

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE PEOPLE'S
MUJAHIDEEN ORGANIZATION OF
IRAN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, in the 1980's the United States supported and helped arm the Afghan resistance to Soviet occupation of their country, a policy later portrayed in the award-winning Tom Hanks movie, "Charlie Wilson's War." Today we need to show support for dissidents fighting to overthrow the terrorist regime in Tehran. It will come as a surprise to most Americans that we are not doing so.

In that struggle to push the Soviets out of Afghanistan, not all of those Afghan freedom-fighters were fighting for democracy. It was a coalition of forces who had one thing in common: they wanted the Soviets out of their country. We supported them, and they won. Not only did the Soviets leave Afghanistan, within four years the Soviet Union imploded.

One of the main groups fighting to overthrow the Ahmadinejad regime is the People's Mujahideen Organization of Iran (PMOI)—also called the MEK—and its political arm, the National Council of Resistance in Iran (NCRI). Strangely, instead of assisting these dissidents, our Department of State decided to label them terrorists in 1997.

In the decade since, a debate has raged about whether the designation of the MEK as a terrorist group was driven less by the facts than it was a desire on the part of State Department bureaucrats to curry favor with "moderates" in the government of then-Iranian President Mohammad Khatami. Either way, it is has become clear that this "good will gesture" on the part of the State Department failed to yield any progress with Tehran.

The MEK advocates a secular democratic government for Iran, one that that respects human rights and basic freedoms (including freedom of the press and freedom of religion) and has provided intelligence and assistance about the activities of the Iranian regime in Iraq, and Tehran's covert nuclear program. Moreover, a number of the group's members are under the protection of Coalition troops in Iraq.

Unfortunately, the group was recently the victim of a missile attack at Camp Ashraf in Iraq. This is a testament to how much Tehran fears the group.

I hope the Iranian regime will refrain from future attacks of this nature, as Ashraf's residents are protected under the Fourth Geneva Convention. Their well being is and continues to be the obligation of the Coalition troops in Iraq, and the Iraqi government.

This raises another interesting point. Not only does the MEK not behave like a terrorist group, in many respects the U.S. government does not treat them like one.

The MEK is a group that the United States and the west should cultivate as we seek an organic, democratic change agent in Iran.

Fortunately, the United Kingdom has already come to this conclusion in removing the MEK from the British terrorist list earlier this year.

Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill were willing to enter into an alliance with Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union in 1941 in order to defeat Hitler. We used every ally and every resource to defeat the Axis Powers. Yet today, in dealing with the terrorist regime of Iran, a regime that daily threatens to destroy Israel and the U.S. (the "Great Satan") and is actively seeking the means of fulfilling that threat, we cannot find it in our interest to render aid to the People's Mujahideen of Iran because of its checkered past.

It is time for the western world to re-examine our treatment of the MEK in the wake of the UK court decision.

For starters, the political goals behind designating the MEK as a terrorist organization here in the U.S. have failed to materialize. If anything, the Iranian government has become more aggressive and repressive in the years since the MEK designation. Iran is supporting violence and terrorism from Baghdad to Beirut, has defied U.N. demands to end its nuclear enrichment program, and shows no signs of moderating its behavior—test firing missiles yesterday in violation of UN Security Council resolutions.

What better way to send a message to Tehran than to free the MEK from the international stigma that comes with the 'terrorist' label.

This year's U.S. State Department Country Reports on Terrorism rightly brands the Iranian government as the number one state sponsor of global terrorism. Iran has also been the principal supplier of IEDs to terrorists in Iraq who are killing American soldiers and Iraqi civilians.

Despite continued efforts at diplomacy, financial sanctions, and—in the case of placing the MEK on various terrorist lists—outright appeasement by many western countries, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has declared that his country will never yield its "dignity" by suspending its uranium enrichment program.

U.S., EU and UN negotiators have been talking with Tehran about its nuclear program for many years, but Tehran has shown no sign of changing course. And why should they when we keep handcuffs on Iranian dissidents who might cause the Iranian regime real problems?

If western efforts at "dialogue" and "diplomacy" are to be successful, they must be more than opportunities for Iran to stall for time while moving forward with their nuclear program. A willingness to negotiate with carrots doesn't work unless one is willing to use a few sticks as well.

Today, there no longer remain any legal or political justifications for maintaining the MEK on the terror list. I therefore urge our govern-

ment to seriously reconsider its stance on the democratic opposition of Iran and remove the group from our list of terrorist organizations.

It's time to take the handcuffs off of the MEK.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRIS
MURZIN, UNIVERSITY PARK'S
2008 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chris Murzin who was named University Park's 2008 Citizen of the Year.

Chris and his family moved to University Park in 2006 and have been active members of our local community. As a father of a child with special needs, he was quick to identify local accessibility issues and has dedicated himself to improving the lives of the disabled. He is constantly on the forefront of our community—educating the public, meeting with officials from Highland Park Independent School District and PTA members, and coordinating a citizen-based fund drive to build a barrier-free playground. I know he will continue to strive for a better life for the disabled by serving as a vocal advocate. His vision and commitment to this cause has already led to greater awareness in University Park and will soon be evidenced by a barrier-free playground at Coffee Park.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our sincerest congratulations to him and our heartfelt gratitude for his dedicated efforts to better the lives of the disabled.

DR. JOSHUA CULBREATH

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of a remarkable individual on the occasion of his induction into the United States Marine Corps Hall of Fame: Dr. Joshua "Josh" Culbreath, a native of Norristown, PA and an Olympic athlete, who distinguished himself as a community leader.

Dr. Culbreath was a bronze medalist as a member of the United States' 400 meter hurdling team in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, part of an American clean sweep of the medals in that race. As a star track and field athlete, he was a state high school champion and was a three time national 440 yard hurdles champion, setting a world record in that event.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Dr. Culbreath recognized that "sport determined his destiny." A confident and self-motivated individual, he set seemingly insurmountable goals for himself. In addition to his brilliant racing career, Dr. Culbreath dedicated more than 60 years of his life as an educator and high school, college, and university track and field coach, sharing his knowledge, expertise, and love for track and field with aspiring athletes. The athletic accomplishments of his students are astonishing, as they won ten collegiate national titles. As the Director of Athletics at Morehouse College, Dr. Culbreath developed an athletic program that received national acclaim and Central State University named a new track, the Josh Culbreath Track, in his honor. Dr. Culbreath also took pride in tutoring his athletes, with more than 90 percent of them graduating from college.

The Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters awarded to Dr. Culbreath by Edward Waters College is clearly deserved. On the international stage, he represented the United States as a lecturer, coach and sports ambassador in Iraq and India. In particular, he must be commended for his humanitarian work with the International Cultural Exchange Program, which resulted in a groundbreaking integrated competition in Africa between Black and White athletes, who raced in Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Nysaland. In the United States he led integration efforts in Hollywood, Florida, using his stature as a record-setting athlete and talent as a communicator to unite people in that community. His work produced integration in housing complexes and at sporting events.

Dr. Culbreath also served as a community leader by helping in the development and implementation of Plans for Progress in Philadelphia, a forerunner of the national Affirmative Action Program. He also assisted in the development of an affirmative action and equal employment opportunity program for the Sperry/Unisys Corporation. Through his work as a motivational speaker and lecturer, Dr. Culbreath has touched the lives of a diverse audience, appearing before corporate, governmental, and collegiate groups to discuss motivation and education, Olympic sports, and international athletics issues.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we pause and salute Dr. Culbreath, father of Sandra Allen Penn, Khaliq T. Culbreath (deceased), Maliq R. Culbreath, Jahan L. Culbreath, and Camille A.M. Culbreath, for his amazing athletics achievements, his extraordinary accomplishments as a community leader and his commitment to improving the lives of others.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF AL STERN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Al Stern, a man who lived his life by the principal of Tikkun Olam, the healing of the world. He dedicated himself to the cause of free speech and to cultivating the seeds of Middle East peace and understanding in the Cleveland community.

The roots of his activism began during the Civil Rights Era, when he marched along side Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He was an activist

for the Congress on Racial Equality, the Committee for Sane Nuclear Policy, and was an activist against the Vietnam War and for women's reproductive rights. In 1974 when helped found the Cleveland chapter of Americans for Peace Now, a solidarity organization aligned with the Shalom Achshav movement in Israel formed out of the conviction that Israel's democratic character and future security were intertwined with achieving a just and peaceful solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Al Stern advocated for mutual understanding and a two state solution long before it was widely accepted. For twenty years he engaged with and educated the Cleveland community about the costs of the current conflict and the opportunities for peaceful solutions. His work took him all over the world, where he met with the people and leaders in Israel, Syria, Egypt and Gaza. He led by example through his own commitment to educating himself and reaching out to concerned members of the community.

After stepping down from his position on the board of Americans for Peace Now in 1993, he became a full time volunteer for the American Civil Liberties Union. I have had the privilege of hearing Mr. Stern speak on free speech and civil liberties issues. He and I have worked closely together in an effort to build bridges across the gaps that divide people in the Middle East and in Cleveland.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Al Stern, who has served as an inspiration for engaged, global citizenship. May his legacy of advocating for civil liberties and cultivating Middle East Peace be an example for all of us to follow.

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS OF LIBERTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN ARGYLE, TEXAS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE DELL-WINSTON SCHOOL SOLAR CAR CHALLENGE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students from Liberty Christian School in Argyle, Texas for building a one-of-a kind solar-powered vehicle to compete in the Dell-Winston School Solar Car Challenge. Their solar powered vehicle passed inspection and was tested this weekend at Texas Motor Speedway.

The Dell-Winston School Solar Car Challenge began in 1993 in Dallas, Texas. The competition now attracts students from 19 high schools across Texas, in addition to teams from other states. Each team must build its own solar-powered car, and the car that completes the most laps at the Speedway during three-hour periods wins the competition. The Liberty Christian students used scrap parts, as well as some parts bought on the Internet, to build their vehicle, at a total cost of only \$8000.

The team members have varying interests, some planning on pursuing engineering or science in college, while others plan to study non-scientific fields, such as dance. Nonetheless, each member is dedicated to completing this very challenging project, which tests their

attention to detail, mechanical ability, and creativity.

The four-day competition took place this weekend. The students' vehicle, named "Racing for the Sun," was successful in completing eighteen laps. Now that the competition is over, the students' next step will be to travel across the country to display their work.

The six students from Liberty Christian have displayed team work, and they've shown how dedication and persistence can lead to success. I am proud to represent these students in the 26th District of Texas, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT H.R. 3195, THE ADA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I respectfully submit the following for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The first is a letter of support for H.R. 3195, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and the second is a list of organizations that support this important legislation.

JUNE 17, 2008.

HELP SECURE THE PROMISE OF THE ADA: SUPPORT THE ADA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008

CHAIRMAN MILLER AND RANKING MEMBER MCKEON. As you are aware, the Committee today is poised to consider legislation to secure the promise of the original Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The ADA has as its fundamental goal the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society, including employment for people who are willing and able to work despite their disabilities.

Unfortunately, court decisions over the last decade have excluded individuals who should have been covered under the current ADA law. These narrow court interpretations have restricted ADA coverage for people with diabetes, epilepsy, serious heart conditions, mental disabilities and even cancer. As representatives of a broad cross-section of both the employer and disability communities, we believe the proposal before the Committee strikes an appropriate balance between the needs of individuals with disabilities and those of employers. The proposal includes the following key provisions:

Coverage under the ADA—The proposal clarifies that Congress intended the ADA's coverage to be broad, to cover anyone who faces unfair discrimination because of a disability.

Definition of Disability—The proposal retains the requirement that an individual's impairment substantially limits a major life activity in order to be considered a disability and an individual must demonstrate that he or she is qualified for the job.

Protection for Mitigating Measures—The proposal would overturn several court decisions to provide that people with disabilities not lose their coverage under the ADA simply because their condition is treatable with medication or can be addressed with the help of assistive technology.

Regarded As—The proposal includes a "regarded as" prong as part of the definition of disability which covers situations where an employee is discriminated against because of his or her actual or perceived impairment. Moreover, the proposal makes it clear that