

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHARLES W. JOHNSON
III FOR HIS FIFTY YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles W. Johnson III for his 50 years of service to the House of Representatives.

Charles W. Johnson III was appointed as an Assistant Parliamentarian by Speaker John W. McCormack on May 20, 1964. After a 30-year apprenticeship, Charlie was appointed Parliamentarian of the House on September 16, 1994 and served in that role until 2004. He has served as a consultant to the Office of the Parliamentarian from 2004 to the present.

Following his tenure as Parliamentarian, Charlie has devoted his considerable talents to scholarship—working on the precedents of the House and comparative parliamentary procedure. In 2010, Charlie and his British counterpart, Sir William McKay, authored a comprehensive examination of the U.S. House and the British House of Commons. That book entitled “Parliament and Congress” analyzes the constitutional background and procedural history of the legislative bodies of the United States and the United Kingdom. Charlie’s editorial contributions are now represented in over 45 separate parliamentary works. In the most recent volume of the House precedents that bear his name, Charlie’s commentary chronicled procedural changes under seven successive Speakers of the House.

Charlie’s expertise is recognized far beyond the halls of Congress.

He has the unique distinction of testifying before three U.S. congressional committees, a U.S. federal district court, and a joint committee of the British Parliament. In 2011, Charlie was the first witness called by the prosecution in the perjury trial of star pitcher Roger Clemens. In 1999 and 2013, he gave evidence on parliamentary privilege to the Joint Committee on Parliamentary Privilege of the British Parliament.

Charlie’s long-term commitment to international parliamentary exchanges was a driving force behind the creation of the House Office of Interparliamentary Affairs in 2003. He has spent considerable time assisting emerging democracies through work with the House Democracy Partnership. His early efforts with the HDP in Kenya in 2006 were a model for legislative strengthening efforts that now encompass 16 partner countries.

I want to thank Charlie for his exemplary service to the institution over his long and distinguished tenure.

H. CON. RES. 51

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I, as no doubt all of you, have been shocked by images of horrific human rights violations, including summary executions, torture, rape, and chemical weapon attacks in Syria. Since the Syrian Civil War began, perhaps as many as 150,000 people may have been killed and more than 9 million people have been forced to leave their homes, 6.5 million of them internally displaced. By the end of last year, it is estimated that neighboring countries such as Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq were holding nearly 3 million Syrian refugees.

Who is culpable for such heinous acts, and how can they be held accountable, be they members of the Assad regime or Islamist radicals from neighboring countries? Those who have perpetrated human rights violations among the Syrian Government, the rebels, and the foreign fighters on both sides of this conflict, must be shown that their actions will have serious, predictable, and certain consequences. They need to learn the lesson that Charles Taylor learned when he got a 50-year sentence when he was brought to trial and convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

H. Con. Res. 51, introduced on September 9, calls for the creation of an international tribunal that would be more flexible and more efficient than the International Criminal Court to ensure accountability for human rights violations committed by all sides.

Such a tribunal would draw upon past experience, creating a justice mechanism robust enough to hold perpetrators accountable for the most egregious wrongs, yet nimble enough not to derail chances for peace due to rigidity.

Beginning with the Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals, a body of law has developed concerning war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Since the end of the Cold War, we have seen examples of ad hoc tribunals in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and hybrid mechanisms such as the Special Court for Sierra Leone. As chair of the subcommittee on human rights, especially during the 1990s, as well as the Helsinki Commission Chairman, I held a series of hearings on the Yugoslav courts, and those that were in Sierra Leone and Rwanda, and often had the chief prosecutors testify at those hearings, including Carla Del Ponte from the Yugoslav court and others from the Special Court for Sierra Leone, including David Crane. We brought David Crane back this past October 30 to ask him what his view would be on such a court, and he gave riveting testimony, as did other experts, as to the absolute need for the immediate establishment for this kind of flexible court.

Each of these tribunals has achieved a level of success that has escaped the International

Criminal Court. The Yugoslavia tribunal has won 67 convictions, the Rwanda tribunal has won 47, and the Sierra Leone tribunal has won 16 convictions. Meanwhile, the ICC—costing about \$140 million annually—has thus far seen only one conviction.

One thing we do not want to do is go down the ICC route. The ICC process is distant and has no local ownership of its justice process. It is far less flexible than an ad hoc tribunal, which can be designed to fit the situation. The ICC requires a referral. In the case of the President and Deputy President of Kenya, it was Kenya itself that facilitated the referral. That is highly unlikely in the case of Syria. Since Syria is a Russian client state, this U.N. Security Council member would oppose any referral of the Syria matter to the ICC, but might be convinced to support an ad hoc proceeding that focuses on war crimes by the government, as well as the rebels—one that allows for plea bargaining for witnesses and other legal negotiations to enable such a court to successfully punish at least some of the direct perpetrators of increasingly horrific crimes. And Syria, like the United States, never ratified the Rome Statute that created the ICC, which raises legitimate concerns about sovereignty with implications for our country, which this panel also addresses.

There are issues that must be addressed for any Syria war crimes tribunal to be created and to operate successfully. There must be sustained international will for it to happen in a meaningful way. An agreed-upon system of law must be the basis for proceedings. An agreed-upon structure, a funding mechanism and a location for the proceedings must be found. There must be a determination on which and how many targets of justice will be pursued. A timetable and time span of such a tribunal must be devised. And there are even more issues that must be settled before such an ad hoc tribunal can exist.

Those who are even now perpetrating crimes against humanity must be shown that their crimes will not continue with impunity. Syria has been called the world’s worst humanitarian crisis. One might reasonably also consider it the worst human rights crisis in the world today. Therefore, the international community owes it to the people of Syria, and their neighbors, to do all we can to bring to a halt the actions creating these crises for Syria and the region.

We have the opportunity to give hope to the terrorized people of Syria. The subcommittee I chair held a hearing last October 30 where we heard from some of the most experienced voices concerning international justice mechanisms. We have met several times with the State Department, and we have worked diligently with the House Committee on Foreign Affairs—especially Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL and Chairman ED ROYCE—in shaping a lean, muscular resolution that can be adapted to address the situation in Syria as it currently exists, providing broad latitude for the administration to conduct foreign policy.

The suffering of the Syrian people must end, and we have the opportunity to help

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

achieve that. H. Con. Res. 51 is a means to that end, and again, those who are committing these horrific crimes need to know that they face the certitude of punishment.

HONORING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this week, we observe Holocaust Remembrance Day—Yom HaShoah or the Day of Destruction—to remember those lost in the tragic genocide during World War II. I join with all Americans, as well as people around the world, to honor the tens of millions of lives that were lost. While this day is primarily an occasion to remember those who were lost, it also serves as a warning that we cannot let these atrocious acts of violence happen again.

On Yom HaShoah in Israel sirens ring out, and no matter what they are doing, people stop and reflect for two minutes. We too pause and remember those who perished as well as recommit ourselves to never again turn a blind eye to the precursors that led to this mass genocide. The Nuremberg Laws passed in 1935 capitalized on anti-Semitism's already widespread growth. These restrictions were followed by the destruction of Jewish communities, the construction of death camps, families torn apart, and lives lost.

As we reflect on the 6 million Jews lost 70 years ago, we must also remember the victims from other senseless genocides throughout history. From working towards the recognition of the Armenian genocide to today's atrocities in Sudan and the Central African Republic, we must be committed to saying "never again." The violation of basic human rights cannot be ignored and we must come together to stand up for those who do not have the voice to stand up for themselves.

I ask all Members to join me in remembering those lost in the genocide and pledge that this senseless violence will never be forgotten or repeated.

NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Representative GUS BILIRAKIS, my co-chair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, and our caucus members Representatives MADELINE BORDALLO, G.K. BUTTERFIELD, TONY CÁRDENAS, DONNA CHRISTENSEN, BLAKE FARENTHOLD, LOIS FRANKEL, TULSI GABBARD, ALAN GRAYSON, JANICE HAHN, COLLEEN HANABUSA, JOE HECK, RUBÉN HINOJOSA, MICHAEL HONDA, JARED HUFFMAN, WILLIAM KEATING, ANN KIRKPATRICK, BILLY LONG, CYNTHIA LUMMIS, KRISTI NOEM, STEVE PEARCE, PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, SCOTT PETERS, BILL POSEY, DAVE REICHERT, BOBBY RUSH, GREGORIO SABLAN, LORETTA SANCHEZ, STEVE STIVERS, PAT TIBERI, DINA TITUS, JUAN

VARGAS, and FEDERICA WILSON, we offer our support in celebrating this year's National Travel and Tourism Week.

The week of May 3 through 11, 2014 is designated as National Travel and Tourism Week in the United States. This commemorative week reminds us that travel is a major driver of U.S. economic growth and prosperity as well as an important business tool that promotes efficiency and productivity.

America's travel industry accounted for \$2.1 billion in economic output in 2013, supported nearly 15 million U.S. jobs and generated nearly \$134 billion in local, state and federal tax revenue. Travel and tourism account for 2.7 percent of U.S. GDP and travel is America's No. 1 U.S. industry export.

Travel is a pillar of economic growth. One out of every nine jobs in America depends on travel and tourism. Travel is among the top 10 industries in 49 states, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia in terms of employment. Travel is currently creating jobs at a 17 percent faster rate than other economic sectors. 84 percent of companies in the travel industry are classified as small businesses.

When U.S. travelers spend money in other countries, their purchases are counted as imports. When international travelers visit the United States, the goods and services they purchase here are counted as exports. U.S. travel exports totaled \$181 billion in 2013, generating a positive balance of trade of more than \$57 billion.

Travel, in the context of business meetings, events and incentive travel, constitutes a core business function that helps companies strengthen business performance, educate employees and customers and reward business accomplishments. Business travel yields a return on investment of \$9.50 in increased revenue for every dollar spent.

The majority of all trips taken to and within the United States involve leisure travel, which benefits every state and territory in the country, and was valued at \$621.4 billion in 2013, and generated \$91.9 billion in tax revenue. Leisure travel can be educational, increase historical and cultural awareness of our country and the world, stimulate creativity and productivity, and enhance longevity by allowing us to recharge our batteries and improve our health and wellness.

We strongly support National Travel and Tourism Week as an opportunity to express to the Nation the importance of travel in creating economic growth and opportunity, and enhancing the quality of life in the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO ANTOINETTE BEAUMONT TOMASEK

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Antoinette "Toni" Beaumont Tomasek, an extraordinary and talented Foreign Service officer who passed away on June 29, 2013, at age 41 due to complications from a car accident in Haiti.

Born in Manhattan Beach, California, Toni served in the Peace Corps in Paraguay before embarking on a career that took her all over the world working on international public

health. Prior to her work in Haiti, Toni served as a USAID Development Leadership Initiative Officer in Indonesia, establishing what USAID has called a "groundbreaking program" that works with local organizations to prevent and treat tuberculosis.

At the time of her death, Toni served as a health services team leader at the USAID mission in Port-au-Prince and was making a difference every day in lives of the Haitian people. She died following serious injuries suffered in a car accident as she returned to the American Embassy from a visit to a health clinic.

Toni was a loving wife, mother, daughter, and sister. She is survived by her husband, Adam, and their two young children, Alexandre and Amelie; her parents, Marilyn and William; and her brother and sister, Billy and Jeannie.

On Friday, May 2, Toni is being honored at the annual American Foreign Service Association's Memorial Ceremony at the U.S. State Department for her exceptional service to our nation. I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Toni Tomasek and extending our deepest condolences to her family for their terrible loss. Our nation and the entire world owe a great debt to Toni for her tremendous commitment to making the world a better place and for her indefatigable work to improve the lives of the least among us.

THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: FROM "PRE-GENOCIDE" TO GENOCIDE?

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 2, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a hearing that I held earlier this week addressed an extremely critical topic: the worsening crisis in the Central African Republic, where untold lives hang in the balance and the window for action is narrowing each day.

It was not the first hearing we have held on the CAR. It follows up a hearing that we held last November when the situation already appeared dire, as well as numerous meetings and interventions with bishops, humanitarian NGOs, diplomats, and interested parties. At our November hearing, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Robert Jackson stated that the CAR was in a "pre-genocide" stage.

Since the time Mr. Jackson last spoke to us, the situation appears to have gotten demonstrably worse. We will hear again today from Mr. Jackson, who will update us not only on the situation on the ground, but also on a change of policy that I believe reflects a course of action that we had recommended the administration undertake last November, namely, that United Nations peacekeepers be introduced into the country as the existing African Union force has been serving too many vested interests.

Hopefully, such an intervention will not come too late, because as we are witnessing a country in rapid disintegration, apparently descending from a "pre-genocide" stage to one characterized by a word almost too painful to articulate: genocide.

In a country that for decades had been characterized by brutal misrule and brazen