman JOE PITTS from Pennsylvania for moving this important, bipartisan, bill through regular order.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the consideration of H.R. 4631, I have been pleased to collaborate with Atlanta's Marcus Autism Center. Those of us from Georgia and leaders in the Congressional Autism Caucus are very familiar with the innovative treatment offered to children with autism at the Marcus Autism Center and the cutting-edge research its scientists are conducting there. I am proud to say the Marcus Autism Center—which is part of the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta system—is one of three National Institutes of Health Autism Centers of Excellence.

Furthermore, I have enjoyed working with the Center's leadership, particularly Executive Director Don Mueller, to make sure that H.R. 4631—once implemented—will facilitate new breakthroughs in early diagnosis and intervention for children with autism. I have been impressed by the recent study authored by Marcus Autism Center researchers, Dr. Ami Klin and Dr. Warren Jones, which was published in *Nature*, a leading international scientific journal. This study showed that they detected signs of autism in the first two to six months of life using eye-tracking technology. This study opens a window for even earlier diagnosis and intervention in the future. By diagnosing and intervening earlier, we can reduce the most challenging disabilities related to autism and maximize the potential of children with autism.

Mr. Speaker, today, the average age for diagnosing children with autism in the United States is around five years old. I have been informed by Marcus Autism Center officials that this study is the first step towards transformational future change and that if the medical profession can identify signs of autism in toddlers and then infants, we can capitalize on this window of opportunity to change the very course of autism.

Therefore, as this reauthorization is being implemented, agencies must recognize the priority we place on facilitating improvements in early diagnosis and intervention of autism. I