

A TRIBUTE TO THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS—SAINT CABRINI
COUNCIL #3472

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Knights of Columbus Saint Cabrini Council #3472 upon its 60th anniversary.

On October 2, 1881, a group of men called together by their parish priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, formed a fraternal society and declared their devotion to be defenders of their families, their country and their faith. These men were interconnected by the principles of Christopher Columbus, who brought the Christian faith to the New World. The efforts of this dedicated group came to light with the establishment of the Knights of Columbus on March 29, 1882. Thanks to the superb leadership of Father McGivney, on that very day, the Knights of Columbus was formally approved as a fraternal benefit society.

Since its inception, the Knights of Columbus has devoted an enormous amount of energy and time to serve communities on a global scale. The goals and infinite accomplishments of the Knights have been guided by the four core principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, which are reflected in their actions. The Order provides a life insurance program to support orphans and widows of deceased members of the Order, and has also been a champion in helping members and their families benefit from the financial aid provided if they become ill, disabled and needy. In addition, intellectual and social fellowship is encouraged among members and their families through charitable, educational, public relief and war relief works. Members of the Knights of Columbus are patriotic citizens and proud of their commitment to God and country.

Last year alone, the Knights of Columbus raised and donated over \$154 million to charitable projects and needs, in addition to volunteering over 70 million hours to benefit charitable causes. The Knights' yearly Survey of Fraternal Activity revealed that in 2010, the entirety of charitable donations reached a remarkable \$154,651,852—surpassing the previous year's sum by over \$3 million. In addition, the survey evidenced a remarkable increase in volunteer service hours as well.

The St. Cabrini Council in Burbank, Council #3472, was founded in 1951. For six decades, its members have made immense contributions to the community by hosting events, a golf outing, community fundraisers and Christmas luncheons to provide lunch and Santa With Gifts, to support intellectually disabled individuals. Furthermore, they organize programs and events geared towards drug treatment, individual and family counseling, emancipation services and educational services. Also, they donate books, volunteer to read for students and provide mentoring programs. Additional contributions to the members and community include supporting the Cabrini Sisters and seminarians at the Parishes of St. Roberts, St. Finbar and St. Francis, remodeling a kitchen for a brother serving in Iraq, remodeling their facilities and organizing a free throw competition amongst four parish schools.

I am proud to recognize the past and present members and supporters of the

Knights of Columbus Saint Cabrini Council #3472 for their selfless dedication to the community, and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating this exceptional organization for sixty years of dedicated service.

**RECOGNITION OF THE 2011 BORDER
HEROES AWARD RECIPIENTS**

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of three outstanding individuals, Jacob Heydemann, Kathleen Staudt, and Sister Phyllis Nolan, who will be honored this weekend with the 2011 Border Heroes Award for their dedication to academic, social and humanitarian service to communities on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Dr. Jacob Heydemann is an El Paso orthopedic surgeon who generously donates his services to clinics and hospitals in Ciudad Juárez and other parts of Mexico. Dr. Heydemann has been honored for his humanitarian work by the government of Mexico, and he is admired and respected by all of the borderland community. His efforts change lives for those in desperate need, provide critical health care access to the underserved, and inspire us all to give back to others.

I also rise to recognize Dr. Kathleen Staudt, a political science professor at the University of Texas at El Paso. She founded the Center for Civic Engagement, which aims to foster collaborative leadership, civility and deepen democracy in the region through action-oriented learning, civic education, and active citizenship. She is also a faculty advisor for a number of student organizations at UTEP and is co-founder of the Women's Fund of El Paso. She has written or co-authored more than a dozen scholarly books and published over 80 journal articles in women's studies, borderlands, and political science. Her dedication to civic engagement and human rights serves as an inspiration to the El Paso community.

I would also like to recognize the service of Sister Phyllis Nolan from the Daughters of Charity who will receive the 2011 "Extraordinary Volunteer" award. Sister Nolan is a volunteer intake specialist at Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center who visits the immigration detention center to interview detainees. She has touched countless lives by listening to their stories, and assisting immigrants in many ways as they go through the legal process. Sister Nolan's selfless service has given a voice for those who are seeking a better life.

Individuals such as these are a true asset to our community and it is my privilege to represent them, and others like them.

BIRTHDAY OF CALIFORNIA

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, one hundred and sixty-two years ago, over thirteen thousand citizens of the

United States of America met at the California Constitutional Convention on November 13, 1849. At this convention, Californians ratified their constitution in a proportion of twelve to one. The first order of business was to elect the State executives, and to set the borders of twenty-seven counties.

For the past twelve years, the Society of Hispanic Heritage and Ancestral Research (SHHAR), Los Amigos of Orange County, among other organizations, have been seeking to raise public awareness of the state's ratification day.

In the past, the University of California Irvine, the State University of Fullerton, and the Orange County Heritage Museum in Santa Ana, have all organized events to commemorate this historic occasion. These events have been encouraged, organized and run by volunteers on the local, state, and national levels, including public officials, friends, and neighbors.

This year, the birthday of California's original constitution, November 13, falls on a Sunday, a date which is most appropriate to reflect on the roles that community and sacrifice played in the establishment of the state of California.

I am proud to recognize the statehood of California, and proudly celebrate our state's admittance as the 31st State of the Union. At this moment, it is only appropriate to celebrate the accomplishments and historical contributions of the great state of California.

Happy Birthday California!

**SUPPORT OF H.R. 1905, THE
IRANIAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT**

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House Committee on Foreign Affairs for their work earlier this week in unanimously passing H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act out of committee. This bipartisan legislation is critical to the protection of the American people and our allies around the world.

I would like to thank Chairman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and Ranking Member BERMAN for their hard work in shepherding this bill through the Committee, and I am confident that House leadership will bring this bill to the floor without delay.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is imperative that the United States take the lead in opposing Iran's strong quest to produce nuclear weapons. Such a development would produce the greatest destabilizing element into that volatile region the world has ever known.

The recent discovery of a plot to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador to the United States on American soil is but the latest reminder of the urgent need for the United States to take forceful and effective action to ensure that Iran does not succeed in developing the capability to produce nuclear weapons.

Last year, Congress passed H.R. 2194, the Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act. This legislation marked the most comprehensive Iran sanctions legislation ever passed by Congress.

While current sanctions on Iran have impeded Iran's ability to successfully develop a nuclear weapon, most experts agree that Iran will have nuclear capabilities in the next two to three years if tougher sanctions are not imposed.

According to a recent report released by the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran has a stockpile of low-enriched uranium that if further enriched could produce three nuclear weapons.

Earlier this week, I sent letters to Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN, Ranking Member BERMAN and House leadership urging them to consider H.R. 1905 and sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran. I am encouraged by the Committee's swift action and hopeful that this bill will swiftly be brought to the floor for consideration in the whole House.

H.R. 1905 strongly reflects the demands of the international community that tougher sanctions must be placed on Iranian leaders to end their nuclear program. If enacted, H.R. 1905 would increase sanctions on human rights violators in Iran, impose tougher sanctions on the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and would finally codify the U.S. policy to prevent Iran from developing unconventional weapons and ballistic missiles. This bill takes steps to peacefully thwart Iran's nuclear aspirations.

During the markup of this bill, an amendment offered by Ranking Member BERMAN to strengthen sanctions against Iran's Central Bank was unanimously agreed to. The Berman Amendment strengthens H.R. 1905 by inserting language that directs the President to determine whether the Central Bank of Iran is engaged in sanctionable activity.

By sanctioning the Central Bank of Iran, the United States would set a strong example for countries around the world that depend on a geopolitically stable Middle East for their own security and prosperity. Imposing tougher sanctions on the Iranian economy will demonstrate that the international community will not tolerate Iran's continued refusal to end their nuclear enrichment program.

Specifically, the Berman Amendment directs the President of the United States to determine whether the Central Bank of Iran has:

Assisted Iran's WMD or missile programs, including proliferation of WMD to other governments;

Financed Iran's procurement of advanced conventional weapons;

Provided financial services for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps; or

Facilitated Iran's support of international terrorism.

Should the President make the determination that the Central Bank of Iran is involved in any of these areas, the bill would require him to apply sanctions under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. These sanctions would ensure that any foreign bank involved in significant transactions with the Central Bank of Iran are excluded from doing business with the U.S. If this bill is passed by the whole House, the President will have 30 days to make this determination.

Mr. Speaker, history has taught us that strong sanctions can bring about peaceful change. A generation ago, Congress passed the Anti-Apartheid Act which led to the end of the apartheid regime and brought about a

peaceful revolution resulting in the new democratic South Africa.

While the Arab Spring has deflected a lot of attention away from Iran's nuclear enrichment program, H.R. 1905 will help to refocus our efforts on appropriately addressing this critical issue. Leaders in the Iranian government have shown repeatedly that they are unwilling to comply with international demands to scrap their nuclear program.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill and look forward to voting for it when it comes to the floor for final passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, while I was present for rollcall vote 820 on November 2, 2011, my vote was not recorded. Had my vote been recorded I would have voted "yes" on that passage of the Small Company Capital Formation Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIRE VETERANS ACT OF 2011

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, as Americans celebrate Veterans' Day this year it is important to take time and reflect on the infinite contributions and sacrifices the men, women, and families of those who have served in our Armed Forces. Our commitment to veterans should not end with their service, we must show our gratitude by offering them every opportunity to experience the American dream that they fought to protect.

With a veteran unemployment rate of 22 percent nationwide, much more needs to be done to create an environment that helps the private sector hire men and women who have served our country in uniform, more than 250,000 of whom live in San Diego County. That is why I am pleased to introduce the Help Inspire and Retrain our Exceptional (HIRE) Veterans Act of 2011 along with my colleague, Congressman JOHN BARROW of Georgia.

Over the next two years, as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan begin to wind down, more veterans will find themselves searching for jobs in the civilian workforce. One of the biggest obstacles for unemployed veterans is connecting to employers. The HIRE Veterans Act of 2011 helps overcome this obstacle and provides opportunities to valuable members of our community with the resources they need to transition from the armed services to a civilian workforce. This legislation will authorize grants to be awarded by the Department of Commerce to local Chambers of Commerce to create job training, apprenticeship, and internship programs for local veterans.

The time to act is now. As part of the record, I am submitting letters of support from

the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and the San Diego North Chamber of Commerce. These letters emphasize the importance of this legislation and describe how local Chambers and businesses can help HIRE veterans.

CARLSBAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

November 2, 2011.

Hon. BRIAN BILBRAY,
Member of Congress, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BILBRAY: I am writing to support the proposed Help Inspire and Retrain our Exceptional (HIRE) Veterans Act you are proposing in the upcoming session.

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce is the 10th largest Chamber in the State of California and the second largest in San Diego County. We are located adjacent to the large Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton and as such see first-hand the serious unemployment problem facing our young veterans. In response to the problem we have created the Boots in Business Military Mentoring Initiative to allow as many of the 8,000 veterans leaving the service from Camp Pendleton each calendar year to mentor with civilian employers across the county.

The main issue facing these veterans is competing for jobs with civilians in the region is their ability to see first-hand the types of jobs in the marketplace and learn what employers are looking for when they hire someone both in experience and education.

Our mission is to help military personnel in the last weeks of their active duty term learn about the business world through job shadowing 60 to 90 days prior to their discharge date. By showing them what it's like to work in a variety of professions, local companies will help veterans make smart future career and educational decisions. Our program (a Memorandum of Understanding MOU) is a collaborative effort between the Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton, the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and many local businesses that are willing to provide a variety of job shadowing experiences to active military members and their spouses as they prepare to enter civilian life.

Military members are allowed up to 30 days of paid Temporary Additional Duty to be mentored, so they can shadow as many civilian jobs as possible during that time. A mentoring activity can be one day, one week or even one month in duration, depending on the goals of the veteran, the number of positions shadowed, and the depth of involvement with each position.

We are providing resume writing, job interviews, and first-hand experience test driving as many jobs that they desire in order to see if the job fits how they can compete to get it. There is no charge for our program and their spouses are equally allowed to participate.

If the veteran decides to return to his or her home town we have arranged with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to contact the local city chamber of commerce and notify them of the arrival of a new veteran and have them arrange business introductions were possible.

We endorse your proposed legislation 100%. The soaring unemployment rate adds another layer of difficulty to the job search experience. Your legislation will go a long way toward allowing Chambers across the country with veterans in their community have a fair chance to be hired and begin a meaningful career.

Respectfully,

TED OWENS,
President/CEO.
Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce.