

Medgar Evers & Fannie Lou Hamer, Mission Mississippi Mayor's Prayer Breakfast and Governor's Prayer Luncheon, among others. In 2003, Mayor Alice Scott, of Canton, Mississippi presented the 'Key to the City' to Mrs. Palmer and proclaimed October 3 as "Cynthia Goodloe Palmer Day".

She is a singer, song writer, producer, entrepreneur, friend, humble servant and a lover of people. Her personal testimony is: 'In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths' Proverbs 3:6.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Cynthia Palmer for her dedication to serving others.

### CLOTHE A HOMELESS HERO ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6328, the "Jamie Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act," which Directs the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration [TSA]) to transfer unclaimed clothing recovered at airport security checkpoints to local veterans organizations or other local charitable organizations for distribution to homeless or needy veterans and their families. Moreover, it authorizes the Assistant Secretary to enter into agreements with airport authorities for disposing of such clothing.

In my home state of Texas, we have nearly 1.7 million veterans. I represent 18th District in Texas which is home to over 32,000 veterans. Of the 200,000 veterans of military service who live and work in Houston; more than 13,000 are veterans from Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Veteran homelessness has been a substantial problem going back to at least the Vietnam era.

An estimated 10–16 percent of our nation's homeless population (between 76,000–136,000) are veterans.

Nearly one in seven homeless adults are veterans, as of \* \* \*

More than 67,000 homeless veterans were counted on a given January night in America last year. More than 4 in 10 homeless veterans were found unsheltered.

Almost half of homeless veterans were African American in 2008 despite the fact that only 11 percent of veterans overall are African American.

1.5 million veterans are at risk of homelessness due to poverty, lack of support networks, and dismal living conditions in overcrowded or substandard housing.

30.2 percent of veterans ages 18 to 24 were unemployed according to unpublished 2011 Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

Nearly 1 in 10 veterans with disabilities were not employed in 2010.

According to Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, a 2007 survey showed that more than one-third of employers were unaware of protections they must provide to servicemembers, and more than half spent less than 2 percent of their recruitment budget

on military advertising and/or did not understand the qualifications of military service.

In that same survey more than half of all veterans were unsure of how to professionally network, and nearly three in four felt unprepared to negotiate salary and benefits and/or unable to effectively translate military skills.

More than 968,000 of veterans ages 18 to 64 had been in poverty in the past year in 2010.

More than 33,000 veterans were housed since 2009 by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Veterans Affairs in permanent, supportive housing with case managers and access to VA health care.

\$31 million of SNAP/food stamps funding in 2008 was spent at military commissaries to help feed military members and their families who struggle against hunger.

A veteran lives in one in five households benefiting from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which provides heating and cooling assistance.

After serving this country and protecting our rights and freedoms, these veterans often sustain debilitating injuries or post-traumatic stress that make readjusting to life in the U.S. an arduous task. It is often difficult for them to find jobs and as they slip further into hopelessness, they become more susceptible to drug abuse and violent acts which can lead to homelessness.

This is a disturbing trend that must end. Surely, in this great nation, we can provide for those who fought to defend us. As our men and women in the armed forces have served us, it is our duty to, in turn, serve them.

H.R. 6328 is a step in the right direction towards finding creative solutions for the basic needs of certain veterans. By using unclaimed clothing that has been left at airports is a wonderful way to help ensure that veterans who have fallen on hard times have access to clothing.

With the epidemic of depression, anxiety, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in our military, along with the burden of long and repeated deployment during our nation's most recent wars, we must be vigilant about combating the issue of homelessness among our nation's heroes.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have remained committed to meeting both the needs of veterans of previous wars, and to those who are now serving. Veterans have kept their promise to serve our nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love. We must now ensure that we keep our promises to our veterans.

I have introduced and supported legislation that increases medical services to our troops, veterans and their families. I recently introduced a measure that resulted in \$500,000 additional funding for PTSD research and treatment. Yet, as we work to improve the physical and mental health of our returning heroes; we must also work to ensure that our service men and women retain their dignity when they return home, and providing them with access to clothes is the least we can do to honor their service. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6328, the "Clothe a Homeless Hero Act," on Suspension.

U.N. IS NOT THE FORUM FOR RESOLVING MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, the United Nations will vote on whether or not to recognize the Palestinian Authority as a non-member observer state of the U.N. With 132 nations having already recognized the Palestinian territory as a sovereign state and only 97 votes needed, I suspect the Palestinian Authority's effort will be successful. Yet, despite a ceasefire reached between Israel and Hamas last week, the Middle East remains a volatile tinder box far from peace. Admitting the Palestinian Authority as a nonmember observer state will hurt, not help, a peace process that is already on shaky ground.

The United States has opposed the Palestinian Authority's effort from the very beginning because it recognizes the instability that such recognition would create. The Palestinian Authority wants all the benefits of a state, without any of the responsibility. They fully admit that they don't know what their borders are. By definition, a state is a geographic territory with a sovereign government. Yes, there are some countries with border disputes, such as India and Pakistan in the Kashmir region, but the Palestinians have not agreed upon border whatsoever. What is a state if it can't define its own land?

The Palestinians themselves agreed to resolve statehood issues at the negotiating table in the Oslo Accords (which means they are required to negotiate bilaterally with Israel). Now they are figuratively walking away from the negotiating table and literally blowing it up with attacks from Hamas. Meanwhile, Israel continues to help the Palestinian economy, including collecting over \$100 million a month in taxes for the Palestinians and allowing more and more Palestinians to travel to the West Bank. One thing is for sure: it is not Israel that is holding up the peace process.

With upgraded status at the U.N. come certain benefits. Here lies the real desire for the Palestinian U.N. gambit. A Palestinian state could bring war crimes charges against Israel in the International Criminal Court, putting the fate of Israelis in the hands of some international judge. This Court is so dangerous that even President Obama refuses to allow Americans to be prosecuted by it. The Palestinian Authority remains fiercely committed to bringing Israel to the International Criminal Court. Many of the nations who support Palestinian Statehood have requested assurance that Israel would be left alone if statehood was granted. The Palestinian Authority defiantly rejected these requests. Just yesterday, Hanan Ashrawi, a senior member of the PLO said: "We have not succumbed to pressure, we did not give any commitment." The world should know they mean what they say; granting them this request means endangering Israel.

Yes, the Palestinians may be successful today and no, the U.S. does not have veto power in a U.N. General Assembly vote, but there still can and should be consequences for the irresponsible actions of President Abbas and his old cronies in the Palestinian Liberation Organization, PLO. Last year, we gave

the Palestinian Authority \$495 million. In the same timeframe, President Abbas' office budget was \$72 million yet he refuses to tell us or anyone else how he spends it. There are even press reports that his own salary is \$1 million a month. According to their own documents, the Palestinian Authority spent \$194 million last year alone on offices that helped promote the Palestinians' push for recognition at the U.N. The U.S. should immediately cut funding to the PLO by at least \$72 million next year and require President Abbas to open up his budget for all to see. The days of giving money away to other nations with no transparency and no consequences for irresponsible behavior should be over.

The United Nations has no business getting involved in the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Dore Gold, a former Israeli ambassador to the U.N. said: "If there was a U.N. resolution whose first clause was anti-Israel and whose second clause was the earth is flat, the U.N. would pass it." Peace will not come from decisions made by a corrupt international body. If the Palestinians were committed to peace they would be working with Israel, not hiding behind the U.N. And that's just the way it is.

GREG POULOS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Greg Poulos for his service to our community and receiving the 2012 Mayor of Golden's Award for Excellence.

As founder and chairman of the Golden Schools Foundation, Greg continues to drive the organization to excellence through high performance rates and accountability in the Golden articulation area.

Greg portrays his commitment to the people of Golden through his surveys of the residents on their expectations and reviews of Golden schools, then employs these testimonials in strategic goals for the community. Greg aims to have 95% of Golden students enrolled in their neighborhood schools. With Greg's determination and diligence, this goal will undoubtedly be achieved in the near future.

Mr. Poulos is a champion in the community and I am honored to congratulate him on receiving the 2012 Mayor of Golden's Award for Excellence. I am sure he will have the same dedication and commitment in all his future endeavors.

**RUSSIA AND MOLDOVA JACKSON-VANIK REPEAL AND SERGEI MAGNITSKY RULE OF LAW ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012**

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 16, 2012*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 6156, the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal Act of

2012. This legislation sends the wrong message, rewarding President Putin with trade privileges at a time when he is crushing pro-democracy voices at home and arming the murderous Assad regime in Syria.

Russia has repeatedly and deliberately blocked international efforts to bring an end to the violence in Syria. The Russian government continues to arm President Bashar al-Assad as he murders his own people. Just last month, the Turkish government seized munitions from a Russian flight intended for the Syrian Army. The violence has had a devastating impact on Syrian civilians, with 2.5 million internally displaced and over 400,000 registered refugees living in neighboring countries. By early next year, 4 million Syrians will need humanitarian assistance. Russia's support of the Syrian Army is extending the conflict, which increases the risks of destabilization within the region. The conflict has already spilled over Syria's borders into Turkey and Lebanon. Before I support any legislation favorable to Russia, that country's leaders must stop arming the Syrian regime and allow the international community to take action to end the violence.

Proponents of this legislation argue it is time for Russia to graduate from Jackson-Vanik. This graduation, however, would take place in the middle of a serious crackdown on human rights in Russia. In the past year, the Russian government has forced international non-governmental organizations out of the country and imposed harsh sentences on individuals for peaceful protest. Just three days ago, President Putin signed a law that expands the definition of treason so broadly that any individual working with an international organization is at risk of being jailed for treason. These repressive tactics signal a serious step backward for Russia's human rights record.

H.R. 6156 contains the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, which would require President Obama to publically name those responsible for Mr. Magnitsky's torture and murder. The President would then be able to address those persons and other human rights abusers with individual sanctions, including prohibitions on travel to the United States and the use of American banking facilities. Those responsible for Mr. Magnitsky's murder should be brought to justice. While I support this provision, it is not enough to justify voting for the bill, which ignores the continued suffering of millions in Russia and Syria.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 6156.

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF HARLEM'S GENERAL COUNSEL JOSEPH FLEMING, ESQ.**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 29, 2012*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the life and legacy of Joseph Fleming, fondly known to many as Papa Joe, Joe Cool, The People's Lawyer, The Master Negotiator and Harlem's General Counsel. On Monday, September 10, 2012, Harlem's honorary elite gathered at the Sanctuary of the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church to celebrate the life of our dear beloved attorney and friend, Joseph Fleming, Esq.

It was a special gathering of people that knew Joseph as clients, as activists, as educators, as business partners, as media personalities, as religious leaders, as entertainers and promoters, as elected officials and as family members and friends. In his very short time here on this earth, my dear friend Joe Fleming lived a complete and compact life of excellence and accomplishment, which included being the best husband in the world, a wonderful loving and complete father, a devoted son, a trusted friend and confidant, an author, inventor, entrepreneur, role model, track runner, singer, a man who loved to party and dance with the ladies, but a man who gave all of his unyielding heart to his only true love and partner Temple-Jene.

Great men like Joseph Fleming, Esq. are precious gifts we temporarily have in this world, but their assistance and contributions are far remembered and everlasting. Although Joe will be missed, his legacy now lives through his wife, Temple-Jene, his son, Joseph Harris, his three daughters, Lavon Robin, Lateefah Shariene and Terilyn Marshelle, his grandson, Nathaniel Joseph Williams, his God-daughter, Nyah Cha' Ron Uhuru and through Maschil Entertainment, whose mission is to create, produce, and promote music and artists who "make music with a conscious message". That is indeed a great comfort to all who knew this amazing, articulate, soft spoken, serene and outspoken man, who lived life positive despite pain and discomfort as an example to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, on a very personal note, when I remember Joe Fleming, I think about myself as D'Artagnan who joined Athos (Joe Fleming), Porthos (Leon Ellis) and Aramis (Reggie Williams), the Black Musketeers, inseparable friends who live by the motto "all for one, one for all" ("tous pour un, un pour tous"). The friendship and kinship of these amazing three Amigos, The Black Musketeers is a story that bears and dares to be written in the mortals of Harlem's history, which will tell a story of three very best friends who were always there for me and the community we love so deeply.

I am honored to include the Obituary of our dear beloved Musketeer, Joseph Fleming, Esq.

Joseph Fleming was born January 4, 1951 in Richmond, Virginia to Mary Terry Fleming and the late Rev. Leroy Fleming, Sr. His family moved to Mt. Vernon, New York in 1953, and later to the Bronx in 1957. Joseph is a product of the New York City School System, P.S. 103, Olinville Jr. High School, and Evander Childs High School. He graduated from New York University School of Liberal Arts at its Uptown Bronx Campus in 1973, where he received his B.S. Degree in Economics and Political Science. While attending NYU, Joseph was the Founder and one of the Directors of the Educational Development and Community Enrollment Program, a program designed to enroll and mentor students with promise, but without the grades. He was also President of the Black Students Organization.

Joseph loved the law. At an early age, after watching Perry Mason, he decided he was going to be a lawyer. Upon receiving his Juris Doctor from New York University in 1976, Joseph began working as an Associate in the Law Offices of Reginald F. Lewis. It was an opportunity of a lifetime to be able to gain firsthand experience with one of the top African American attorneys on Wall Street. Within a couple of years, Joseph knew that his passion for the law would only be truly