

their perfect family. She and the volunteers and staff who work with her give the dogs that come to their home, medical care, food and shelter, and, most importantly, love and comfort. They seek out the right family for each pet, and help new pet-owners adjust to their new lives with their pets. In fact, they are a one-stop clearinghouse of information for new and seasoned pet-owners alike, with answers to frequently asked questions about pet care, recommendations for veterinarians and grooming, and more.

The testimonials on her website, [www.auntmarysdoghouse.com](http://www.auntmarysdoghouse.com) demonstrate her unparalleled talent to match families with pets that meet their needs and schedules and familial temperament. For instance, from a rescued dog named Dina: "Thank you Mary for my rescue and letting me get adopted by Sandy. For a large breed black dog with an unknown past I know I'm a very lucky girl that there are people like Sandy to love and care for me."

Earlier this month, Mary's extraordinary public service was recognized by the American Red Cross of Northwest New Jersey with the Red Cross Medal for Bravery. And, it is my honor to commend her spirit of service to my colleagues here in Congress.

PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN  
GUINEA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, with so many important and often vexing challenges competing for our attention throughout the world, it seems that the tendency in Congress is to focus our attention on a crisis only after it has evolved into an unmitigated disaster. Fortunately, that was not the case last week, when the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health held a hearing on prospects for peace in Guinea.

This hearing presented us with an opportunity to discuss not only our strategic, humanitarian, human rights, and economic interests in Guinea—particularly as speculation about President Lansana Conté's political future and the potential for even greater conflict mounts—but also to consider how the United States Government has positioned itself to respond to threats and mitigate crises before they have spun out of control.

The stakes are high. Western Africa historically has been beset by political instability and violence, where conflict in one country spills across borders and threatens the region as a whole. This has led to massive displacements, refugee flows, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and the perpetration of some of the most heinous human rights atrocities known to man. If we fail to capitalize on the opportunity to address transformative, stabilization and reconstruction needs in support of a democratic transition in Guinea today, I fear that we may be headed for a much wider regional crisis down the road.

Experts have been warning for years that the "ground was quaking" in Guinea. Widespread dissatisfaction with the autocratic rule of an aged and ailing Conté, coupled with economic decline, high inflation, political cronyism

and corruption, has led to periodic episodes of unrest in Conakry. However, the union-led strikes of December 2006 through February 2007 took on a new dimension. For the first time since the country obtained independence in 1958, Guineans across the nation have taken to the streets en masse, demanding change and refusing to accept half measures.

Through solidarity, the unions, opposition parties and civil society gained strength, and in the end, they succeeded in exacting critical concessions from the government. But while this symbolizes a significant victory, the hardest part is yet to come.

While the naming of the new consensus prime minister, Lansana Kouyaté on February 27th is a significant step forward, the office of the Prime Minister is not constitutionally protected and Conté has a record of breaking agreements. In addition, substantial resources are urgently needed for economic and social programs that will address the root causes of social unrest and shore-up popular support for the Prime Minister. History has shown that Conté is unlikely to share power in a meaningful way, and the longer he keeps his hand on the tiller in his authoritarian style, the more likely a renewed and destructive political crisis will emerge.

That said, it is widely speculated that—one way or another—Conté will not finish his term in office. His health is extremely poor and his power appears to be waning. Even the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States, which typically shy away from criticizing one of their own in public, have condemned Conté's violent response to protests and have suggested that this may be the appropriate time for him to step down. Experts are no longer talking about *IF* Conté will leave office, but *WHEN* and under what conditions he will leave.

Still, Conté has not designated a successor and, in fact, has sidelined a number of individuals who appeared poised to succeed him. The President of the National Assembly, who would be the successor to the President under the terms of the Constitution, is widely unpopular. It has been widely suggested that a military takeover may be the only option for a "soft landing" should Conté die in office or retire to his farm.

However, I would strongly contend that a military takeover in Guinea, no matter how "temporary" it is intended to be, should NOT be considered an appealing option. The military is divided along generational and ethnic lines. Neither Guineans nor the international community should assume that the military is a cohesive group capable or willing to deliver a smooth transition to a democratic, civilian-led government.

While the responsibility for fostering an environment of peace and security in Guinea rests with Guineans, the United States is in a unique position to help facilitate a non-violent, democratic resolution to this crisis. Guineans remember the fact that it was the United States who came to their aid when Guinea was attacked by the Revolutionary United Front rebels from Sierra Leone, with the support of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. We also have invested heavily in peace in Liberia, and have credibility in the region. Guinea is a predominantly Muslim country which is favorably disposed to the United States. The time to help is now . . . before the crisis spirals out of control.

HONORING SGT MICHAEL A.  
MARZANO

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Mr. JASON ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero, Marine SGT Michael A. Marzano. Last Tuesday, March 20, I joined my colleague, Congressman Phil English, in introducing H.R. 1594, legislation to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Hermitage, Pennsylvania in Sergeant Marzano's honor.

In December 2004, Sergeant Marzano volunteered for a tour of duty in Iraq and joined Ohio's 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment of the 4th Marine Division. He served honorably as a member of a Mobile Assault Platoon. On May 8, 2005, Sergeant Marzano was killed by a suicide bomber while taking part in an offensive against insurgents in the city of Haditha, Al-Anbar Province, Iraq.

Sergeant Marzano was the first soldier from Mercer County to die in either Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom. He exemplified the core values of honor, courage and commitment to a grateful nation and community. This designation will honor his memory and recognize his bravery and sacrifice. He is representative of all of Mercer County's veterans who have worn the uniform proudly, upheld the military's traditions of courage and faithful service, and stood ready, if duty required it, to make the ultimate sacrifice.

HONORING TIBOR HOLLO

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2007*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize someone who has contributed significantly to the growth of Miami for more than 30 years. Tibor Hollo is a wonderful man whose impact on South Florida can be seen from its skyline. Over the years, Florida East Coast Realty, which Mr. Hollo founded in 1952, has become an integral part of South Florida's development.

Today's skyline surrounding Brickell Avenue and Miami's financial district can be attributed to Mr. Hollo's vision. In 1972, he constructed Brickell Avenue's first high-rise building, which today is surrounded by countless others. In the years since, downtown Miami has changed drastically, many of its improvements a result of Mr. Hollo's entrepreneurship. It came as no surprise when Mr. Hollo received the Miami Visionary Award; he took chances, seized opportunity, and was rewarded for his determination.

Today, Mr. Hollo continues to be involved with many projects in South Florida. His company, Florida East Coast Realty, is celebrating its 55th Anniversary and continues to play a major role in South Florida's real estate market. Included among many noteworthy projects over the years has been the construction of two United States Treasury buildings and a United States Justice building. It was fitting