

and kept them in prolonged pretrial detention. The executive branch exercised control over and pressured the judiciary. The government partially restricted freedom of expression. The government's respect for freedoms of assembly, association, and religion was poor, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) continued to face restrictions.

In the face of decades of human rights and religious freedom abuses under the Mubarak regime, successive U.S. administrations, including the Obama administration, failed to advocate for those whose voices were being silenced. Many pro-democracy activists and religious minorities that I spoke with while in Egypt felt abandoned by the West.

At this historic time of transition, we must not make that mistake again. While there is a palpable sense of anticipation and even hope about what the future might hold for the Egyptian people, the outcome is far from guaranteed.

There are reliable reports of human rights abuses and political repression following Mubarak's resignation. For example, a recently released Congressional Research Service report indicated that:

The SCAF has warned news organizations that it is illegal to criticize the military in the press. A military court sentenced a blogger (Maikel Nabil) to three years in prison for insulting the military. Others have criticized the SCAF over press reports that female detainees in military custody were subject to "virginity tests" by doctors.

Given the nature and extent of U.S. assistance to Egypt over the years, the U.S. military has developed good relations with the Egyptian military and we should leverage those ties as Egypt looks to transition from military to civilian rule. It will be critical for Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, among others, to engage with the SCAF.

Ultimately, I believe that the majority of Egyptians of all faiths want democracy. The question is will it be taken away from them after a single election?

Their yearning for true freedom and democracy must not be underestimated. We have a responsibility to stand with them and help them realize their aspirations.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN GARRARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding citizen of South Alabama who has dedicated his life to the service of his community and his fellow man. I am proud to inform this House that John Garrard of Atmore, Alabama, was recently honored with the Atmore Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award.

A resident of Atmore for over 60 years, Mr. Garrard has a long and distinguished record of public service. A World War II veteran of the U.S. Navy, Mr. Garrard graduated from Millsaps College with a degree in economics and business administration and a minor in secondary education. He soon put his education to good use back in his community.

He began his career as a teacher at Escambia County High School. Afterwards, he joined the First National Bank of Atmore, where he rose to the position of president and where he continues to serve on the board of directors.

Mr. Garrard has also served on the Atmore Public Library Board for 48 years, was a mem-

ber of the Atmore Rotary Club for 30 years, and was a part of Fountain Prison Ministry for 15 years. Mr. Garrard was also named Atmore's Citizen of the Year in 1981.

Today, even in retirement, Mr. Garrard continues to serve his community as a member of the Atmore City Council. The extent of Mr. Garrard's commitments is considerable. It is because of the work of people like John Garrard that small towns throughout south Alabama, and around the country, are able to thrive and maintain a vibrant sense of community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Escambia County and South Alabama, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. John Garrard for his service, and applauding the example of civic engagement that he has set. His presence is surely felt throughout his community which has benefitted from his many contributions of time and talent. Through his life of service and dedication, he has definitely earned this award, and I am proud to join his many friends and family in saluting him for this most deserving honor.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud co-sponsor and strong supporter of H. Res. 268, which reaffirms our national commitment to a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Madam Speaker, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has persisted for generations. It has claimed thousands of lives and has contributed to instability in the world's most volatile region. Few things would do more to advance the cause of world peace than the achievement of the two-state solution which recognizes Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state with secure borders and the right of the Palestinians to govern themselves in an autonomous state with the resources and factor endowments to enable the Palestinian people to live in dignity.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a strong and vocal advocate for direct negotiations, has already accepted a two-state solution, only to be continually rebuffed by the Palestinians at every turn.

Madam Speaker, attempts by Palestinian leadership to circumvent direct negotiations with Israel and instead seek direct recognition from the United Nations and foreign governments is counter-productive and undermines the work that has been done over the last several decades to come to a peaceful and mutually beneficial resolution.

The unilateral declaration of statehood by the Palestinian Authority shows a disregard for and violation of the underlying principles of Middle East peace agreements, including the Oslo Accords, the Road Map, and most recently the Annapolis Conference.

Madam Speaker, a two-state solution is the only feasible resolution to this long-standing conflict. Therefore I strongly applaud the Ad-

ministration for opposing international recognition of a Palestinian state that is not reached in direct negotiation with Israel.

I urge the President to direct the United States Ambassador to the U.N. to exercise our veto with respect to any resolution of the United Nations Security Council to the contrary and call upon Palestinian leaders to return to the negotiation table in a good faith effort to reach a mutually acceptable agreement to bring about the two-state solution, which is one and sure path to the just and lasting peace we all seek.

For these reasons, I strongly support H. Res. 268 and urge my colleagues to join me.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 500 on July 6, 2011, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CONGRATULATING PHIL JOHNSON, ATMORE'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a distinguished citizen of South Alabama for his exemplary service to our region and his community. I am pleased to note that Phil Johnson was recently named Atmore, Alabama's 2010 Citizen of the Year.

If a leader is someone who is willing to give of himself in order to benefit society, then Phil Johnson certainly fits the definition of a leader. His stamp on Atmore and surrounding Escambia County is his legacy of developing local arts programs and inspiring a passion for the arts among our young people.

Ten years ago, Mr. Johnson played a leading role in founding the Greater Escambia Council for the Arts (GECA) and has been instrumental in raising awareness for the arts throughout his community.

Mr. Johnson has also performed in, directed, and produced an exceptional number of performances, and helped secure a theater in downtown Atmore.

Thanks to Mr. Johnson's vision and dedication, the residents of Atmore and Escambia County have enormous opportunities in the arts. From actors to playgoers to the young people who have become involved in the arts for the first time, many have benefited from Mr. Johnson's work and achievements.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the arts serve a vital role in our communities, and they can have an especially large impact in small towns like Atmore.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Johnson for his remarkable service, and to join the people of Atmore in recognizing the great difference he has made in that community.

HONORING GILBERT TREVIÑO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Gilbert Treviño, a soldier and researcher who dedicated nearly 30 years of his life to the United States Marines both on the field and in the lab.

A Laredo native, Mr. Treviño moved to College Station in 1942 to attend Texas A&M University. His scholarly pursuits were placed on hold when the United States plunged into World War II. He joined the United States Marine Corps in 1944 and witnessed the perils of war at the Battle of Iwo Jima, a battle, on which he wrote in his 2006 memoir. After serving our country, Mr. Treviño returned to school in 1947 to complete a professional veterinary degree and later received a Master's at Texas A&M University and Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

Mr. Treviño met Chris, who would eventually become his wife, while he was working in Washington, DC. The couple was together just under a year when he received word he was to be stationed in Japan. The pair planned their wedding in just eight days and moved to Japan, where their two children were born.

Mr. Treviño served in Michigan, Maryland, and Kentucky as an advisor to the Surgeon General for the Department of Agriculture before returning to College Station to teach at his alma mater. He spent his career in classrooms and military research labs, where his scientific investigations contributed to a vaccine for rabies. Mr. Treviño's devotion to education provided a source of inspiration for the younger generations of his family; his children, Elisa and Steven, as well as his nieces and nephews, all took note of his accomplishments and many pursued postsecondary education as a result.

Mr. & Mrs. Treviño moved back to Laredo after he retired from the university in 1981 where he remained active in the Laredo veterans' community. He raised funds and accompanied the city's Gold Star mothers to Washington, DC to visit the Vietnam Memorial after its completion in 1982. When the Laredo Animal Clinic veterinarian was unavailable, Mr. Treviño happily performed examinations and conducted surgeries in his absence. He was a man of integrity and determination, and did whatever he could to help others.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to recognize the late Gilbert Treviño. He is no longer with us, but his contributions to his country, profession, and community will live on. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JOSE WEEKS, RECIPIENT OF THE 2010 GRUBER AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant 1st Class Jose Weeks of the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division for earning the 2010 Gruber Award as

the best field artilleryman in the United States Army.

The Gruber Award was established in 2002 to recognize the outstanding individuals who represent excellence among field artillerymen.

Sergeant Jose Weeks dedicates himself to strengthening his unit by training them to be prepared for any situation. On July 14, 2010, when his convoy came under attack, an improvised explosive device struck the lead vehicle in his patrol. One of the soldiers in the patrol was severely injured by shrapnel. By the time the medic arrived, the soldiers inside the damaged vehicle had already begun emergency care and had applied a tourniquet to the wounded soldier's leg—a practice in which Weeks had repeatedly drilled his crew. Their rapid response saved the soldier's life and demonstrated Weeks's effectiveness as a trainer. Saving the life of another soldier through effective emergency training merits Weeks receiving the Gruber award.

Weeks's Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Terrence Braley, confirmed, "Sergeant First Class Weeks is an adaptable, flexible leader and a master artilleryman. . . . He can move from doing his core competencies to firing battery platoon sergeant . . . to conducting crew drills [to] IED patrol without skipping a beat."

Jose Weeks is an exemplary soldier who is highly deserving of this award. It is an honor to recognize him for his leadership and commitment to serving in the United States Army.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in congratulating Sergeant 1st Class Jose Weeks on receiving the Gruber Award as the best field artilleryman in the United States Army.

IN HONOR OF H.E. FATHER MIGUEL D'ESCOTO BROCKMANN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th anniversary of H.E. Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann's ordination to the priesthood. Father d'Escoto has dedicated his life and ministry to peace, social justice, and solidarity.

Father d'Escoto was born in 1933 in Los Angeles, California, but spent a majority of his childhood in Nicaragua. After returning to the United States, he began studying at the Catholic seminary at Maryknoll in 1953. In 1961, Father d'Escoto Brockmann was ordained a priest of the Maryknoll Missionaries. Father d'Escoto earned his Master's of Science from Columbia University's School of Journalism in 1962.

Father d'Escoto has focused his ministry on helping the poor and disadvantaged populations of the world. In 1963, Father d'Escoto founded the National Institute of Research and Population Action in Chile. Through this organization, he sought to empower impoverished populations living in slum neighborhoods through community action in defense of labor rights. In 1970, while serving as Maryknoll's Social Communications Department, Father d'Escoto founded Orbis Books, the publishing

arm of Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. Orbis quickly became a leader in religious publishing, offering works on spirituality, theology, and current affairs, often from a Third World perspective. In the aftermath of a 1972 earthquake that devastated the capital city of Managua, Nicaragua, Father Brockmann mobilized assistance for the victims and established the Nicaraguan Foundation for Integral Community Development.

As a veteran statesman and political leader, Father d'Escoto served as the Republic of Nicaragua's Minister for Foreign Affairs from July 1979 until April 1990. During his tenure, he played a key role in the Contadora and Esquipulas peace processes to end internal armed conflicts in Central America in the 1980s. He was later elected as President of the 63rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and served in this role from September 2008 to September 2009. Father d'Escoto is currently a member of the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of H.E. Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann's ordination to the priesthood and his significant contributions to the global community.

RECOGNITION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of the founding of the town of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, including the village of Housatonic. The town was incorporated by the colonial Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Sir Francis Bernard, on June 30, 1761. Nestled in the Berkshire Hills, Great Barrington features natural resources such as Monument Mountain, Lake Mansfield, and the scenic Housatonic River. It is the town that saw the first open resistance to British rule in 1774, Henry Knox's cannon caravan passing through to Fort Ticonderoga in 1776, and provided a distinguished roster of military personnel to every major conflict in which America has participated.

Great Barrington has also been the home of poet and journalist William Cullen Bryant, inventor William Stanley—who first lit the streets of Great Barrington—and inventor Marcus Rogers. Elizabeth Freeman, who successfully sued for her freedom from slavery in 1781, Laura Ingersoll Secord, the Canadian heroine of the War of 1812, Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas and James Weldon Johnson, the co-writer of the Negro National Anthem all resided in Great Barrington. W.E.B. Dubois, distinguished writer, editor, sociologist and activist, graduated from Searles High School in Great Barrington as valedictorian before embarking upon a lifetime of achievement that included the founding of the Niagara Movement, the precursor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons. The citizens of Great Barrington stand as an example of what hard work and resolve can accomplish.