

ideologies. Then, in the span of a year, three giants converged on the world scene and human history was forever changed. England's Iron Lady, Margaret Thatcher, Poland's native son, Pope John Paul II, and our own Ronald Reagan boldly championed freedom, inspired hope in millions and gave those living behind the Iron Curtain the courage to imagine a world transformed.

While the Soviet Union is relegated to the history books, today there remain ideologies that threaten human freedom and dignity. There remain governments who rule by fear. There remain people held captive in their own nation.

Similarly, there are those who still warn that America ought not meddle in other countries' internal affairs. There are still those who caution against disrupting bilateral relations. There are still those who maintain that the desire for freedom and basic human rights is not universal.

But the events of 20 years ago teach us something very, very different.

Ask the Sharanskys and Solzhenitsyns whose lives in prison improved when leaders in the West spoke out on their behalf. Ask the thousands of East Berliners who, facing certain death if caught, dug tunnels, constructed hot air balloons and built pulleys in their desperate attempts to escape a literal prison.

There are lessons to be drawn from this anniversary—lessons which must inspire our foreign policy today. People yearn for freedom, they crave dignity. These things are not bestowed by the government and as such cannot forever be denied by the government. People are inspired by words. Dictators cower when their lies are exposed. And seemingly impenetrable regimes can find themselves on “ash heap of history.”

COMMENDING THE WINNERS OF THE 2009 NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend the winners of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Medicine, particularly Dr. Carol W. Greider, a professor of molecular biology and genetics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, for discovering how chromosomes are protected by telomeres and the enzyme telomerase. The research of Dr. Greider, along with her colleagues Dr. Elizabeth H. Blackburn and Dr. Jack W. Szostak, has created a greater understanding of how chromosomes protect themselves from degrading when cells divide. This has unlocked mysteries about the human aging process and will have an enormous impact on fighting cancer and many other inherited diseases caused by telomerase defects.

I applaud Dr. Greider's outstanding achievement as it reflects many years of study and hard work, a deep commitment to scientific innovation, and a desire to have a positive impact on peoples' lives. Her achievement is all the more significant in that only 8 of the 192 individuals to receive this prize have been women. I hope her success will inspire young women to enter the field of science.

Congratulations to these scientists for their groundbreaking work in the field of medicine and for their extraordinary contributions to humankind.

HONORING ERROTABERE RANCHES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a family farming operation whose owners exemplify the spirit of fortitude, entrepreneurship, and advocacy demonstrated by so many of those who strive to provide food and fiber to our great Nation. Much has contributed to California's bountiful agriculture industry and economic well-being, but one significant underlying factor in California's agricultural success has been the presence of families such as the Errotabere family. A diversified family farming operation in Fresno County, Errotabere Ranches is being honored on November 18, 2009 in Fresno, California as the 2009 Baker, Peterson & Franklin Ag Business Award recipient.

Though the Errotabere story didn't begin in the United States, the Errotabere family has clearly added strength to the fabric of this great Nation since coming to America. Jean Errotabere was born in a French-Basque village in France called Aldudez just two miles from the Spanish-French border. He came to Riverdale, California in the late 1940s to work with his brother on their ranch which was started in the late 1920s. Georgianne, a native of Vancouver, Canada, also came to the Central Valley of California to look for work. While waitressing at the Santa Fe Basque Restaurant in downtown Fresno, now known as the Sheppard's Inn, she met Jean Errotabere and their life together began.

Over the next 3 decades, their family and their business continued to grow and at the time of Jean's death, in 1979, their sons Dan, Jean and Remi, took over the ranch operations. Together with their wives Susan, Colleen, and Maureen the Errotaberes have developed a diversified family farming operation that now spans over 5,500 acres throughout western Fresno County. Among the crops the operation grows are almonds, pistachios, processing tomatoes, garlic, pima cotton, alfalfa, wheat, safflower, Romaine lettuce, processing onions, seed lettuce, cantaloupes and honeydew melons.

Errotabere Ranches has been actively involved in Agricultural Organizations, Riverdale schools, the Jordan College of Agriculture Sciences and Technology at California State University, Fresno and the Fresno County Farm Bureau. Errotabere Ranches President Dan Errotabere has been recognized and praised as a crusader for agricultural water issues, including his role in negotiating the historical treaty between Westlands Water District and the Friant Water Users Authority in 2004.

“This great Valley that we have is certainly the envy of the world,” Errotabere was recently quoted as saying. “It's a promising story for California that agriculture can do as much as it can.”

It is a pleasure to honor and congratulate the Errotabere's “can-do” attitude and repeated earnest advocacy for Agriculture. The

Errotaberes are truly deserving of this great honor and I salute the entire family for their accomplishments and contributions to Agriculture in California and the Nation.

WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in observance of the World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims and their Families, which was observed on Sunday, November 15, 2009, as well as to offer my heartfelt condolences to all those who have lost loved ones to road crashes.

The third Sunday in November was designated as World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims by the United Nations earlier this decade, and in support of this effort, both the House of Representatives and Senate unanimously passed concurrent resolutions during the 110th Congress. This day allows us all to reflect upon the more than 1.3 million people worldwide who die on the world's roads each year, as well as the more than 50 million who are injured. An estimated 44,000 of those deaths occur in the United States, and the global death and injury toll is rising precipitously. At the current rate of growth, road crashes will be the fifth leading cause of death by the year 2030, rivaling the top global health epidemics.

Road crashes do not discriminate; they know no bounds of age, class, gender, race, nationality, or geography. Globally, more than 40 percent of all road traffic deaths occur among individuals under 25 years old, and crashes are the leading cause of death for children and young adults aged 10–25 years old. Over the next decade, this is estimated to become the leading cause of death for children 5 and older worldwide.

In some African countries, up to half of all hospital surgical beds are occupied by road crash victims, while in others the fatalities rank second only to HIV/AIDS. Here in the U.S., road crashes are the leading cause of death for Hispanics under 34 years of age. The human cost of this problem is unfathomable: 1.3 million deaths per year is the equivalent of 10 jumbo jets crashing each day.

Road crashes also come at a great cost to the global economy. It is estimated that road crashes cost \$518 billion globally each year. In developing countries, road crashes have a dramatic impact on their fragile economies, costing an estimated \$100 billion, often exceeding the total amount received by these countries in development assistance. Furthermore, road crashes affect first responder services, health care services, and health insurance services, as many victims require extensive, and expensive, critical care, as well as follow-up care and rehabilitation. In countries where a primary bread winner is killed or injured, or must care for the injured, this can destroy livelihoods and devastate communities.

Road crashes are predictable and can be prevented, however, and America is playing a critical, active role domestically and internationally to address this epidemic. Earlier this

year, the Congressional Caucus on Global Road Safety, which I am privileged to co-chair along with Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of Maryland and Congressman DAN BURTON of Indiana, introduced House Concurrent Resolution 74, supporting a decade of action for road safety with a global target to reduce by 50 percent the predicted increase in global road deaths between 2010 and 2020. This resolution also urged the Obama Administration to take a leadership role at the First Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, to be held in Moscow later this week. The House of Representatives heeded the call to action on road safety and achieved a significant step toward reversing the increase in road deaths and injuries by unanimously passing H. Con. Res. 74 on September 23 of this year.

As more Americans travel abroad and more of our college students participate in study abroad programs in developing countries, many of them will be at risk of injury or death due to hazardous road conditions. Now is the time to foster the courageous initiatives building around the world to keep our citizens and our loved ones safe, and Madam Speaker, as we commemorate World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims this year and look forward to the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in Moscow later this week, I urge my colleagues to work with the Obama Administration toward enacting meaningful policy reform, both at home and abroad.

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF SERVICE OF THE SEEING EYE IN MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the very dedicated employees, volunteers, and graduates of The Seeing Eye in Morristown, New Jersey, on their 80 years of service.

Dorothy Harrison Eustis and Morris Frank had a dream to make the world completely accessible to the blind and visually impaired, and in 1929, The Seeing Eye was established to make their dream a reality. Since its inception, The Seeing Eye has enhanced the independence and self-confidence of the blind and visually impaired. The Seeing Eye pioneered the use of dogs to guide the blind, and today, the organization has successfully trained over 15,000 Seeing Eye dogs and matched them with more than 8,000 blind or visually impaired owners. Additionally, many area families have volunteered to rear generations of Seeing Eye puppies—nurturing them to accomplish their special destiny.

Twelve times every year, up to 24 visually impaired students from the United States and Canada come to Morristown to enter a twenty-seven day instructional program and are matched with a dog. The instruction includes traveling through high traffic and residential streets, shopping malls, and bus routes. Upon the completion of the program, the graduates are able to safely navigate their hometowns with the support of their Seeing Eye dogs. In fact, most every day on Morristown streets, The Seeing Eye trainers, students and their

remarkable dogs can be seen training where pedestrians and drivers alike respect their presence. The Seeing Eye also provides follow-up care and even visit graduates' home to aid them in adjusting to their new accessibility to their environments.

Today, The Seeing Eye is a pioneer in canine genetics and medical research. It also advocates for the concerns of those with visual impairments—such as pedestrian safety and the dangers of quiet cars—by working with legislators, writing letters on behalf of those experiencing discrimination, and researching technologies to make crosswalks safer.

Madam Speaker, for the past 80 years, The Seeing Eye has provided an unprecedented service to the blind and visually impaired community, and I hope it can continue its invaluable service for many years to come. I urge you, Madam Speaker, and my colleagues to join me in congratulating all of those involved with The Seeing Eye on its 80th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, November 16, 2009.

Had I been present I would have voted “aye” on rollcall vote No. 889, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to S. 1314; “aye” on rollcall vote No. 890, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3539; “aye” on rollcall vote No. 891, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to HR. 3767.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Monday, November 16, 2009, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote No. 889 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1314), “yes” on rollcall vote No. 890 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3539), and “yes” on rollcall vote No. 891 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3767).

H. RES. 866, VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 866 which encourages the designation of a National Veterans History Project Week. This resolution encourages increased public participation in the Veterans History Project.

As you may know, the Veterans History Project collects and saves the stories of America's veterans who have bravely served this country from World War I to today's conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. This project provides Americans an important way to honor our soldiers: by preserving the story of their service, in their own words, for the use and benefit of future generations.

In 2000, I authored and Congress unanimously passed legislation creating the Veterans History Project. Since its inception, the project has collected more than 66,000 stories and documents. In addition, the Veterans History Project was honored by Harvard University as one of the finalists for the Innovations in American Government Award competition in 2005.

Since the beginning of our Nation, the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines of the Armed Forces have been called on to risk their lives and fight for the ideals that make America great. Regardless of what one thinks about the wars that they fought in, all Americans must agree that the men and women of our Armed Forces have responded to the call of their country and performed with honor and dignity. War veterans and the civilians who have supported them all across this Nation have stepped forward once again, this time answering the call of civic duty by recording their stories and contributing personal documents for the Veterans History Project. Their participation ensures that their accounts are recorded and preserved, becoming a part of this Nation's memory and history.

By passing this resolution today, we can encourage more participation in this important program and ensure that this vital collection of American history continues to grow even further. Capturing the stories of our war veterans is more important now than ever before. We are losing more than 1,700 veterans every day and with them, their firsthand accounts of that war. It is imperative that we capture the stories and personal histories of those veterans before it is too late. The Veterans History Project is instrumental in accomplishing this important goal.

I call upon all members of this body to publicize and promote the Veterans History Project in their own districts and communities. I cannot think of a better way to honor our veterans than by trying to preserve as many of their memories and stories as possible. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

IN HONOR OF DR. ANGELO ARMENTI, JR.

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Angelo Armenti, Jr., the president of California University of Pennsylvania. His dedication to education as a professor, dean and university president, in addition to his commitment to philanthropy, has had a great impact on the people of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Armenti received his Bachelor of Science in Physics from Villanova University and his Master's and Ph.D. from Temple University in Special Relativity and General Relativity, respectively. He returned to Villanova