

From his jail cell he continues to protest the repression of pro-democracy advocates in Egypt.

Mohamed has been on a hunger strike. He has lost almost half of his body weight and can no longer stand.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to give voice to the struggle for human rights and real democracy in Egypt.

The United States should stand on the side of those like Mohamed who are striving for human rights and democracy in the Middle East.

HONORING DELTA AIRLINES ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE TO THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, twenty-five years ago on June 1, 1989, Delta Air Lines launched its first flight in a twice weekly service from Tokyo's Narita airport to Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands. Operated then as Northwest Airlines and using a Boeing 747-200, this inaugural flight was a milestone in air service to my district; and I want to celebrate that event today.

Then and now, tourism is the lifeblood of our islands' economy; and this air connection with Japan, begun twenty-five years ago, has been essential to the growth and stability of our visitor industry. Other airlines have come and gone from the market, but Delta's commitment has been unwavering.

Today, the company is the only airline providing direct, scheduled, daily flights to and from Japan, carrying some 2,000 passengers per week on Boeing 757s. And these numbers add up: in the past ten years 23,000 Delta flights have provided seats for 4.25 million of our Japanese tourists.

Those flights to the Northern Marianas are, of course, only a tiny part of Delta's worldwide business. The company serves nearly 165 million passengers annually, flies to over 300 destinations worldwide, and employs almost 80,000 individuals. But those daily Japan/Marianas flights are crucial to our local economy, supporting numerous businesses and creating jobs.

And not only does Delta transport tourists. For many of the residents of the Northern Mariana Islands, whether traveling for business or pleasure, Delta is the airline of choice. The company provides a comfortable lounge at the Narita Airport hub and convenient connections: Delta is the only U.S. flag air carrier offering our community one-stop service to the mainland United States.

Delta stands out, too, for its good corporate citizenship, supporting many worthy groups and causes, including the Rotary Club of Saipan, the American Red Cross, the Marianas March Against Cancer, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, NMI Crime Stoppers, the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, and numerous sporting events. Of special note, Delta has been the sole airline sponsor for the Saipan Marathon since 2008.

Please, join me in honoring the management and employees of Delta Air Lines as we commemorate their twenty-five years of air service between the Northern Mariana Islands and Japan, and in wishing them many more years of continued success and growth.

RECOGNIZING THE 96TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my best wishes to the people of Azerbaijan as they celebrate Republic Day. This year marks the 96th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, when the people of Azerbaijan first gained their independence from the Russian Empire on May 28, 1918. Although Azerbaijan's independence was ended by Soviet forces in 1920, it is noteworthy that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was the world's first secular parliamentary democratic republic in a predominantly Muslim nation—earning diplomatic recognition from the United States during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson. We also recall with admiration that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan granted universal suffrage to its citizens in 1918, making it the first Muslim country to give women the right to vote.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan restored its independence in 1991. Parliament adopted the Constitution Act on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan on October 18, 1991.

For the people of Azerbaijan, these last two decades of independence have not been without challenges. At the top of the list would be the ongoing conflict with Armenia. Although a cease fire was signed in 1994, more than 20% of Azerbaijan's territory—including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts—remains under Armenian occupation, leaving Azerbaijan to cope with hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons. In 1993, the U.N. Security Council adopted four resolutions demanding complete, unconditional and immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. I am happy that Azerbaijan is committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict with Armenia, and I support a swift and peaceful resolution to this conflict as well.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. Azerbaijan and the United States cooperate in countering terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and narcotics trafficking. Azerbaijani troops serve shoulder to shoulder with U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan, as they previously did in Kosovo and Iraq. In support of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights as well as regularly providing landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces. Azerbaijan also plays an important role in the Northern Distribution Network, a supply route to Afghanistan, by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities.

Azerbaijan has emerged as a key player for enhancing global energy security, at a particularly critical time in light of ongoing events in Ukraine. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline are the main arteries delivering Caspian Sea energy resources to global markets, and completion of the Southern Gas Corridor—which will run from the Caspian Sea through Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Greece, and Albania into Italy—will increase the energy security of key American allies by increasing the amount of natural gas from the Caspian Sea to European markets.

Notably, Azerbaijan also provides roughly 40% of Israel's oil consumption. What may be more surprising to some is that Azerbaijan—a predominantly Muslim country—enjoys friendly ties with Israel beyond oil sales. Jews have resided in Azerbaijan for 2,500 years without persecution and today, the Jewish community in Azerbaijan numbers as high as 35,000. Azerbaijan is also home to Christian communities and has been praised for its religious tolerance by the European Parliament.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I congratulate the people of Azerbaijan on the occasion of Republic Day. I hope the United States and Azerbaijan will continue to work together to advance a partnership that benefits both of our nations.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STATE TROOPER SEAN O'CONNELL

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Trooper Sean O'Connell, who was tragically killed one year ago on May 31, 2013.

Trooper O'Connell, a 16-year veteran of the Washington State Patrol, lost his life in an on-duty motorcycle collision while working traffic control in the aftermath of the Skagit River Bridge collapse.

Trooper O'Connell was a highly respected police officer who valued the importance of law enforcement. He strongly believed in bringing the community together to help promote safety among families. He was an endearing man; dedicated to his work and to strengthening communities in Washington state.

Trooper O'Connell was a strong leader, highly respected, and loved by his fellow officers. He exemplified what it means to be a Washington State trooper, and his community continues to honor his commitment, courage, and dependability as an officer.

In remembering his life one year after his passing, I ask that thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, children, family and others who continue to miss him every day. He will be remembered as a hero for helping many after the devastating collapse of a bridge which now holds his name, Trooper Sean. M. O'Connell, Jr.

HONORING MARK G. SKLARZ 2014
RECIPIENT OF THE TORCH OF
LIBERTY AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, friends, family and colleagues will gather to pay tribute to one of our community's most outstanding citizens. I am proud to stand today and join the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League as they honor Mark G. Sklarz with the 2014 Greater New Haven Torch of Liberty Award.

Our communities would not be the same without the efforts of individuals whose work benefits our families and neighborhoods. Each year, the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League presents the prestigious Torch of Liberty Award to an outstanding leader in the community, recognizing their unique commitment and dedication. Mark is a remarkable reflection of the spirit of community service. With extraordinary compassion and generosity, he has touched the lives of many throughout the Greater New Haven community.

A partner in the Corporate and Business Law Department of Day Pitney, LLP, Mark is an active member of the New Haven County and Connecticut Bar Associations, serving as vice chair of the Business Law Section of the CBA as well as a member of the organization's Executive Committees of the Business Law and Tax Sections. He was a longtime member of the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee, a twenty-four member committee charged with the responsibility of determining whether candidates are qualified to be admitted to the Connecticut bar. Mark was also a member of the Business Taxation and Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Sections of the American Bar Association. He has enjoyed great success in his professional career, earning a distinguished reputation among his colleagues and the community alike.

Mark has made many invaluable contributions through his professional career, however, it has been through his personal service to our community that he has made a real difference and touched the lives of many. Chairman and Past President of the Board of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, President of First City Fund Corporation, past president of Congregation Mishkan Israel and the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven, as well as a past member of the Board of Trustees of the Hopkins School in New Haven, he has left an indelible mark on our community. Mark's extraordinary generosity and compassion is reflected in the myriad of awards and honors he has received including the Hopkins School Medal for distinguished service and the Gold Ring award from the New Haven Boys Club Alumni Association.

It is my honor and privilege to stand today to join his wife, Judy, their children, Jeff and his wife Karen and Rick and his wife Cambra, as well as the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League and the New Haven community in paying tribute to Mark G. Sklarz for his invaluable contributions. Every community should be so fortunate as to have such a selfless, dedicated individual who so willingly commits his time and energy to enriching the community and improving the quality of life for all.

HONORING MS. DOLORES M.
BOJAZI

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Dolores M. Bojazi. A graduate of Temple Law School, Ms. Bojazi began her career working to aid battered women and union workers, and she continues to advocate for important causes in her career as an attorney.

Ms. Bojazi is an accomplished attorney who began her career as an advocacy coordinator at Women Against Abuse. While there, she trained the Philadelphia Police Force in legal response procedure and proposed an appeal procedure for emergency protection orders, which was adopted into law in 1988. She continued her advocacy work as a union organizer for the United Auto Workers, where she represented the union at the National Labor Relations Board. Ms. Bojazi then began working as a Public Defender in the Philadelphia Defender Association, and later worked in the Burlington and Camden Public Defenders Office. She has also worked at Freedman and Lorry and Mattleman, Weinroth, and Miller. Ms. Bojazi currently practices law in her own office where she focuses on criminal and family law. Ms. Bojazi will be honored by the Marian Anderson Historical Society on May 31, 2014.

I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Bojazi for her countless years of dedication to improving the lives of those in Pennsylvania's First District. She has and continues to work tirelessly in her advocacy to help others in Philadelphia.

ANTHONY EDWARDS TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Anthony Edwards. Mr. Edwards, the sole proprietor at San Juan Law Office, LLC, in Silverton will be appointed County Court Judge for San Juan County Sixth Judicial District on July 1, 2014.

An Oklahoma native, Mr. Edwards moved to Silverton, Colorado, in 1999. Mr. Edwards holds a Masters of Water Resources from University of New Mexico, and a Business and Technology degree from Capella University. Prior to attending Law School at the University of New Mexico, where he graduated in 2010, Mr. Edwards promoted economic development in San Juan County. He is the co-founder of Crowdfunding Offerings, Ltd., an online platform to facilitate small investments in startup enterprises in Colorado.

Mr. Edwards has also served his community with his business expertise, serving on a number of development and consulting committees to assist the business community in business planning, civil matter, securing financing, and in real estate matters. As the Owner's Representative for San Juan School District, he led the project to renovate two of Silverton's School buildings, which received the Leader-

ship in Energy and Efficiency Design Gold certification, the only K-12 public school to attain this status. Mr. Edwards' dedication to improving and expanding his community has greatly contributed to the State of Colorado, and his service will continue to be an asset as he fills his role as Judge for San Juan County's Sixth Judicial District.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Anthony Edwards for his work and congratulate him on his judicial appointment.

**RECOGNIZING NORMAN RICE ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound gratitude that I rise to congratulate Norman B. Rice on his retirement after a distinguished tenure as President of The Seattle Foundation. Norm has contributed immeasurably to the Seattle community through a variety of roles over the last forty years.

First elected to the Seattle City Council in 1978, Norm went on to serve on the Council for eleven years. Throughout his tenure, he was a champion for the marginalized, including fighting for the passage of the Women and Minority Business Enterprise Ordinance.

After winning the 1989 mayoral election, Norm became the first African-American mayor in Seattle's history. His two terms were characterized by his drive to create a thriving Seattle that worked for all of its citizens. Norm's initiatives as mayor included rejuvenating downtown, enhancing Seattle's public school system, and developing public-private partnerships to serve Seattle's homeless population. His service as mayor has left a legacy that will endure well into the future.

Since the conclusion of his tenure as an elected official, Norm has continued to work tirelessly for the well-being of the Seattle area. Since June of 2009, he has held the position of CEO of the Seattle Foundation. As a leader of one of the largest community foundations in the nation, Norm has been praised for his commitment to community development and his ability to build consensus.

Norm has used these skills on the national stage as well, serving a two year appointment on the White House's Council for Community Solutions. Norm's service has benefited many individuals and families, both in Seattle and across the country. His vision for just communities and selfless commitment to public service has left a legacy for future generations to follow.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I rise to recognize Norman B. Rice. We all owe him the utmost gratitude and respect, and I wish him well in all future endeavors.

**HONORING MS. AUDREY R.
JOHNSON-THORNTON**

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of my