

loaded up a semi-truck with food and cleaning supplies and has been helping those in need ever since. Some volunteered with the Red Cross in Mississippi during the November following the hurricane and then Trinity Lutheran put together a mission trip in June where church members helped rebuild homes.

The collective effort by Trinity Lutheran members in Pascagoula, Mississippi is a characteristic of what Iowa is all about—regular citizens motivated and dedicated to improving the lives of their fellow citizens, and in this case the very people who need help the most. I commend Jim and Kathy Lively, Melanie Maddick, Rachael, Alan and Ryan Johnson, Janelle and Emily Durlin, Ron, Shelly, Ron Jr., Brandy and Mary Wilkey, Tyler and Abbey Sheer, Denise and Jordian Berrey, John and Marva Tolson, Breanna Billman, and all people who financed and organized the mission trip. I consider it an honor to represent each of those involved in this effort in the United States Congress and I congratulate and thank them for their great acts of kindness.

2008 CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION LEGACY AWARDS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recipients of the 2008 Chester County Community Foundation Legacy Awards.

The Foundation annually recognizes members of the community who embody its mission of making Chester County, Pennsylvania a vibrant place to live, work and raise a family. The following awards will be presented to those who have exhibited exceptional charitable commitment and dedicated community involvement:

Carol Ware Gates, Ph.D. of Christiana will receive the Jordan Award for Lifelong Philanthropy; Peg Anderson of Coatesville will receive the Thanks For Caring Award for community involvement; Herr Foods of Nottingham will receive the Corporate Social Investment Award; John A. Featherman, III, Esq. of West Chester will receive the Door Opener Award for introducing prospective endowment fund donors to the Community Foundation; and the West Chester University Relay for Life Student Committee will receive the Youth Philanthropy Award.

The Community Foundation will honor the contributions these recipients have made to the community during the Annual Meeting and Legacy Awards Ceremony, Tuesday, October 14, 2008, in Philips Auditorium on the campus of West Chester University.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting all of the recipients for these well-deserved awards and commending them for giving so much of themselves while serving others and building a better Chester County.

UNITED STATES-INDIA NUCLEAR
COOPERATION APPROVAL AND
NONPROLIFERATION ENHANCE-
MENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7081, the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act.

Today, the House will consider the culmination of 3 years of difficult work in Washington and New Delhi and take the final step to fashion a new policy toward India, one that reflects the realities of the 21st century and acknowledges India's emergence onto the world stage.

The bill before us will give Congressional approval to civil nuclear cooperation with India. Let me tell you what that means. It means that the IAEA will be able to inspect two-thirds of India's civilian nuclear facilities, because those facilities will be under IAEA safeguards and all future civilian nuclear facilities will also be under safeguards. It means that India, for the first time ever, has committed to MTCR guidelines. It means that India, for the first time ever, will adhere to Nuclear Suppliers Group guidelines. It means that India and the IAEA are making substantial progress toward an Additional Protocol. It means that India is committed to working with us to conclude a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. It means that we can send a clear message to nuclear rogue states about how to behave, because it shows that responsible nuclear powers are welcomed by the international community not sanctioned; and it means that we can finally achieve the broad, deep and enduring strategic relationship with India, that all of us in this House support. So if you wanted all these things 2 years ago when we established this process, then you are for this bill now.

Some Members have expressed concern that the agreement with India doesn't go far enough, that it doesn't rollback India's nuclear weapons program, that it doesn't include all of India's nuclear facilities, and that it sends the wrong message to rogue regimes like Iran and North Korea.

For 30 years Mr. Speaker, U.S. policy toward India has been defined and constrained by our insistence on punishing India for its sovereign decision not to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Truth be told, had India conducted its nuclear tests earlier, it would have been treated like China, Russia, France, Britain, and the United States: In short, as a grandfathered member of the nuclear weapons club. But they did not and nothing we have tried over the last 3 decades has convinced them to give up their nuclear weapons. And nothing we say over the next 3 decades will convince them either. India is a responsible nuclear power and deserves to be treated that way. The bill before us does just that.

Critics have expressed concerns regarding the agreement's impact on our nonproliferation policy and clearly Iran, Pakistan, and North Korea are all looking for clues about what this deal means for them and their nuclear pro-

grams. I think the message is clear: If you want to be treated like India, *be* like India. Be a responsible international actor with regard to WMD technologies, don't sell your nuclear technologies to the highest bidder, don't provide it to terrorists, be a democracy, a real democracy, and work with us on important foreign policy objectives not against us. That's the message we send today.

Does it warm your heart and make you comfortable that Iran and North Korea signed the NPT and are now running away from their freely accepted obligations and away from IAEA inspections?

True, India did not sign the NPT yet it is embracing the IAEA, embracing global nonproliferation norms and is a democracy. India's attitude should be recognized and commended.

There are two options before us today. One is to throw away all the work that has been done since July 2005 and keep the status quo. India will pursue its national interests as it has been doing outside the nonproliferation mainstream and we inspect nothing. The other is to make the deal with India and get for the United States and the international community a window in perpetuity into two-thirds of India's existing nuclear facilities and all of its future civilian nuclear facilities.

I think the choice is clear. This bill before us brings India into the nonproliferation mainstream and gets the United States and the international community access to India's civilian nuclear facilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for a 21st century policy towards India, one that supports and encourages India's emergence as a responsible global power and solidifies the United States-India bilateral relationship for decades to come. The bill before us today is that new policy. Vote yes on H.R. 7081.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY NEIGHBOR
RUSSELL

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Nancy Neighbor Russell, an extraordinary Oregonian who passed away last week. More than 20 years ago, Nancy co-founded Friends of the Columbia Gorge and was the driving force behind the passage of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act in 1986. Nancy's efforts on behalf of the once-threatened Gorge have preserved it as one of the most magnificent natural and scenic landscapes in the United States, and a recreational mecca for visitors world-wide.

Nancy loved the Gorge, and thanks to her, future generations will have the same opportunities to enjoy its beauty. The Gorge Act designated more than 292,000 acres as federally regulated land, aimed at protecting and enhancing the Gorge's scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources. But that was just the start for Nancy. Over time, she purchased 33 parcels of property—600 acres—and sold many to the Federal Government for open space. Her vision of a network of public hiking trails, parks, and vistas is part of the Columbia River Gorge's enduring legacy.