

“The Hub City” truly fits. Activity associated with the railroad and the citrus orchards made Colton a busy place, with many business and residents working to support railroad operations. In South Colton, where many railroad workers lived, residents built their own homes often using the disassembled wooden crates from railroad shipments as building materials. Established in 1882, the Colton Railroad Crossing is one of the busiest railroad intersections in the Nation. A \$270 million project is in process to replace this crossing with a fly-over to raise the east-west Union Pacific tracks over the north-south Burlington Northern Santa Fe tracks.

The residents of Colton have worked hard to make their city one of the best places in Southern California to work, live, and enjoy life. Colton is a diverse community where residents can pursue their dreams in an environment abundant with opportunities for educational and economic advancement. It is indeed my pleasure to represent the residents of this beautiful city, who have contributed much of their time towards making Colton a destination for visitors and a home for those seeking a sense of community and a high quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, on this very special year for the City of Colton, please join me in commemorating their one hundred and twenty sixth anniversary.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MORRISTOWN

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Junior League of Morristown, located in Morristown, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

As a non-profit, charitable organization of women, the Junior League of Morristown aims to “bring people and needs” together through the promotion of voluntarism, the development of potential in women, and the improvement of communities through adept leadership and action. Since its founding in 1936, the Junior League of Morristown has been completely nondiscriminatory in its acceptance of women, as demonstrated by the members’ diverse backgrounds. There are over 390 active members that compose the Junior League of Morristown, an organization that is 1 of the 292 total Junior Leagues that make up the Association of Junior Leagues International, which draws from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and Mexico.

Since its creation in 1936, the Junior League of Morristown has played a significant role in the development of Morristown and the surrounding area. The League has dedicated both time and effort to a plethora of charitable and non-charitable organizations, such as The Neighborhood House, Morristown Hospital, the Girl Scouts, the Red Cross during World War II emergencies, the Children’s Theatre, and the Arts Council of the Morris Area, just to name a few. The League has received a number of grants and donations in order to continue its charitable work in the surrounding community. The Junior League is also proud

to operate The Nearly New Shop resale and consignment shop located in Morristown.

In most recent news, the Junior League of Morristown made headlines when it finished a project with the Jersey Battered Women’s Service that transformed a common room into a multi-purpose room for victims healing from violent acts. The Morristown Patch and The Daily Record, area newspapers, both cover the tremendous effort by the League. The JBWS director, Patty Sly commented: “We are so appreciative of the JLM for sharing their time and talents to create a relaxing and healing environment for our clients. Their efforts offer hope and dignity to those seeking protection from abuse. This is just one of many projects that the JLM has assisted us with over the years and we are grateful for our ongoing partnership.” The project is only one of many that the League has pursued over its 75 year existence, yet it symbolizes the values that every community should strive to uphold. While it did receive a little bit of press coverage for a seemingly “small” project, a newspaper cannot do justice in describing what the Junior League of Morristown means to its community.

Charitable organizations, such as the Junior League of Morristown, provide an invaluable and meaningful service to towns such as Morristown. The Junior League of Morristown has always been available and willing to lend a helping hand when it was needed, and with the support of the local residents, its staff and volunteers, it will continue to do so for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Junior League of Morristown as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary.

OBAMA’S ABDICATION OF LEADERSHIP IN SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, Friday marks three years since the International Criminal Court (ICC) released an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Bashir on charges of genocide in Darfur including overseeing acts of torture, the rape of thousands of women, and forced displacement of hundreds of thousands.

And yet, almost inexplicably, Bashir continues to travel the globe with virtual impunity thanks in no small part to the Obama administration’s morally bankrupt posture when it comes to the regime in Khartoum.

For four months now the position of Sudan Special Envoy has been vacant. This vacancy is symptomatic of a president that has all but forsaken the people of Sudan.

Last December a group of prominent Sudan activists and advocates wrote a letter to the administration, which I submit for the Record, expressing their “grave concerns that the current U.S. policy is ineffective at stopping mass atrocities in Sudan.” They urged President Obama, in his second term, to embrace “an urgent shift in the U.S. policy to finally end the humanitarian crises and bring about a just and lasting peace in Sudan.”

The letter cited the president’s own words from 2007 when he rightly called the genocide

in Darfur a “stain on our souls” and said that “as a president of the United States I don’t intend to abandon people or turn a blind eye to slaughter.”

And yet, I can’t help but wonder if the people of Darfur, who have been displaced from their homes and brutalized by violence for ten years now, do in fact feel abandoned by this president and this administration.

The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Ali Al-Za’ari, released a statement on July 7, prompted by the recent tragic death of two World Vision humanitarian workers caught in a shootout between government forces and rebels in Darfur, in which he commented on the “continuing unstable security” in the region which threatens to disrupt the flow of vital aid to an already desperate populace.

Not only is Darfur’s nightmare ongoing, but Khartoum’s brutality has only spread, consistent with its decades’ long effort to systematically and ruthlessly consolidate power resulting in the death and displacement of untold thousands. More recently the Nuban people have been driven from their homes, targeted for killing and terrorized because of the color of their skin. Khartoum has indiscriminately bombed civilian populations—disrupting an entire way of life for this largely farming population. Starvation, death and despair have followed.

According to the UN Humanitarian Affairs office approximately half a million people have been displaced because of the conflict in Nuba. Last week a Sudanese jet reportedly attacked the routes typically taken by refugees from the Nuba region to the Yida refugee camp in South Sudan killing an unknown number of civilians.

I have visited Yida and talked with the people personally. I have heard their pleas for help and I have conveyed their message to this administration—a message which fell on largely deaf ears.

On March 19, USA Today featured a joint op-ed by actor and co-founder of the anti-genocide organization Not On Our Watch, Don Cheadle, and John Prendergast the co-founder of the Enough Project, in the op-ed wrote, “By excluding all but a narrow clique of Sudanese from access to the power and wealth of the country, marginalized groups from the west (Darfur), south (Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains) and east have all taken up arms against that regime. . . . Any peace effort should deal comprehensively with all the rebel movements, the unarmed opposition, and civil society, in search of a solution for the whole of Sudan. Until the abusive governing system in Sudan is radically reformed, there will be blood.”

Indeed, much blood has been shed, and yet inexplicably this administration has embraced a policy of engagement marked by conciliatory outreach to Khartoum, including the prospect of debt relief for a genocidal government.

While there has been criticism of two successive special envoys, ultimately they were merely the implementers of a policy that is inherently flawed and ultimately ineffective.

In a February 12 letter to Secretary of State Kerry I wrote, “Our approach to Sudan and South Sudan needs reinventing. It demands a renewed sense of moral clarity about who we are dealing with in Khartoum—namely genocidaires. It necessitates someone who can speak candidly with our friends in South

Sudan about their own internal challenges, including corruption, and shortcomings as a new nation. While an envoy alone does not a policy make, a high-profile special envoy, from outside the department, with the knowledge and mandate to aggressively pursue peace, security and justice for the people of Sudan and South Sudan, is an important step in the right direction.”

The model of an effective special envoy that I often refer to is that of Senator John Danforth. In 2001, I was at the Rose Garden ceremony when Senator Danforth, standing between President Bush and Secretary of State Powell, was appointed as Sudan Special Envoy. President Bush’s leadership in appointing Danforth and giving him this charge was instrumental in securing, after two and a half years of negotiations, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), thereby bringing about an end to the war and ultimately paving the way for South Sudan’s independence. Danforth was a high-profile envoy. He had the ear of the president and the secretary and didn’t get bogged down in the department’s bureaucracy. He was uniquely positioned to negotiate and his stature, prior to taking the job, communicated a clear sense of urgency and priority on the part of the U.S. He didn’t require a sizeable staff, or even a full-time State Department post, but the diplomatic feat he accomplished, with President Bush’s blessing and support, was nothing short of remarkable.

Meanwhile, not only has the Obama administration failed to fill the Sudan Special Envoy post, it has actively sought to block efforts in Congress, which I initiated, to isolate Bashir. Last year I offered an amendment to the State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill which would have cut non-humanitarian foreign assistance to any nation that allowed him into their country without arresting him. The amendment was adopted with bipartisan support by voice vote despite the department’s opposition.

This approach of using our increasingly scarce aid dollars to effectuate change and further our foreign policy objectives is a tried and true method. When Malawi allowed Bashir to enter the country to attend a regional trade summit I pressed the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to end Malawi’s compact. The MCC was initially opposed to this course of action but ultimately, in the face of a deteriorating human rights situation internally, reversed course and suspended Malawi’s compact, citing Bashir’s visit as one of the reasons.

Fortunately Malawi’s new president, Joyce Banda, hoping to reinvigorate her country’s relationship with donor countries, last year took a firm stand in refusing to allow Bashir to visit her country for the African Union (AU) summit. President Banda went so far as to decline to host the summit lest her country and her government be placed in the position of being forced to host a war criminal. Given her principled stand I made clear to the MCC Board that I supported Malawi’s compact being reinstated which it ultimately was.

However, other countries, including large recipients of U.S. foreign assistance, have not followed suit and the administration has failed to embrace this approach to spur such action.

As recently as yesterday, reports surfaced that Bashir would soon travel to Nigeria—yet another country which has signed up to the Rome Statute—the founding treaty of the ICC.

The amendment I proposed would effectively isolate Bashir and make him an international pariah as is befitting a man with blood on his hands. It is noteworthy that the amendment garnered the support of 70 prominent Holocaust and genocide scholars. Dr. Rafael Medoff, director of the Wyman Institute, which initiated a letter of support to the administration from these scholars, said: “Halting aid to those who host Bashir would be the first concrete step the U.S. has taken to isolate the Butcher of Darfur and pave the way for his arrest. If the Obama administration is serious about punishing perpetrators of genocide, it should support the Wolf Amendment.”

Sadly that support never materialized.

When it wasn’t busy opposing Congressional efforts to isolate Bashir the administration was cozying up to elements of the regime in Khartoum and granting them an air of legitimacy. On April 23 the Associated Press reported that “The Obama administration is preparing to welcome a senior Sudanese delegation to the United States for some rare highest-level diplomacy between the countries.” The delegation was to include Sudanese presidential adviser Nafie Ali Nafie.

Upon learning of this invitation I immediately wrote the president and expressed my strong opposition citing an October 2008 Los Angeles Times profile piece on Nafie which opened with the following, “He’s accused of torturing enemies, cozying up to Osama bin Laden in the 1990s and plotting to assassinate Egypt’s president.” The Times piece continued, describing him as, “the leader of the hardline faction in the ruling National Congress Party,” and the one who “opposed allowing U.N. peacekeepers into Darfur and believed that the ruling party gave up too much power in signing a 2005 U.S.-brokered peace treaty that ended a 21-year civil war with southern rebels.”

The article quoted a former University of Khartoum science professor and critic of the Khartoum government who was arrested in 1989 as saying that Nafie was his interrogator. Specifically he said, “I was tortured, beaten and flogged in his presence . . . He was administering the whole thing. He did it all in such a cool manner, as if he were sipping coffee.”

I am not opposed to diplomacy. But there are plenty of locations, including through our embassy in Khartoum, to engage in these talks. Why the administration would choose now to reward Khartoum, specifically the likes of Nafie Ali Nafie, with an invitation to Washington is beyond me. It is further worth noting that the invitation is utterly at odds with Obama’s own 2011 Presidential Proclamation refusing entry into the United States of anyone who has “planned, ordered, assisted, aided and abetted, committed or otherwise participated in, including through command responsibility, war crimes, crimes against humanity or other serious violations of human rights, or who attempted or conspired to do so.”

The administration’s misstep in inviting Nafie was met with grave expressions of concern from many in the Sudan advocacy community.

Eventually, at a Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing focused on Sudan just last month the administration indicated the invitation was now off the table—although they did not rule out another change of course in the future.

Candidate Obama purported to be deeply concerned by the crisis in Sudan and committed to bold actions.

Have we seen a fraction of that concern or anything close to bold action since he became president?

Candidate Obama was sharp in his criticism of President Bush’s handling of Sudan.

Have we seen President Obama take even fleeting interest, beyond the occasional talking point, in the deteriorating situation in Sudan marked in part by a growing humanitarian crisis in the Nuba Mountains?

In a piece in the August 4, 2011 Christian Science Monitor noted Sudan researcher and activist Eric Reeves, wrote, “If the world refuses to see what is occurring in South Kordofan, and refuses to respond to evidence that the destruction of the Nuba people, as such, is a primary goal of present military and security actions by Sudan, then this moment will represent definitive failure of the ‘responsibility to protect.’”

Meanwhile in an April 23, 2012 speech at the U.S. Holocaust Museum President Obama lauded his commitment in the realm of genocide and mass-atrocities prevention, saying, without a hint of irony, “We’re making sure that the United States government has the structures, the mechanisms to better prevent and respond to mass atrocities. So I created the first-ever White House position dedicated to this task. It’s why I created a new Atrocities Prevention Board, to bring together senior officials from across our government to focus on this critical mission. This is not an afterthought.”

He continued, “. . . we need to be doing everything we can to prevent and respond to these kinds of atrocities—because national sovereignty is never a license to slaughter your people.”

I couldn’t agree more. And yet, I think most in the Sudan watchers would hardly be able to claim that this administration has done everything it can to prevent and respond to Khartoum’s assault on its own people.

Arguably, the Obama administration’s moral equivalency and silence in the face of atrocities in Sudan has only, in the words of famed Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, helped the oppressor and encouraged the tormentor.

With tensions between Sudan and South Sudan on the rise and nearing a tipping point, thousands starving in the Nuba Mountains, refugees fleeing aerial bombardment and pouring over the border into South Sudan, violence persisting in Darfur and an internationally indicted war criminal at the helm in Khartoum who travels the globe with seeming impunity, it is time for a fresh policy and a renewed commitment to peace and justice in Sudan.

To date, this president has offered nothing more than an abdication of leadership and a failure of vision, which has culminated in human suffering and misery.

Obama has failed the people of Sudan who yearn for peace, justice and basic human rights.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2013

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall vote No. 330 and rollcall vote No. 331. Had I been present, I would have voted no on vote No. 330 and no on vote No. 331.

IN SUPPORT OF MOLDOVAN PARLIAMENT DECLARATION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE TRANSNISTRIAN CONFLICT SETTLEMENT PROCESS

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2013

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the peaceful reintegration of the young and aspiring Republic of Moldova. I also want to acknowledge my colleagues Reps. DAVID PRICE, Rep. ELIOT ENGEL, Rep. WILLIAM KEATING, Rep. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Rep. MARK MEADOWS, Rep. DIAZ-BALART, Rep. ALCEE HASTINGS, Rep. PATRICK MCHENRY, who have agreed to associate themselves with this statement.

Most importantly, we support the recent conclusion of negotiations between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union on Moldova's Association Agreement, held in Luxembourg on June 25, 2013. We welcome the progress instituted by Prime Minister Iurie Leanca and the Moldovan government in strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law, as well as in preparing for economic and political association with the European Union.

As the goals and promotion of values of the Eastern Partnership are of utmost importance to U.S. strategic policy, we encourage Moldova to remain united in its continued focus on the domestic reforms integral to eventual European Union accession. We hope that the forthcoming EU Summit in Vilnius in November will result in an opportunity to reaffirm Moldova's EU aspirations, and call on the U.S. State Department to assist in every aspect of this challenging transition. Doing so affirms the United States' commitment to our allies in this region.

While encouraged by Moldova's increasing harmonization with EU norms and standards—as evidenced by its recent agreement on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement as part of the European Union's Association Agreement—Moldova is being forced to fight for its own internationally recognized sovereign, independent and territorial integrity.

We are concerned with the unilateral set of actions undertaken by the self-proclaimed

leaders of the breakaway region of Transnistria, who recently launched provocative actions by adopting the so-called "legal act on the border." These unilateral actions violate Moldova's sovereignty, as the leadership of Transnistria has claimed territories that are fully in the control of the Republic of Moldova. We are also concerned by recent entreaties by the leadership in Transnistria—entreaties that threaten Moldova's territorial integrity and European Union accession prospects. These actions undermine the July 1992 ceasefire as well as the "5+2" conflict settlement process. We call on the U.S. State Department to secure a fair and democratic settlement process while maintaining Moldova's independence and sovereignty.

Today, we stand in support of the Moldovan Parliament's Declaration on the Current Situation of the Transnistrian Conflict Settlement Process, adopted consensually on June 21, 2013, and urge leaders of the self-proclaimed Transnistria, as well as all parties involved in 5+2 negotiation process, to conclude negotiations on the legal status of the Transnistrian region and its rightful role in the Republic of Moldova. Only a legal status agreed upon through the 5+2 framework will prevent further escalation of conflict. At the same time, we firmly recognize the need to finalize the withdrawal of Russian troops and munitions from the region, according to its internationally recognized obligations assumed at the 1999 summit of the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe.

We call on the United States and the international community to take all the diplomatic steps possible to prevent further escalation of conflict, protect Moldova's European Union accession aspirations, resume talks on the political status of Transnistria and ensure the reintegration of a sovereign and independent Moldova.

TRIBUTE TO BETH GROVES

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Norco, California are exceptional. Norco has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Beth Groves is one of these individuals. This year, Beth will end her tenure as the City Manager for the city of Norco after four years of service.

Beth's passion and commitment for providing for the community began early. After graduating from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Arts in Applied arts, she went on to hone her talent, receiving a Masters in Public Administration from California State University Long Beach, and a Doctorate in Public Administration from the University of Laverne. Beth began her career as Community Relations Coordinator for Mission Hospital, in Mission Viejo, California, and eventually landed a position in the City Manager's Office of Corona, where she served from 1996 to 2008, ultimately becoming the City Manager

of Corona. It is the expertise and knowledge gained through these experiences that have allowed to Beth lead Norco for the past four years in such a dynamic manner.

Under Beth's leadership, the city administration has actively promoted and supported the community. Beth is credited with many accomplishments during her time, including negotiating the Silverlakes agreements, establishing a new animal shelter despite many budget restraints, and maintaining the Preservation and Development Zone (PAD) program by working closely with both the planning director and historic commission. She has also encouraged economic development and a family-centered entertainment atmosphere by increasing filming and events that have taken place within the city.

In 2002, Beth received the "Woman of Distinction" Award in the category of International Good Will and Understanding from Soroptimist International of Corona, and the title of "2007 Distinguished Citizen of the Year" from the Temescal District of the Boy Scouts of America. She has also served as a Community Council Member for the Corona-Norco Chapter of the American Cancer society. The highlights of her extensive volunteer experience include The Foundation for Community and Family Health, Alternatives to Domestic Violence (ADV), Inspire Life Skills, and Peppermint Ridge.

Beth is no stranger to Southern California, having been a Corona resident for many years, where she is a mother to two adult sons and is a member of the Crossroads Christian Church. At the conclusion of her time as City Manager, Beth will remain a fixture in our community, serving as a full time professor at Cal Baptist University in Riverside, CA.

In light of all Beth has done for the city of Norco and the greater community, it is only fitting that she be honored for her many years of dedicated service. Beth's tireless passion for public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of Corona and Norco and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she moves forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 316, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 317, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall No. 318, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 319, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall No. 320, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 321, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 322, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 323, had I been present, I would have voted "no."