

The State of Israel, home to most of the Holocaust survivors including my own family remains, at 66 years young, a beacon of light and hope, America's steadfast ally with shared democratic values in a shaky region deeming Israel's and America's Western agenda a threat. Iran's continued nuclear ambitions cast a menacing shadow on Israel, the Arab world and beyond. Iran emboldens Hezbollah and Hamas to persist in their obstructionist course with the Palestinian Authority unwisely joining forces with the latter. I have had the great opportunity to visit the Arab states of Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and most recently Morocco, building with fellow rabbis Shalom's essential bridges of peace. I was in Morocco from May 11–18, 2014, on a "Jewish Roots & Diplomacy Trip" sponsored by The Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform), connecting to the remnant of an over 2,000 year old Jewish community with a rich history in a Muslim environment that has largely been appreciative and protective. Matt Lussenhop, the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Rabat, Morocco, most graciously addressed our delegation on a host of issues, referring to Morocco as "A very good partner for the U.S." which interestingly recognized the U.S. early on in its independence.

IN CELEBRATION OF DR. ROLF
HABERECHT'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Rolf Haberecht as he celebrates his eighty-fifth birthday on Wednesday, June 4, 2014. Dr. Haberecht is a man who has made an impact on the Dallas community through his business success and philanthropic endeavors.

Dr. Haberecht earned his doctoral degree in Chemistry and Physics from the Technical University of Berlin, Germany. He and his wife, Ute, moved to Dallas, Texas in 1962 when he accepted a position with Texas Instruments as a Research Scientist, subsequently rising to become Senior Vice President, responsible for the company's worldwide semiconductor operations. In 1984 Dr. Haberecht launched VLSIP Technologies, a start-up company that has grown to become a worldwide manufacturer of electronic medical modules that are part of a number of medical devices. His achievements in science and technology have made such an impact that he was selected as the 2013 inductee into the prestigious "Tech Titans Hall of Fame."

Dr. Haberecht is also celebrated in the Dallas community for generously donating his time and efforts, as well as significant financial support, to numerous philanthropic endeavors. He has served on various civic and philanthropic boards, including the Lamplighter School, Episcopal School of Dallas, Southwestern Medical Foundation, and Chairman of the Texas State Technical College System Board of Regents. Dr. and Mrs. Haberecht have made generous donations to a multitude of organizations, including Children's Medical Center of Dallas and its Children's Research Institute, the George W. Bush Presidential Center, and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, which has named an academic center, a deanship, and a research

fund in honor of the philanthropic couple. Their philanthropic and volunteer civic leadership has been recognized with the Charles Cameron Sprague Community Services Award given by the Southwestern Medical Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations to Dr. Haberecht as he celebrates his eighty-fifth birthday and our commendations to him for having successfully pursued the American Dream of achieving success in life while helping others.

RECOGNIZING MOTHER BRUNETTE
WASHINGTON ON THE OCCASION
OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the celebration of Mother Brunette Washington. On June 6 she will be celebrating her 100th year of life.

Born in 1914, Mother Washington has seen some of the greatest accomplishments of our country. Furthermore, she has added to them with the love and kindness her community currently treasures her for. To this day she is an active member of the American Baptist Association, the Pratt Willard Center and fellowships with the Crucial Center.

As a member of the Macedonia Baptist Church, Mother Washington has been a pillar of her community. Volunteering throughout her entire life, Mother Washington has devoted her time to giving back, participating in the community through such positions as Sunday School Teacher, Senior Choir President and the President of the Missionary Society.

As a result of her tireless service for both her church and community, Mother Washington has received numerous rewards for her achievements including the Queen of Macedonia, Senior Choir Service Award, and the Pratt Willert Senior Award.

In addition to her numerous community endeavors, Mother Washington is a family leader. She has four children and is the proud grandparent to ten grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren. Mother Washington is truly fortunate to have such a large and loving family.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to recognize the long life and legacy of a woman who has devoted so much of her life to the betterment of those around her. For 100 years Mother Washington has made an impact on the lives of those who have had the great fortune of knowing her. She has cultivated a loving family and been an exemplary member of her community, who has had a lasting impact on others because of her caring ways. It is my honor to celebrate her birthday here with you and hope you will join me in wishing a very joyous birthday celebration and wishing her many more years of good health.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, I missed two roll-call votes as I was home in Arkansas attending the funeral of Theodosia Murphy Nolan.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 241 and "aye" on rollcall vote 242.

GEORGIA INDEPENDENCE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the National Council of Georgia declared Georgia's independence on May 26, 1918. After 117 years, the statehood of Georgia was finally restored. But Georgia's fight for independence was not over.

In February 1921, Georgia was attacked by the Red Army. The Democratic Republic of Georgia was no more.

Now the Georgia Soviet Socialist Republic, Georgia was in the midst of World War II. Georgia contributed almost 700,000 fighters, and provided vital textiles and munitions to the Allies.

For the next 46 years, the Soviets occupied Georgia but Georgia was not complacent with Soviet rule. After the Soviet Union fell apart, Georgia finally became free again.

Since regaining its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Georgia has been a steadfast U.S. strategic partner in an important and often turbulent part of the world.

But a certain country to the north does not like the fact that we are friends. In fact, the Napoleon of Siberia—as I like to call Putin—is set on breaking U.S. apart and restoring the glory days of the Soviet Union.

As a country that continues to struggle against Russia's tyranny, Georgia knows better than anyone the threat Putin poses. Mr. Putin cannot be allowed to invade another sovereign country. The best way to stand up to Russia is to stand up together, as we have done so many times before.

From the American perspective, there are few NATO strategic partners as capable and committed as Georgia. Georgia has been a key ally in our war on terror. Georgia's soldiers have stood shoulder to shoulder with ours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Georgia is the largest non-NATO contributor to the mission in Afghanistan. It has also served as a key logistical hub bringing troops and supplies in and out of the region. We have in turn, demonstrated our commitment to our relationship with the U.S.-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership.

Since the signing of the Charter, the United States and Georgia have strengthened their mutual cooperation. Cooperation based on U.S. support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and its commitment to further democratic and economic reforms.

I would like to see the U.S. be more vocally supportive of Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations and provide a clear path to its eventual membership in NATO.

In February, Representative KEATING and I proudly introduced a bill that affirms the U.S. Government's support for Georgia's eventual membership in NATO. It also calls on the Obama administration and our allies in Europe to formally extend to Georgia a Membership Action Plan at this year's NATO Summit in Wales.

We must stand with those who have stood with us. We must honor independence by preserving independence. Together, I believe the United States and Georgia can help all peoples of the world hold on to the sweet taste of freedom.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING RANI ENGINEERING & PRESIDENT SUSAN PARK RANI

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Susan Park Rani on being named one of eleven "Champions of Change" by the White House for ensuring that our transportation facilities, services, and jobs help connect individuals and their communities to greater opportunities.

Ms. Rani is the Founder and the President of Rani Engineering, which has grown from having two employees and a vision to a team of more than 45 people with offices in Minnesota, California and South Dakota. Under Ms. Rani's leadership, Rani Engineering has worked to deliver high-quality solutions and build long lasting relationships within the communities she serves. As a result of the company's efforts, Rani Engineering was named the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Contractor of the Year in 2012 by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Ms. Rani is an inspiration for women, minorities, immigrants and anyone who aspires to start their own business. She moved to the United States as a child from South Korea without knowing English, but excelled in school and obtained a civil engineering degree in 1993. She is one of the first minority women to own an engineering firm in Minnesota. There is no doubt that Ms. Rani's ambition and dedication have enabled her company to compete with the largest institutions in the industry.

Ms. Rani's many achievements have been recognized by regional groups and national organizations. She has earned the Minority Business Award for Small Business Excellence by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal, Debener Award for Small Business Growth by St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Engineering Excellence Award by the American Consulting Engineering Companies, SBA Emerging 200 by the U.S. Small Business Administration and many more highly renowned awards.

With her past positions on the boards of the American Consulting Engineering Companies of Minnesota, the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Mounds Park Academy, the Association of Women Contractors, and the National Association of Minority Contractors, Upper Midwest along with her recent position on the Destination Medical Center Corporation Board, she is inarguably a Champion of Change.

I commend Ms. Rani on her award and her thoughtful contributions as both an entrepreneur and as an excellent member of the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, due to a weather related travel delay, I was absent for rollcall votes on May 28, 2014. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 241—H. Res. 599—Urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the freedom of assembly, expression, and religion and all fundamental human rights and the rule of law for all its citizens and to stop censoring discussion of the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations and their violent suppression—"yea."

Rollcall No. 242—H.R. 503—National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial Act—"yea."

HONORING PONSIE BARCLAY HILLMAN

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ponsie B. Hillman, an educator, an advocate, and pioneer in the civil rights and labor movements. Her life was defined by a love for education and driven by the staunch determination to share it. She passed away on June 26, 2008, but her legacy remains vivid.

Ms. Hillman was born in Maryland, October 7, 1918. The determination and success that characterized her early education would foreshadow her later success. She battled overwhelming social odds by prioritizing her schooling and pulling ahead of her peers. During Ms. Hillman's senior year, she received the highest grade in the county on the state exam. She supported herself through college on scholarships and summer jobs, graduating from Morgan State College in 1939.

Ms. Hillman moved to Philadelphia in 1948. She taught business at Vaux High School for 6 years before taking a post as a mathematics teacher at Roosevelt Junior High. She spent her summers furthering her own education by taking classes at Columbia University, earning a Masters in Mathematics and Education. Never ceasing to take every opportunity to learn, she continued attending classes at Sarah Lawrence College where she was able to offer her children their first view of higher education. She also studied Intergroup Education at the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1959, Prince Edward County, VA, had closed its public schools to avoid court ordered integration. Ponsie Hillman arrived in the summer of 1963 to partake in the United Federation of Teacher's effort to establish Freedom Schools. She volunteered as a teacher for those students no longer able to receive an education. She was greeted with hostility from those who did not understand in-

tegration and from those who refused to accept change. Using the local church for classroom space, Ms. Hillman was successful in providing quality education to over 600 students that summer. She received an American Federation of Teachers award for her work at the Freedom Schools in Prince Edward County.

In addition to her selfless dedication to educating others, Ms. Hillman's contributions to the education community matched her passionate appetite for learning. She became an integral part of the community and consistently fought for teachers' rights, fair wages, and higher quality teaching. She won the NAACP's highest individual award for outstanding achievement as a teacher and was named a lifetime member. Ms. Hillman completed a 5-year term as a delegate to the national convention of the American Federation of Teachers where she served on the executive board, sharing her experience and cultivating ways to combat national education challenges. During her tenure, she organized the Afro-American Heritage Committee, the Asian American Committee, and initiated United Federation of Teachers summer camps. She was noted for her solidarity to the Union and her commitment to serving the community of educators.

I am pleased to honor Ponsie B. Hillman for her unceasing efforts and outstanding progress in working to make education equitable and attainable for all students. Her legacy in Prince Edward County and her mark on the national education system will inspire generations to come.

HONORING THE REVEREND J. CLETUS KILEY ON THE CELEBRATION OF HIS 40TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to celebrate the 40th Pastoral Anniversary of my good friend, the Reverend J. Cletus Kiley. Over the course of his 40 years as a priest, Father Kiley has served the church and his congregations with great dedication and commitment. Today, as he reflects on all that he has accomplished through his ministry, he can be proud of the impact he has had on the lives of so many.

Father Kiley has a rich and diverse career with the church. A priest of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, in his earliest years he served as a member of Cardinal Bernardin's Cabinet and Director for Personnel Services for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Having studied at the Centro de Artes y Lenguas in Cuernavaca, Mexico as well as the Seminario Arcivescovile di Milano in Venegono, Italy, Father Kiley is fluent in both Spanish and Italian. His trilingual knowledge was particularly helpful during his service as Acting Vicar for Religious, Chairman of the Comision del Plan Pastoral Hispano and as Asesor for El Movimiento del Encuentro Conyugal Arquidiocesano, and as an Associate Dean of Formation and spiritual director at Mundelein Seminary.