

of Sig and Barbara Shapiro and the next generation leadership of Samuel's granddaughter, Marjorie. Shapiro & Co. sponsors a logistics class at the University of Baltimore Business School, consults with nonprofit organizations pro bono, matches its employees' charitable contributions and helps its employees' children pay for college. With annual retreats and crab feasts, birthday celebrations, and a company cookbook, the people at Shapiro & Co. enjoy the time they spend together. It is little wonder that Shapiro is consistently ranked one of the top places to work in Baltimore.

Over the last century, Shapiro & Co. has managed not only to adapt to new challenges but to flourish. Its offices now reach from New York to Georgia, but Shapiro continues to value the same old-fashioned customer service established at Sam's roll-top desk in 1915. I thank Shapiro & Co. for 100 years of dedication to its customers, care for its employees, and leadership in its community, and I look forward to the 100 years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3175, THE ASSURING CONTRACTING EQUITY ACT

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce H.R. 3175, the Assuring Contracting Equity Act.

This legislation promotes economic development for many of the small businesses and communities that were hit the hardest by our country's recession and are still struggling to recover.

As I tour small businesses in my district, I am constantly reminded of the critical contribution they make to our communities. But too often our small businesses can't access or are unable to take advantage of federal contracting opportunities. By raising the contracting goal, the government will need to be more proactive in its outreach to small businesses. More contracts will help small businesses grow and hire more workers, empowering them to continue to give back to our communities.

The Assuring Contracting Equity Act will expand opportunities for small businesses to secure contracts with the federal government; particularly businesses owned by women, veterans, and minorities. The bill also provides increased access to government contracts for small businesses located in economically distressed areas known as Historically Underutilized Business Zones, or HUBZones.

In addition, the ACE Act improves accountability and transparency by requiring the Small Business Administration to report the percentage of all federal contracting dollars that are awarded to small businesses as well as direct agencies to prioritize large contractors that maximize subcontracts to small businesses.

In my district and across the country, small business owners are striving to succeed. The Assuring Contracting Equity Act could redirect an additional \$10 billion in business every year to the nation's smallest companies, giving entrepreneurs the potential to expand their businesses and continue creating jobs and growing our economy.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Assuring Contracting Equity Act to provide a greater opportunity for success to the small businesses that deserve it the most.

THE UNFOLDING CRISIS IN BURUNDI

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a hearing that I convened yesterday was extremely timely, as events are unfolding in real time in Burundi—a small nation that is often overlooked by the international community, including those of us here in Congress.

Many are familiar with the horrific genocidal violence that gripped Rwanda in the 1990s, as Hutu and Tutsi butchered each other in paroxysms of ethnic hatred.

Few know, however, that Burundi also went through a protracted Tutsi versus Hutu ethnic struggle that also amounted to genocide in the 1990s.

Few know that Burundi, without much fanfare and without the largess that the international community showered upon Rwanda, overcame its divisive civil war and, following a peace brokered by Nelson Mandela solemnized in the Arusha Accords of 2000, has sought to heal the wounds of the past and rebuild a nation.

Today, however, this peace is under the threat of unraveling. The sitting President of Burundi, Pierre Nkurunziza, in apparent defiance of the term limits set forth in the Arusha Accords and memorialized in the Constitution, is seeking a third term. While the constitutional issue is complex and unsettled, the rising political violence and tension—not to mention the roughly 160,000 people displaced and seeking refuge in neighboring countries—is easy to understand, and serves as a canary in the coal mine.

Now there is a window of opportunity for action, where immediate and sustained attention can prevent the situation from escalating out of control.

As in the case of the Central African Republic, over which we held two critical hearings in the last Congress, timely attention and targeted intervention can stop an incipient conflict from metastasizing. Burundi is now approaching a tipping point, though it has yet to topple over.

There is still time, and we in Congress have a role to play in sounding the alarm and prodigding the administration to take action, followed by oversight. We also need to avoid the temptation to be penny wise and pound foolish. As several of our witnesses explain, by spending a small amount to further democracy and governance efforts in fragile states such as Burundi, we can avoid much greater cost down the road—and I mean not simply the dollar-and-cents expense of humanitarian interventions, but more importantly, in terms of blood lost and lives shattered.

In Burundi, the administration must do more. While often-lonely voices such as that of Samantha Power have called attention to the need for atrocity prevention, too often the administration policy has been one of, if not malign neglect, then certainly non-benign neglect.

We saw this, for example, in the foot-dragging that accompanied the appointment of a Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region. In January of this year, then-Special Envoy Russ Feingold announced that he was stepping down. I called on the administration to find a replacement as soon as possible, as the circle of violence was beginning to widen in Burundi.

In May, for example, I stated that a failure to do so signaled a "disengagement when lives are at stake." I was afraid that we would see a repeat of the administration's inaction with respect to the Middle East, where to date it has yet to appoint a Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia, despite Congress having created that position last August—almost one year ago.

At the beginning of this month, however, the administration finally appointed a Special Envoy.

In 2012, the administration, to much fanfare, created an Atrocities Prevention Board, following a Presidential Study directive which stated that "Preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States." The APB is supposed to provide early warning of mass atrocities, and mobilize inter-agency resources to stop such atrocities.

In Burundi, we can still make a difference.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER OHIO CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to my friend, mentor and predecessor, former Congressman Louis Stokes. Earlier this week the world learned of his cancer diagnosis.

When the Congressman first told me about his condition, I didn't know quite what to say. He had still been out, attending events and doing things. He never stops. It is easy to think he is immortal. Because he is a fighter. For more than 30 years, he tirelessly fought for the people of Ohio, and he is still fighting today. The first African American elected to Congress from Ohio, Congressman Stokes is the epitome of a public servant.

While in Washington, he was a trailblazer. He was the first African American to serve on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, and was a founder of the CBC Health Braintrust. He constantly fought to combat pervasive health disparities plaguing the African-American community and served as a voice for people of color and all of our nation's most vulnerable.

Congressman Stokes once said, "I'm going to keep on denouncing the inequities of this system, but I'm going to work within it. To go outside the system would be to deny myself—to deny my own existence." His work has affected thousands. There is no one in Washington that does not know the name Louis Stokes, and no one who was not touched in some way by his work and his kindness.

He is always a gentleman, someone who made you feel good about being represented by him or just being in his company. When he speaks, people listen. Congressman Stokes

exudes leadership, vision, and purpose. He's a giant of a man, an example for us all. It is a privilege to work with him and walk in his Congressional footsteps.

Thank you, Congressman Louis Stokes for everything you have done. The nation is indebted to you. We are grateful for your service. As you continue to battle this diagnosis, my thoughts and prayers are with you, your family and your doctors. Let us all continue to uplift and encourage the Stokes family.

HONORING LOU LENART

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lou Lenart, a hero to both the United States and Israel, who passed away July 20, 2015 at the age of 94. Today we remember Lou for his service in the Marines during World War II as well as in the Israel Air Force in 1948 when he was dubbed "The Man Who Saved Tel Aviv."

Lou Lenart was born in 1921 to Jewish farmers in a small village in Hungary. When Lenart was 10, his family moved to the United States to escape widespread anti-Semitism. Sadly, he and his family were subjected to anti-Semitic taunting in his new home of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. At 17, Lenart enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps where he fought in World War II and won the Gold Star flying in Okinawa. In 1948 Lenart became one of the first members of Israel's budding Air Force, which at that time had just four Czech-built German Messerschmitt fighter planes.

On May 29, 1948, Egyptian forces of about 500 vehicles were closing in on Tel Aviv, threatening the very existence of the two-week old state of Israel. Israeli commanders decided to risk all four planes to attack the advance.

As the most experienced pilot in the group (and in fact the only pilot with combat experience), Lenart led the attack, with future President Ezer Weizman as his wingman. Stunned by the sight of bona fide Israeli fighter planes, the Egyptians stopped their advance and were forced to retreat. Lenart's key role in this mission earned him the title, in many news reports, as "The Man Who Saved Tel Aviv." Lenart later told the IAF journal, "It was the most important event in my life . . . I survived World War II so I could lead this mission."

Following the war, Lenart helped in airlifting Iraqi Jews to Israel in Operation Ezra and Nehemiah. He also became a pilot for El Al Airlines and spent time living in Southern California, where he produced six feature films including Iron Eagle and Iron Eagle II.

Lou Lenart's legacy will live on in both Israel and the United States. He fought in our armed services to protect our freedom, and then risked his life again for Israel in its vulnerable and early stages. His life and story are an inspiration for those seeking hope and strength in the face of persecution. I send my sincerest condolences to his family.

HONORING THE "EASTLAND" DISASTER

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of the *Eastland* disaster—a shipwreck which resulted in the deaths of 844 passengers and crew—on the 100th anniversary of the tragedy.

One hundred years ago, thousands of employees of Western Electric were preparing for a rare day off of work, taking a boat ride across Lake Michigan to enjoy an annual picnic. Tragically, for 844 passengers and crew on the *Eastland*, their vessel listed and tipped over, and they soon drowned in the Chicago River. Many were immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe, living in Berwyn, Cicero, and the surrounding Chicagoland area, and their loss left an enduring mark on these communities—22 families were completely wiped out, and 19 families were left without parents. I will always remember my grandmother talking about the tragedy and the mark it left on her.

The *Eastland* shipwreck remains to this day the greatest loss of life in a single disaster in Illinois history. It is a shame that the victims and heroes of the *Eastland* disaster have been largely forgotten by the American people. That is why I have introduced a resolution commemorating the *Eastland*. I believe it is absolutely necessary that we here in Congress pay our respects to the working class families who lost their lives on that terrible summer day. Along with honoring the victims and survivors of the disaster, my resolution includes references to the historical significance of the sinking of the *Eastland* and recognizes the brave first responders who risked their own lives to save hundreds of passengers and crew.

I would like to thank my colleagues from Illinois for cosponsoring this measure. I think it is also important to commend the hard work that the *Eastland* Disaster Historical Society has done in researching, promoting, and educating the public about this important historical event, and its broader effect on Chicagoland.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to remember the victims and heroes of the *Eastland* disaster, and to remain dedicated to avoiding such tragedies in the future.

CONGRATULATING THE DOWNTOWN FLINT OPTIMIST CLUB ON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing The Downtown Flint Optimist Club on the occasion of their 80th anniversary.

Optimist International is a worldwide volunteer organization made up of more than 2,500 local Clubs whose members work each day to make the future brighter by bringing out the best in children, in their communities, and in themselves.

The Optimist Club of Downtown Flint was chartered in 1934. It is believed to be the sec-

ond oldest Optimist Club in Michigan. Since its inception, the Optimist Club of Downtown Flint has organized several other Optimist Clubs in the Flint area. The Club currently meets at the Flint Golf Club, but historically has met in the Durant Hotel, Italia Gardens, and the Sarvis Center.

The Optimist Club of Downtown Flint's mission is to foster an optimistic way of life for the improvement of individuals and society through a network of Optimists dedicated to ever-expanding service to its members, the youth, the community and the world.

The Club's projects and service programs over the years are copious. To name only a few, the Optimist Club of Downtown Flint has been in partnership with Boys & Girls Club, Whaley Children's Center, The Salvation Army, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud The Downtown Flint Optimist Club and extend my deepest appreciation to them for their years of service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LEROY JOSEPH JONES, SR.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to Mr. LeRoy Joseph Jones, Sr., and the many contributions he made as a dedicated public servant in the State of New Jersey.

Born and raised in Orange, New Jersey, Mr. Jones had an extensive career in public service and worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the residents in his community. After graduating from Orange Public Schools in 1953, Mr. Jones enlisted in the United States Navy in 1954 and served his country honorably for 12 years. Following his military service, Mr. Jones earned an Associate Degree in Urban Studies from Essex County College. In 1972, he attended the Community Action Training Institute at Rutgers University and later earned a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Studies at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

As a trailblazer, he served as President of New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association and Board 33 Referee Association, where he became the first African American President in the history of both organizations. He was appointed by Governor Brendan Byrne in 1980 to serve on the State of NJ Parole Board Juvenile Panel from 1980–1983. Mr. Jones achieved another first, when he served as senior hearing officer on the State of New Jersey Parole Board. Some of his other accomplishments included Director of the Fellowship Civic Center in East Orange, Assistant Director of Recreation for the City of Orange, Acting Director of the Orange Community Development Program, member of the Orange Chamber of Commerce, Board of Trustee for the East Orange Neighborhood Development Corporation, Coach of the East Orange Tigers, and member of the management board for the YMCA of Orange.

His commitment to public service has changed many lives throughout the state. His contributions were recognized by numerous organizations such as the National Council of