

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I submit a speech by former House Member Joseph J. DioGuardi which highlights the disastrous effects Communism had for the Albanian population in the Balkans and the ongoing efforts of the people there to find healing. The following is a copy of those remarks.

VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM MEMORIAL

The Honorable Joseph J. DioGuardi

I want to thank the leaders of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, especially Dr. Lee Edwards and Ed Priola. And, on behalf of all Albanians and freedom-loving people everywhere, I hasten to commemorate here today the historic deeds of the late Congressman Tom Lantos, who cofounded this Memorial with President George W. Bush, and who was the original architect of the full diplomatic recognition of Albania by the United States in June 1990 and the independence of Kosovo in February 2008.

I also want to thank my good friend Congressman DANA ROHRABACHER, who supported this memorial from the beginning, but could not be with us today.

My wife, Shirley Cloyes, a recognized Balkan scholar, is also here. She just wrote an article for this occasion, entitled "The Denial of Memory: It Is Time for Albania To Confront Its Communist Past." Copies will be available for those who are interested at the reception.

Let me also introduce Pellumb Lamaj and Rajmond Sejko, survivors who spent years doing hard labor in one of the most brutal prisons in Communist Albania, called Spaç. (You can read about their stories in Shirley's article.)

Annette Lantos, 22 years ago, almost to the day, your late husband, Tom Lantos, and I were the first U.S. officials in 50 years to enter the State of Albania, then still under the boot of communism. (You were with us on that historic day.) We went with a strong message, after crossing the border from Kosova, which was under the Serbian Communist regime's brutal occupation. We told Communist Dictator Ramiz Alia that the Berlin Wall had been torn down in October (1989), and that it was time to tear down the Communist iron curtain still separating Albania and the Albanian people from democracy, Europe, and the rest of the world. Annette, we started a movement. Within weeks, people were rushing into foreign embassies seeking asylum, and by September 1990, a huge boat loaded with thousands of freedom-seeking Albanians left the port of Durres for the shores of Italy, much like my father's Albanian ancestors did in the 15th century to escape the onslaught of the Ottoman Turks.

But here we are today—to pay tribute to the victims of communism all over the world. I

want to say a few words about the most brutal atheistic Communist regime that held the Albanian people hostage in their country, which was turned into a prison through state-sponsored terror, with crimes against humanity as its hallmark. The Albanian people had fought hard against the Italian fascist regime under Mussolini and the German Nazis under Hitler. Their honor code of besa (trust/faith) gave them the strength, moral and physical, to save every Jew in Albania and over 2,000 who fled there from Yugoslavia and Western Europe for protection during the Holocaust. Unfortunately, the Albanian people were betrayed during World War II by a new leader, Enver Hoxha, who replaced Nazi occupation with the most brutal Stalinist Communist regime anyone could imagine, for 45 years.

Hoxha's aim was to kill the freedom-loving spirit of the Albanian people and to destroy their communal soul in favor of building a totalitarian state under the rule of his Communist Party. His psychopathic regime instilled fear and terror in every household—fear of strangers, fear of authority, and even fear of betrayal by family, friends, and neighbors seeking favor with Communist officials. Hoxha's regime created an inhuman lack of trust in anyone and everything. Husbands could not trust their wives, parents their children, and siblings each other. By breaking the ancient Albanian honor and trust code of besa, communism created a culture where one had to be constantly on watch and on guard, not knowing where the next threat to life, limb, and family might strike.

This horrible state of terror was "formally" abandoned in Albania in 1992, with the first democratic election. Nevertheless, two decades later, the scars of communism and the twin cultures of fear and corruption still linger in Albania. Political parties openly fight for power, and the spoils of corruption keep the country out of the European Union, while former Communist neighbors, such as Slovenia, Croatia, Romania, Greece, and Serbia, are either already in the EU or on the path to admission.

On behalf of the victims of communism in Albania, Mr. Ambassador (addressing Albanian Ambassador Gilbert Galanxhi), I am taking this opportunity to appeal to your government to bring real democracy to Albania, to apologize formally to the victims of communism and their families, to set up a truth and reconciliation commission, and finally to open the Communist archives for all to see, which will allow families to begin the long process of healing and restore trust in the government and its leaders.

As Shirley Cloyes DioGuardi, Balkan Affairs Adviser to the Albanian American Civic League, wrote in her October 2011 article, "The Protracted Fall of Communism in Albania":

"I have come to the conclusion in recent months that the biggest mistake in post-Communist Albania was that the criminals of the Hoxha era were not brought to trial and that the country never instituted a truth and reconciliation commission. . . ."

Burying the Communist Albanian past has brought neither justice nor healing to those who suffered. If anything, it has continued their suffering. This reminds me of the Jewish survivors of the Holocaust who were forced to suffer in silence for years until Israel sought to fully reveal the traumatic legacy of Nazism and to shock the conscience of the world—beginning with the capture and trial in 1961 of Adolf Eichmann, one of the chief architects of Hitler's plan to exterminate European Jewry. In Albania, I believe that we need to start the process of healing the pain of the past (a past that is very much alive today) by obtaining from the Albanian government as full accounting as possible of the Hoxha era. The names of those persecuted, imprisoned, and executed by the Hoxha regime should be released to both the Albanian public and the international community.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF HENRY SCHIMBERG

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Henry A. Schimberg—a talented entrepreneur and distinguished member of the Santa Barbara community. Mr. Schimberg passed away on June 29, 2012 while traveling in Europe with his wife, Marjorie.

Henry Schimberg was born in Chicago in 1933 and went on to attend Beloit College in Wisconsin, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1954. Henry started his extremely successful career as a truck driver at Royal Crown Bottling Co. in Chicago in 1958. After decades of working in the bottling industry, Henry became the president and COO of Coca-Cola Enterprises in 1990; in 1998 he became the company's CEO. During his tenure, Coca-Cola Enterprises experienced the most financially successful period in its history.

Mr. Schimberg shared a deep passion for ethics with my late husband, Walter. Henry was deeply involved with the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at the University of California, Santa Barbara and the Center's efforts in developing a strong sense of personal and business ethics among future business and corporate leaders. The Center's annual undergraduate seminar, "Ethics, Enterprise, and Leadership," is an innovative course designed in part by Mr. Schimberg that introduces students to the diverse frameworks of ethical decision-making and teaches them to evaluate actual corporate and business dilemmas from ethical, legal and business perspectives. Henry was a regular speaker at the course and was greatly admired by his students and the faculty at UCSB. I have no doubt that his legacy will be carried on through this wonderful course that upholds values dear to his and my family's hearts.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Henry is survived by his wife, Marjorie; son, Aaron Schimberg and his wife Vanessa; daughter, Alexis Schimberg and her husband Jason Rothenberg; and his siblings, Elsa Dimick, Deedee Gartman and her husband Jerry; and Jake Schimberg and his wife Hollie.

Henry's passing has been felt deeply by the many people who were touched by his life and accomplishments. The Santa Barbara community will miss an invaluable leader and friend. I offer my most heartfelt condolences to Henry's family and friends. Please join me in honoring this exemplary American.

INDIAN HEALTH CARE
IMPROVEMENT ACT (IHCA)

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to a provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that I believe should be exempted from the wholesale repeal of ACA, and that is section 10221—which is the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA) provisions of the bill. I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives not to forget that with the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, there would also be a repeal of the permanent reauthorization of the IHCA, which ensures that American Indians and Alaska Natives will have access to improved health care.

The IHCA amendments enacted in 10221 of ACA were developed completely separate from ACA and had a distinct legislative history. The IHCA amendments were developed in a more than decade long process involving tribes, tribal organizations of the federal government on how best to update the quite out of date IHCA—which had its last major reauthorization in 1992.

While I was a proponent of considering the IHCA independently, ultimately the IHCA provisions were included in ACA. The ACA was a legislative vehicle that was moving so that the IHCA provisions could finally be enacted.

There are a number of key provisions within IHCA that will greatly enhance the well being of tribal communities. Such provisions include: new and expanded authorities for behavioral health prevention and treatment services; authorities for demonstration projects including projects for innovative health care facility construction and health professional shortages; and authority for the provision of dialysis services.

The health of American Indian and Alaska Native people, who already endure some of the largest negative health disparities, should not be negatively affected because the IHCA provisions, through chance, were included in ACA.

HONORING DR. LAWRENCE
CARUTH

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Dr. Lawrence Caruth,

and congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement.

Born in 1937 in Sterling Township, Wayne County to Stanley and Ruth Caruth, Lawrence worked on his family farm until entering Gettysburg College in 1957. In 1955, at the age of 17, Lawrence enlisted in the Pennsylvania National Guard. After participating in the Reserve Officers Training Corps throughout college, Lawrence was awarded the rank of Second Lieutenant. In 1965, he earned his Doctorate in Dental Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania and opened his dental practice in Honesdale in 1969.

Dr. Caruth served as an innovator in his field, introducing many dental technologies to the community. He also worked to provide patients with more convenient care, bringing specialists from the Scranton area to his office in Honesdale. In 1975, Dr. Caruth's practice developed into the Cherry Ridge Dental Center, where he had thirteen specialists working in his facility.

While continuing his practice at Cherry Ridge Dental Center, Dr. Caruth served as a Liaison Officer for West Point Military Academy, as well as a Dental Officer, Chief, and Commander for 317th Medical Detachment in Scranton. He was one of few dentists to ever command an Army Hospital when he was Commander of the 322nd General Hospital.

After an illustrious career with the U.S. Army, Dr. Caruth retired in 1997 with numerous medals, including the Legion of Merit Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal with One Service Star.

Dr. Caruth has remained an active member of his community, serving as previous President and current Treasurer of the Honesdale Rotary Club. He is also a member of the American Dental Association, the Pennsylvania Dental Association, the Scranton District Dental Society, the American Legion, and has previously served on the Cherry Ridge Planning Commission.

Lawrence is the father of two, Edward and Amy Beth, and the grandfather of five. He still resides in Honesdale with his wife Betty.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Lawrence Caruth, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising his commitment to Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE
AND MEMORY OF ROBERT
KIRKMAN ARNOLD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert (Bob) Kirkman Arnold, who passed away on May 22, 2012 at the age of 88 in Palo Alto, California, surrounded by his loved ones. Bob is survived by his wife Carrie Knopf, his three children, Kirk, Kevin and Michael, their spouses and his three grandchildren; by Carrie's three children, Bret, Karen and Clay, their spouses and by her six grandchildren.

Raised in San Francisco by his parents, Agnes and George, Bob attended Lowell High

School where he was Senior Class President before graduating in 1941. He met his late wife, Margaret "Peg" Koshland, while attending the University of California at Berkeley. At 6'4½, Bob played center on the Bears basketball team, where he was known as "Hap" Arnold. Bob and Peg were married in March, 1945.

After World War II broke out, Bob volunteered for the U.S. Army but the war ended before he arrived in Japan. Upon returning home, he resumed his education at U.C. Berkeley, earning a Ph.D. in Economics. He moved to Palo Alto, where he and Peg raised their three children, Kirk, Kevin and Michael. Bob was an economist at Stanford Research Institute until 1969, when he and Stephen Levy founded an economics consulting business called The Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy.

Bob ran for Congress in 1968 on an anti-war platform. While he didn't win the primary, he won many hearts and minds. He was devoted to finding novel ways to educate the public on economic topics, and he was always ready to join a march, give a speech, or offer his support to help the causes in which he believed.

Peg passed away in 1999, and in 2005, Bob married the lovely and wonderful Carrie Knopf from Palo Alto. Carrie and her late husband, Kermit Knopf, had been friends with Bob and Peg for many years. Bob and Carrie were inseparable and enjoyed 13 wonderful years together with their families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to Mr. Arnold's wife, Carrie Knopf, and their entire family. Bob was a wonderful man who brought much joy to the lives he touched and he will always be remembered for his integrity, intelligence, storytelling, limericks, exuberant good humor and the unmatched positive energy and passion he shared with everyone. He bettered our community and strengthened our country.

DR. QANTA AHMED'S TESTIMONY
TO HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE
ON THE 'THE AMERICAN MUSLIM RESPONSE TO HEARINGS
ON RADICALIZATION IN THEIR COMMUNITY'

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit insightful and compelling testimony given by Dr. Qanta A. A. Ahmed before the House Homeland Security Committee last month. I commend Chairman PETER KING for continuing this series of hearings looking at the challenge of radicalization in the U.S. and how it impacts the American Muslim community.

I urge all of my colleagues to read Dr. Ahmed's testimony, especially given her firsthand experience with radicalized youth in Pakistan and her recent series of columns and editorials on the threat of radicalization in the West.

THE AMERICAN MUSLIM RESPONSE TO HEARINGS ON RADICALIZATION WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY—CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, WASHINGTON DC, JUNE 20TH 2012

Qanta A. A. Ahmed MD, FACP, FCCP, FAASM, Associate Professor of Medicine, The State University of New York, USA

Good morning. Thank you Chairman King and Ranking Committee Member Congressman Thompson and distinguished members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify today on such an important issue.

MY MUSLIM IDENTITY

I am a British citizen, and a Permanent Resident in these United States where I have made my home for fourteen years. I am a practicing physician and a practicing Muslim. Religion stems from the etymological Latin root *relegere*, meaning to be gathered or bound together. An individual's narrative of his or her religious experience is often a catalogue of relationships and my Islam is no different, beginning with the gift of Islam from my parents.

There is no divide between any of my multiple roles as I have learned following the example of my parents, both of whom remain true to their faith without encroaching upon the public space yet always espousing pluralism and tolerance. They raised me to observe Islam in the same manner.

I pray, I fast during Ramadan, I find worship in my work and I have also completed the Hajj—the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca. Each year I am fortunate to be able to exceed the Islamic duties of charity required of me annually. My parents support my views which I express here in this chamber today and all of my actions which have led me to this moment. As a family, for generations, we have explicitly repudiated all forms of violence—including those conducted in the name of Islam—long before the specter of radical Islamism ever blighted these United States.

MY VANTAGE AS AN INTERNATIONALLY EXPERIENCED MUSLIM PHYSICIAN

In my 21 years since qualification, I have practiced on three continents; here in the Americas in the United States—in both South Carolina and New York, in Europe, chiefly in London, and in Asia, namely when I practiced medicine for two years, from November 1999 to November 2001 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

This peripatetic path has allowed me to engage intimately with Saudi Muslims as I attended them in their critical illnesses, and later work for many years to improving their public health and that for all Muslim pilgrims to Mecca; and with British Diaspora Muslims as I attended them in Britain's capital. I functioned in these roles as a treating physician, a physician-educator, a physician colleague, a mentor to training doctors. My work has led to numerous publications both in the medical academe and the mainstream media.

For over a decade, I have also been invited to teach and speak at numerous conferences in the Muslim Majority world including for the Saudi Arabian National Guard Health Affairs, for the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Health, for the US Consulate in Jeddah, for the Saudi Arabian Soccer Federation, the American University of Sharjah and other settings. I have also been asked to visit hospitals and meet physician colleagues in Pakistan. Most recently in November 2011, as a visiting professor I was invited by FIFA to the first meetings evaluating impacts of Ramadan on the elite Muslim footballer convening in both Doha, Qatar and in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

I have therefore lived among, met, treated, taught, worked with, published with, researched with, befriended and, on occasion, been repudiated and abandoned, by many Muslims in many dimensions.

MY EXPERIENCE OF THE BURDEN OF RADICAL ISLAMISM ON MY AMERICAN PATIENTS

Currently, my work as an attending sleep disorders specialist involves personally attending to the World Trade Center First Responder patient population of Nassau County at Winthrop University Hospital. Our hospital provides state-of-the-art care to 2500 of these Americans without financial burden each year through the provenance of the Zadroga Bill, spearheaded by Chairman King and his colleagues.

Hence patients in my personal practice today include multiple members of US law enforcement including active duty, disabled and former NYPD, active duty FBI agents, active, disabled and retired FDNY, former members of the New York Federal Crime Bureau and others who are officially designated as World Trade Center First Responders—6000 of the nation's 40,000 first responders live on Long Island. Many of these patients have roles in counter terrorism task forces today.

I treat these men and women for sleep-related complications developed as a result of their service to our nation including obstructive sleep apnea syndrome, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression and other conditions. Attending them gives me special insights into the indiscriminate burden of radical Islamism acts born by our community a decade after they assaulted humanity in my adoptive home, New York City, an assault I witnessed from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Understanding the work and the suffering of my patients and the toll it takes on them makes clear to me the enormous sacrifice they and their families make to safeguard us at times of crisis and in between, a sacrifice much of the nation has forgotten, or remains unaware of. As a Muslim meeting these Americans reveals the devastating impact of radical Islamism to which few others—Muslims or non-Muslim—will ever be privy.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH CONTEMPORARY RADICAL ISLAMIST IDEOLOGY

In Spring 2010, in recognition of my academic work on Hajj Medicine and health diplomacy, I was selected as the first Muslim woman to complete a Templeton Cambridge Journalism Fellowship in Science and Religion at the University of Cambridge in England. Following a meeting with an internationally recognized expert in counterterrorism, I reviewed data exposing me to the brutality of contemporary radical Islamists and decided to focus my fellowship on the psychological manipulation of Islam into the service of terror. I thus specifically evaluated the mechanisms of martyrdom and jihadist ideology as expressed by contemporary radical Islamists. This work both informed my specific knowledge and the many publications I have authored since. My experience of being a Templeton Cambridge Fellow adds special academic context useful to me in interpreting the salient findings of this series of investigative hearings.

As a result of my work at Cambridge, I have met with some of the leading minds approaching counter terrorism studies. One such meeting with one Pakistani neuropsychologist piqued my interest sufficiently to travel to the North West frontier Province of Pakistan (now renamed KPK) in March 2012 to visit Malakand, now secured by the Pakistani military. There, I spent three days at 'Sabaon', the Pakistani school founded by civilians to deprogram child militant operatives engaged in militancy with the Pakistani Taliban. There I

treated local villagers and traveled to nearby Mingora to see rehabilitated child militants readjusting to community life after successful deprogramming.

At Sabaon, I met with doctors, teachers, psychotherapists, military leaders and the child militant rehabilitees themselves all boys aged between 10 and 20. I was also invited to attend the relatives of these boys for a one day traveling clinic to provide basic medical care during which I met, interviewed, examined and treated the mothers, sisters, grandmothers, siblings, children and spouses of convicted militant operatives, suicide operation 'martyrs' and suspects currently in detention in Saudi Arabia. I recorded many photographs of my visit which I can share in a classified forum if the Committee determines there is a need.

During the visit, though I was not granted clearance to question the students directly, under supervision of my fellow physician colleagues and with the Pakistani Rangers nearby, I was allowed to meet with one 15-year old Pakistani boy in particular. I listened to him for about an hour as he described his transition from a school boy of 13 walking to school, his seduction by an older boy with tales of a 'purer', 'more legitimate' Islam—that of the Taliban's—his voluntary decision to run away and join a network of Taliban militants, his deliberate and very labyrinthine confinements in hiding centers called 'markaz' (centers), his handlers' persistent and successful maneuvering defeating the dedicated efforts of his parents to retrieve him, his training and preparation which he chillingly termed 'Tarbiyyat' which means 'religious education' (consisting of advanced training in the use of a handgun, the deployment of a grenade and the successful detonation of a suicide jacket) and, finally, his ultimate surrender to a police officer in the designated target of attack—a nearby mosque. I have in my possession his de-identified narrative which can be reviewed in a classified forum but as is not available for disclosure in this public record.

This young boy's naiveté, his isolated and distorted world view, his lack of knowledge of Bin Laden or 9-11 and his indoctrination all revealed to me that Islamist ideologies are active, alive and moving ahead far beyond the reach of 20th Century Al-Qaeda ideology. Further, his halting and unconfident Urdu reminded me much of the nascent transition from boyhood to manhood of my own brothers when they were younger, who fortunately have been sheltered from such manipulations by opportunities our family could give them because we are so attached to our native Britain and Islam, not Islamism.

Further, the young boy also revealed his Islamist-indoctrinated hatred of certain sects of Muslims, including Shias who are a minority in Pakistan, his belief that anyone collaborating with a western-dressed individual was an enemy of Islam—including Pakistani troops who are usually dressed in western trousers—and that any who engaged with US troops was also an enemy to Islam.

Exactly these ideologies are being promoted in the United States today, often through portals—whether via internet portals, recurrent migration to Somalia, Sudan, Pakistan, Yemen or other locations, circulated videos, or pockets of extremism in numerous centers of gatherings including mosques and this series of investigative hearings have revealed that. The essential construct is the same—separation, supremacy and unquestioning acceptance of nihilistic ambitions—including the deployment of brutally violent measures—all of which collude to eradicate any other diversity.

Since 2009, I have authored dozens of Opinion columns and Editorials published in the

mainstream American, British, Dutch, Israeli and Pakistani press examining the politics and theology of radical contemporary Islamist ideologies.

Unsurprisingly, I have learned the consequences of opining in the free press. I have been subject to personal attack and abuse online. In my journalistic activities I also have learned how difficult it is for American newspaper editors, American network television producers and American media bookers to approach either solicited or unsolicited opinion pieces or television interviews concerning issues pertaining to Islam. There has been a distinct chill in the public discourse including here in the United States which is driven by the rising cries of Islamophobia, the advancing grip of Islamist claims of defamation of Islam which they advance through Islamist Lawfare, the internationalization without protest of Blasphemy laws and the general fear of political 'incorrectness' which leads to an enormous loss of counter-arguments in the debate about Islamism and its distinctions from Islam.

THE REACTION TO THE HEARINGS IN THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

My community begins with my family who not only supports these hearings but have welcomed them. We have a large family thriving in the United States from coast to coast, settled in this country since the 1960s. One of my family members, my cousin, has served in the United States Navy. Earlier than that, some of my maternal Uncles trained and studied in 1950s America as invited scholars. Many of us are American citizens. We are also very well acquainted with the abuses and discrimination that pass for 'official Islam' as expressed in Islamist Pakistan and are extremely aware of the hazards of empowering those who espouse a supremacist ideology born of Islamism but masquerading as Islam. To my surprise not a single member of my family discouraged me from participating in these investigative hearings even though they remain aware of the risks this can pose to me in my every day life.

I also have a vibrant Muslim readership among my almost 100,000 readers of my book, who communicate with me through social network platforms, letters and emails or respond on line to articles I have authored in almost every major mainstream publication in the United States. Many of my self-identifying Muslim readers express fear that the investigative hearings will misrepresent Islam and fuel Islamophobia while also expressing excitement that this discussion is entering the public space in such an auspicious arena. Their sentiment about the investigative hearings revolve more around the scrutiny of activities of some Muslim Americans rather than the actual findings of the investigative hearings which few of them could cite.

For my support of these investigative hearings and for my writings sympathetic to the concerns of these investigative hearings I have also been subject to intimidation on Twitter often from self-identifying Muslims who clearly denounce these hearings. Their abusive hostility is largely centered on the claim that my views supportive of these investigative hearings as unrepresentative of Muslim Americans.

On a professional level many of my former academic Muslim colleagues now eschew contact with me as my political voice has become more widely heard, some because of the personal affront it causes them and others because they are beholden to theocratic Muslim states and now see their relationship with me as a risk. It is significant that only one member of my circle of academic Muslim

colleagues in the Middle East wrote to me with encouragement. They see my support of America in general as 'collusion'.

A recent publication on Huffington Post is more encouraging of the Muslim American reaction. In it I wrote about my Evolution as an Anti Islamist Muslim and I found it generated an overwhelming response many of them very positive from self identified Muslims who commented my views to be ahead of the public awareness and supported my endeavors and views including my call for the exposure of the imposter of Islamism to be distinguished from Islam.

It is however important to add that as an Anti-Islamist Muslim my community IS America, as Islam demands it, not an enclave within America, but the entire nation. These investigative hearings while entitled to examine the reaction of American Muslims within their communities might be better expressed as our reaction within America because this is what Islam teaches us—that we must collaborate, cooperative, enhance and contribute to the community surrounding us, and not remain in insular, disengaged groups which engender and then empower silos of disconnection and disaffection.

Unfortunately the reaction in wider America to these investigative hearings has been initial vilification and later disdain as manifested by the extraordinary disinterest of the mainstream media in the hard findings of these hearings. This uninformed response has not been redirected by informed motivated media coverage despite the opportunity to redress the balance, revealing the wider media may itself have some discomfort denouncing Islamism.

HOW I INTERPRET THE FINDINGS OF THE HEARINGS

These investigative hearings reveal radicalization is ongoing in multiple sectors right here in the United States, in our civilian community, in our military community and in our prison community. Muslims in America can be radicalized despite the best efforts of their parents or mentors. We also have learned radicalization in America is usually facilitated by handlers and Islamist seducers who operate on multiple planes using multiple forms of media and are facile at identifying or exploiting the vulnerable. This is exactly how Pakistani Taliban Islamists operate in Pakistan and elsewhere based on what I have seen in person and my extensive reading of, and meetings with, counter terrorism experts. We cannot ignore the domestic risks here and threat both to our national security, and by extrapolation, to international security. I cite a few examples revealed by these investigative hearings:

On December 7th 2011, Daris Long, father of a son murdered by radical Islamists testified "the political correctness exhibited by the government over offending anyone in admitting the truth about Islamist extremism masked alarm bells that were going off. Warnings were ignored, Major Nidal Hassan was able to openly praise the Little Rock shootings in front of fellow army officers and then commit his own jihad". This is consistent with the shortcomings of language and the paralysis of political correctness that I identify as one of the barriers to examining radical Islamism in the United States.

On March 12th, 2011, Melvin Bledsoe testified that his son Abdul Hakim Muhammad was 'brainwashed' by Nashville Muslims leading to his terrorist training in Yemen to return to murder one soldier and injure another at a US military recruitment center. This confirms the same forces seducing a Pakistani schoolboy in the SWAT are at work in the American heartland.

On July 27th 2011, Ahmed Hussien, President of the Canadian Somali Congress recognized our vulnerability in this ideological battle of Islamism with Islam and Islamism's exploitation of victimhood 'There has not been a parallel attempt to counter the toxic anti Western narrative that creates a culture of victimhood in the minds of members of our community.' This confirms the utility to Islamists of cultivating a manufactured sense of victimhood among vulnerable Muslims.

MY MOTIVATION TO ENTER THE PUBLIC DISCOURSE: TO COMBAT ISLAMISM

In the years since 9-11, every Muslim has been compelled to confront his or her identity. This has been a direct function of the martyrdom terrorism acts of 9-11. Since then, the lay audience and much of expert opinion has been unable to separate Islamism from Islam. Today this is our greatest challenge. Distinguishing Islam and Islamism requires nuance and care, which few in the media are prepared to provide or even qualified to identify.

Some, while well intentioned but deeply uninformed, retaliate against the sound intelligence and counter measures that must be taken, including mechanisms such as these investigative hearings, and instead unwittingly collude with the non violent manifestations of the Islamists which have long since evolved to new elements masquerading as the 'peaceful' translators and 'owners' of Islam. I am here to tell you non-violent Islamists are not the owners of Islam nor is their intent peaceful.

I was in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia when the Towers fell. Within hours, I discovered my sentiments of loss and sorrow were not widely shared, either by Saudi physician colleagues or by fellow non Saudi Muslim expatriate workers, many of whom had been trained by Americans in New York City like myself or other cities in the United States—some of us even shared the same professors of medicine.

This discovery came as a terrible shock to my naiveties at the time and I was patronizingly ridiculed for being so 'pro-American'. I realized the version of Islam my parents had given, and our reverence for the nations who had sheltered and reared me—Britain and the United States—wasn't widely accepted. That fellow physicians, as highly trained and as privileged as I, could be elated at the loss of life and the transient bowing of America's spirit utterly displaced me to a new, harsher reality.

In the wake of 9-11, I saw Osama bin Laden feted as a hero in Pakistan, nation of my matrilineal and patrilineal heritage. On one trip I recall a Pakistani driver in Karachi explaining to me why 7 years after 9-11, Pakistani families were still naming their newborns Osama in his honor. He was still deified, recognized by many as a 'defender' of Islam, a 'warrior savior'. Nothing could be more offensive to my beliefs as a Muslim or my principles as a human being. This was extraordinarily difficult to reconcile with the knowledge that Islam condemns all murder, and particularly the execution of non-combatant civilians in any setting. In my mind Bin Laden and his sympathizers had renounced Islam by their acts and represented nothing more than violent terrorists and those who named their firstborns after Osama were lionizing nothing more than a mass murderer.

Soon after my return from Saudi Arabia, I began to record my experiences in a manuscript that would become my first book, *In the Land of Invisible Women* now in its 10th edition and published in 13 countries including Muslim majority Senegal, Indonesia, Turkey, Pakistan and Mauritius. Realizing I

would be representing two versions of Islam—mine, and that espoused by the theocracy of Saudi Arabia—I needed to broaden my reading around key areas.

It was in my reading that I discovered the political ideology termed Islamism, and the many strains of contemporary radical Islamism, both violent and non-violent. I learned unlike my own experience, many Muslims struggled with a pervasive sense of inferiority, influencing their beliefs, sense of justice and identities leading to deep and rather novel resentments. The fascist supremacy of Islamist ideologues was therefore a predictably appealing, if very frightening development, which was completely alien to the Islam I knew.

Over this decade the Islamist voice has become increasingly prominent both in the United States and globally—whether in advancing the intrusion of the ritual symbolism of Islam into the public space—for instance the battle for the niqab in the public arena in France, the demands for the veil to be permitted in FIFA soccer tournaments, or the most recent debacle involving the vilification of the NYPD for their counter-terrorism efforts drawing false accusations of Muslim profiling.

Throughout the world, including in the United States, the Islamists' goal is one and the same: to stoke the fires of unwitting Muslims into believing in their own manufactured sense of victimhood as a means to exploit both the uninformed Muslim and often times the liberal democracies where we make our homes. It is this last fallacy, of collective victimhood, that most fuels my drive to expose Islamism for what it is—a weak yet vicious imposter for a great religion, an imposter which seeks to exploit and devour both Muslims and non-Muslims alike in its pursuit for power and dominance. These forces are at work as we testify now in this room at this hearing—an effort by three Muslims which will predictably be derisively labeled as a collaboration in our own persecution. I am here to testify that nothing could be further from reality.

CIVIL LIBERTIES OF MUSLIMS ARE NOT AT STAKE

Many critics of these investigative hearings (both Muslim and not) charge them with a threat to Muslims' civil liberties in America. My most vociferous opponents, referring to Muslims' American civil liberties, state: 'give away your freedoms not mine' (an American Muslim); 'This is not 1910 America and what happened to the Jews—Jews have only just stopped walking on eggshells in America. Watching what's happening to Muslims makes me sick' (an American Jew); 'We need a Rosa Parks to stand up for Muslim rights' (a non-Muslim American); 'Park 51 shows Muslims do not have civil rights'; 'some want Lower Manhattan to be 'An American Jerusalem' (a non-Muslim American). They identify my support of these investigative hearings as my collusion in the fictional erosion of Muslim civil liberties.

While I respect the fears which birth these concerns, I can firmly strip them aside. Muslims in America do not have the painful history of African Americans or of Jewish Americans. Our privileges as Muslim Americans today have been guaranteed in part by the struggles of the Civil Rights era and by the travails of the Jewish Americans before us. We do not, in any extrapolation, face similar disadvantages as earlier American history reveals. To claim such is a gross distortion of history and demographic data in the United States proves this.

I would also add I denounce the above assertions of an equivalency between the sufferings of other minority populations in America and that of Muslim Americans with some authority. I understand all about being

a Muslim woman without civil rights as predicated by my two years living under Wahabi theocracy without any civil or human rights including those Islam bequeathed me 1500 years ago. I also understand the total extinction of civil rights on minorities—both Muslim and non-Muslim—as experienced in Islamist Pakistan as described to me by Christians, Ahmadi Muslims and Zoroastrians during my last visit to Pakistan and in my extensive contact with minorities.

I have lived the impact of the Islamist narrative both in Saudi Arabia, during my extensive travels in Pakistan and in my years treating Americans in New York as well as when examining the lives of my orthodox Bengali British migrants in East London or training some of the very neo-orthodox Muslim doctors of that area.

MUSLIMS ARE NOT VICTIMIZED BY THE HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATIONS

As you learn of my biography, know that I am part of an economically powerful American demographic. According to Pew Forum data Muslims are mainstream and mostly middle class. I am rather representative.

Like me, 65% of Muslims in America are first generation and 18% of us have South Asian heritage. The majority of foreign-born Muslim Americans arrived, like me, in the 1990s—50% of us have moved here for economic or educational opportunity—I did so for both reasons. 46% of us are, like me, women, and around 31% are my age—between 40 and 54. We are a multiracial multi-ethnic group with over 68 different nationalities before becoming American. Our income and education reflects the US public and 16% of us earn more than \$100,000 annually compared to 17% of the general US public who do the same—a 1% disparity.

In my native Britain, the income disparity for those Muslims who earn over 40,000 sterling annually is more than 10%. Equivalent incomes earned in France comparing between Muslim and average public show even greater disparity of 12%, in Germany 14% in Spain 19%.

Muslims in America have achieved more, faster, and more often, in America than in any other Muslim Diaspora setting. My experience is very much the mainstream Muslim American experience. I ask the committee to recognize that most Muslims are not mistreated by efforts to protect our integrity as Americans though they are certainly entitled to be offended at these efforts and America guarantees their right to be offended.

The offence claimed by many Muslim Americans whether at the first hearing in this series or for instance pertaining to the NYPD's activities more recently, is misplaced. Instead of denouncing methods of intelligence gathering, Muslims in America should be denouncing the findings of those intelligence missions: the active Islamists among us. The furore has been misdirected, much to the benefit of committed Islamists at work within this nation's borders.

WHY IS IT SO HARD TO DISCUSS THE ISLAMIST THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA?

There are serious shortcomings of language in engaging in this particular discourse. In the post 9-11 era there has been a gravitation towards extreme speech and a pervasive lack of integrative complexity in public speech as shown by critically important research performed at the University of Cambridge among others. Such lack of nuance is very well exploited by the cultivating Islamist.

The arrival of a sense of 'otherization' of Muslims into the public lens has facilitated the grip of Islamist Lawfare on the public dialogue—fueling both the victimhood of

Muslims and the outcries of the offended liberal. The false claims and crocodile tears of Islamophobia and the encroaching advancement of the idea of defamation of religion which is pushed by the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) elsewhere, here in America intimidates journalists, news media and others from engaging in dialogue who may face spurious lawsuits if they dare engage in this dialogue.

These profound problems with language have extended to the US government decree banning enforcement agencies from discussing the very threats we have heard at this series of hearings, banning the word 'Islamist' for instance. This sanitization of our lexicon reveals a shocking and perhaps specious reluctance to engage with the problem or worse, a foolhardy embrace, unintentional or otherwise, with the Islamist stance.

IN CONCLUSION

Islam is nothing if not justice. Any injustice committed or pursued in the name of Islam is anathema to the believing Muslim and counter to the ideal which is Islam, yet Islamists demand unjust abominations—foundational to their beliefs—of their subscribers.

Muslims must remember their duties, not only to themselves, or their Maker, but also to their society wherever they find themselves. Unlike Islamism which mandates it, Islam reviles claims to supremacy, instead appealing for humility. The Prophet Mohammed (SAW) himself admonished his followers not to make claims of supremacy over Moses, or indeed any other messenger of God. The Qur'an repeatedly reminds the Muslim that 'to each is sent a Law and a Way' and to each they must 'judge themselves by their Law and their Way'. Islamist Muslims overlook this and many other principles of Islam.

Our role as believers is to cooperate and collaborate and enhance the world, not to oppress, discriminate, exclude or murder others. Major Muslim majority nations under the guise of democracy—foremost Pakistan—are operating as Islamist Supremacists who legally persecute Muslim and non-Muslim minorities to extinction with impunity. These are not the ways of Muslims. These are the ways of fascists.

We must redirect media interpretation and expose their bias and painful lack of contextual perspective while commending the efforts of these investigative hearings in anticipation of future hearings which will surely assess progress, intervention and outcome data of measures enacted since.

We also cannot examine the radical Islamist threat in the United States in a domestic vacuum. This is a transnational, cross-continental issue mandating an international response. While we have been pursuing conventional international warfare and in fact have assassinated the leader of Al Qaeda for instance, we have remained dangerously vulnerable because of our delayed realization of the political science aspects of Islamist ideology and the very serious threat this poses to our democracy. These are vulnerabilities which cannot be safeguarded by drones, or gunships but instead must be secured by counter ideological warfare which begins here, by widening the debate, discussion and scholarship in this arena.

There is an overwhelming need for focused examination of the interface of Islam and Islamism. These investigative hearings provide the first public foray examining this divide in real-time as expressed in contemporary America. Until these questions are asked, and later answered, until more American Muslims confront the discomfort of disarticulation from their unquestioning brotherhood with the 'Ummah' and its worst

elements, the shifts between Islam, Islamism and the West, between puritanical Islamists masquerading as Muslims and true moderate non Islamist Muslims, will continue to be tectonic and devastating.

In my position of privilege and opportunity, one shared with many Muslims in America, if I do not oppose Islamism, I am failing in my Muslim duty to American society and in failing American society, I profoundly fail as a Muslim. I am reminded of a saying attributed to the Prophet Mohammed by one of his companions who recounted it to an early believer:

“Whoever sees a wrong and is able to put it right with his hand, let him do so; if he can't, then with his tongue, if he can't, then with his heart. That is the bare minimum of faith’.

This, having both hand, tongue, and heart, I am committed to live by and therefore I thank you Chairman King, Ranking Committee Member Congressman Thompson and the distinguished members of the Committee on Homeland Security for enabling me to fulfill the bare minimum of my belief today.

NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS PRODUCTION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4402) to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, today's legislation has more to do with undermining environmental review of mining on public lands than the production of rare earths and other critical minerals, and I will oppose it today.

Specifically, H.R. 4402 would let mining companies operating on public lands set time limits for each part of the environmental review process and then arbitrarily cap total environmental review time at 30 months. The bill then elevates mining over hunting, fishing, grazing, conservation and any other public purpose and places new restrictions on judicial review. Finally, the definition of “strategic and critical minerals” in this legislation is so broad as to encompass virtually every mineral that is or could be mined on public lands—including such common materials as sand, clay and gravel. If the majority was seriously interested in targeting the production of strategic and critical minerals on public lands, we would have adopted the amendment offered by our colleague Rep. PAUL TONKO expressly for that purpose. Instead, the Tonko amendment was defeated on a party line vote and so we are left with the serious defects of the underlying legislation.

Madam Chair, we can responsibly develop our natural resources and protect our environment at the same time. H.R. 4402 ignores that central truth and should be opposed by every member of this body.

HONORING CHARLES M. “SKIP” RUSSELL

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great constituent. Charles “Skip” Russell of Enfield, Connecticut passed away earlier this week and will be interred with Military Honors at St. Patrick King Street Cemetery. Skip was a mentor and friend to many, coaching Little League for over ten years, and serving as the Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 50. An Enfield resident since 1951, Skip began as an employee of Bigelow-Stanford Carpet Company. He later served as Sales Manager with Nutmeg Building Supplies for 35 years until his retirement in 1992.

During World War II, Skip was also proud to serve his country in both the Merchant Marines and the United States Army. For his years of outstanding service, Skip was awarded the World War II Victory Medal. Committed to supporting veterans and their families, he remained a lifelong member of AMVETS.

Even after his retirement, Skip was a dedicated and active participant in local grassroots politics of Enfield, Connecticut. As a member of the Enfield Democratic Committee, Skip contributed enthusiastically to local efforts. He was always the first at Headquarters to volunteer for projects, and he could always be counted on to have a car trunk full of signs and hand cards, and pockets stuffed with stickers and buttons. Skip was an eloquent supporter of Social Security and Medicare at numerous public forums in the Enfield area. His passion and energy for the political process will be fondly remembered by all his fellow campaigners, as well as the many elected officials and candidates who were fortunate enough to meet him.

Skip Russell's legacy is not just that of a devoted father, husband, and servicemen, but also of an engaged and involved citizen in his local community. Skip will be dearly missed by his wife, children, grandchildren, great grandchild, and all those in Enfield whom he touched with his years of community service. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the loss and honoring the life of Skip Russell.

THE EFFECTS OF INCARCERATION ON THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF FORMER PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter of Taiwan and a founding member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I would like to bring to your attention an issue of concern to Taiwanese Americans and the people of Taiwan.

The former President of Taiwan, Mr. Chen Shui-Bian, is currently serving a 19-year prison sentence for corruption charges. He has been incarcerated for over 1,200 days thus far. Today, I am inserting into the CONGRES-

SIONAL RECORD a summary report drafted by a three-man medical team led by former professor Joseph Lin, Ph.D., and professors of the University of California at Davis Medical Center, Ken Yoneda, M.D., and Charles Whitcomb, M.D., who visited Mr. Chen Shui-Bian in jail in Taiwan last month in their capacity as private citizens. The report is titled, “The Effects of Incarceration on the Mental and Physical Health of Former President Chen Shui-Bian of Taiwan.” A full transcript of the report is available here: http://www.fapa.org/public/CSB_Report_to_TLHRC_12Jul2012.pdf.

These medical professionals traveled to Taiwan in June 2012 to assess President Chen's physical and mental condition, and to inquire into reports of inhumane living conditions and confinement. The physicians concluded that President Chen's imprisonment conditions are contributing to President Chen's health problems. In their recommendations the report concludes: “Former President Chen Shui-Bian [should] be released from confinement on medical parole based on the above assessments, conclusion and recommendations, and on compelling humanitarian grounds.”

I am entering this report into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and, in light of the conclusions, ask that the distinguished Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission investigate this important case at its earliest convenience.

REPORT TO THE TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AN ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

THE EFFECTS OF INCARCERATION ON THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OF FORMER PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN

(By U.S. Citizen Medical Team—Joseph Lin, Ph.D., Ken Yoneda, M.D., Charles Whitcomb, M.D.)

July 12, 2012

SUMMARY

Former President CHEN SHUI-BIAN (CSB) has been in and out of detention since November 12, 2008 and incarcerated in Taipei Prison, Taoyuan County since Dec. 2, 2010. On Monday June 11, 2012 a team of three private United States citizens (a Ph.D. team leader, and two medical doctors) evaluated CSB in Taipei Prison with the purpose of assessing his medical health and the conditions of his confinement amidst reports of his failing health and potential human rights violations. They were allowed to interview and examine him for approximately fifty-five minutes, had access to much of his medical records, and interviewed three independent Taiwanese physicians who had seen him as visitors to the prison but who were not a part of his prison appointed medical team. The visit was followed by detailed discussions with the Taiwan Medical Panel which included the three physicians mentioned above.

CSB has been imprisoned for over four years; sometime in late 2011 or early 2012 he began experiencing increasingly more severe and debilitating symptoms, which culminated in his transport to two different hospitals for medical evaluation. He described ongoing episodes of severe paroxysms of dyspnea (difficulty breathing) with no apparent triggers, accompanied by a sensation of choking and feelings of great dread, as if he was going to die. These episodes were at times accompanied by chest tightness, a feeling of congestion not allowing him to take either a deep breath in or out. While the episodes have become perhaps less frequent and less severe since he regularly started taking esomeprazole around mid-

May, 2012 for gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GERD), esophagitis (inflammation of the esophagus), duodenitis (inflammation of the duodenum) and gastritis (inflammation of the stomach), they continued to be quite debilitating in nature. Even at rest he continued to have a sensation of congestion and the feeling that he could not get a good breath in or out. It is notable that he had never experienced similar episodes prior to his incarceration. As well, he described progressive dyspnea on exertion over the prior 6 months. Previously he could jog approximately 1.5 miles but now he could not walk at a normal pace without getting dyspneic.

Chen is confined to a small cell, approximately 58 square feet that he shares with another inmate, and is allowed to be outside his cell for only one hour a day. Until recently he had been permitted to be outside his cell for only 30 minutes a day. Around May of 20, 2012, it was increased to 60 minutes a day. In contrast, other prisoners are allowed outside of their cells for eight hours a day to work and interact with other prisoners. He stated that his cell is at times cold and damp and at other times hot, humid and damp, having inadequate ventilation and no air conditioning. He sleeps on the floor, which can be cold and damp, and experiences chills despite blankets. He feels depressed, experiencing anger and tearfulness, worries a great deal, has frequent nightmares and feelings of hopelessness that have all worsened with the ailing health of his wife and mother. He denied suicidal ideation, stating that he must fight on for the sake of his family and country. While confined to his cell, he must kneel on the ground to write and consequently suffers from chronic pain in his knees.

Despite good cooperation from the prison officials, extensive consultation with other local physicians, and a thorough review of the available medical records, the three-person team concluded that adequate assessment of CSB's medical condition and his conditions of confinement required further evaluation. They had grave concerns regarding CSB's health and believe that it will continue to deteriorate, should he remain in his present prison confines. Although his evaluations at Taoyuan General Hospital and Chang Gung Memorial Hospital together appear comprehensive and of high quality, his recent hospitalization at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital was limited to around 6 hours and his symptoms remain incompletely explained. His medical evaluation thus remains incomplete. Stress, without a doubt was believed to be a major contributor, if not the major cause of his symptoms, but his symptoms in conjunction with the spirometry (breathing tests) that he was not able to complete satisfactorily, but displayed severely reduced inspiratory and expiratory flows, suggest he may have vocal cord dysfunction (VCD) with severe intermittent vocal cord spasm. This disorder can be very difficult to diagnose and treat and often requires very specialized expertise to accomplish. This problem will likely continue in the presence of his present stressors and will worsen with additional and ongoing stressors. Certainly gastro-esophageal reflux can precipitate and worsen VCD and in his case treatment appeared to have ameliorated, but had not satisfactorily controlled his symptoms. In addition, the bronchiectasis seen on his chest CT, suggests that he may have been chronically aspirating gastric acid into and damaging his airways. Coronary artery disease and structural cardiac disease did not appear to be the cause of his ongoing symptoms, but conditions such as stress cardiomyopathy, evolving pulmonary arterial hypertension and thromboembolic disease are considerations.

His chest x-rays reportedly revealed atelectasis and his bronchoscopy revealed a lesion in his bronchus. Unfortunately, the medical team was unable to personally review his radiographs, bronchoscopy pictures, cardiac catheterization films and echocardiogram to help complete their evaluation.

The individual members (admitted non-experts on international human rights of prisoners) of the medical team all felt that the prison conditions as described to them were unacceptable for the general prison population and they raised concerns regarding the human rights of all prisoners in Taiwan. Furthermore, the team found it deeply disturbing that any prisoner who was this ill, would continually be subjected to these severe conditions. For a former President of Taiwan to be confined under such conditions was considered unimaginable.

The consensus recommendations of the team were that former President CHEN SHUI-BIAN be evaluated at a comprehensive tertiary care center and that the doctors be allowed to fully evaluate him, to review his records in their entirety, to speak to his previous treating physicians and to have access to directly view any and all of his radiographs, spirometry, bronchoscopy pictures, cardiac catheterization films and echocardiogram. In addition, it was concluded that the harsh conditions of his confinement were an ongoing source of great emotional and physical stress and must be significantly improved otherwise his symptoms and his health will continue to deteriorate. As physicians without specific expertise in psychiatry or psychology they could not determine whether CSB met the criteria for an adjustment disorder, major depression or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but voiced concern that he could develop such problems if his conditions of confinement remained unchanged. They could not offer an expert opinion as to how much his conditions needed to be improved to avoid psychological damage or whether at this point it was at all preventable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After careful consideration, the team makes the following recommendations:

1. That former President CHEN SHUI-BIAN (CSB) be transferred to a tertiary care medical facility where he could receive subspecialty evaluation care.
2. That consideration be given to the request by CSB and his family that he be evaluated at National Taiwan University Hospital given his familiarity with and trust in the facility where he had previously been evaluated during his Presidency.
3. That he be evaluated by a team of physicians consisting of at minimum the following:
 - a. A physician with specific expertise in vocal cord dysfunction.
 - b. A pulmonologist.
 - c. A cardiologist.
 - d. A psychiatrist.
 - e. A primary care physician or hospitalist.
4. That full pulmonary function testing be conducted including lung volumes and DLCO with particular attention paid to the flow volume loops.
5. That there be a review of his echocardiogram specifically looking for Takotsubo's cardiomyopathy. That his cardiac catheterization film be reviewed.
6. That a review of his chest CT be performed.
7. That a cosyntropin stimulation test, thyroid function tests, ferritin, iron binding capacity and an evaluation of his hepatitis status be considered.
8. That further evaluation and testing would be at the discretion of the evaluating physicians.

9. That there be immediate improvement in his confinement conditions at the very least, in accordance with Standard Minimum Rules of the Treatment of Prisoners (Adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Geneva in 1955, and approved by the Economic and Social Council by its resolutions 663 C (XXIV) of 31 July, 1957 and 2076 (LXII) of 13 May, 1977).

10. That a full investigation be conducted by independent third parties specifically human rights specialists to determine if the Taipei Prison authorities are in compliance with international standards of incarceration and if CSB's human rights are being violated.

11. That the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission convene a hearing to determine the facts and extent of human rights violations concerning the incarceration of CSB.

12. That former President CHEN SHUI-BIAN be released from confinement on medical parole based on the above assessments, conclusion and recommendations and on compelling humanitarian grounds.

Submitted by:

JOSEPH LIN, PH.D.

KEN YONEDA, M.D.

CHARLES WHITCOMB, M.D.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL JOSHUA SAMS, UNITED STATES MARINE SCOUT SNIPER

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I am speaking in honor of United States Marine Scout Sniper CPL Joshua Sams of Wilmington, Ohio. On January 12th, 2012 while on foot patrol, CPL Sams almost lost his life in an improvised explosive device, IED, explosion in Helmand Province in Deploy Marsh Garsha, Afghanistan. Losing both his legs and suffering numerous other injuries, Joshua with only his will to live has come back from the brink of death. His father Peter, who served in the Air Force in the Vietnam War and Joshua's lovely wife Lindsey are the unsung heroes of the family. They have stood by Joshua throughout his recovery. Joshua has always been a winner in the game of life. Whether a star quarterback who led his team towards a championship in high school in Ohio, or on the battlefield of honor, his character, courage, and leadership as a Marine and Scout Sniper have inspired all who have been around him. On this day, in tribute to CPL Sams, remember why we live in such a great Nation, and remember men like Joshua and their fine families who provide the bed of Freedom for all of us. Remember the fallen heroes and their families. I ask that this poem penned in honor of Joshua and his family by Albert Caswell be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

GOING DEEPPPPPPP!

Going . . .

Going Deepppppp!

All In The Game of Life . . .

What will our hearts so seek?

And so strive for to achieve!

Will we fall short?

Or will we go deep?

All in our hearts of honor,

what promises will we so keep!

All in our souls,

to so strive for and so very deep!

Will we shine bright?
 Will we put it all on the line?
 Will we make each shot so count,
 all in our time to so complete?
 Wam!
 Bam!
 Thank you Sams!
 As Hero, your life is one that is ever so very
 sweet!
 Because, on battlefields of honor bright!
 There are but all those who so bring their
 light!
 Who aim so very high,
 as onto greatness they so set their sights!
 Who so make the shot,
 and make it count all in that fight!
 Who but give all that they've so got!
 Who so lead, not follow . . . and that says it
 all . . . that says a lot!
 Or on football fields of green . . .
 There are but those who are so seen!
 Who come up to the line to so convene . . .
 Who do not follow, but so lead!
 For in The Game of Life,
 every step that we so take,
 will our very futures all so make!
 All in what we have so left,
 until we so take our last and final breath's!
 Will this world our lives so bless?
 Will we go deep all in our life's quest?
 Or will we come up short,
 only to in our old ages our lives will we so
 regret!
 When, we so realize . . .
 That In The Game of Life, our hearts were
 not so pledged!
 Better to die for something,
 than live for nothing at all!
 Better to give up your two strong legs,
 and walk like a hero and stand ever so tall!
 Than, walk on two legs and crawl!
 Better to go deep,
 and put it all on the line . . . than not at all!
 Do we do it?
 Do we hear that call?
 Or in the end,
 are we but left with nothing at all!
 For In The Game of Life,
 Cpl Sams, you've made a difference with it
 all!
 And still you're coming up to that line,
 and going deep with that long ball each and
 every time!
 For, your life has been and will always be,
 all about going deep and making that call!
 Because, some men are put upon this earth!
 To So Beseech Us, To So Teach Us . . . in all
 their worth!
 To Lead one and all!
 Yea, you United States Marine . . .
 all in your most heroic shades of green!
 As a sniper out into that darkness of night,
 or in the brightness of day unseen!
 Inspiring all of your brothers, fellow Ma-
 rines!
 Yea, just like on those football fields of
 green . . .
 You've always completed the long one,
 if you know what I mean!
 And then when you lost your legs,
 and death was but days away!
 You could have given up, and given way!
 But, you've got miles to go before your last
 days!
 And you've got hearts to so touch in so many
 ways!
 As you run to day light each day!
 And you've got that lovely wife Lindsey who
 is the love of your life,
 and so helped your heart to stay!
 And children in the future to so raise some-
 day . . .
 For you are the kind of son,
 that every Father so wished he so had one!
 Marine, for you are a Champion in all that
 you have done!
 And it's not even halftime yet,

and In The Game Of Life you have so many
 victories ahead my son,
 so many Championships to so achieve!
 As all in your heart of courage to keep!
 As what you've always done, compete!
 Because, you put GD in Going Deeppppp!

CONGRATULATING COLONEL
 AMANDA W. GLADNEY

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Amanda W. Gladney for her outstanding service to our Nation and the United States Air Force.

It is an honor to join the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in congratulating Colonel Gladney upon her relinquishment of command as the Commander, 88th Air Base Wing, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Colonel Gladney commands one of the largest air base wings in the United States Air Force, with more than 5,000 Air Force military, civilian, and contractor employees. The wing provides support and services to one of the largest, most diverse, and most organizationally complex bases in the Air Force including a major acquisition center, research and development laboratories, a major command headquarters, an airlift wing, and the world's largest military air museum. The base is home to more than 27,000 employees and is the largest single site employer in the State of Ohio.

Colonel Gladney completed the 350 million dollar Base Realignment and Closure Project, including the completion of the Air Force's largest military construction effort since World War II, and drove outreach efforts with 430,000-plus volunteer hours into the local community. I can attest to her solid reputation of dedication to and pride in the men and women of the 88th Air Base Wing.

For her strong dedication of service to our community, I join the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in extending our best wishes upon her new assignment as the Director of Communications for Special Operations Command Europe in Stuttgart, Germany and wish her ongoing success in all future endeavors and in this new capacity.

HONORING THE MACKINAC ISLAND
 STATE PARK COMMISSION

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the Mackinac Island State Park Commission on the occasion of the bicentennial of the beginning of the War of 1812. This war reasserted America's lasting independence and freed our country from foreign invasion.

Mackinac Island played a decisive role in the war effort. Ceded to the United States by Britain in 1796, Fort Mackinac was the site of two battles during the conflict: one in which the fort was captured in a bloodless battle by

the British, and another in which American forces bravely attempted to take back the island and its fort, but were ultimately repelled. According to local legend, fallen soldiers of this battle are buried at the Fort Mackinac Post Cemetery, which by custom flies its flag at half-staff to honor the many unknown soldiers buried in its hallowed ground. This war also marked the end of conflict between the United States and Great Britain and ultimately led to peaceful relations with England and Canada, two of our nation's greatest allies.

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission has been a leader in preserving this proud history. Since the site of the first land battle of the War of 1812 and an important memorial to our armed forces are both located on this island, I would like to commend the Commission, its board and its employees for their dedication to the island, its sites, its people, and its organization of this year's bicentennial commemoration.

I wish to extend my best wishes to the people of Mackinac Island, visitors, and the governments of the United States and Canada as they commemorate this solemn and significant occasion.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. ANNA
 SCHWARTZ

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last month, the United States lost one of its most pre-eminent minds.

Anna J. Schwartz, perhaps the most pioneering economist in her generation, passed away at the age of 96. Dr. Schwartz had considerable impact upon how academics and others think about monetary policy and the role it can play in sustaining the economic health of nations. She was best known for co-authoring, along with Milton Friedman, "A Monetary History of the United States, 1867–1960." The book's thesis attributed the worst depth of the Great Depression to the Federal Reserve's restricting the supply of money, when it should have expanded it. Its conclusions revolutionized both our understanding of that era and how its history was being taught.

The book was instantly recognized as a classic in its field. "Anna did all of the work, and I got most of the recognition," Friedman, who received the Noble Prize in economic science in 1976, observed.

As he did most things, Friedman had that right. Had Anna either been born male or entered the world a generation later, she certainly would have won more plaudits than she did and received those that came her way much earlier in her career.

Yet in many ways, hers was the typical American story, one we would do well to keep in mind as we prepare to celebrate the 236th anniversary of our nation's independence.

The third child of Jewish immigrants from eastern Europe, Anna, at an early age, showed that pioneering spirit that so characterizes the best of America. While at Walton High School in the Bronx, she showed a particular bend for economics, hardly a field known to be hospitable to women. "I found it more exciting than literature or foreign languages." She was only 18 when she graduated from Barnard College. She would be

well into middle age when she obtained her Ph.D.

Right until the end, Anna remained active in her field. She lectured officials at the Federal Reserve when she thought they made wrong calls and blissfully engaged in debates in the opinion pages of newspapers to correct misstatements of fact and of economics by columnists she thought incorrigible.

Looking back on her career, she quoted the poet Wordsworth:

"Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive/But to be young was very heaven!"

I ask that the House join in paying tribute to this most inspiring woman and in expressing both our gratitude and condolences to her family.

TRIBUTE TO CARMEN CASTRO-
CONROY AND HUD-CERTIFIED
HOUSING COUNSELORS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to my colleagues' attention the "First Person Singular" interview by Amanda Abrams that appeared in the Washington Post magazine on Sunday, July 15, 2012 about my constituent, Carmen Castro-Conroy, the senior HUD-certified housing counselor serving my congressional district.

I commend this article to my colleagues because it highlights the dedication and compassion of the HUD-certified counselors who are assisting those hardest hit by the housing crisis. These counselors, whose services are funded by the federal government, help homeowners who are behind or at risk of becoming behind on their mortgages to analyze their options, prepare modification applications, and advocate on their behalf. Statistics show that homeowners who utilize these counseling services have greater success in obtaining mortgage relief from their lenders than those who do not.

My staff and I have worked with Ms. Castro-Conroy since the housing crisis began. She is a leader in her field—a truly outstanding, professional and dedicated public servant. As Ms. Castro-Conroy notes in her interview, applying for assistance is often emotionally difficult—and made even more so by the poor quality of service homeowners so often receive from the banks. Counselors like Ms. Castro-Conroy help homeowners to navigate these challenges with diligence and care.

I hope that this article will help to educate my colleagues who fund these counseling services and the homeowners who use them about the invaluable services that our HUD-certified counselors are providing.

FIRST PERSON SINGULAR: CARMEN CASTRO-CONROY, 40, GAITHERSBURG, HOUSING COUNSELOR, HOUSING INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP
(By Amanda Abrams)

We see a lot of families who have either lost their jobs or experienced income reduction through a cut in salary or another type of crisis related to illness, death, divorce, disability. We see all of it. They feel overwhelmed. Our job is to educate them so they can know all the options available and make good decisions.

Losing a home is devastating; just thinking about losing a home is very stressful. It's

not necessarily just a house that we're talking about, it's a family. Some clients come to us when things have very much deteriorated, and they're under a lot of stress and their health is at risk. Not everyone will stay in the homes they're in, but it's better to be at peace than to try to keep a home that they cannot afford and end up in a hospital. It's difficult if you've lived in a home for a long time, and it's the only place that you think you're going to be okay.

Many times, even if they have family or friends, they feel embarrassed to let people know what they're going through, so they suffer in silence. I tell them that regardless of the outcome, they're not going to be going through this by themselves. It's my responsibility to encourage them and to lift them up. I tell them, "This is a house; you're bigger than this, and you're going to come out of this stronger."

I hear a lot of judgment out there of people that go into default, but I always think it could happen to anybody. I have clients who never thought they'd be diagnosed with cancer. Never thought they'd lose a husband. Never thought they were going to lose their job. It makes me very conscious about how one day you could think you have everything, and the next day your life could dramatically change.

I just got an outcome this week of a case I opened in January 2011. This was a client whose husband left her with five children to care for. She went from being a stay-at-home mom to finding a full-time job, but her income still wasn't enough to make regular mortgage payments. She just qualified for a permanent modification, so she'll be able to stay in the property.

I love what I do. I was thinking about this during the weekend, during Mass. This is one way to show that you love God, working in the face of people that are in trouble, people that are suffering. Before '08, I was working in a home-ownership education program. We were all pulled out from that to serve in foreclosure intervention counseling. We didn't know how long it was going to last, and now we're in the fourth year of crisis. And we don't see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored that Carmen Castro-Conroy is my constituent and that she is able to provide such outstanding service to so many others.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. MARIE
"RIE" BLAISDELL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Marie "Rie" Blaisdell. Ms. Blaisdell will be recognized by the Monmouth County Historical Association at the 2012 Garden Party for her outstanding contributions to the association.

Rie Blaisdell has served as a member of the Monmouth County Historical Association since 1959. Ms. Blaisdell continues to volunteer countless hours and is a member of the Board of Trustees. She is a strong advocate for the study of Monmouth County history. Rie is fondly remembered for her role as a docent at Allen House. She often provides animated and historically accurate stories of Revolutionary soldiers for visitors to enjoy. Colleagues continue to applaud Ms. Blaisdell's warm personality, hard work and motivation. Rie Blaisdell

continues to personify the qualities of a true historian.

Members of the Monmouth County Historical Association praise Ms. Blaisdell for her instrumental role in launching the Historical Association's first Garden Party in 1975. At its inception, the Historical Association Garden Party included an informal afternoon cocktail party hosted by local residents. Ms. Blaisdell has remained an active Garden Party committee member for 37 years and continues to lend her experience and expertise. Ms. Blaisdell's unending generosity has undoubtedly touched many lives throughout Central New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Ms. Marie "Rie" Blaisdell for receiving the honor bestowed by the Monmouth County Historical Association. Her dedication and service continues to provide inspiration and insight for future generations of historians throughout Monmouth County and New Jersey.

HONORING THE CITY OF RALSTON,
NEBRASKA ON ITS 100-YEAR AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Ralston, Nebraska, for its 100-year anniversary.

Ralston is a city with a population of roughly 6,000 people, all of which are extremely hard working and are some of the friendliest people you will meet. It provides its residents with a small town atmosphere inside of Nebraska's largest city.

Ralston was founded in June 1912 with a population of about 200 people. The population continued to grow until March 23, 1913, when a devastating tornado destroyed much of the town. The residents banded together and decided to rebuild a better, more beautiful city.

The city of Ralston is recognized across the State as being a great place to raise a family. The city plays host to family friendly functions throughout the year and works to promote a safe place for families to reside. Ralston has been ranked as one of the top cities to relocate to in America and one of the most secure places to live in America by national Web sites.

Living an active lifestyle is highly valued by the people of Ralston. There are many city-wide events scheduled each month to provide citizens with opportunities to get involved in the community. Ralston has many beautiful parks, campgrounds, and a water and ride park.

The city of Ralston also makes a significant contribution to Nebraska's economy. Members of the Ralston Area Chamber of Commerce work to enhance the city's economy by creating jobs and encouraging the location of new businesses into the community.

Ralston has made meaningful contributions to the State of Nebraska and has been an excellent place for its residents to call home for the last 100 years. I would like to extend my congratulations to the city for a successful century and wish the community many more years of continued success.

NEW YORK STATE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT ANN GEER

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of New York's 20th District to express our sincere appreciation for the continued hard work, dedication, and contributions made to our communities by New York State American Legion Auxiliary Department President Ann Geer.

Department President Geer has worked tirelessly for over 30 years to serve and protect our veterans' interests. As a 24-year veteran of the United States Army, I am personally humbled and appreciative of all the work that Ann has done. She has been active since 1981 in the Joyce-Bell Unit located in Otsego County, which she was able to join due to her husband Stephen's honorable service during the Vietnam era. After only a short period of time, Ann became the Unit President in 1982, a position she served for six years.

Ann's leadership and incredible dedication resulted in her being selected for every major committee and office position at the unit and county level until being elected as full Department President on July 16, 2011. She has since served with honor and distinction, leading the New York Department at a national level while continuing to serve at the local and State levels.

Beyond her service to our military men and women and veterans, Ann has been an active member of the Unadilla, NY community for the past 31 years. Ann raised her two sons while helping hundreds of other children through her career in education. As a dedicated volunteer and community leader, she was a founding member of the Recreation Commission and is active in the Sidney Community Band, in the Academic Team at Unatego High School, and has served on the Unadilla Community Foundation Board.

For these reasons, I am glad to stand today in recognition of NYS American Legion Auxiliary Department President Ann Geer's service in Otsego County, New York State, and across our country. I am honored to be given the opportunity to acknowledge her dedication to our community and especially our veterans. We all owe her a debt of gratitude and appreciation.

HONORING ANNE MITCHELL
FELDER

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida and myself, I rise now to offer my heartfelt condolences and pay special tribute to the life of, Ms. Anne Mitchell Felder, a woman of many talents and passions, who honorably served our country in The United States Army, and who worked as an educator and was a faithful servant to her community and church. Anne Mitchell Felder

was a hero, humanitarian, community leader and friend.

We are inspired when we recall the accomplishments of a woman whose lifetime of service and dedication served many and whose lasting influence changed the lives of those around her. Beginning her career as an educator at Lincoln High, in Bradenton, Florida for six years, Anne Mitchell Felder went on to serve in The United States Army's, Women's Army Corps (WAC), where she became a medical laboratory technician at the Reception Center in Ft. Benning, Georgia. A recipient of the WAC three-year Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, the Army Commendation Ribbon, and Victory Pin, Ms. Felder was a hero. She returned to civilian life to follow her passion of educating the young minds of tomorrow by teaching at Jones High School for over 22 years, teaching mathematics, serving as Guidance Counselor and later as Dean of Students. A religious woman who remained active in her church, The New Covenant Baptist Church of Orlando, Ms. Felder was secretary to the Charter Trustee Ministry from 1992–1996 and most recently a member of District Five and the Sanctuary Sunday School Class.

A woman for whom education was important, Anne Mitchell Felder received an Associate of Arts degree from Bethune-Cookman College; a Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College; a Master of Science Degree from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University; and studied at Columbia University in New York. And, she was a member of Kappa Delta Pi, an honorary society for students in education. She also understood and valued her obligation and duty to serve our society and those in need and did so through Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated where she was a Golden Life Member, a 60Years-Plus Member, and a charter president of the Orlando Alumnae Chapter, who enjoyed the status of a Delta Dear.

The life of Anne Mitchell Felder was one of accomplishment and service. We are aware that a life well lived is a life well shared. As an educator and hero, she gave of her talents and gifts to benefit the community, the nation, and her family. In her passing, we pay tribute to an exceptional leader whose courage, strength, and love of her community left an indelible legacy for future generations. She will be remembered and respected because she had an awesome gift of teaching and providing love and support to those who knew her. We offer our prayers for her immediate family and host of loving relatives and friends whose lives have been forever changed by this exceptional woman. We thank our Heavenly Father for allowing us to be blessed with the time spent with Anne Mitchell Felder, our friend, mother, sister, and hero.

Anne Mitchell Felder is survived by her daughter Vicki-Elaine Felder, and brother Thomas Watson Mitchell.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President

Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,875,734,673,516.05. We've added \$5,248,857,624,602.97 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

On this day in 1945, President Harry Truman, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at the opening of the Potsdam Conference. We must balance the budget so that we may continue to meet and lead other great world powers.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP
OF DR. DON BERWICK

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Don Berwick was Acting Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for President Obama. Unfortunately, the minority party in the U.S. Senate was able to prevent him from being confirmed into the post and so he was forced to leave at the end of 2011.

I've copied below a recent commencement address at Harvard Medical School by Dr. Berwick.

If Dr. Berwick doesn't embody the spirit we want for our medical professionals—as well as our public servants—I don't know who does.

I urge my colleagues to read this speech. Driving people like Dr. Berwick out of public service is not something of which anyone should be proud.

[From JAMA, June 27, 2012]

TO ISAIAH

(By Donald M. Berwick, MD, MPP)

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME SHARE THIS GLORIOUS DAY with you and your loved ones. Feel good. Feel proud. You've earned it.

In preparation for today, I asked your dean of students what she thinks is on your mind. So, she asked you. The word you used—many of you—was this one: Worried. You're worried about the constant change around you, uncertain about the future of medicine and dentistry. Worried about whether you can make a decent living. You've boarded a boat, and you don't know where it's going.

I can reassure you. You've made a good choice—a spectacularly good choice. The career you've chosen is going to give you many moments of poetry. My favorite is the moment when the door closes—the click of the catch that leaves you and the patient together in the privacy—the sanctity—of the helping relationship. Doors will open too. You'll find ways to contribute to progress that you cannot possibly anticipate now, any more than I could have dreamed of standing here when I was sitting where you are 40 years ago.

But look, I won't lie; I'm worried too. I went to Washington to lead the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, full of hope for our nation's long-overdue journey toward making health care a human right here, at last. In lots of ways, I wasn't disappointed. I often saw good government and the grandeur of democracy—both alive, even if not at the moment entirely well.

But, like you, I also found much that I could not control—a context torn apart by antagonisms—too many people in leadership, from whom we ought to be able to expect

more, willing to bend the truth and rewrite facts for their own convenience. I heard irresponsible, cruel, baseless rhetoric about death panels silence mature, compassionate, scientific inquiry into the care we all need and want in the last stages of our lives. I heard meaningless, cynical accusations about rationing repeated over and over again by the same people who then unsheathed their knives to cut Medicaid. I watched fear grow on both sides of the political aisle—fear of authentic questions, fear of reasoned debate, and fear of tomorrow morning's headlines—fear that stifled the respectful, civil, shared inquiry upon which the health of democracy depends.

And so, HSDM and HMS Class of 2012, I'm worried too. I too wonder where this boat is going.

There is a way to get our bearings. When you're in a fog, get a compass. I have one—and you do too. We got our compass the day we decided to be healers. Our compass is a question, and it will point us true north: How will it help the patient?

This patient has a name. It is "Isaiah." He once lived. He was my patient. I dedicate this lecture to him.

You will soon learn a lovely lesson about doctoring; I guarantee it. You will learn that in a professional life that will fly by fast and hard, a hectic life in which thousands of people will honor you by bringing to you their pain and confusion, a few of them will stand out. For reasons you will not control and may never understand, a few will hug your heart, and they will become for you touch points—signposts—like that big boulder on that favorite hike that, when you spot it, tells you exactly where you are. If you allow it—and you should allow it—these patients will enter your soul, and you will, in a way entirely right and proper, love them. These people will be your teachers.

Isaiah taught me. He was 15 when I met him. It was 1984, and I was the officer of the day—the duty doctor in my pediatric practice at the old Harvard Community Health Plan. My nurse practitioner partner pointed to an exam room. "You better get in there," she said. "That kid is in pain."

He was in pain. Isaiah was a tough-looking, inner-city kid. I would have crossed the street to avoid meeting him alone on a Roxbury corner at night. I'm not proud of that fact, but I admit it. But here on my examining table he was writhing, sweating in pain. He was yelling obscenities at the air, and, when I tried to examine him, he yelled them at me. "Don't you f—g touch me! Do something!"

I didn't figure out what was going on that afternoon. Nothing made sense. I diagnosed, illogically, a back sprain, and I sent him home on analgesics. Then, that evening, the report came: an urgent call from the lab. Isaiah didn't have a back sprain; he had acute lymphoblastic leukemia. And we didn't have his phone number.

The police helped track him down that night, to a lonely three-decker, third floor, a solitary house in a weedy lot on Sheldon Street in the heart of Roxbury. Isaiah lived there with his mother, brothers, and his mother's foster children.

What followed was the best of care . . . the glory of biomedical science came to Isaiah's service. Chemotherapy started, and he went predictably into remission. But we knew that ALL in a black teenager behaves badly. Unlike in younger kids, cure was unlikely. He would go into remission for a while, but the cancer would come back and it would kill him. Three years later, he relapsed.

I drove to his apartment one evening in 1987 and sat with Isaiah and his graceful, dignified mother around a table with a plastic red-checked tablecloth and explained the

only option we knew for possible cure—a bone marrow transplant, not when he felt sick, but now, at the first sign of relapse, when he was still feeling fine. He was feeling fine, and I was there to propose treatment that might kill him.

They didn't hesitate. Isaiah wanted to live. He got his transplant, from his brother. His course was stormy, admission after admission followed, then chronic complications of his transplant—diabetes and asthma. His Children's Hospital medical record that year took up five four-inch-thick volumes. But he got through. Isaiah was cured.

We became very close, Isaiah and I, through this time and for years after—long conversations about his life, his hopes, his worries. He always asked me about my kids. And his mother, close, as well. An angel—a tough angel raised by her sharecropper grandfather on a North Carolina farm, who read Isaiah the not act when she had to and who fiercely protected him—and who, during the darkest times of his course, continued to tend her ten foster children, as well as her own.

I came to know Isaiah well, but it wouldn't be quite right to call us friends—our worlds were too far apart—different galaxies. But my respect and affection for Isaiah grew and grew. His courage. His insight. His generosity.

But there is more to tell.

Isaiah smoked his first dope at age 5. He got his first gun before 10, and, by 12, he had committed his first armed robbery; he was on crack at 14. Even on chemotherapy, he was in and out of police custody. For months after his transplant he tricked me into extra prescriptions for narcotics, which he hoarded and probably sold. Two of his five brothers were in jail—one for murder; and, two years into Isaiah's treatment, a third brother was shot dead—a gun blast through the front door—in a drug dispute.

Isaiah didn't finish school, and he had no idea of what to do for legitimate work. He got and lost job after job for not showing up or being careless. His world was the street corner and his horizon was only one day away. He saw no way out. He hated it, but he saw no way out. He once told me that he thought his leukemia was a blessing, because at least while he was in the hospital, he couldn't be on the streets.

And Isaiah died. One night, 18 years after his leukemia was cured, at 37 years of age, they found him on a street corner, breathing but brain-dead from a prolonged convulsion from uncontrolled diabetes and even more uncontrolled despair.

Isaiah tried to phone me just before that fatal convulsion. He had my home number, and I still have the slip of paper on which my daughter wrote, "Isaiah called. Please call him back." I never did. He would have said, "Hi, Dr Berwick. It's Isaiah. I'm really sick. I can't take it. I don't know what to do. Please help me." Because that is what he often said.

Isaiah spent the last two years of his life in a vegetative state in a nursing home where I sometimes visited him. At his funeral, his family asked me to speak, and I could think of nothing to talk about except his courage.

Isaiah, my patient. Cured of leukemia. Killed by hopelessness.

I bring Isaiah today as my witness to two duties; you have both. It's where your compass points.

First, you will cure his leukemia. You will bring the benefits of biomedical science to him, no less than to anyone else. Isaiah's poverty, his race, his troubled life-line—not one of these facts or any other fact should stand in the way of his right to care—his human right to care. Let the Supreme Court have its day. Let the erratics and vicissitudes

of politics play out their careless games. No matter. Health care is a human right; it must be made so in our nation; and it is your duty to make it so. Therefore, for your patients, you will go to the mat, and you will not lose your way. You are a physician, and you have a compass, and it points true north to what the patient needs. You will put the patient first.

But that is not enough. Isaiah's life and death testify to a further duty, one more subtle—but no less important. Maybe this second is not a duty that you meant to embrace; you may not welcome it. It is to cure, not only the killer leukemia; it is to cure the killer injustice.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry wrote, "To become a man is to be responsible; to be ashamed of miseries that you did not cause." I say this: To profess to be a healer, that is, to take the oath you take today, is to be responsible; to be ashamed of miseries that you did not cause. That is a heavy burden, and you did not ask for it. But look at the facts.

In our nation—in our great and wealthy nation—the wages of poverty are enormous. The proportion of our people living below the official poverty line has grown from its low point of 11% in 1973 to more than 15% today; among children, it is 22%—16.4 million; among black Americans, it is 27%. In 2010, more than 46 million Americans were living in poverty; 20 million, in extreme poverty—incomes below \$11 000 per year for a family of four. One million American children are homeless. More people are poor in the United States today than at any other time in our nation's history; 1.5 million American households, with 2.8 million children, live here on less than \$2 per person per day. And 50 million more Americans live between the poverty line and just 50% above it—the near-poor, for whom, in the words of the Urban Institute, "The loss of a job, a cut in work hours, a serious health problem, or a rise in housing costs can quickly push them into greater debt, bankruptcy's brink, or even homelessness." For the undocumented immigrants within our borders, it's even worse.

For all of these people, our nation's commitment to the social safety net—the portion of our policy and national investment that reaches help to the disadvantaged—is life's blood. And today that net is fraying—badly. In 2010, 20 states eliminated optional Medicaid benefits or decreased coverage. State Social Services Block Grants and Food Stamps are under the gun. Enrollment in the TANF program—Temporary Assistance to Needy Families—has lagged far behind the need. Let me be clear: the will to eradicate poverty in the United States is wavering—it is in serious jeopardy.

In the great entrance hall of the building where I worked at CMS—the Hubert Humphrey Building, headquarters of the Department of Health and Human Services—are chiseled in massive letters the words of the late Senator Humphrey at the dedication of the building in his name. He said, "The moral test of government is how it treats people in the dawn of life, the children, in the twilight of life, the aged, and in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped."

This is also, I believe, the moral test of professions. Those among us in the shadows—they do not speak, not loudly. They do not often vote. They do not contribute to political campaigns or PACs. They employ no lobbyists. They write no op-eds. We pass by their coin cups outstretched, as if invisible, on the corner as we head for Starbucks; and Congress may pass them by too, because they don't vote, and, hey, campaigns cost money. And if those in power do not choose of their own free will to speak for them, the silence descends.

Isaiah was born into the shadows of life. Leukemia could not overtake him, but the shadows could, and they did.

I am not blind to Isaiah's responsibilities; nor was he. He was embarrassed by his failures; he fought against his addictions, his disorganization, and his temptations. He tried. I know that he tried. To say that the cards were stacked against him is too glib; others might have been able to play his hand better. I know that; and he knew that.

But to ignore Isaiah's condition not of his choosing, the harvest of racism, the frailty of the safety net, the vulnerability of the poor, is simply wrong. His survival depended not just on proper chemotherapy, but, equally, on a compassionate society.

I am not sure when the moral test was put on hold; when it became negotiable; when our nation in its political discourse decided that it was uncool to make its ethics explicit and its moral commitments clear—to the people in the dawn, the twilight, and the shadows. But those commitments have never in my lifetime been both so vulnerable and so important.

You are not confused; the world is. You need not forget your purpose, even if the world does. Leaders are not leaders who permit pragmatics to quench purpose. Your purpose is to heal, and what needs to be healed is more than Isaiah's bone marrow; it is our moral marrow—that of a nation founded on our common humanity. My brother, a retired schoolteacher, tells me that he always gets goose bumps when he reads this phrase: "We, the people . . . We—you, and me, and Isaiah—inclusive.

It is time to recover and celebrate a moral vocabulary in our nation—one that speaks without apology or hesitation of the right to health care—the human right—and, without apology or hesitation, of the absolute unacceptability of the vestiges of racism, the violence of poverty, and blindness to the needs of the least powerful among us.

Now you don your white coats, and you enter a career of privilege. Society gives you rights and license it gives to no one else, in return for which you promise to put the interests of those for whom you care ahead of your own. That promise and that obligation give you voice in public discourse simply because of the oath you have sworn. Use that voice. If you do not speak, who will?

If Isaiah needs a bone marrow transplant, then, by the oath you swear, you will get it for him. But Isaiah needs more. He needs the compassion of a nation, the generosity of a commonwealth. He needs justice. He needs a nation to recall that, no matter what the polls say, and no matter what happens to be temporarily convenient at a time of political combat and economic stress, that the moral test transcends convenience. Isaiah, in his legions, needs those in power—you—to say to others in power that a nation that fails to attend to the needs of those less fortunate among us risks its soul. That is your duty too.

This is my message from Isaiah's life and from his death. Be worried, but do not for one moment be confused. You are healers, every one, healers ashamed of miseries you did not cause. And your voice—every one—can be loud, and forceful, and confident, and your voice will be trusted. In his honor—in Isaiah's honor—please, use it.

Donald M. Berwick, MD, MPP

NAVY CAPTAIN HENRY
DOMERACKI

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor United States Navy Captain Henry Domeracki. Captain Domeracki has made countless sacrifices throughout his 36 years of dedicated service to the defense of our great nation. He is an American hero who has received numerous medals and recognitions for his dedicated service. As such, I am proud of his achievements and congratulate him on his recent retirement.

Captain Domeracki was recalled to active duty during the Gulf War in 1991, and served as a Counter-Terrorism Officer/Agent in Europe for six months. In 2004, he was mobilized again for Operation Iraqi Freedom and served as the Chief of Operations for the Coalition Provisional Authority—Baghdad Central in Baghdad, Iraq. During this time, Captain Domeracki built the financial structure for the Baghdad Provincial government and reestablished financial operations for the City of Baghdad. He aided in rebuilding the country of Iraq by managing over \$100 million in business development projects and capital outlays.

In 2009, he was mobilized to fill the U.S. Army Civil Affairs' billet. He served as the Chief of Operations for the Multi-National Forces Iraq—Civil Military Operations Directorate and was in charge of the development and vocational training programs and projects for the entire country of Iraq. Captain Domeracki's actions also enabled thousands of militia-aged Iraqis to be employed. He was able to facilitate this through personally coordinating three international conferences and over \$2.1 billion in private sector funds from companies in the United Arab Emirates. These funds were invested in business development projects in the various regions of Iraq and enabled the building of ten vocational training schools with over 10,000 students enrolled. Additionally, over 70 agri-businesses and cooperatives, ranging from commercial milk processing to date production, and industrial-level honey processing, were created through these efforts.

In conjunction with his military achievements, Captain Domeracki has thirty-two years of municipal government management experience and has served as the Chief Financial Officer of the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool for the past twenty years.

Captain Domeracki's awards include the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Award), Meritorious Service Medal (4th Award), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy & Marine Corps Commendations Medals (3rd Award), Army Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3rd Award), Army Achievement Medal and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to recognize this great American. His selfless service and duty to this country are an inspiration to us all.

IN HONOR OF THE SIGNIFICANT
CONTRIBUTIONS OF TAMARA
ZAHN TO THE CITY OF INDIAN-
APOLIS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my gratitude to Tamara Zahn for her considerable achievements over the past two decades as President of Indianapolis Downtown, Inc. Her vision, leadership and tireless determination have helped transform downtown Indianapolis into a first-class destination for visitors and Hoosiers alike.

Our "Hoosier Hospitality," in combination with our well-deserved reputation as a premier location for sports fans, has made the City of Indianapolis a model for other municipalities looking to rejuvenate their image and grow their local economy.

Under the tenure of Tamara Zahn, our city has witnessed unprecedented growth and a staggering transformation of downtown Indianapolis. Our once sleepy, urban center is now an attractive and pedestrian friendly destination, complete with highly-regarded attractions like the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, Victory Field, White River State Park, and the Eiteljorg Museum, along with first-class accommodations for visitors on any budget. Ms. Zahn's ability to communicate her vision helped make the construction of world-class facilities like Lucas Oil Stadium, Circle Center Mall, and the Indiana Convention Center a reality.

Tamara Zahn was one of the principal drivers of this remarkable transformation. Over the past 19 years, she has galvanized the respective talents and resources of private enterprise and federal, state, and local officials for the purpose of revitalizing our city.

Ms. Zahn's incredible success is testament to her skill and vision as an urban planner, leader and innovator. Her considerable achievements have not gone unrecognized. She has been named one of the "Most Influential Women in Indianapolis" and was awarded the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash award.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tamara Zahn for her exceptional service to Indianapolis.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF WEST TECH HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of West Tech High School.

West Tech opened its doors to 224 students on February 15, 1912. In 1931, with an enrollment of 4,000 students, West Tech was distinguished as the largest school in all of Ohio. West Tech graduated more than 40,000 students between 1912 and 1995, when it closed as an operational high school.

West Tech is known for offering the first driver's education classes and the first auto

mechanics, aircraft radio operations and repair metallurgy classes in the nation. Its newspaper, *The Tatler*, became a nationally and internationally recognized student publication.

The high school closed its doors to students in 1995, and the facility re-opened in 2004 as a 189-unit apartment building, named the West Tech Lofts.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary, West Tech will be opening up the public school for the first time since its conversion to the lofts. A week of celebratory events will be hosted between July 17th and the 21st and will feature memorabilia and special exhibits as well as tours and alumni speakers.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of West Tech High School.

RECOGNIZING THE CROATIAN MUSICAL GROUP RUŽE DALMATINKE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Croatian musical heritage group, Ruže Dalmatinke from Seattle, Washington, for being featured in the Homegrown Concert Series at the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center.

The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress sponsors various programs throughout the year to celebrate and present different cultural traditions to the American people. This summer, Ruže Dalmatinke performed Traditional Croatian Singing.

Lead vocalists and sisters, Binki Franulovic Spahi and Alma Franulovic Planchic, immigrated to the United States with their family after World War II. The sisters have sung together since their childhood and were inspired to form the Ruže Dalmatinke in 1981. The group has passionately shared their Croatian heritage, lifestyle, and music in Washington State since.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Ruže Dalmatinke for being featured in the concert series hosted by the Library of Congress. Ruže Dalmatinke has shown incredible devotion to Croatian musical heritage by performing and sharing all around the United States.

IN HONOR OF SEYMOUR "SY" POLLOCK

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Seymour Pollock, who was raised in Brooklyn, Connecticut in my Congressional District and turned 100 years old on July 8th. Known by his friends and family as "Sy," he is a straightforward man with a complicated backstory. Losing his mother as a young boy, he and his two brothers spent much of their childhood separated. The financial burden of caring for three sons forced his father to place his kids in foster homes, where

Sy suffered abuse. Continued domestic instability prompted Sy to leave home and stow away on a cruise ship when he was 16. When he was discovered hiding on board, the teenager told the Captain that his name was Seymour, to which the captain replied "Well, now you are going to see less." Sy worked in the galley until they returned to port.

During World War II, Sy served in the United States Army, where he cleaned and repaired semi-automatic weapons for the troops on the frontlines. His unit was responsible for setting up the coastal defense for what is now Battery Park in New York. After the war, Sy's father bought a building in the Bronx and opened up a business there selling and repairing cash registers. He and his brothers eventually ran that business together.

Sy retired to Florida at 82. He is the father of two daughters and a grandfather of two ambitious young men. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the extraordinary life of this man who exemplifies the American dream.

IN MEMORY OF L.A. CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST WILLIS EDWARDS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Willis Edwards who died on July 15, 2012, after waging a valiant battle against cancer. He was 66. For more than forty years, Willis Edwards served his community and the nation as a soldier in Vietnam, as an academic support specialist at the University of Southern California, as a civil rights activist and community organizer, as the long-time president of the Hollywood/Beverly Hills Chapter of the NAACP, and a trusted advisor to presidential candidates.

Born in Texas in 1946, Mr. Edwards was raised in Palm Springs and attended California State University at Los Angeles, where he was elected the first African American student body president in the school's history. After graduation Mr. Edwards was drafted into the U.S. Army and sent to Vietnam where he was awarded a Bronze Star. Upon his honorable discharge, Mr. Edwards served as Director of Black Student Services at USC.

Mr. Edwards' political activism in national politics began with Robert F. Kennedy's historic 1968 presidential campaign. Through his dealings with the Democratic Party, he became a supporter and friend of Los Angeles' first black mayor, Tom Bradley, who later appointed him to the city's Social Service Commission in 1973.

In 1982 Mr. Edwards was elected president of the NAACP's Beverly Hills/Hollywood branch. He played a major part in getting the group's Image Awards, a gala that honored African Americans who worked in front of and behind the camera in Hollywood, televised on NBC. He also played a leading role in Reverend Jesse Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign.

Mr. Edwards played a major role in securing national honors for Rosa Parks; friends say that was his proudest accomplishment. He helped to arrange for the civil rights hero to be seated next to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clin-

ton during the 1999 State of the Union address. He also helped secure for her the Congressional Gold Medal, and for her casket to lie in repose in the Rotunda of the Capitol.

It is easy to forget that among all Mr. Edwards' accomplishments in the civil rights and political arenas, he was also battling a very personal struggle with HIV. The disease nearly took his life 15 years ago, but he miraculously recovered with the help of new drugs. In a 2001 speech to the NAACP he went public about his experience living with HIV. He helped to tear down barriers in order to have a frank conversation about the disease within the African American Community, where it was still regarded as a taboo subject by many.

Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Willis Edwards, this country has lost a great man and leader. My home state of California and county of Los Angeles has lost a champion and fighter for civil rights and equal opportunity. I have lost a dear friend.

I ask a moment of silence to honor the memory of Willis Edwards.

H.R. 5856—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will start debate on H.R. 5856, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2013. In this bill, \$388 million is to be appropriated for military bands and musical performances. This is a stunning amount of taxpayer funds to be spending on military music at time of fiscal crisis and tough choices. While the Pentagon's 140 bands and over 5,000 full-time musicians carry on a time honored and noble tradition of military music, this level of spending on a military function that does not directly enhance national security is unsustainable. At a time of trillion dollar budget deficits, Congress needs to act to significantly reduce taxpayer funding of military bands.

It is my intention to offer an amendment on H.R. 5856 to reduce Pentagon spending for military bands and performances for fiscal year 2013 from \$388 million to \$200 million. The \$188 million reduction would be applied to the deficit reduction account established in H.R. 5856.

Earlier this year on H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013, the House approved an amendment I offered to limit spending on "military musical units." The amendment stated, "Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to this Act for military musical units (as such term is defined in section 974 of title 10, United States Code) may not exceed \$200,000,000."

I do not want there to be any misinterpretation or mischaracterization of my intentions when I offer my amendment. My goal is to reduce military musical units, not military personnel in a role essential to our national security.

This is a time of tough choices. My House Republican colleagues have decided to protect and shield millionaires and billionaires from any increase in Federal taxes commensurate with their wealth to help reduce the deficit. Instead, they have targeted domestic programs

for cuts making children, seniors, low-income families, and communities all across the country to shoulder the burden of deficit reduction. Now it is the Pentagon's turn to experience some budget cuts that do nothing to reduce military readiness, mission strength, or our troops' ability to defend our Nation.

Unless cuts are made, the Pentagon is on track to spend more than \$4 billion over the next decade on military music. It is unconscionable to borrow billions from China to fund

deficit spending on the Defense Department's massive musical budget.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the McCollum Amendment to cut military musical spending by \$188 million and apply those funds to deficit reduction.

AMENDMENT REGARDING FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES
H.R. 5856 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, tonight I offer an amendment to H.R. 5856 that would reduce spending on "Operation and Maintenance, Defense Wide" account by \$88,952,000 and increase spending on the "Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites" account by an equal amount.