

me and many of my constituents a lifelong appreciation for jazz and its influences and it truly is a national treasure.

Had I been present on rollcall No. 972 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1517, To allow certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection employees who serve under an overseas limited appointment for at least 2 years, and whose service is rated fully successful or higher throughout that time, to be converted to a permanent appointment in the competitive service, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present on rollcall No. 973 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3978, First Responders Anti-Terrorism, Training Resources Act, I would have voted "aye."

GALLAGHER-HANSEN VFW POST'S
90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Gallagher-Hansen Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 295, Department of Minnesota, on the occasion of the Post's 90th Anniversary. Since its original charter in 1919, the Gallagher-Hansen VFW Post has been dedicated to serving veterans and the entire community of South Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Founded as the Patrick Gallagher Post in honor of a local World War I veteran, the post was renamed to honor Lt. Harry C. Hansen, a post member, who lost his life during the Battle of Okinawa in World War II.

All veterans have served and sacrificed on behalf of our great Nation, but many veterans continue their noble service after their tours of duty have been completed. The members of the Gallagher-Hansen VFW Post are among these selfless servants.

Throughout its proud history, the Gallagher-Hansen Post and Auxiliary have earned distinction as exceptional Veterans Service Organizations. Beyond its strong support for veterans, the post is also a community cornerstone. From providing donations to the Dakota County Veterans Emergency Assistance Fund and the South St. Paul Police K-9 unit, to sponsoring an annual Children's Safety Camp and funding a new scoreboard at Wakota Arena, Gallagher-Hansen provides steadfast support to residents in the area.

Gallagher-Hansen's reputation for outstanding public service extends deep into its ranks. Post 295 has been the home VFW post to many state and national leaders, including former Minnesota Governors Karl Rolvaag, Harold Stassen and Orville Freeman. Other members include: past National Ladies VFW Auxiliary President Lola Reid, whose late husband Dr. James Reid served as past Surgeon General of the VFW; past National VFW Chaplain Father Harold E. Whittel; Robert Hansen, past Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the brother of Lt. Harry C. Hansen; and the late U.S. Navy Admiral John S. McCain, father of U.S. Senator John McCain of Arizona.

Madam Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the 90th Anniversary of the Gallagher-Hansen VFW Post No. 295, and the veterans

who have given so much in support of their fellow veterans, families and our community.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC GENEROSITY OF CLARA WARD OF ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. KATHLEEN A. DAHLKEMPER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman in Erie, Pennsylvania, who has dedicated her life to helping the children of her community. Clara Ward, the founder of the Youth Development and Family Center in Erie, was the star of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," this week, where her indomitable spirit and dedication to the well-being of children in need was rewarded with an amazing renovation to her more than eighty year old home.

Clara Ward, with her son Bennie and daughter Cynthia, has continually put aside her own needs to take care of the children in her community. Too often, the children in Clara's neighborhood lack the care and resources they need to succeed, to be healthy and safe. These children rely on the generosity of their "Aunt Clara" to have a safe haven after school, where they can play off the streets and out of harm's way.

Many of the children who come to the Youth Development and Family Center would go to bed hungry without the generosity of Clara, Bennie and Cynthia, who feed and welcome children into their home almost every day. Not only does Clara provide a safe space, but she offers these children clothes, blankets and toys that they might not otherwise have. This time every year, Clara gives toys to 300 children for the holidays.

Clara's boundless generosity is all the more remarkable given her own condition. Clara suffers from myasthenia gravis, a degenerative muscular disease that requires her to use a wheelchair. In her old home, Clara's mobility was severely limited and she struggled to move through rooms and hallways that had no space for her wheelchair. Now, thanks to the renovation, Clara can move with ease through a home designed with her needs in mind.

Clara Ward's selflessness has inspired the entire community of Erie. It was her good work that motivated local builder John Maleno and his family to nominate Clara for "Extreme Makeover," which drew 3,000 volunteers and donations from 200 companies. Clara's story has inspired our city and helped us show the world that Erie, Pennsylvania, is a place where neighbors look out for each other and the spirit of generosity runs deep.

Madam Speaker, it is my proud duty to enter the name of Clara Ward in the record of the United States House of Representatives as a hero of Erie, Pennsylvania.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT IN SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker earlier today a news conference was held with Congressmen

DONALD PAYNE, CHRIS SMITH and myself along with representatives from the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), to draw attention to the desperate situation in Sudan. We heard compelling firsthand accounts of what transpired in Khartoum last week. Arrests, detention, tear gas and beatings of peaceful Sudanese protestors including several high-ranking Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) officials. These protestors had gathered in the streets to press Sudan's President Bashir and his National Congress Party (NCP) to demand passage of important laws by the National Assembly.

Khartoum's actions are inexcusable, but why should we be surprised, given the head of state is an accused war criminal. We also know from widely reported information that the National Congress Party (NCP) is obstructing the establishment of conditions for free and fair elections. The world also still awaits reform of the national security law.

Against this backdrop of violence and intimidation by Khartoum, the NCP and the SPLM entered into intense negotiations over the weekend. While reports indicate that a tentative compromise has been reached, the outcome is still far from assured. And if the coming weeks don't yield the necessary results, the long-suffering people of Sudan will watch any real prospect of lasting peace and justice slip away. Will the U.S. stand by and allow this to happen?

For years the U.S. has been a leader on the world stage in advocating for the marginalized people of Sudan. This is an issue, unlike many in Washington, which has enjoyed broad, bipartisan support. In January 2005, after two and half years of negotiations, the North and the South signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) bringing about an end to the 21-year-old civil war during which nearly two million people died, most of whom were civilians. I was at the signing of the CPA in Kenya along with Congressman PAYNE. Hopes were high for a new Sudan.

Sadly those hopes are quickly dimming as President Bashir becomes further entrenched and principled U.S. leadership on Sudan wanes. On the eve of the five-year anniversary of the signing, the CPA hangs in the balance as does Sudan's future.

President Obama's special envoy to Sudan, General Scott Gration, was appointed in March of this year. Many in Congress, myself included, had pressed for a special envoy in the hope of elevating the issue of Sudan particularly at this critical juncture in the implementation of the CPA and with genocide in Darfur still ongoing.

While there have been times in the months following that I have been concerned by the direction that this administration appeared to be taking in Sudan, I refrained from any public criticism, not wanting to do anything that could jeopardize peace or progress on these critical issues. But I can be silent no longer.

The time has come for Secretary Clinton and President Obama to personally and actively engage on Sudan.

During the campaign, then candidate Obama said, "Washington must respond to the ongoing genocide and the ongoing failure to implement the CPA with consistency and strong consequences." He went on to say, "The Bush administration should be holding Sudan accountable for failing to implement significant aspects of the 2005 Comprehensive

Peace Agreement (CPA), imperiling the prospects for scheduled multiparty elections in 2009.”

I could not agree more. Accountability is imperative. The CPA is not up for re-negotiation. But the burden for action, the weight of leadership, now rests with this president and this president alone.

I have consistently received reports from people on the ground that this administration's posture toward Sudan has only emboldened Bashir and the NCP.

The December 12 Wall Street Journal editorial page put it this way, “As a candidate, Mr. Obama stood with the human rights champions of Darfur and pledged tougher sanctions and a possible no-fly zone if a Sudanese regime infamous for genocide didn't shape up. His tone has changed in office . . . the preference for diplomacy over pressure has encouraged the hard men in Khartoum to stoke the flames in Darfur, ignoring an arms embargo and challenging the U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force there.”

Khartoum is savvy in the ways of Washington. This softening in the U.S. posture has not gone unnoticed.

In recent written testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, the top UN investigator said, “In contrast to that leadership of 2004 and 2005, the United States appears to have now joined the group of influential states who sit by quietly and do nothing to ensure that sanctions protect Darfurians.”

This administration's engagement with Sudan to date has failed to recognize the true nature of Bashir and the NCP.

Having been to Sudan five times, I've seen the work of their hands with my own eyes. In June 2004 I was part of the first congressional delegation with Senator SAM BROWNBACK to Darfur, soon after the world began hearing about the atrocities being committed against the people of that region. I witnessed the nightmare. I saw the scorched villages and overflowing camps. I heard the stories of murder, rape and displacement. In the summer of 2004, the Congress spoke with one voice in calling what was happening in Darfur genocide.

In addition to the massive human rights abuses perpetrated by the Sudanese government against its own people, it is also important to note that Sudan remains on the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism. It is well known that the same people currently in control in Khartoum gave safe haven to Osama bin Laden in the early 1990's. I was troubled by Special Envoy Gration's comments this summer at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing that “there is no evidence in our intelligence community that supports [Sudan] being on the state sponsors of terrorism list . . .” despite the findings of the 2008 State Department Country Reports on Terrorism that “. . . there have been open source reports that arms were purchased in Sudan's black market and allegedly smuggled northward to Hamas.”

Last week marked the anniversary of the adoption of the 1948 Genocide Convention. In the aftermath of the Nazi-perpetrated Holocaust the world pledged “Never Again.” But these words ring hollow for the woman in the camp in Darfur who has been brutally raped by government-backed janjaweed so that they might, in their own words, make lighter

skinned babies. Were these horrors taking place in Europe would the world stand by and watch?

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, which sits just blocks from here, bears witness to genocide and related crimes against humanity around the world. The museum's warning for Sudan stems from “(t)he Sudanese government's established capacity and willingness to commit genocide and related crimes against humanity. This is evidenced by actions the government has taken in the western region of Darfur, the Nuba Mountains, and the South that include:

Use of mass starvation and mass forcible displacement as a weapon of destruction;

Pattern of obstructing humanitarian aid;

Harassment of internally displaced persons;

Bombing of hospitals, clinics, schools, and other civilian sites;

Use of rape as a weapon against targeted groups;

Employing a divide-to-destroy strategy of pitting ethnic groups against each other, with enormous loss of civilian life;

Training and supporting ethnic militias who commit atrocities;

Destroying indigenous cultures;

Enslavement of women and children by government-support militias;

Impeding and failing to fully implement peace agreements.

These are hardly our partners in peace. And yet, we cannot claim that Khartoum has been unpredictable, that we did not know what they were capable of. Tragically, they have been utterly consistent for nearly 20 years. They have consistently brutalized their own people. They have consistently failed to live up to agreements. And they have consistently reposed only to strength and pressure.

And so I say once again, time is running out. The urgency of the situation calls for intervention at the highest levels of the U.S. Government—specifically the Secretary of State and the President of the United States. The people of Sudan cry out for nothing less.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, on December 14, 2009 I missed rollcall votes Nos. 969 and 970.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote No. 969, recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month and, No. 970, commending the Real Salt Lake Soccer Club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chair, as the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I would like to highlight some of the contributions made by our Committee to this important legislation. The Committee considered over the course of several months a range of legal issues posed by this legislation, and held two days of hearings this fall on its bankruptcy and antitrust law ramifications—on October 22 in the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, and on November 17 in the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy. Below is a summary of some of the more significant provisions added to the legislation, or revised in it, at the request of the Committee.

BANKRUPTCY LAW

The bill's new emergency procedures for dealing with financial institutions posing imminent toxic danger to our Nation's financial system is an exemption from the bankruptcy laws in favor of a receivership managed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). While appreciative of the need for the government to be able to act with dispatch when the stability of the entire financial system is in jeopardy, and while respectful of the considered judgment of the Treasury Department, the FDIC, and the Financial Services Committee to devise an approach outside the Bankruptcy Code for this purpose, the Judiciary Committee believes it is important to remain mindful of fundamental due process and equitable considerations that are embodied in bankruptcy procedure. The Committee has accordingly limited the availability and extent of this bankruptcy exemption.

First, because this departure from well-established bankruptcy procedures and protections is justified only in the exigencies of an extraordinary emergency threatening stability of the financial system, the Judiciary Committee added a new “purpose” section to the emergency dissolution title to mandate that there be a “strong presumption that resolution under the bankruptcy laws will remain the primary method of resolving financial companies, and the authorities contained in this subtitle will only be used in the most exigent circumstances.” The Treasury Secretary is required to explain any determination that such an extraordinary emergency exists, to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, along with other committees.

Our Committee also added provisions ensuring that bankruptcy remains available as the preferred option. There are new provisions authorizing the FDIC, at any time, with the approval of the Treasury Secretary and after consultation with the Financial Services Oversight Council, to convert an emergency receivership into a case under either chapter 7 or chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, while clarifying that doing so will not affect any of the FDIC's powers with regard to any bridge financial company created under the receivership. Upon its appointment, and periodically during the receivership, the FDIC will be required to report to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, as well as to other committees, why a receivership is necessary rather than using bankruptcy, and the consequences for the rights of other creditors.