

In 2015, the CDCB was awarded the Energy Star Certified Homes Market Leader Award for 80 homes they built last year. The organization received the Maxwell Award of Excellence and the Federal Home Loan Bank System Community Partnership Award. CDCB has also been recognized with the State of Texas Housing Finance Special Achievement Award, and in 2013 the organization was awarded the Highest Cumulative kW Savings Award by American Electric Power Texas.

In July 2013, CDCB became a member of the national Neighborworks Network, an organization focused on supporting housing organizations in bettering their communities.

During the past 40 years, the Community Development Corporation of Brownsville has helped many families in the Rio Grande Valley achieve the American dream of owning a home. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to recognize the Community Development Corporation of Brownsville, led by Nick Mitchell-Bennett, for outstanding, innovative, and important work in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

IN HONOR OF MS. DURELL  
DECKER AGHA

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 11, 2015*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Durell Decker Agha, a wonderful woman and dear friend who died yesterday at the all too young age of 73. Durell was a lifelong resident of the Monterey Peninsula and active in local community and business activities.

Born Jan. 31, 1942, Durell grew up, as I did, in Carmel, attending Sunset School and Carmel High School. I remember Durell's family, the Deckers, fondly. They were always involved in lots of community and neighborhood activities. They liked hosting class parties for Durell and her friends at their home in the country. Durell's father and mother owned a grocery store so food was always plentiful to snack on at their house. Durell's brother Paget was a popular community activist. One of the kindest acts by Durell's Dad was his offer to drive us both up to Salem, Oregon to begin our freshman year in college at Willamette University. The home town kids at Willamette—Durell, myself and another Peninsula kid, Hillary Teague—always checked in with each other. We were each other's family away from home.

After her first year at Willamette, Durell came back to the Monterey area for a short time, before heading off to Europe to travel and attend the University of Bordeaux in France. After a year and a half abroad, she returned to California and finished college at UCLA, earning a bachelor's degree in history, with a concentration in Middle East studies.

Following graduation, she worked at Fourtané Jewelers in Carmel, where she was introduced to Nader Agha, shortly after he immigrated to the Monterey area from Syria. The two married in 1965. While their marriage lasted 17 years, they maintained a lifelong partnership that included running various businesses and managing properties together.

Durell was very proud of her children and loved them dearly. She shared great love and

rapport with her grandchildren, sharing books of antiquity with Kaden and gardening with Jasmine. Her family will always remember her very giving and supportive ways, as she always put others before herself. Durell enjoyed reading, antiquing with friends and family, and jewelry. She had a deep love for the Carmel area and its history, which showed in her book and photography collections.

She is survived by many family members, including three children, Mahir Agha of Carmel Valley, Sumaya Agha of Carmel, and Laith Agha of Carmel; two grandchildren; sister-in-law Holly Decker; niece Kyle Holton; and close family members Nader Agha, Nadia Agha and Fadia Alhawach.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in sharing our deepest condolences to Durell's family and friends. She was a bright light in so many lives, including my own. We will all miss her terribly.

#### APPROVE THE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 11, 2015*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, today I voted for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. I did so because the world is approximately 90 days away from Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon, and this agreement is the most effective way of stopping that effort dead in its tracks.

After years of sanctions and then direct negotiations, the United States and its partners, the P5+1, have produced a plan with unprecedented concessions from Iran, together with the most rigorous inspections, restrictions and verifications regimen ever negotiated.

The agreement will reduce the number of Iran's centrifuges by two-thirds; prevent Iran from producing weapons-grade plutonium; and eliminate 98 percent of Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium. It grants the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) access to Iran's nuclear program so that compliance is ensured, including notification to the agency of plans to construct new nuclear facilities. No facility—declared or undeclared—will be off limits. Decades of essential monitoring measures are included in the agreement that allow the IAEA to enforce these terms.

The United States can unilaterally resume the U.N. Security Council sanctions if there is any violation by Iran of its commitments in the next ten years, and there can be no veto from Russia or China.

This agreement is without precedent, and so is the current instability in the Middle East, undoubtedly fueled by the actions of Iran. It has the support of the entire United Nations, including the European Union, Russia, and China.

Experts from all aspects of our defense, diplomatic, and scientific communities support the agreement, including 36 top officials in the U.S. military, 29 of our nation's leading scientists and engineers, 100 former ambassadors and diplomats, and more than 4,000 Catholic religious women.

The agreement has the support of more than 400 American Rabbis, as well as former top officials of the Israeli security forces,

Mossad Chief Efraim Halevy and former Shin Bet Director Ami Ayalon.

Our nation's most prominent nuclear scientists and engineers described their support for the agreement in a recent letter to President Obama, saying it is "technically sound," "stringent" and "innovative."

And in their open letter to Congress, Catholic Sisters from across our country called on us to "risk on the side of peace" by supporting the JCPOA.

No definitive alternative has been put forth by those who oppose the agreement. Furthermore, should the United States abandon the agreement, our country would be viewed as feckless, a nation whose word cannot be trusted and our international partners would no longer commit to sanctions.

For Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, this, in my view, is an existential moment. By eliminating the possibility of Iran developing a nuclear weapon, Israel's security is enhanced and so is the stabilization of the region by removing the threat of a nuclear Iran.

For all these reasons and more, I support this agreement and risk on the side of peace by voting for the JCPOA.

#### OPPOSITION TO IRAN DEAL

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 11, 2015*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition to the Iran deal that was reached in July 2015 and make known my opposition to the resolution of approval before the House today.

I must say, however, that as a leading opponent of the Iran deal, I am deeply disturbed by the last minute decision of House Republican leadership to inject irresponsible partisan politics into the upcoming vote. House Republicans are, once again, playing political football with the safety and security of Israel, this time by straying from their original plan of an up or down vote on the deal and forcing an irresponsible three-bill gimmick on the House of Representatives.

With that being said, even though I was skeptical of the negotiations and interim agreement, I tried to get to a position where I could support the final deal. I took my time to understand every word of the final deal, I read the classified materials, spoke to the President, met with administration officials, security experts, and constituents. I listened carefully to every analysis and opinion on both sides of this issue.

This is one of the most profound foreign policy decisions I will have to make in Congress, second only to going to war with Iraq. And despite some positive elements in the deal, the totality has compelled me to oppose it. I came to this decision after an intense analysis of the details and merits of this deal and remain concerned about three major components.

First of all, I believe Iran is highly likely to exploit ambiguities in the agreement. They are unlikely to engage in massive violations, but will perform a series of "small-cheats", and they will not face punitive measures for it.

Secondly, the lifting of the arms embargo will create additional pathways for Iran to supply the ruthless terrorist organizations, Hamas

and Hezbollah, with the means to increase their weapons stockpiles. Iran continues to be one of the leading state-sponsors of terrorism, and I doubt that will change any time soon. They have smuggled illicit weapons to Hezbollah, and we can only deduce what will happen in five years once the conventional weapons embargo is lifted.

Finally, this agreement lends international legitimacy to Iran's enrichment capacity in fifteen years.

With that being said, now that it is clear this deal will move forward, it is imperative that both Democrats and Republicans in Congress, both supporters and opponents to this deal, join with the Administration and work together to focus on the road ahead.

We must reaffirm our commitment to continue and strengthen the many facets of joint cooperation between the U.S. and Israel. We can do this by signing another 10-year Memorandum of Understanding for FMF for Israel and ensuring their Qualitative Military Edge in such a chaotic region.

We can continue and accelerate cooperation on missile defense programs such as Arrow-3 and David's Sling, and provide additional resources for Israel to field additional Iron Dome batteries.

And we can continue to enhance our cooperation in order to detect and deter terrorist tunnels that plague Israel's borders.

As Iran continues to spew vitriol toward Israel and call for her ultimate destruction, we are reminded that this nation is not to be trusted.

Congress will play a pivotal role in the implementation of this deal and to that end I will continue to use every tool in my toolbox to ensure Iran never acquires a nuclear weapon. And I will continue to ensure that America and our greatest ally, Israel, can continue to thrive in peace and security.

#### RECOGNIZING VETERANS' VOICES AWARD RECIPIENT DR. TOURILA

#### HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to celebrate Dr. James Tourila of St. Cloud for receiving a Veterans' Voices Legacy Award. I was proud to nominate Dr. Tourila for this award for his impressive work on behalf of veterans.

Jim achieved the rank of Sergeant in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea from 1975 to 1976. After retiring from the Army, Jim graduated from Bemidji State University and went on to get his Master's Degree and PhD in psychology. From there, Jim moved to St. Cloud where he worked as a psychologist at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center for twenty years. Jim currently practices at the Central Minnesota Counseling Center in St. Cloud.

Jim has supported Minnesota's veterans in more ways than one. He is an enthusiastic hot air balloon pilot which led to the creation of Freedom Flight, Inc. to honor veterans who never made it home. Jim has also served as director of the St. Cloud Honor Flight, which has flown more than a thousand veterans from around the state of Minnesota to see the Na-

tional Monuments in D.C. Jim has been elected as the VFW National Surgeon General twice and is currently serving his eighth year as the Minnesota VFW State Surgeon.

Minnesota is so proud of Jim and I am happy to be able to celebrate all of his efforts today. His years of hard work have bettered the lives of hundreds of veterans, and because of that, there is no one more deserving of this award.

#### APPROVAL OF JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

SPEECH OF

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to begin with a couple quotes from the President about the agreement:

"There is nothing more important to our security and to the world's stability than preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

"It does not rely on trust. Compliance will be certified by the International Atomic Energy Agency."

Mr. Speaker, you would be forgiven if you thought I was quoting President Obama. However, I was quoting President Bill Clinton lauding his nuclear agreement with North Korea in 1994. Additionally he stated, "This agreement will help to achieve a longstanding and vital American objective: an end to the threat of nuclear proliferation on the Korean Peninsula."

Mr. Speaker, we now know that reality turned out to be very different. Despite assurances from President Clinton, the North Koreans violated the deal, began a clandestine program to enrich uranium and in 2006 conducted its first underground test of a nuclear weapon.

Once again we are told by a Democrat President that an agreement will prevent an adversarial country from acquiring a nuclear weapon. We would be fools to believe that they will not violate the Obama agreement just as North Korea violated the Clinton agreement. The stakes here are even higher. Iran is a regime that will not hesitate to use nuclear weapons to achieve its long-stated goals: the destruction of both Israel and America.

The Iran Nuclear Deal that was agreed to by President Obama is wholly inadequate and unacceptable. The deal gives up-front, permanent sanctions relief to the Iranian mullahs and allows Iran to have an internationally recognized nuclear program after 15 years that could quickly produce a nuclear weapon.

Most laughable are the "anytime, anywhere" inspections. In fact, the agreement grants the Iranians 24 days to allow the IAEA access to undeclared nuclear facilities. This gives Iran ample opportunity to cheat and continue its march toward a nuclear weapon. We have also learned that the Iranians will be able to provide their own samples from their military base at Parchin to international inspectors. This is essentially asking the fox to guard the henhouse.

I also have great concerns about what happens once sanctions are lifted and billions of dollars are flowing back into Iran. While the

UN Security Council resolutions allegedly prevent Iran from shipping arms to terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hezbollah, and to Assad in Syria, nothing prevents them from sending money. In an incredibly dangerous concession, the U.S. even agreed to shorten the length of the arms embargo against Iran. There is no question that this will negatively impact regional stability as well as the U.S. Navy's access to the Persian Gulf. An article in the Washington Post pointed out that the funds available to Iran immediately upon implementation of this deal would equate to approximately 10% of its GDP. That would be equivalent to a \$1.7 trillion injection into our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe this agreement will prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. I believe it will do just the opposite. In no way should a country that vows to wipe Israel off the map and chants "Death to America" be allowed nuclear capabilities. Today marks a turning point for the future of one of our greatest allies, Israel. If this deal goes through, President Obama and Democrats in Congress will own the consequences of allowing the Iranian regime to become a nuclear power.

We can and must have a better deal. A deal that truly allows for anytime/anywhere inspections. A deal that would keep restrictions on Iran's nuclear program for decades. A deal that forces Iran to end its missile development program. A deal that allows Iran truly limited enrichment capability. A deal that releases U.S. hostages in Iran. It is a catastrophic failure that President Obama did not insist on these provisions in the nuclear deal. We should be embarrassed that as the leader of the free world and the most powerful country on earth, this is the best deal President Obama could negotiate.

We have been presented with a false choice of accepting this deal or going to war. We should reject this deal and return to work, not to war. We cannot allow the sanctions to be lifted, we must reject approval of the deal and we must have all the information—including side agreements—before the clock can begin on the deal. I urge my colleagues to stand with our ally Israel and with the American people. The consequences of these votes are truly life and death.

#### APPROVAL OF JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

SPEECH OF

#### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2015

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, over the past two years, the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, China, and Russia have been negotiating with Iran in order to stop Iran's nuclear weapons capability. On July 14, the international coalition announced that an agreement had been reached. This week Congress will get a chance to vote on the agreement.

I have carefully studied the text of the agreement, attended classified briefings, reviewed classified documents compiled by intelligence agencies, listened to the thoughts and concerns of Wisconsinites, and met with experts on both sides of the issue, including