

is where Tehran intends to fulfill its aspirations to regional hegemony and Shiite dominance. There is too much at stake for Lebanon and for the entire region for the world to leave the Lebanese to the mercies of the radical mullahs in Tehran, the thugs in Damascus and their terrorist allies, Hezbollah.

I urge all my colleagues to not only remember Rafiq Hariri and his sacrifice but to speak out in support of the legitimate democratic aspirations of the people of Lebanon. They want only what we enjoy every day—a free, sovereign and democratic state, the servant only of its own people and the master of its own destiny. It's worth fighting for.

HONORING THE HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI A-BOMB EXHIBITION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition at the Wisconsin Capitol rotunda. Because of the dedicated efforts of a coalition of Madison organizations, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition Committee, and the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, this exhibition has made an incredibly important contribution toward educating Wisconsinites and our country about the devastation in Hiroshima and Nagasaki caused by nuclear weapons.

I am heartened by the mission of these organizations to spread peace and international understanding and grateful to the citizens of Madison who helped bring this vital message to our Capitol. I further commend the Exhibition's goal to raise awareness about abolishing nuclear weapons. This is an issue that demands our close attention.

I want to take this opportunity to reaffirm my support for nonproliferation strategies designed to eliminate weapons of mass destruction from U.S. and worldwide arsenals. I strongly support the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which sets forth objectives to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology and further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament. I also believe we need to terminate efforts to enhance U.S. military capabilities of the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

My thanks go out to the citizens and organizations of Wisconsin who have dared to imagine peace and help make it a reality.

CONGRATULATING ROB COGORNO ON HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rob Cogorno, who will soon be leaving his Congressional career here in the House of Representatives for new opportunities off of Capitol Hill.

Rob's formal title is Floor Director for the Majority Leader, but he is truly a servant of

this institution. Rob has worked for several Members of Congress over his 25-year Capitol Hill career, but the reality is that he has truly served both this institution and the ideals that make it what it is.

As a former Congressional staffer, I recognize the value of our staff. We would not be who we are and our country would not be where it is without, in part, our dedicated, smart and hardworking staff. Throughout his career in the House, Rob has served both the individual Members of Congress he worked for and all the Members of Congress of this institution.

Rob is a strategist. He's a master of the procedures that make the House run. He knows what makes the Democratic Caucus tick. He knows how the various groups that make up our Caucus think. He did more than make the trains run on time or make sure that we, as Members of Congress, had an outlet for our various requests. He gave us his unvarnished opinion, in his calm, easy-going, unflappable way, and at times, he was on the receiving end of some very "spirited" rants and complaints from Members of Congress and their staff. But he always behaved professionally and always worked for what he thought was right.

Rob's knowledge and experience will not be easily filled. But more importantly, there will not be another Rob Cogorno in this institution. Yes, there will be other staffers who will fill his role, but Rob cannot be replaced.

The House is losing one of its own—someone who loves and respects this institution; someone who not only believes in the ideals that make up the Democratic party but also believes in fairness for all who make up this body; and someone who has worked every single day to make our country and this world a better place.

Rob—you will be missed, but you won't be forgotten. I appreciate what you've done for this institution and for the Nation, and I thank you for your hard work and dedication. Good luck in the next phase of your professional life.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF AMERICAN HEART MONTH AND NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 972, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day. February is American Heart month, and today, I join women across the country by wearing red to increase the awareness of heart disease as the leading killer among women and men.

Minorities are disproportionately affected by cardiac disease. In a diverse State like Hawaii, this is an especially important issue. As a Congresswoman, I support funding for medical research and improved treatment. And I will continue to advocate for affordable, accessible health care for all.

However, fighting heart disease is not only a public policy issue. Americans can help prevent and reduce heart disease and decrease

the deaths it causes through education and lifestyle changes. Adults should learn the signs of heart attack and stroke, because quick recognition will increase the chance of survival. And we should all make a point to live healthier. Eating better, exercising more, and refraining from smoking are common sense lifestyle choices that could save our lives. I know how hard it is to make time to eat right and get to the gym—but it is worth it. As we celebrate Valentine's Day and affairs of the heart, let us commit ourselves to making that effort for improved heart health.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, for almost three decades TOM LANTOS was been a passionate voice in the U.S. Congress, and a tireless advocate for human rights around the world. Chairman LANTOS' commitment to human rights was forged by his own life's experience, by the violence and tragedy that he saw as a young man in Hungary. His commitment to issues such as ending the genocide in Darfur will be remembered by all those who have served with him throughout his long career in public service.

The Bay Area, and the Foreign Affairs Committee, will sincerely miss his passion and dedication, and his unrelenting commitment to not only helping those in need, but making sure that respect for human rights is at the forefront of our Nation's foreign policy. My heart goes out to Annette, his partner for almost 60 years, as well as his two daughters, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH FREEDOM MOVEMENT

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in extending my congratulations to the people of Nagorno Karabakh on the anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Freedom Movement.

On February 20, 1988, the people of Nagorno Karabakh officially petitioned the Soviet government to reunite with Armenia and reverse the injustice perpetrated by the Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin.

This peaceful and legal request was met with violent reaction by the Soviet and Azerbaijani leadership and escalated into full military aggression against Nagorno Karabakh. The people of Nagorno Karabakh bravely defended their right to live in freedom on their ancestral land.

Today, Nagorno Karabakh continues to strengthen its statehood with a democratically elected government, a capable defense force, and an independent foreign policy.

I stand with the people of Nagorno Karabakh in celebrating their continuing freedom and democracy.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my deepest condolences on the passing of Congressman TOM LANTOS, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and my respected colleague from California.

As news spread on Monday of Chairman LANTOS' passing at age 80 due to complications from cancer, a great sadness resonated throughout the House of Representatives and all of Washington. This House, the Nation, and especially the people of California have lost a great champion for human rights, a very personal cause of Representative LANTOS. He was the only Holocaust survivor to ever be elected to Congress and his own experiences enlightened his service and enriched his service in this body.

Throughout his 14 terms in the House of Representatives, Representative LANTOS conducted himself with dignity, grace, and a passion for human rights. As co-chairman and founder of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, a group that highlights human rights violations worldwide, he was able to provide a platform and a voice for persecuted peoples around the globe.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Representative LANTOS' wife Annette, their two daughters, their 18 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren in their time of mourning. It was an honor and a privilege to serve with TOM LANTOS these last 28 years in the House of Representatives. I know that he will be remembered in the hearts of his family and friends for all the love and support he has given to them and so many others throughout the years.

HONORING AND PRAISING THE
NAACP ON ITS 99TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, as an original co-sponsor, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 289, which honors the NAACP on its 99th anniversary.

I want to thank Congressman AL GREEN, who served as president of the Houston Branch of the NAACP for over 10 years, for once again introducing this important resolution.

I also want to recognize the outstanding job that NAACP Chairman Julian Bond has done in leading the organization.

Almost a century ago, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded in New York City during this month of February that we now recognize as Black History Month.

As a child of the civil rights movement, I witnessed first hand the leadership of the NAACP in fighting for human rights.

I remember vividly, the role the NAACP played in shattering segregation in my birthplace of El Paso, Texas.

We all know their great contributions:

From the victory in Brown vs. Board of Education, to the non-violent sit ins at segregated lunch counters, to passage of the Voting Rights Act, the NAACP has played a central role in every great civil rights battle of the last century.

Today, the Nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization continues to be a powerful voice in the ongoing struggle against injustice, oppression, and war.

The NAACP has been a dedicated and constant partner as I have worked with my colleagues to end the war in Iraq, stop the genocide in Darfur, and eradicate the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

They opposed the Iraq war from the beginning and support our efforts to end the occupation and bring the troops home.

They led the charge in support of my bill authorizing divestment from Sudan and they worked with faith, activist and student groups to ensure that it got signed into law at the end of last year.

And on HIV/AIDS, they have consistently been on the frontlines advocating for increased funding to help end the devastation this disease has caused in the African American community.

In short, the NAACP continues to demonstrate their commitment to stand on the battlefield and lead the charge for what is right. They deserve this honor and our praise and they deserve our thanks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING STEVEN J. BREEZE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Centralia, Illinois native Steven J. Breeze on being awarded the United States Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross and upon his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

Lt. Col. Breeze was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his role in a March 22, 2003 mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His low level flight lasted 3 hours, covering 590 miles. His skills saved 58 lives and delivered an assault force on time to their destination.

I am proud to recognize Lt. Col. Breeze for his service to the United States of America. I join a grateful Nation in thanking him for his service and congratulating him on this award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, on February 13, 2008, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows;

Rollcall vote 43, I would have voted "yea."
Rollcall vote 44, I would have voted "yea."
Rollcall vote 45, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. Bishop of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent yesterday afternoon, February 13, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the five votes which occurred yesterday, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 976, rollcall vote No. 48; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 976, rollcall vote No. 49; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 976, rollcall vote No. 50; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 976, rollcall vote No. 51; and I would have voted "no" on Motion to Adjourn, rollcall vote No. 52.

COMMEMORATING THE OPENING
OF THE DENTON COUNTY AFRICAN
AMERICAN MUSEUM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the opening of the Denton County African American Museum. This museum is being dedicated on Saturday, February 16, 2008, and will reflect the resilience and determination of the African American citizens of Denton County.

The museum is located in an original Quakertown house that was restored under the guidance of the Historical Park Foundation of Denton County. With its dedication, the Denton County African American Museum joins the Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum and the Bayless-Selby House Museum as part of the Denton County Museums.

The Museum's historical exhibits will feature African American families of Denton County as well as the Quakertown experience. It will also house the collection of artifacts from Dr. Edwin D. Moten, Denton's first African American doctor. The collection includes more than 600 letters written by Dr. Moten to family, friends, and professional colleagues as well as photographs, postcards, medical records, medicine cases, his medical shingle from in front of his office, prescription pads and narcotics register from Denton County.

As someone who practiced medicine in the Denton area for nearly 30 years, I am fascinated by the pieces in Dr. Moten's collection from both a medical and a historical perspective. My own grandfather, Dr. Harry Clifton