

terrorist allegation against the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran has no legitimacy or credibility and must not be taken as a criterion for dealing with the MEK," demonstrates first and foremost that the near unanimous majority of Iranians have rejected this label. Fortunately, Iraqis invited the United Nations, international organizations and the International Committee of Lawyers to study and examine the signed documents of their historic declaration. We urged those organizations and especially the United Nations Security Council to accept the invitation. For this reason, we have said time and again that we will accept free elections under the auspices of the United Nations and based on popular sovereignty and not the velayat-e faqih and will accept a referendum. At the same time, however, we said that a viper would never give birth to a dove. One should not expect anything other than killings and repression from the ruling theocracy. Twenty-seven years of crime and suppression are enough. It is now time for freedom and the people's sovereignty. Our salutes to Ashraf and its great commander Mojgan Parsai, and to MEK's Secretary General and her proud colleagues, my beloved brothers and sisters in Ashraf City, who in the past three years on stepped up their steadfastness as they confronted an assortment of difficulties, bombings, the denial of their water, electricity, medicine and supplies, the massacre of Iraqi workers of Ashraf City and intelligence, terrorist conspiracies and kidnappings. The Iranian people and Iran's brave women and men who are resolved in the struggle for freedom hold the key to our nation's freedom. It is the Iranian people and Resistance who endeavor for change, bring about change and build the future. It is the Iranian people and their Resistance who will overthrow the evil of fundamentalism. Iran will become the land of democracy and human rights. The Iranian nation will triumph and will be free.

May God bless you all.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia District Attorney Establishment Act of 2006, continuing a series of bills that I will introduce this session to ensure a continuation of the process of transition to full democracy and self-government for the residents of the District of Columbia. This bill is the ninth in our "Free and Equal DC" series of bills to eliminate anti-Home Rule legislation and to remedy obsolete or inappropriate congressional intervention into the local affairs of the District of Columbia or denials of federal benefits or recognition routinely granted to other jurisdictions.

This bill will establish an Office of District Attorney for the District of Columbia, to be headed by a District Attorney elected by DC residents. Accordingly, this bill would move the city a quantum leap toward full home rule for the District of Columbia and equality with other Americans. This bill effectuates a November 2002 referendum where DC voters overwhelmingly (82 percent) approved a locally elected D.A.

This important legislation is designed to put the District of Columbia on par with every other local jurisdiction in the country by allowing DC residents to elect an independent District Attorney to prosecute local criminal and civil matters now handled by the U.S. Attorney, a federal official. Instead the new District Attorney would become the city's chief legal officer. As presently constituted, the U.S. Attorney's office in the District is the largest in the country only because it serves mainly as the local city prosecutor. That office needs to be freed up to do security and other federal work particularly in the post 9-11 nation's capital.

There is no issue of greater importance to our citizens and no issue on which residents have less say here than the prosecution of local crimes. A U.S. Attorney has no business in the local criminal affairs of local jurisdictions. No other citizens in the United States are treated so unfairly on an issue of such major importance. This bill would simply make the D.A. accountable to the people who elect him or her as elsewhere in the country.

In addition to issues of democracy and self government, such as congressional voting rights and legislative and budget autonomy that District residents are entitled to as American citizens, residents are determined to achieve each and every other element of home rule. Amending the Home Rule Act with a local D.A. provision would be an important development toward our goal of achieving true self-government. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

TRIBUTE TO GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER RELATIVE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the two and a half million grandparents acting as primary caregivers to their grandchildren. In fact, across the country there are more than 6 million children living with a grandparent, or others living in relative-headed households. I commend those who courageously step forward on a daily basis to care for these children, keeping them out of foster care while providing safe, stable homes.

Subsidized guardianship programs allow children to leave foster care for the permanent care of nurturing relatives. Through subsidized guardianship we are able to place a child with a grandparent or other relative who becomes the legal guardian, while at the same time, providing the guardian the financial resources to provide for the child's basic needs.

In its report, "Fostering the Future," the national, nonpartisan Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care recommended that Federal guardianship assistance be provided "to all children who leave foster care to live with a permanent legal guardian." That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 3380, the Guardianship Assistance Promotion and Kinship Support Act, which would allow the use of Federal funding to support subsidized guardianship programs.

In my own State of Connecticut, 6 percent of the children live with non-parent relatives.

Although, grandparents and other relative caregivers often represent the best opportunity for providing a loving and stable childhood for the children in their care, their hard work and dedication too often go unnoticed.

Today I offer my deepest appreciation for the dedicated service of these caregivers to our country and our Nation's most valuable asset, our children. And I commend Generations United for all their outstanding work in helping improve the lives of and create opportunity for our children.

RECOGNIZING MR. GARY WILLIAMS, THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND'S MOST WINNINGEST COACH

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it isn't often a gifted and talented athlete has an opportunity to exercise his skills as a coach. It is even less common for that athlete to coach at his alma mater. It is rarer still for that athlete to be recognized as one of the best coaches on the collegiate level. For this reason, it gives me great pleasure to rise before you today to celebrate the career of a good friend, a strong athlete, and an exceptional basketball coach, Mr. Gary Williams of the University of Maryland's Terrapins.

I have had the privilege of knowing Gary for a number of years. We were undergraduates at the University of Maryland at the same time. While I devoted my time to the university's lacrosse team, Gary could be found tearing up the university's basketball court.

Throughout his career, I have watched Gary excel as a leader in collegiate athletics. The university's basketball team won only nine games the year before Gary took over as head coach. Under his leadership, they turned around their losing streak by winning 19 games in his first season. After his 17th season as the Terrapins's coach, Gary Williams surpassed legendary Charles "Lefty" Driesell as the University of Maryland's "winningest coach"—reaching 353 career victories.

Gary led his team from a troubled period to national distinction. Under his direction, the Terrapins have made it to the Sweet Sixteen seven times, had two consecutive Final Four appearances, and relished a national championship in 2002. His is a story of pure determination, impeccable drive, and unprecedented excellence.

The former point guard for the Terps received the highest honor as an alumnus by being inducted into the university's Alumni Hall of Fame. He was ranked ninth among active NCAA Division I coaches. He was named the Washingtonian Magazine's "Washingtonian of the Year" and he was inducted into the Greater Washington Sports Hall of Champions, as well as the Washington, DC Metropolitan Basketball Hall of Fame.

Gary Williams has cemented his legacy by not only devoting his time and energy to the Terrapins, but by giving back to the community at large. Throughout the year, Gary remains active in charity work, fundraising, and public speaking engagements. He is involved with Coaches vs. Cancer, the Cystic Fibrosis

Foundation, National Autism Research, the National Physical Education Council, the Salvation Army, and the Babe Ruth Museum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you please join with me today in recognition of the achievements of an outstanding athlete and coach. Mr. Gary Williams has made significant strides in collegiate athletics. His leadership has allowed his team to dominate basketball courts for 17 seasons. His legacy will be remembered for years to come.

FORMATION OF THE RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS OF AMERICA

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the formation of Rural Planning Organizations of America, RPO America, a new national organization dedicated to improving the planning and development of America's rural transportation network. Under the sponsorship of the National Association of Development Organizations, NADO, RPO America is serving as the first and only national forum and professional peer network for the emerging field of rural transportation planning.

This new group is important not only for the coordination, management and planning of our Nation's rural transportation infrastructure and systems, but also for linking our rural communities' economic development initiatives with State and local transportation programs. As I have stated for the record countless times, the development and maintenance of our Nation's public transportation infrastructure—including highways and bridges, transit services, ports, airports and intermodal facilities—is fundamental and at the core of our Nation's long-term economic competitiveness strategy.

Since the passage of the 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, TEA-21, nearly 30 States now voluntarily support, fund and partner with a growing network of multicounty rural planning organizations. These locally governed regional transportation planning agencies are working to enhance State and local coordination, project prioritization, roadway safety and comprehensive transportation planning in our Nation's non-metropolitan regions.

While our Nation's metropolitan areas have enjoyed special Federal status and funding for transportation planning during the past half century, our rural regions are just getting started. Through training, research, peer information exchanges and other professional development services, the members of RPO America are striving to enhance the safety, mobility and economic competitiveness of small town and rural America. I commend NADO for providing the leadership and vision in forming RPO America.

SUCCESSFUL 27TH U.S. SENIOR OPEN HOSTED IN HUTCHINSON, KS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude for an incredibly well hosted event in my district this past week. Through a collaboration of more than 2,500 volunteers, the renowned Prairie Dunes Country Club and the United States Golf Association, the 2006 U.S. Senior Open was contested in Hutchinson, KS.

I was proud to be in the crowd of this well attended tournament. The state of Kansas and this community did a wonderful job of showcasing our welcoming spirit and beautiful landscape.

The names of Watson, Player, Irwin, Crenshaw and Kite are easily recognizable to golf enthusiasts. After his repeat victory, Allen Doyle should also now join this list of distinguished champions as a household name.

But there were more than just famous golfers who made this a successful event. I'm certain that Kansans will join with me in specifically thanking Mr. Allen Fee, Tournament General Chairman, and Mr. Greg Conrad, Championship Director, for their collective contributions in making this an outstanding week of golf. I also want to thank the legion of volunteers who gave of their time and talents. As testament to the event's success, volunteers from 27 states joined nearly 115,000 spectators in establishing the mark for the largest sporting event in Kansas history.

The real star of this championship, however, was the golf course itself. Many golfers and spectators commented that Prairie Dunes was stunning, from tee to green, from fairway to "gunsch", and provided the level of difficulty required in a tournament of this high caliber. To the unfamiliar, what players and spectators alike found was a course ranked by many in the top 15 in the United States, and the top 25 in the world. From its origins dating back to 1937, Prairie Dunes continues to emphasize native prairie grasses and its famous "Maxwell Rolls" greens to provide a stern test for the discriminating player.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Hutchinson community for hosting the 27th U.S. Senior Open, and for their many contributions to the State of Kansas and game of golf.

IN RECOGNITION OF 36 YEARS OF SERVICE BY PASTOR GLYN LOWERY TO THE PACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend my congratulations to Pastor Glyn Lowery, Jr. for serving as the pastor to Pace Assembly of God in my district for 36 years.

At the young age of 20, Glyn Lowery became the pastor at Pace Assembly of God. Pastor Lowery, better known as Brother Glyn,

greatly contributed to the growth of Pace Assembly of God by overseeing the construction of a 1000-seat sanctuary just two years after taking over the congregation. Under Brother Glyn's guidance, Pace Assembly of God has expanded their outreach programs to over 250 ministries. With his leadership, they have built churches throughout Europe, Russia, the Philippines, and South America. Their goal is to establish missionary projects in every country.

In Pace, the church has undergone great expansion. What was once a block building has become a flourishing community with a Family Life Center that houses a basketball court, gymnasium, 25 classrooms, a fellowship hall, kitchen, and resource room. Brother Glyn has also taken on leadership roles in the church community at large, serving as the Assistant Superintendent of the West Florida District of the Assemblies of God and briefly taking over as the District Superintendent after the unexpected death of his predecessor.

Through his journey, Brother Glyn has been supported and aided by Jan Lowery, his wife of 35 years. Together they have worked diligently to create outreach programs to help families live more Godly lives. When they saw that children in the Pace community needed rides to Sunday school, they took the initiative to drive them to church. Together they envisioned bringing children and adults to church in busloads and through their Bus Ministry, this vision has become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to a man who could serve as a role model to us all. A deep sense of personal devotion to a congregation for 36 years is something to truly be admired, and I am thankful for his dedication to the Pace of Assembly of God.

HONORING A VETERAN AND PATRIOTIC AMERICAN—JOHN SEYMOUR STARR

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, a patriotic veteran and role-model citizen recently passed away in Greensboro, North Carolina. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I rise to honor John Seymour Starr, a World War II veteran, who dutifully fought for his country from an early age. Only nine days after his 18th birthday, Starr enlisted in the army and joined General George Patton's 3rd Army as a machine gunner on the back of a jeep in the 2nd Cavalry, 42nd Recon. As one of Patton's "Ghosts," Corporal Starr put his life on the line day after day scouting ahead of the division to locate and engage the enemy in order to determine their strength and position for an armored assault.

Just months after entering the fight, on August 8, 1943, Corporal Starr's jeep drove over a land mine on France's Breast peninsula killing the driver and passenger. Starr was put in the hospital with shrapnel embedded in his back that he would carry for the rest of his life. Undeterred by his injuries, Starr ignored his reassignment to a non-combat unit and left the hospital. He hitched rides through France until he was reunited with the 2nd Cavalry. During