

professionals. Fully bilingual themselves, they provided area families an opportunity to learn about how parents can have a lasting impact in their children's education.

Mr. Chavez has been credited with elevating the district's English Language Learning program to a level of significant academic achievement among students.

I would like to personally commend Mr. Joachim Matthew Chavez for his tireless commitment to our community. His life and work are examples of service and of hope.

IN MEMORY OF MAJOR MATTHEW
W. WORRELL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of MAJ Matthew W. Worrell from my hometown of Lewisville, TX, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for serving our country during Iraqi Freedom. Major Worrell died Sunday, May 14, after insurgents shot down his U.S. helicopter during a raid against Al Qaeda militants in Iraq. He was 34 years old.

MAJ. Matthew W. Worrell was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell, KY, better known as the "Night Stalkers." The 160th is an elite avian unit deployed in nearly every conflict and transports Special Forces units around the world by night in specially modified helicopters.

I would like to recognize and celebrate MAJ Matthew W. Worrell's life today. Major Worrell spent 11 years in the Army and served as a platoon leader for the special operations group after previously servicing in the 101st Airborne Division.

MAJ Matthew W. Worrell was a dedicated soldier who earned the respect of those around him. COL Kevin Mangum, the commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, said in a written statement, "They were warriors, heroes, fellow Night Stalkers and our friends," of Major Worrell and his fellow officer killed in the battle.

Major Worrell's family said he never doubted why he was there.

Today, I celebrate the life of MAJ Matthew W. Worrell. He was truly a soldier, a husband, a father and an American who understood his duty. It was my honor to represent MAJ Matthew W. Worrell, and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and his service was greatly appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA S. WALKER

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Sandra S. Walker, principal of Rock Creek Forest Elementary School in Chevy Chase, MD, who is retiring after a long and distinguished career with the Montgomery County Public Schools.

Mrs. Walker attended Montgomery County public schools as a student and has now spent more than 30 years working for MCPS as a teacher and administrator.

For the past 18 years Mrs. Walker has been principal at a very challenging and complex school. Rock Creek Forest Elementary School has both an English community program and a countywide Spanish immersion magnet program. The school also blends a student body of great ethnic and economic diversity. Mrs. Walker has served this school with dedication and distinction.

On behalf of the students, parents, teachers and staff of Rock Creek Forest Elementary School, I am privileged to extend my gratitude and appreciation to Sandra Walker for her service to our children and our community. Congratulations on an exemplary career. You have my best wishes for an enjoyable retirement. You will be missed at Rock Creek Forest.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 22, 2006, I was unavoidably absent due to a previously scheduled official commitment. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall No. 177: "yes" on S. 1235—Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2005.

(2) Rollcall No. 178: "yes" on H.R. 3858—Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2005.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, it is not very often that JIM McDERMOTT rises to support this President, but that is precisely what I am doing now.

The President does not want his hands tied by the passage of H.R. 4681. I couldn't agree more.

H.R. 4681, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006, will not make Israel safer, will not meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people, and will not give our diplomats the tools they need to help find a path to peace in the Mideast.

For all of these reasons, I oppose it, and I urge my colleagues to reconsider.

I believe in diplomacy as a means to correct injustice around the world. I believe gifted diplomats can accomplish as much with words and deeds as the military can with guns and soldiers.

There is no question that the United States must take all appropriate steps to ensure that terrorists like Hamas are denied access to our financial aid. Not a penny should go to those who do not renounce terrorism.

Hamas is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of innocent Israelis before coming to

power. Since then, they have neither renounced the use of violence nor recognized Israel. This is unacceptable.

By all means, we must deny Hamas dollars that would buy hatred, but we must remember that Hamas and the Palestinian people are not one and the same.

Even as we deny any and all assistance to Hamas, we must not hurt those Palestinians who are working for peace. If we fail to support them, I have no doubt that Israel will pay the ultimate price: more instability in the West Bank and Gaza, more desperation, and more terrorism.

America's leadership is on the line in the Middle East, and more instability is something we need to avoid at all cost. We still have 130,000 American soldiers in harm's way in Iraq; we can't afford to make any more poor choices related to that region.

But, that's exactly what we will do if we pass this bill. It doesn't make sense for the United States to limit political and economic aid to moderates, like Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

He and others have met our government's requirements by recognizing Israel, renouncing violence and terrorism against Israel, and accepting all previously signed Israeli-Palestinian agreements. What happens if we turn our back on leaders trying to heal a millennium of hate?

And what can we expect if we turn our backs on the real and growing humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people? It doesn't make sense to put restrictions on funding the NGOs that provide the Palestinian people with hospitals and schools.

As a medical doctor, I am gravely concerned about the fate of millions of innocent Palestinians who rely on international aid for food, health care, and for developing their economy and businesses.

Recent news reports say that international sanctions are preventing hospitals in Gaza from providing dialysis machines for patients, and they may not be able to supply immunizations to children.

The World Health Organization sees a "rapid decline of the public health system . . . towards a possible collapse." If left untreated, these conditions will nurture a breeding ground for more hatred, more violence, and more terrorism.

This bill will only increase the restrictions on aid to the Palestinians and that will make the already dire situation even worse.

As a doctor I took an oath to heal. As a nation, we took an oath to lead. Allowing innocent Palestinians to go hungry, while denying them medical treatment cannot possibly correct injustice, or lead to peace.

If passed, this bill will be seen as anti-Palestinian, and the resulting chaos and animosity can only threaten the relative calm that Israel has enjoyed for the past year and a half. This bill does not help Israel.

Many of the Israeli leaders I've spoken to, think this bill goes too far by punishing all Palestinians, not just Hamas. They understand that a radicalized population will show more support for Hamas, not less.

During a recent trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories, I saw how both sides deeply yearn for peace. And I saw firsthand how they need the United States to do all it can to help them make peace. The Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act will make this task enormously difficult.