

also must continue to significantly fund HIV/AIDS research and programs.

One such program that benefits from HIV/AIDS funding is SUNY Downstate's HIV Center for Women and Children, which is located in my district—the 9th Congressional District of New York. The center provides: HIV/AIDS clinical support, mental health assistance, psychosocial support, educational outreach, research—and the all important testing program—and in doing so helps stop the transmission of HIV/AIDS in my district.

We must continue to fight on behalf of those who need to access life saving research and programs. The manner in which we as a nation address HIV/AIDS will determine the fate of the next generation of Americans. Let's continue to take a stand against the spread of HIV/AIDS.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. NGUYEN
AN HA OF THE SOCIALIST RE-
PUBLIC OF VIETNAM

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and brother, Mr. Nguyen An Ha of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Mr. Nguyen has been working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam since 1993. He was assigned as Political Counselor at the Embassy of Vietnam to the United States in March 2011, and also serves as Deputy Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From 2007 to 2011, Mr. Nguyen served in the America Department of MOFA. From 2003 to 2007, he worked as Second Secretary of the Mission of Vietnam to the United Nations (UN). From 1996 to 2003, Mr. Nguyen worked as an expert at the Department of International Organization in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1994 to 1995, he studied at the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.

Mr. Nguyen graduated from the University of Foreign languages in Hanoi. He is married to Hoang Thi Hai Yen, and he and his lovely wife have a beautiful daughter, Nguyen Hoang Minh Ngoc. Mr. Nguyen is the son of Mr. Nguyen Huu Xuyen and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Kim Huong.

On behalf of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen has spared no effort in strengthening U.S.-Vietnam relations. He has served his country and colleagues with distinction and honor. As Political Counselor, he worked side-by-side with His Excellency Nguyen Quoc Cuong, former Ambassador of Vietnam to the United States, and also with Dr. Luan Thuy Duong, former Minister at the Embassy of Vietnam to the United States, to promote Vietnam's stance in calling for a peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea. Because of their tireless efforts and leadership, the U.S. House of Representatives finally passed for the first time ever a Resolution calling for such support. H. Res. 714, a Resolution I introduced in support of peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea as provided by universally recog-

nized principles of international law, was unanimously passed by the House on December 2, 2014.

In my official capacity as Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I have relied on Mr. Nguyen's expertise regarding many matters affecting the security of the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the U.S.-Vietnam relationship. Mr. Nguyen has been a tremendous help to me and I will miss him when he returns to Vietnam next year.

Because so many in diplomatic missions serve so well, it is rare for me to include a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in honor of diplomats. But Mr. Nguyen has served exceptionally well—in a way that deserves to be recognized and preserved in the records of U.S. history and so I am including a statement as I also did for Dr. Luan Thuy Duong and Ambassador Cuong.

On a more personal note, knowing and serving with Mr. Nguyen, Dr. Duong and Ambassador Cuong has been one of the highlights of my career. I am thankful for our friendship and I will always be grateful to them for all they did to bring about recognition of the interim board of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Vietnam. Furthermore, I will also hold a special place in my heart for Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, President Truong Tan Sang, the Politburo, Vice Chairwoman Tong Thi Phong, the National Assembly, MOFA, Public Security and the countless other individuals, departments, organizations and individuals who supported recognition—a cause that meant so much to me.

As I now leave the U.S. House of Representatives, I hope I will be remembered as having given all I could on behalf of the leaders and people of Vietnam, too. Once caught up in a war I knew little about, I thank God I was able to return to Vietnam later in life as both Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. In returning, I found a people I love.

This is why I have repeatedly called for the United States to clean up the mess it left behind and do right by the victims of Agent Orange. I have also advocated for the United States to boost bilateral relations in several sectors, including defense, trade and security. Strong U.S.-Vietnam ties are key to stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and H. Res. 714 is a step forward.

I thank Mr. Nguyen, once more, for his work in bolstering the U.S.-Vietnam relationship. Until we meet again, I wish Mr. Nguyen the very best, and I extend to him my highest regards.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR OF
THE ARMY RAYMOND F. CHAN-
DLER III

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a dear friend and outstanding citizen, Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, for his 33 years of dedicated, distinguished, and honorable service. SMA Chandler will retire on August 1, 2015, leaving be-

hind a legacy of excellence and devotion to the United States Army and this great nation.

A native of California but raised in the Boston area, SMA Chandler enlisted in the Army in 1981. He excelled throughout his career and served in all tank crewman positions and had multiple tours as a troop, squadron, and regimental master gunner. SMA Chandler's skill as a leader of warriors was recognized early on as he assumed command positions in numerous regiments and divisions. He was assigned as the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy command sergeant major in December 2007. Nearly two years later, he became the 19th Commandant of United States Army Sergeants Major Academy and the first enlisted commandant in the academy's history.

In his final assignment, SMA Chandler served as Sergeant Major of the Army, our Army's most senior enlisted soldier, leading the Noncommissioned Officer Corps and carrying news of the enlisted ranks to the Chief of Staff of the Army and other leadership. He served as the role model and standard bearer for enlisted personnel, built relationships between the Army and Congress, and rallied support from community and business leaders for soldiers and their families. His guidance and influence have steered the Army into a well-equipped and well-trained force over the past four years.

His extraordinary service has not gone unnoticed. SMA Chandler is the recipient of numerous awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal. He has also been honored with the Order of Saint George, the Distinguished Order of Saint Martin, and the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara. Additionally, SMA Chandler sat on a wide variety of councils and boards that made decisions affecting enlisted soldiers and their families and was routinely invited to testify before Congress.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues to celebrate SMA Raymond Chandler's retirement. His patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to service reflect the very best values of our nation. He has been a shining example for the nation and has earned our gratitude. I commend him for his selfless service to the nation and the United States Army. I wish him and his wife Jeanne all the best in their much-deserved retirement.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 26TH
ANNUAL WORLD AIDS DAY AND
OF AIDS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 26th Annual World AIDS Day, which also marks the beginning of AIDS Awareness Month. This year's theme is "Focus, Partner, Achieve: An AIDS-free Generation," which embodies the core strategy for reversing the AIDS epidemic domestically and internationally.

Since its establishment by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1988, World AIDS Day

has served as a call to action and a living memorial to all those whose lives have been lost to the disease across the globe. According to WHO, an estimated 39 million people have died since the first cases were reported in 1981 and 1.5 million people died of AIDS-related causes in 2013.

In the United States, more than 1.2 million people are currently living with HIV, with almost one in seven (14 percent) unaware of their infection. We also know that the burden of HIV infection continues to fall greatest on men who have sex with men (MSM), African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and young people, who account for the majority of the approximately 50,000 new HIV infections each year.

Furthermore, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that only 25 percent of Americans living with HIV are virally suppressed and successfully making it through the HIV care continuum. This means that about 825,000 people living with HIV are not receiving the full benefits of treatment, and may be unknowingly passing the virus on to others.

Treatment remains the most promising tool we have to creating an AIDS-free generation. Because of continued advancements in antiretroviral drugs and efforts to link individuals to care, more people living with HIV are able to manage the disease and lead active, productive lives. If we can increase the number of individuals living with HIV who are on treatment, then we can achieve global AIDS control. One year ago, S. 1545, the PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act of 2013, was signed into law and stands as a symbol of our nation's enduring commitment to ending AIDS worldwide.

At the 2014 International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014) in Melbourne, Australia, AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) and other civil society organizations introduced the "20x20 Campaign," which aims to have 20 million people on antiretroviral therapy by 2020. In addition, UNAIDS proposed the "90–90–90" treatment goals, which are to have 90 percent of people infected with HIV know their status, 90 percent of people infected with HIV on treatment, and 90 percent of those on treatment with an undetectable viral load all by 2020.

Ultimately, however, the future is in our hands. We know how to stop the transmission of HIV and help people living with AIDS stay as healthy as possible. It starts with raising public awareness, knowing your status, and challenging the stigma that prevents so many within our communities from accessing the care they need.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to remember the dozens of scientists, researchers, and activists who perished when Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down over eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014. They were en route to AIDS 2014. Among them was world-renowned scientist Dr. Joep Lange, his partner Jacqueline van Tongeren, and WHO spokesman Glenn Thomas. Theirs was truly a tragic loss for the global AIDS response.

Mr. Speaker, as we look to the start of the 114th Congress, it is imperative that we remain committed to continuing the fight against HIV/AIDS, and address the ongoing effects of sequestration on HIV care in the United States. I urge my colleagues to join me in rec-

ognizing World AIDS Day and AIDS Awareness Month, as well as supporting vital HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care programs, including the Ryan White Program and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I had to return to New York to attend a funeral, and as a result, I missed three votes on November 20, 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on roll call vote no. 529, agreeing to the amendment offered by Mr. WAXMAN, "aye" on roll call vote no. 530, the motion to recommit, and "no" on roll call vote no. 531, final passage of HR 4795, the "Promoting New Manufacturing Act."

IN RECOGNITION OF MERUYERT SAUDABAY, MINISTER-COUNSELOR AT THE EMBASSY OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Meruyert Saudabay, born in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Meruyert graduated from George C. Marshall School in Ankara, Turkey. After high school, she moved to Sydney, Australia where she studied for one year at the University of Sydney. She continued her studies in London Richmond University where she studied law. Meruyert obtained her LLM from Georgetown University Law Center.

Meruyert's career began in London's Chevron Corporate office. Her portfolio included merger and acquisitions. She was a member of a leading legal team during the Chevron Texaco merger. After returning to Astana, Kazakhstan, Meruyert worked for Kazakh National Oil and Gas Company (KazMunaiGas) in the Business Development division.

After earning her LLM degree, Meruyert joined communications services firm "APCO" where her focus was on Russia and the firm's business development in the Commonwealth of Independent State (CIS) countries.

In 2009, Meruyert began her long-anticipated diplomatic career following in her father's footsteps. Meruyert's father—His Excellency Kanat Saudabayev—is a prominent international political figure. He was the first Ambassador ever from an independent Kazakhstan. He served as Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States from 2000 to 2007. In 2007, President Nursultan Nazarbayev promoted him to the position of Secretary of State. In 2009, he was appointed Secretary of State-Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 2010, during Kazakhstan's Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Mr. Saudabayev held the position of Chairman-in-Office.

I have known the Honorable Kanat Saudabayev for nearly 15 years. He is my

dear friend and brother and has been since we met and began working side-by-side when he was appointed Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States. His daughter is my daughter, and Meruyert has made us both proud.

As Meruyert puts it, "I have worked in multinational corporations. I have experience in lobbying. But my highest honor has been to put my time to use for the benefit of my country." In her position as Minister-Counselor at the Embassy of Kazakhstan in the United States, Meruyert serves her country with distinction. I commend her for her tireless efforts in promoting U.S.-Kazakhstan relations. Meruyert carries forward the vision of President Nazarbayev, who is also my friend.

I applaud President Nazarbayev for changing the course of history and renouncing nuclear weapons. Kazakhstan inherited the world's fourth-largest nuclear arsenal after gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 but President Nazarbayev immediately and boldly renounced these weapons and transferred them under great security by means of an unprecedented joint program with experts from Kazakhstan, Russia and the United States.

President Nazarbayev headed this heroic effort because, for more than 40 years prior to Kazakhstan's independence, the Soviet Union used Semipalatinsk in northern Kazakhstan as a test site to detonate more than 500 nuclear explosions. More than one million people were exposed to radioactive fallout.

I continue to call upon the Nobel Peace Prize Committee to recognize President Nazarbayev's contributions to world peace as no other world leader has done so much to safeguard humanity from the terrible dangers of nuclear terrorism.

I also thank Minister-Counselor Meruyert Saudabay for standing with her father and me and many others in strong support of President Nazarbayev's mission to modernize and balance the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

I extend to Meruyert my highest and kindest regards and, for the unwavering support they provide to her, I especially thank Meruyert's family including her husband Daulet Orynbayev and their daughter Ayah; her sister Aray; her brother Ermek Saudabayev, his wife Altynai, their daughter Merey and son Nurbol; her brother Yerbol, his wife Elaine Bekmyrza and their daughter Amira; and her father and mother Kanat Saudabayev and Kullikhan Saudabayeva. I wish each of them the very best and I thank them also for the support they have always extended to me.

DORIS STIPECH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Doris Stipech for her welcoming charisma and the positive influence she has bestowed upon her profession and her community through volunteerism and philanthropy.

As an active member of the local community, Doris serves as a board member for civic organizations and other boards dedicated to education and economic empowerment, including the Arvada Food Bank, Women's