

also failed to service the loan. Additionally, the Khmer Rouge killed or starved at least 20% of Cambodians, neglected infrastructure and factories, and reverted to ancient agricultural techniques, all of which decimated the Cambodian economy and any ability to repay debt. Cambodia now owes the U.S. \$450 million including interest as of December 31, 2009.

Cambodia has asked the U.S. to forgive its debt or use a portion of the payments towards U.S. assistance programs which include health care, economic competitiveness, civil society, and land mine removal, among others. However, the U.S. Departments of Treasury and State, across administrations, have shown remarkable inflexibility and lack of cooperation.

Nonetheless, I commend Ambassador Hem Heng for his continued efforts to encourage the United States to forgive the debt. In November 2004, the U.S. forgave \$4.1 billion of Iraqi debt accumulated under Saddam Hussein's leadership so as not to cripple the new government. Bosnia-Herzegovina's debt of \$24 million and Yugoslavia's \$538.4 million debt, both likely incurred under the dictator Josip Tito, were forgiven in 1999 and 2002 respectively.

I remain hopeful that one day the United States will come to understand the strategic importance of Cambodia and offer a hand up. Greater engagement with Cambodia would also help the United States achieve its foreign policy goals in the region.

It has been my pleasure to know Ambassador Hem Heng. With his support, I had the privilege of visiting Cambodia twice and, at the time, met with Prime Minister Hun Sen, Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong, Secretary of State Ouch Borith, and Minister of Commerce Cham Prasidh. All are committed to the goal of strengthening U.S.-Cambodia relations, and I commend Ambassador Hem Heng for the remarkable work he has done in representing Cambodia's interests in the United States.

Ambassador Hem Heng was born in Kampong Cham province and graduated from the Agricultural School of Prek Leap in Phnom Penh. His diplomatic service began in 1979, following the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge. He has worked as Bureau Chief in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Protocol Department, as Deputy Director of the Economic Cooperation Department, as Deputy Director General of the ASEAN Directorate, as Minister Counselor in the Cambodian Embassy in India, as Director of the Asia 2 Department, as Director of Information and Documentation, and as Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister.

He is married to the talented and lovely Madam Savine Ek, and they have three sons. I will long remember Ambassador Hem Heng and I will miss him very much. I extend to him and his family my highest and kindest regards.

IN RECOGNITION OF LILY RING
BALIAN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lily Ring Balian, an extraordinary American who has been active in business and civic affairs for more than 35 years. Today Lily Ring Balian will be honored by the Los Ange-

les Affiliate of the Armenian International Women's Association upon the occasion of her receipt of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Recipients of this prestigious award exemplify outstanding professional and personal accomplishments while also preserving the richness of their heritage. Ms. Balian justly deserves this award.

From 1981 to 1997, Lily was the Corporate Director of Civic Affairs and Public Affairs for Northrop Grumman Corporation. Northrop Grumman is a major employer in California, and Lily was an outstanding advocate on behalf of this important company and its thousands of employees.

In public life, she served as the Executive Assistant for District Attorney, later California Attorney General, Evelle J. Younger, from 1964 through 1979. In 1980, she was offered positions in the administration of President-elect Ronald Reagan, but Lily turned down these opportunities to return to her family in California. Recognizing a talented individual and realizing that she could make a contribution to our nation, President Reagan appointed Lily to the National Advisory Council on Adult Education, a position that allowed her to advise the administration and Congress from the vantage point of an employer that regularly needed outstanding employees to maintain its national operations.

Lily's superb talents were also recognized by others. For example, California Governor Pete Wilson appointed her to the California Commission on the Status of Women, where she served for six years, and was Chair from 1994 to 1996. The commission advises the Governor and Legislature on issues such as economic equity, education equity, health access, and violence against women. In 1995, she represented the commission in Beijing at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.

Lily is legendary for her energy and community involvement. She not only managed a challenging career in private industry, but she has led a decades-long effort supporting the Armenian community. She served as Chair of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America from 1985 to 2005, and she was elected to the Diocesan Council in 2006 and re-elected in 2008, serving as its Secretary. She was a member of the Cathedral Fund Raising Committee, a member of the Zorayian Museum Committee and of the Annual Christmas Ball Committee. As a longtime member of St. James Armenian Church of Los Angeles, she is a member of the St. James Ladies Society and currently serves as Chair of her Parish Council.

I am proud of my Armenian heritage, and proud that we have women like Lily to promote an understanding of America's cultural diversity, in part by supporting community-wide efforts encompassing Americans of all backgrounds. Lily has volunteered for the KCET Women's Council and is currently on the Board of Directors of this station. She has been a member of the Braille Institute Auxiliary Board from 2011 to the present. At the University of Southern California, she is currently President of the Friends of Armenian Music.

In recognition of her support of the church, Lily was awarded the Gontag and St. Nerses Shnorhali Medal from His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Ar-

menians, and received the Archbishop's Award from Archbishop Derderian in May 2006.

I am proud to call Lily a friend and have long appreciated her devotion to others, her selfless and daily endeavors to build America through mutual understanding and tolerance, and her sense of warmth, humor and generosity. The experience of America is that of an immigrant nation blending the cultures of hundreds of geographic origins into the land that we know as the United States of America. Lily, through her goodwill, her wisdom, and her always-present smile, is a superb example of why America thrives. We know that the future of this nation is bright when we have engaged the energies of millions of Americans in the common endeavor of bringing peace and prosperity to every new dawn across this land. Lily is one of those persons who rivals the sun in its energy, and she is therefore appropriately being recognized today for her extraordinary accomplishments that benefit every American.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Lily on her lifetime contributions to our great land.

HONORING THE HONG KONG
PROTESTORS STAND FOR DEMOCRACY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the brave protestors in Hong Kong who, starting in September of this year, engaged in, and continue to engage in, peaceful protests against Mainland China's recent moves to undermine the implementation of universal suffrage for Hong Kong's upcoming 2017 elections.

As Aristotle made plain in the *Politics*, "liberty and equality. . . will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost." It is the hope of realizing this foundational principle that has brought tens of thousands of protestors to the streets of Hong Kong.

As Americans, we champion Aristotle's view that liberty and equality are more fully achieved when the many, instead of the few, have a voice in how they are governed. We support this view with foundational principles such as freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and transparency in government. These are ideals that we must not turn away from even when, as is the case with China, we know we will have meaningful economic and foreign policy contact with countries that make it more difficult for people to fully realize these ideals. People around the world yearn for freedom, and where they do so peacefully and with bravery, like our friends in Hong Kong, we ought to stand with them in solidarity as they seek those democratic ideals that we champion at home and abroad.

I, along with many of my colleagues, have a long history of supporting human rights, democracy and the rule of law around the world. The protestors occupying the streets of Hong Kong have sustained repeated acts of violence in the face of their peaceful protests as they act to join us in the march toward a more

humane and democratic world that is governed by the rule of law. I welcome them to this cause and wish them a safe and peaceful journey.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF WALNUT CREEK

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of Walnut Creek, California.

Walnut Creek is a vibrant city within the boundaries of my 11th Congressional District in Contra Costa County. Once a small rural town, east of San Francisco, Walnut Creek has evolved into a beautiful city with plenty of open space and the reputation as a regional destination for shopping and fine dining.

Walnut Creek began as the home to four tribes of the Bay Miwok: the Chupcans, in the northern part of the Diablo Valley; the Sacans, in present day Lafayette as well as in smaller valleys of the east bay hills; the Volvon, in areas surrounding Mount Diablo and Marsh Creek; and the Talcans along the San Ramon Creek. The region's history was first recorded in 1772 when Spanish explorer Captain Pedro Fages led the first group of explorers into the Contra Costa County. The area began seeing an increase in settlement following the Mexican Revolution in 1821. In 1834 Mexico encouraged settlement in its new territory and as a result, four large land grants were made available. In 1849 the first American settler arrived and built a cabin in an area called Rancho Arroyo de las Nueces y Bolbones, one of the original 4 land grants. Americans called this area "Nuts Creek" due to the many walnut trees and creeks that were in the region.

Following the Mexican-American War, California became a U.S. Territory and subsequently gained statehood in 1850. As the area grew, commercial structures were built including, a hotel, general store, a blacksmith shop, and a meat market. Twelve years later with the establishment of the U.S. Post Office the community was officially named "Walnut Creek".

As years passed Walnut Creek continued to grow. In 1871, a plan to build a school failed for lack of funding, so the residents took the initiative to tax themselves \$15.00 and Walnut Creek Central School was built. This tradition of valuing education remains as strong today as evidenced by Walnut Creek's exceptional elementary, middle and high school programs.

Residents continue to generously support the schools with their time, talent and their money to ensure a bright future for all of their children.

The City of Walnut Creek was officially incorporated on October 21, 1914 making it the eighth city in Contra Costa County. Originally a small town comprised of 500 acres, Walnut Creek now covers almost 20 square miles.

In 1951 Walnut Creek entered its modern era of commercial growth. Broadway Plaza opened with 38 shops. The '50s also saw the first population boom for the region as total

population soared from 2,460 in 1950 to 9,903 in 1960 and 39,844 in 1970. On May 25 of 1976 across the street from Broadway Plaza, Liberty Bell Plaza was dedicated to the nation's bicentennial by former President Gerald Ford. Walnut Creek has continued to experience rapid growth and today is the home to over 64,000 people.

While Walnut Creek is no longer a small town it still boasts of the most open space per capita than any other community in the entire state of California, bringing together the comfort and excitement of city life while still maximizing the conservation of the surrounding environment. Today with its vast expanse of open space combined with a Mediterranean climate, sweeping views of nearby Mount Diablo, and diversity of flora, Walnut Creek has been established as one of California's most picturesque and charming communities. It is a thriving city with a colorful history and a very bright future.

I ask my colleagues to join with me today in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Walnut Creek's incorporation and in wishing the residents another century of continued prosperity.

RECOGNIZING PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER OF SAINT CLOUD ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) in Saint Cloud, Minnesota for 25 years of serving men and women in the greater Saint Cloud area.

PRC, through the hard work of their licensed medical team and volunteers, offers free and confidential pregnancy tests and screening for sexually transmitted diseases. In addition, PRC provides medical information and counseling, enabling patients to consider all their options before making decisions.

The chosen theme to mark this milestone is "Together for Life," which pays homage to both their pro-life values and the fact that they are "all in this ministry together for life."

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in thanking everyone at PRC for their efforts and the services they have provided to countless men and women over the past 25 years. May they continue far into the future.

FEDERAL OVER-REGULATION AND THE CASE OF COUNTRY MEATS

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the collective attention of the House to an unfortunate case of federal over-regulation and the consequences to a small business in my district. In Ocala, Florida, we have a small family business that has produced and distributed snacks to schools across the country for more than three decades. Country Meats makes a pork-based snack that is common to

student fundraisers and the proceeds of its sale in public schools over that time have netted more than \$30 million in support of marching bands, athletic teams and academic clubs nation-wide.

New standards established under the Healthy Hunger-Free Kid Act would prohibit the sale of anything in schools that cannot meet the nutrition standards. A well intentioned policy, but one that when rigidly enforced, excludes: cheese, milk, nuts and the snacks made by Country Meats. The Department of Agriculture applied common sense to offering exemptions for each of those items and their many variations, but not to the small family business in my district.

Country Meats is not an international business that can pool resources into a common interest of a multi-billion dollar industry to make its concerns heard in Washington. Its twenty employees in Ocala, whose jobs will be lost as collateral damage to federal overreach. This company does not have the clout to educate each state legislature on how to file exemptions with the Department of Agriculture. It needs to do that in order to continue fundraisers that have been a mainstay in schools dating back to 1978. Instead, Country Meats will be added to the list of small businesses that lost their income because of obtuse federal regulation.

TRIBUTE TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY'S RECIPIENTS OF OPERATION RECOGNITION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 14, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group of individuals—heroes—who are receiving the recognition and honor they deserve for their service to our country. Operation Recognition is operated by the Riverside County Office of Education with assistance from the Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services. The program awards high school diplomas to veterans who missed completing high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or for those who were interned in WWII Japanese-American relocation camps.

A recognition ceremony was held on November 12, 2014, for the following individuals who received their high school diplomas through Operation Recognition:

Salvatore Joseph Amata; Joe Aviles; Gerald L. Blokzyl; Gary Howard Crone; Manuel R. Espudo; Phillip A. Klock; Henry J. LaPointe; Steven Phillip Netter; Joe Earl Pruett; Rudolfo B. Ramirez; Adam Henry Ruelas; Juan Serrano; Muhammad Shamsid-Deen; TL Shelton; Philip W. Walker; Robert S. Wible and George L. Zankl.

Our country owes a debt of gratitude to all the above recipients for their service and sacrifice. I salute all of these individuals and congratulate them on receiving their high school diploma.