

why I have introduced H.R. 4423—the Ethiopia Consolidation Act, which we intend to mark-up next week.

As I have said many times, “Friends don’t let friends commit human rights abuses.” This is a perfect example of why we must follow that dictum.

TRIBUTE TO ELDON POWELL

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Eldon Powell. Mr. Powell served in the Army under General Patton with the 90th Infantry Division in Europe from 1944 to 1946. He has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for distinguishing himself by heroic service.

To best honor Mr. Powell, I would like to share with the members of this distinguished House the poem written, entitled “By My Dad’s Side” by his daughter, Sandra L. Moore.

Always I’ll remember being by my Dad’s side
Watching him slowly rise to his feet
To pay homage to His American Flag

The look on his face
His posture secure
His hand over his heart
His eyes set only upon “Her”

And without saying a word
And giving no thought to the crowd
My Dad once again would remember it all
As he would rise to his feet and pay homage
to his call

His Call to his Country
His God given Word
To uphold and defend what was good, what
was pure

To defend what was Holy
To defend what was True
To defend what God Himself values Precious
and Pure

And so on every occasion, every ball game,
parade
When His American Flag would so proudly
wave

There would be my Dad with his eyes fixed
and gazed

His hand holds his heart, for at times it does
bleed

For all those he remembers whose lives
bought Freedom for you and me

His hand holds his heart as it swells deep
from Pride

Remembering with Honor those who sur-
vived

His hand holds his heart as he humbly cries
Giving thanks to His God that
Freedom is still Well and Alive

Yes, I’ll always remember being by my Dad’s
side

Where I learned Honor, Respect, Sacrifice
and Pride

Where Reverence & Allegiance were Values
that grew

Where Love of God and Country and all Man-
kind rang True

Yes, I’ll always remember being by my Dad’s
side

Watching and leaning with tears in my eyes
His reaffirming his Pledge
Re-pledging his Vows

Vowing again and again his Allegiance with
Pride

Giving Honor and Thanks for “Our” Amer-
ican Flag

Just ask any veteran about American Pride
They all tell a story with tears in their eyes
A brotherhood bonded by the willing sac-
rifices of men

Who for God and Country would do it all
over again

God Bless America

May God bless Eldon Powell and all our
Veterans. They truly are American Heroes.

FREEDOM FOR LAMASIEL GUTIERREZ ROMERO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Lamasiel Gutiérrez Romero, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mrs. Gutiérrez Romero is an independent journalist working so that the world can understand the grotesque reality of Castro’s hideous oppression. Using the limited tools of independent journalism in a totalitarian state, Mrs. Gutiérrez Romero courageously wrote about the bleak, broken society that is the result of the tyrannical policies of the totalitarian dictatorship. Because of Mrs. Gutiérrez Romero’s unrelenting commitment to illuminating the nightmare that is the Castro regime, she has been constantly harassed by the dictator’s thugs.

According to Reporters Without Borders, Mrs. Gutiérrez Romero was sentenced to seven months of house arrest for her journalistic activities. Despite this order, Mrs. Gutiérrez Romero continued her independent journalism. Unwilling to be muzzled by the totalitarian regime, she bravely defied their orders and continued to disseminate the truth about Cuba. Because of her unrelenting courage in the face of horrific oppression, on October 24, 2005, she was thrown in totalitarian gulag.

It is unconscionable that brave men and women can be locked up in the inhuman quarters of Castro’s gulag for their belief in truth, liberty, and democracy. Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, she does not waiver in her commitment to report the truth and the facts. Mrs. Gutiérrez Romero is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic opposition who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that journalists such as Mrs. Gutiérrez Romero are locked in dungeons for writing and publishing the facts about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. At the dawn of the 21st Century, it must no longer be acceptable for anyone in the world, anywhere in the world, to be locked in a gulag for writing the truth. It is repulsive to the ideal of freedom that independent journalists are locked in totalitarian gulags 90 miles from our shore. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Lamasiel Gutiérrez Romero and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

THE NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE
PROCESS: POLICING ADVANCES
AND REMAINING CHALLENGES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on March 16 I cochaired a hearing on the Northern Ireland peace process, on the advances in police performance and behavior, and on the remaining challenges the Police Service of Northern Ireland faces to its becoming fully accepted as a fair and impartial police service. The hearing was my 11th hearing on Northern Ireland in not quite 9 years, and I shall continue to follow the events on Northern Ireland closely and encourage reform for as long as necessary.

This hearing helped the U.S. Congress and the American people to better understand the current issues in the always complex situation in Northern Ireland. It provided guidance to our efforts as we continue to seek to assist in the realization of a durable peace and the guarantee of fundamental human rights in Northern Ireland. The establishment of peace, justice and prosperity in Northern Ireland, which we have all hoped, worked and prayed for, is still not a reality. There are many encouraging signs, but also disturbing ones, and we are still not there yet.

One of the most encouraging developments is, of course, the IRA’s renunciation of armed struggle, and the decommissioning of its weapons—a remarkable step in the path to peace. The IRA must follow through on its proclamations and cease all criminal activities as well. The most disturbing factor, however, is the alienation of the unionist community. The large majority of decent people on the unionist side, who hope for peace as ardently as nationalists, are skeptical of IRA promises. They are also terrorized by their own paramilitaries. Those paramilitaries need to follow the IRA example, and disarm, and cease their criminal activities. They are right now one of the greatest dangers to peace and stability.

The Government of the United Kingdom has begun all party negotiations to restore the Northern Ireland Assembly and the power sharing executive. It is also preparing legislation to devolve the administration of justice and policing to a restored Northern Irish executive. Mitchell Reiss, President Bush’s Special Envoy to the Northern Ireland peace process briefed us on the current prospects and challenges facing the restoration of self-government in Northern Ireland.

There has been some progress in the continuing reform of Northern Ireland’s police force. Nearly 7 years ago I chaired a hearing on policing in Northern Ireland. Chris Patten, who had just released the famous report that bears his name, testified before us. Now we shall have a chance to hear about the progress that has been made in implementing the 175 recommendations made by the Patten Report. There is a new police force, the Policing Service of Northern Ireland, PSNI; there is a vigorous and fiercely independent Police Ombudsman’s Office, whose chief, Nuala O’Loane, has been a catalyst for reform. The Police Ombudsman’s office has been recognized as an effective mechanism for holding