

Fundamentally, Phil Crane understood the importance of trade to the U.S. economy and U.S. jobs. He also saw the economy as an important force for change in our world in advancing democratic institutions and economic freedoms overseas, while promoting high-paying export-oriented jobs here at home. His legacy on trade is with us today and will be felt by generations to come.

HONORING AMBASSADOR SENG SOUKHATHIVONG AND THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 14, 2014*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, on August 10, 1955, the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) and the United States established diplomatic relations.

Since this time, both countries have worked together on key issues, including carrying out humanitarian work for and on behalf of those missing in action (MIA). In 2008, the Lao PDR and USA established military-to-military cooperation. Laos would like to work more closely on UXO clearance, counter-narcotics, and the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

Laos is considered the world's most heavily bombed nation. From 1964 through 1973, during the war in Indochina, the United States flew 580,000 bombing runs over Laos and dropped more than 2 million tons of ordnance on the countryside, exceeding the amount of bombs dropped on Germany and Japan in World War II.

Cluster bombs still continue to kill innocent people and also affect rural economic development. Estimates of the number of unexploded submunitions from cluster bombs range from 8 million to 80 million, with less than one half of one percent destroyed, and less than 1% of contaminated lands cleared.

In response to a hearing I held in April 2010 drawing attention to the situation during my service as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific and after U.S. Secretary of State Clinton made her historic visit to Laos in 2012, the U.S. government increased assistance to Laos from \$5 million to \$9 million in 2012; and up to \$12 million in 2014.

While the Lao government appreciates the assistance, this is a pittance. In order to be bomb-free, Laos needs the United States to assume responsibility for UXO clearance and contribute significantly—in a way that would make a difference.

Regarding counter-narcotics, the United States has facilitated the work of the National Committee for Drug Control and Supervision since 1989. Due to Lao government action and international cooperation between 1998 and 2007, opium poppy cultivation has decreased by 96 percent. However, cultivation has since risen from 1,500 hectares (ha) in 2007 to 6,800 ha in 2012, as estimated by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Laos sits at the heart of regional drug trade in mainland southeast Asia and shares remote and poorly-controlled borders with Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and China. The Lao government recognizes the threat posed

by illegal narcotics production and trafficking and has articulated policies to address it. However, the Lao government possesses little ability to act independently since a high percentage of the government budget comes from international donors. The United States decreased its funding from \$650,000 per year to about \$330,000. This has made it difficult for Laos to implement the 2013 work plan on counter-narcotics. The Lao government is hopeful that the U.S. will consider increased support for funding and also for further assistance to build rehabilitation drug treatment centers in some provinces.

Regarding GSP, Laos became a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2013 and is looking forward to promoting bilateral trade with countries in the world including the United States. Laos is hopeful that the United States will consider GSP approval to Laos.

The Lao government is represented in the U.S. by His Excellency Seng Soukhathivong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United States. Ambassador Seng Soukhathivong began his diplomatic duties in June 26, 2010. He served as First Secretary and Counselor from 1993 to 1997; and in 2001 as Minister Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Lao Embassy in Washington D.C. Ambassador Soukhathivong has more than 30 years of experience in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Seng Soukhathivong has worked to strengthen bilateral relations and to promote trade and investment in Laos. He has also been a strong advocate in calling for the removal of cluster bombs in Laos and in urging the U.S. government to provide greater assistance. He is my dear friend and brother, and I commend him for his outstanding service.

I extend my kindest and highest regards to His Excellency Seng Soukhathivong and his lovely and talented wife, Madam Somdy Soukhathivong, and their two children, Prakaiseng and Sengfa. It has been my distinct honor to know them, and I wish them the very best.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 14, 2014*

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, during this past recess, on October 29th, the Turkish people celebrated Republic Day, which commemorates the 91st anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Turkey.

On October 29, 1923, the Turkish Parliament proclaimed the new state as a republic, replacing the Ottoman Constitution. Turkish soldiers prevailed in the War of Independence despite being under equipped. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who led the Turkish Army became the new country's first President. Turkish women played a crucial role in helping to bring about a new nation. During the war they were often left earning the only income in their households. They also assisted in the war effort by transporting ammunition on their backs, moving cannon balls, and pushing equipment to the battle fields.

Since independence, Turkey has made incredible gains and taken its place among the community of nations. Turkey remains an important ally in a turbulent region. Its economic vibrancy has catapulted the country to become the 6th-largest economy in Europe and the 16th in the world. Turkey has prevailed because of its roots as a republic and its place as one of the few democracies in the region.

This political stability along with a strong cultural connection has led to Turkish investment in Native American enterprises. Turkish businesses have sought to share their experience and expertise with Native Americans. There have been several Native American delegations to Turkey, and Turkish businesses have visited tribes to discuss ways in which to work together. This relationship between Turks and Native Americans is a shining example of how stable governments help foster collaborative growth.

Mr. Speaker, all this is why, on this occasion, I congratulate the people of Turkey on this important anniversary, and look forward to a strong and stable Turkish Republic for many generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEIL TELFORD

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 14, 2014*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate San Bruno Police Chief Neil Telford upon the occasion of his retirement from the San Bruno Police Department after 32 years of distinguished service. Chief Telford's story is an example of a boy who grew up to serve his neighbors.

Neil Telford was raised in the adjacent city of South San Francisco. He graduated from South San Francisco High School and attended two of our outstanding community colleges: the College of San Mateo and Skyline College in San Bruno. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from San Francisco State University, an outstanding institution also located in California's 14th Congressional District.

In 1982, San Bruno hit the jackpot when it offered Neil Telford the chance to be a volunteer Reserve Police Officer. During that time, he attended the basic police academy in San Jose and was then sworn in as a full-time San Bruno police officer in 1984. He immediately demonstrated his leadership capability by serving as a Field Training Officer and as a Detective. San Bruno promoted Detective Telford to Sergeant in 1991. From there, his rise was swift as he was promoted to Lieutenant in 1997 and to Captain in 2002. He became San Bruno's sixth Police Chief in 2006.

San Bruno is a wonderful city of 42,000 nestled on the bay and across the hillsides of the San Francisco Peninsula. It is characterized by families. There are families in San Bruno Park, families in its churches, families supporting its outstanding schools, and civic engagement that rivals that of any community in America. It is home to the Peninsula's middle class, an outstanding community college, and amazing youth baseball. The city is blessed with beautiful trees, quaint streets and a new train station that will soon be a centerpiece of downtown revitalization. It is also a

community that supports its police and fire departments, and a town in which children respect public safety professionals.

In both the State Legislature and Congress, it has been my privilege to represent this remarkable city, and to interact with Chief Telford on many occasions. However, none of my interactions with the Chief were marked by tragedy until one late afternoon on September 9, 2010. Eight precious lives were lost that fateful afternoon when a natural gas transmission pipeline exploded in a residential neighborhood of San Bruno. Throughout the night and on through the days to follow, bravery and compassion in the line of duty were an every-moment event on the front lines. The explosion shaped this nation's laws and practices on pipeline safety.

Chief Telford led his police force through the fire and the difficult days thereafter with outstanding compassion, strength and calm. In those difficult weeks, events that might otherwise have marked decades of experience cascaded upon Chief Telford and other public safety professionals, the leadership and the residents of San Bruno. Through it all, Chief Telford stayed focused on recovery, protection of public safety, and the preservation of the dignity of every resident of San Bruno. While he has many other notable accomplishments in his career, Neil Telford will always be remembered as the Chief who cared when caring counted for everything.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Telford is a graduate of the State of California's Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), the Command College program, and he also holds Advanced, Supervisory, Management and Executive certificates from POST. California law enforcement is marked by a high degree of professionalism. In truth, Neil Telford could have written the definitive textbook on police leadership.

Please join with me in congratulating Chief Neil Telford upon the occasion of his retirement after 32 years of public service to the residents of San Bruno. He and his wife, Cindy, have lived for 22 years in the city that he protects. They have a son, Anthony, who also resides in this special place on the Peninsula. We wish the Telford family much happiness in the coming years.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, this week I was not able to vote because I was home recuperating from surgery to remove plaque from my right carotid artery. I missed the following roll call votes: 516, 517, 518, and 519.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on roll call 516, the Government Reports Elimination Act (H.R. 4194); "aye" on roll call 517, the rule (H. Res. 748) to proceed to the measure to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; "nay" on roll call 518, the motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 5682; and "aye" on roll call 519, final passage of H.R. 5682, the bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 5682 and strongly support its passage, as construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline means jobs, spe-

cifically in the Pennsylvania manufacturing industry.

#### RECOGNIZING LARRY CHEEVES

#### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Union City City Manager Larry Cheeves on his retirement.

Larry earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pepperdine University in 1975 and then a Master of Public Administration degree from California State University at Fullerton in 1977. Since then he has devoted his 38 year career to serving California cities.

Following jobs with the City of Cerritos, City of Pico Rivera, City of Buena Park, and City of Norwalk, Larry took over as Director of Public Works for the City of Union City in 1989. Union City was in a period of growth at this time, and in his role Larry saw the creation of many new streets, parks, and fire stations. He helped Union City win two Helen Putnam Awards from the League of California Cities and the 1999 All-America City Award.

Larry served twice as interim city manager of Union City before earning the position permanently in 2004. Since assuming this role Larry has put together balanced budgets in each year for the city council, despite very difficult economic circumstances. During this time Union City also developed the Intermodal Station District and the Mark Green Sports Center.

Larry is an active contributor to our community. He is a member of the Alameda County City Management Association, a board member of the California Redevelopment Association, and a founding member of the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Communications System Authority.

On behalf of the citizens of Union City and the entire East Bay, I want to thank Larry Cheeves for his years of dedicated service. I wish him good luck in the years to come.

#### A CELEBRATION OF TRIUMPH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Triumph Missionary Baptist Church as it celebrates its 45th church anniversary and Pastor James S. Hall, Jr.'s 63 years of preaching and teaching as its leader.

Over the past forty-five years, Triumph Missionary Baptist Church has endured as the spiritual home for countless numbers of Philadelphia citizens. Strong leaders, like Pastor James S. Hall, allow institutions like Triumph Missionary Baptist Church to thrive and support the communities in which they reside. Since he was elected Pastor for Life in 1969, Pastor Hall's wisdom and years of experience preaching have allowed him to sustain the church, even in the face of adversity, and provide a venue for Christians in the North Philadelphia community to worship their Creator.

Since its founding, the Church has had four homes in North Philadelphia. It has been in its current location since 2007 and has worked to uplift surrounding residents through numerous efforts, including the creation of a supermarket to serve the local underserved community. From the 63 members it began with, to the 5,400 Philadelphians who call this church home, Triumph Missionary Baptist Church has accomplished much in its forty-five years of existence.

I invite you and all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating Triumph Missionary Baptist Church's 45th anniversary. May its success and commitment to helping the City of Philadelphia be an inspiration to all of us in the years to come.

#### CONGRATULATING THE HELIAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CRUSADERS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

#### HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Helias Catholic High School Crusaders Girls Volleyball team for winning the Class 3 Missouri State Championship.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Helias Crusaders for a job well done.

#### SPEECH BY HELMA ADDE

#### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to draw your attention to a speech given by one of my constituents, Helma Adde of Huntington, NY, when I visited St. Peter's Syriac Orthodox Church. Ms. Adde offered me a warm welcome and introduction to the community and I would like to share her words.

Congressman Israel, let me start with our customary greeting. Shlomo, which in the Aramaic language literally means peace. We are very happy to have you here in our home today, so that we may get to know you better, as our Congressman and man chosen to be our voice in government. And we are also excited for the opportunity to introduce ourselves to you, so that you may know who we, your constituents are, and so that you may understand our concerns as members of this community and participants in this democracy. I hope this brief history I will share with you helps you connect with us.

So who are the members of this congregation? The Syriac Orthodox Church is one of the most ancient Christian Churches tracing its roots to the Church of Antioch where Jesus' disciples were first called Christians, and Apostle Peter is believed to have established the first church. Ethnically and historically, we are indigenous to northern Iraq, southeast Turkey, northwest Iran, and northeast Syria, a region encompassing what was in ancient times known as the Assyrian empire and is often referred to as Mesopotamia, or the land between the two rivers, and we are proud to say that we speak a dialect of Aramaic, the language spoken by