

work on actuators will enhance the ability of airplanes to fly through turbulent air while maintaining smooth flight. In addition to the improvements this will bring to passenger comfort, planes will benefit from the new actuator technology by experiencing less airframe fatigue, which leads to less stressed aircraft, safer flight and ultimately lower cost air travel.

Both of these students were under the instruction and mentorship of Dr. Ron Barrett-Gonzalez, Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering. Professor Barrett received the Abe M. Zarem Educator Award in recognition of his outstanding instruction. His research focuses on flight control using adaptive aerostructures that have been integrated in high speed, high precision flight control systems and are ideal for countermunitions. Professor Barrett's lab is the only academic facility in the country that specializes in these countermunitions that protect our Armed Forces by intercepting mortars and other weapons.

American economic competitiveness is strengthened as more students study and excel in the academic areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. I join Kansans in congratulating Nobuya, Roelof and Professor Barrett for their outstanding creativity, insight and hard work. Jayhawks not only excel in athletics but fly high in the classroom, as well.

**TOM LANTOS PASSES HUMANITY'S TORCH**

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, this House lost one of its finest Members with the passing of Tom Lantos. He was a dear friend, who taught me a great deal about human rights and a life dedicated to service, and I will miss him. One of my favorite memories of our service together is the day I was arrested alongside Tom in front of the Sudanese Embassy in Washington, DC, protesting the continuing genocide in Darfur.

I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues an article from the February 22, 2008 edition of the Boston Herald that urges everyone to emulate Tom's legacy of service and devotion to human rights. Written by Anthony Barsamian with the Armenian Assembly of America and Michael Ross, the son of a Holocaust survivor, it expresses what we all feel about Tom's commitment to ending man's inhumanity to man.

[From the Boston Herald, February 22, 2008]

**TOM LANTOS PASSES HUMANITY'S TORCH**

(By Anthony Barsamian and Michael Ross)

Humanity lost one of its greatest voices this month. No one lived up to the promise of the words "never again" better than Rep. Tom Lantos. As the only Holocaust survivor to have served in Congress, he dedicated his career to working on behalf of others.

Those who survive genocide live with complexities that few can understand—post-traumatic stress, feelings of guilt for having survived, a victim of man's most diabolical incarnation, a witness to history—to name a few. On the one hand, a survivor must rectify his tragic past while on another, he must make sense of a stunted future. With great

strength and determination, survivors and their families move forward and rebuild their lives, for a second time.

To start a life anew is difficult enough. To do so as a U.S. congressman is nothing short of miraculous. Only in America—as Lantos would say.

For Holocaust survivors and their families, Lantos was a source of pride. For those who searched for a voice of justice, in him they found their greatest friend.

Tom Lantos spoke out against genocide in Darfur, at one point being arrested for protesting outside the Sudanese Embassy along with four other Democratic lawmakers, including Bay State Reps. Jim McGovern and John Olver.

One of his final acts was a resolution that would recognize the slaughter of innocent Armenians for what it was—genocide. As chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Lantos refused to be part of a campaign of denial and looked beyond the politics of convenience by passing the resolution.

During a PBS interview last October, Lantos said, "This is one of those events which has to be settled once and for all: 1.5 million utterly innocent Armenian men, women and children were slaughtered. And the Turkish government, until now, has intimidated the Congress of the United States from taking this measure. I think it's important, at a time when genocides are going on in Darfur and elsewhere, not to be an accomplice in sweeping an important genocide under the rug."

The resolution has yet to be acted upon by the entire House—something, no doubt, Lantos, would want.

Lantos understood what it meant to stand up for his fellow man, much in the same way someone helped him when he needed it. An otherwise ordinary bureaucrat, Raoul Wallenberg, chose to become an extraordinary person when, over the course of his diplomatic career, he found a way to save 100,000 Hungarian Jews. Lantos was among them.

As people who have inherited a legacy from our families, we have an obligation to recognize man's inhumanity to man regardless of whether it is convenient to do so. We have an obligation to properly recognize an injustice by its name, regardless of the political discomfort or cost. And, like Lantos, we have an obligation to live by the words "never again" and to remind the world when those ominous words are back in play.

In Tom Lantos' passing we lost the sentinel on humanity's gate. We owe it to those he protected to speak the truth, no matter the cost.

**A TRIBUTE TO ROB COGORNO**

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, in 1993, I was privileged to be appointed to the Appropriations Committee. I brought to the assignment my ideas and priorities and a determination to use the power of the purse to change lives for the better.

To be effective I needed much more. I needed Rob Cogorno.

Rob joined our staff bringing with him years of experience working on issues that had my strongest interest. It was a blessed partnership from the first day.

Rob came with remarkable qualities. He knew the issues thoroughly. He was tireless. He knew the answer or how to find it.

But to focus only on Rob's mastery of the process would be an injustice. He is effective because he is compassionate and sincere as well as smart.

He cares about people. Low income heating assistance was not just a program, it was thousands of cold seniors. National Cancer Institute funding was not just about scientists and research grants, it was millions of people suffering from diseases that he believed could be helped. The Ryan White AIDS funding legislation was about millions of Americans and about people he knew personally who needed a cure and needed hope.

His commitment earned him the respect of his colleagues and members. He is a warm person. He takes the time to make you laugh, share a piece of gossip, lift your spirits. Over the years he has held important positions working for the Democratic House Leadership and most recently for the Majority Leader.

I am grateful to Rob for his leadership, passion, and partnership over the years. I wish you well. I treasure our friendship.

Buona Fortuna!

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on February 12, 2008, due to obligations in the district, I missed the following recorded votes:

Roll No. 43, on H. Res. 954—Honoring the life of senior Border Patrol agent Luis A. Aguilar, who lost his life in the line of duty near Yuma, Arizona, on January 19, 2008; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Roll No. 44, on H. Res. 909—Commemorating the courage of the Haitian soldiers that fought for American independence in the "Siege of Savannah," and for Haiti's independence and renunciation of slavery; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Roll No. 45, on H. Con. Res. 281—Celebrating the birth of Abraham Lincoln and recognizing the prominence the Declaration of Independence played in the development of Abraham Lincoln's beliefs; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

**IN CELEBRATION OF BLACKS WHO HAVE CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 25, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Black History Month and to enter into the RECORD an editorial from New York CaribNews for the week ending February 19, 2008, "Blacks Who Helped Change the Course of History and Improved the Quality of People's Lives Everywhere."

This editorial makes mention of many Blacks who have contributed to American history, with deeds that have benefited the lives of all Americans. Some of these pioneers have familiar names—other names are not as familiar, however, their contributions are important all the same. They include: Oscar