

President Otunbayeva's government, as well as the government of her successor, must continue to fully investigate incidences of violence in the southern part of the country and to prosecute those responsible. In addition the government of the Kyrgyz Republic must continue to work with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to reform its law-enforcement agencies to ensure that these agencies are properly trained to prevent and respond to incidents of violence.

The Kyrgyz Republic is a key ally in the fight against terrorism. The country declared its support for the United States immediately after September 11, 2001 and quickly granted the United States access to Kyrgyz airspace in support of counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan. Since December 2001, the Manas Transit Center located at Manas International Airport near Bishkek has served, according to the U.S. Air Force, as the "premier air mobility hub supporting military operations in Afghanistan." In addition to serving as a key transit point for personnel and materials moving into Afghanistan, the Manas Transit Center supports aerial refueling and medical evacuation operations. I applaud President Otunbayeva's continued support for the Transit Center and call on her successor to honor the agreement made between the United States and the Kyrgyz Republic in 2009 that guarantees American use of the facility through 2014.

Under the leadership of President Roza Otunbayeva, the Kyrgyz Republic is moving in the right direction; however, the country's democratic transition must continue. I call on the government of President Otunbayeva and the Kyrgyz people to continue developing strong institutions that uphold the fundamental rights of all citizens and residents of the Kyrgyz Republic and to hold free and fair presidential elections in December.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, I missed rollcall vote 283. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" or "aye."

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF JOHN KELLY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary contributions of John Kelly, an outstanding humanitarian and former Executive Director of Samaritan House in San Mateo, California. Samaritan House is honoring John Kelly at its May 7th Gala for a lifetime dedicated to helping the least among us.

John Kelly grew up in the community he watches over. A San Francisco native, he earned a Master's Degree in Theology from the University of Notre Dame and a Master's Degree in Psychology from Berkeley's Graduate Theological Union. He spent 25 years as

a Catholic priest and nearly two decades teaching at Serra and Menlo Atherton High Schools.

In 1985, Samaritan House hired John Kelly to unite a San Mateo City Information and Referral Agency for low-income residents, with a free meal program. Under John Kelly's fifteen years of unparalleled leadership, Samaritan House expanded to include many new programs and help many more people in need, including a 90-bed shelter, free medical clinic, food pantry, clothes closet, and holiday assistance. They offer classes in learning English, household budgeting, nutrition, and parenting skills. Today, more than 3,000 volunteers help Samaritan House provide more than 12,000 San Mateo County residents with free food, clothing, and counseling. Primarily relying on private donations, Samaritan House proudly models its services on the idea of "Neighbor Helping Neighbor."

John Kelly is one of the best neighbors in the Bay Area. His public spiritedness truly encompasses the entire community. Since 1991, John Kelly has volunteered several days a week at San Quentin State Prison, where he teaches self-help courses, and offers spiritual guidance and discussion. "I relish seeing so many men turn their lives around," he always says. John Kelly also serves on the boards of several civic organizations, and I'm proud to sit alongside him as a member of the advisory board of the Service League of San Mateo County. In recognition of his outstanding commitment to his community, John Kelly received the Bay Area's 2005 Jefferson Award for Public Service.

The term "Good Samaritan" is used so often that we occasionally forget what was so extraordinary about the story, where one man recognized a kinship, a common humanity, and stopped to help a person in need. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the priest passes by the hapless victim. For John Kelly, the seminary strengthened his desire to help. It is his calling, and he has immeasurably transformed the lives of so many.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life's work of John Kelly and the Samaritan House. He has said, "The most important thing you can do is help another human being." In this sense, John's entire life has been filled with doing important things. He has spent his life recognizing and resolving the problems of poverty, and I'm honored to recognize him in turn in Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLINT MASONIC TEMPLE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Flint Masonic Temple. The building was dedicated on May 16, 1911 and has been in continuous use since that time. A celebration will be held in honor of this milestone on May 7th at the Temple.

The Flint Masonic Temple is the home to several Masonic organizations including Flint Lodge 23, Fellowship 490, the Flint Shriners, the York Rite, the Scottish Rite, and the Order

of the Eastern Star. Over the years many other organizations have utilized the building for their meetings and events. In 1947 the Battiste Family opened the Temple Dining Room and it became a very popular eating spot in downtown Flint. The third generation of the Battiste Family continues to operate the Dining Room today.

Many prominent citizens and leaders of Flint were involved in the planning and construction of the Flint Masonic Temple. The cornerstone was laid in 1909 and the building itself was constructed to incorporate the ritual work themes given to candidates as they progress through the first three degrees for full membership in a Masonic Lodge in Michigan. The building's east-west orientation and the use of big blocks are reminiscent of the Masonic ritual of building King Solomon's Temple. The State of Michigan listed the site on its State Registry of Historic Places in 1981.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Flint Masonic Temple. The Masons devote their time, talent, and resources to make the Flint community a better place. The Flint Masonic Temple is a landmark and stands as a testament to the goodwill of our Masonic organizations. I pray that the Flint Masonic Temple will continue to be a place of fellowship for many, many years to come.

HONORING FREEDOM RIDERS ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to recognize the lasting impact of a coalition from all across the country, now known as the Freedom Riders, who showed great acts of courage fifty years ago in 1961 to help pave the way for all Americans—regardless of color and background—to have the same opportunities to pursue their dreams. They traveled to the deep South to challenge the codified injustice in place and bring about an end of segregation.

James Farmer, the head of the Congress of Racial Equality, and his colleagues planned demonstration rides through the South because the Supreme Court's ruling of integration of bus and train stations and airports was not yet enforced. On May 4, 1961, thirteen riders—men and women, blacks and whites—left Washington, D.C. bound for New Orleans on May 17, the seventh anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.

Between May and September of 1961, people of all ages, color and gender throughout the country traveled to Jackson, Mississippi. The Riders desegregated stations by entering the 'wrong' waiting room, sitting at the 'wrong' lunch counter, using the 'wrong' restroom. They encountered severe prejudice and brutality. My dear friend and patriot, Representative JOHN LEWIS, was struck by a crate. Another good friend and colleague of mine, Representative BOB FILNER, was arrested and incarcerated for two months after refusing to post bond.

Through their courage and determination, the Freedom Riders won. In September the