

Club of Key West, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this April.

The Rotary Club was chartered in our Florida Keys community in 1916 under the principle of "service above self," an excellent reminder to all of the importance we have of helping our fellow Floridians.

The Rotary Club of Key West is comprised of active members of our south Florida community who find it not only important, but also absolutely necessary to give back to their local neighborhoods. They provide scholarships to local school children, including \$25,000 to one graduating senior, and have even established a Rotary Dental Program to help children who otherwise would not be able to receive dental care.

I would also like to recognize Rotary legends Jefferson B. Browne, Robert Carraway, Edward B. Knight, Gerald "Moe" Mosher, Greg O'Berry, John G. Parks, Jr., Paul J. Sher, Edward Toppino, Robert Walker, and Alton Weekley.

Their dedication to remaining loyal to the Rotary Club's vision has helped to shape it into the wonderful organization it is today. We are fortunate to have experienced their leadership.

Once again, congratulations to the Rotary Club of Key West on an advantageous 100 years. May the next 100 be even more prosperous.

VASUNDARA GOVINDARAJAN, SPELLING BEE
WINNER

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Vasundara Govindarajan of Archimedean Academy, who will be representing Miami-Dade County in the Scripps National Spelling Bee held in Washington, D.C., this May.

The two-time winner comes from a family of excellent spellers. Her older brother, Vaidya, has even competed on the national stage.

Vasundara won the Miami Herald's 76th Annual Spelling Bee with the word "epulation," meaning feasting or banqueting—a word not typically found in your average sixth-graders' vocabulary. But Vasundara is clearly not your typical sixth-grader, and was able to take home the trophy over approximately 150 other students who were vying for this prestigious prize.

Congratulations, Vasundara, on this accomplishment. We are all very proud of you and look forward to watching you represent Miami-Dade County on the national stage. And don't forget to stop by my office when you come to Washington.

SEA LEVEL RISE SOLUTIONS CONFERENCE

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sea Level Rise Solutions Conference, which will be held by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce this April.

The conference brings together members from across Florida to have a constructive dialogue about ways to confront sea level rise in our communities. Attendees will also have the opportunity to be updated on the South

Florida Regional Climate Compact and receive recommendations from the Miami-Dade Sea Level Rise Task Force on the best ways to incorporate new methods to deal with climate change in our daily lives.

The individuals who attend this conference have a passionate desire to keep our south Florida communities safe and viable for generations to come. Sea level rising is an important issue not only in south Florida, but a topic that should be discussed in a bipartisan manner at the national level as well.

I commend the attendees of the Sea Level Rise Solutions Conference for their leadership and for taking proactive steps to address rising sea levels.

COAL ASH LANDFILL SAFETY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, power companies are closing down old, air-polluting, coal-fired power plants as we move toward cleaner, more sustainable ways to generate electricity.

As these small producing plants close, they leave behind a toxic substance known as coal ash. The coal ash is a public health hazard if it is not disposed of properly. Coal ash is toxic and can cause sickness and death. It is a dangerous substance that must be kept out of our drinking water. Coal ash contains known carcinogens such as arsenic, mercury, and lead. That is why coal ash is being regulated by the EPA.

As power companies shut down or upgrade their facilities while closing existing coal ash ponds, where much of this toxic material has been temporarily stored, the need to permanently dispose of this hazardous byproduct is growing.

We now know that some waste disposal companies have been quietly exploiting a loophole in the new EPA rules, which allow them to dump toxic coal ash into municipal solid waste landfills. So far, these waste disposal companies have dumped millions of tons of coal ash into unlined municipal solid waste landfills across America. These landfills, which are often located near neighborhoods and schools, are simply not built or constructed or equipped to safely handle this toxic material.

EPA rules do not require sufficient commonsense protections for people who live nearby these landfills. Unfortunately, many of these landfills are disproportionately located in low-income and minority communities.

Today I introduced the Coal Ash Landfill Safety Act to close the loopholes in the EPA rules to ensure that landfills receiving coal ash are properly equipped with the necessary safeguards that will protect the public from the health risks caused by drinking water contaminated with the coal ash components.

In addition to ensuring that landfills accepting coal ash are lined properly to protect groundwater, the Coal Ash Landfill Safety Act would also protect communities by working to minimize coal ash dust in the air, which is also toxic. It will require groundwater monitoring, mandate proper cleanup requirements, and require weekly, monthly, and annual inspections, thereby keeping the public informed by posting the monitoring data, corrective action plans, and inspection reports on a publicly accessible Web site.

As we saw in Flint, Michigan, we need to act at the Federal level before our failure to do so results in irreversible damage to the health and environment of the communities we represent. I don't want American families, regardless of income level, to be unfairly and unreasonably exposed to toxic chemicals because dangerous materials, such as coal ash, are being deposited into inadequately protected facilities in their neighborhoods.

Together, we can find sensible solutions to all of these problems that we face, but we must deal with the regulations, the shortcomings. We must protect the American people.

A TRIBUTE TO DOLPH SCHAYES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the great life of Dolph Schayes.

Dolph was born in New York, New York, in 1928, and lived most of his life in Syracuse, New York. At the young age of 19 years old, he entered the National Basketball Association, where he went on to have a truly remarkable career.

In his over 15 years of playing in the NBA, Dolph earned many records and many awards. He was, without a doubt, one of the best players who ever played the game at the National Basketball Association level, and he helped mold the NBA in its early years.

While Dolph may be best known for his talents on the court, some of his most impressive moments happened off the court. He was a very giving member of the Syracuse community, working with youth on a constant basis, starting one of the earliest basketball camps in America. Dolph's legacy lies not only in the records he holds, but also in the many lives he touched.

On March 26, just a few days from now, Dolph's jersey will be retired and his son, Danny—another great NBA player in his own time—will be accepting it on his behalf.

I am truly honored to pay tribute to this incredible athlete and man who contributed greatly to the sport and to the community he loved so much.

God bless you, Dolph, for a great life and a great NBA career.

U.S.-INDIA DEFENSE STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, the United States is fortunate to have allies and partners across the world that we work with every day to combat terrorism and our other security challenges.

One of these relationships that I work closely on is the strategic partnership between the United States and India. Together, the U.S. and India face a set of common security challenges, and there can be no question that closer defense and security cooperation between our two democracies will greatly benefit all of our people.

Over the last few years, Mr. Speaker, we have seen substantial growth in this partnership, most recently formalized last year with the 10-year renewal of the defense framework. This partnership is also highlighted by forums such as the U.S.-India Defense Technology and Trade Initiative. I firmly believe that Congress should be supporting and offering more opportunities for the U.S.-India defense partnership to succeed.

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That is why today I will be introducing the U.S.-India Defense Technology and Partnership Act. This legislation will cement the progress that has already been made and will lay the foundation for future cooperation and growth.

Additionally, this legislation will elevate India's status by shortening the time required for the notification of sale or export of defense articles from the United States to India.

It will also bring our defense establishment closer together by encouraging more joint contingency planning and will require the U.S. Government to review and assess India's ability to execute military operations of mutual interest.

Just as important as efforts like the legislation I am introducing today, I believe, is Congress' closer examination and oversight of other actions that impact the U.S.-India partnership.

One that certainly comes to mind, Mr. Speaker, is the delicate and, at times, seemingly confused policy with Pakistan. Pakistan has proven time and time again that it is an unreliable partner.

While Pakistan has taken some, but very limited, action to disrupt terror elements that operate within their borders, their demonstrated unwillingness to fulfill and execute counterterrorism efforts should leave no question as to their true intentions.

So why, Mr. Speaker, last month, did the administration notice a sale of eight F-16s to Pakistan? What, I ask, is the benefit of the sale to our national security and the security of the region and our partners?

This is one question, Mr. Speaker. But the request to use taxpayer dollars to finance the sale of these F-16s to Pakistan is entirely another question. What has Pakistan actually done to deserve these fighter jets, let alone financing from the United States taxpayers? Certainly not enough, in my view, as I firmly oppose the sale from start to finish.

Every year since 2011, the administration has been required to utilize a waiver to continue providing security assistance to Pakistan. Why, you might ask, does the administration need to continually use a waiver? Well, it is because Pakistan has failed to be an honest and real partner in the efforts to combat terrorism that is exported from its borders.

On this front, Mr. Speaker, I have joined with Congressman BERA to seek a restriction on the availability of security assistance to Pakistan next fiscal year. We are not seeking to completely prohibit the use of the Presidential waiver—although, I might add, this is a debate worth having here in the House. We are simply asking that 30 percent of the funds should not be subject to a waiver. This is a common-sense step that will, hopefully, after years of trying, get the Pakistani Government to cooperate and meet the requirements set in law.

Mr. Speaker, India should know that they have a strong and committed partner in the U.S. Congress, and I believe that steps such as passing the appropriations fence I just outlined and passing the U.S.-India Defense Technology and Partnership Act would send a strong message and certainly enhance our strategic partnership with India.

Mr. Speaker, we have a tremendous opportunity in front of us right now to further build an enduring defense and security partnership with India that will endure for years to come and, indeed, benefit both of our great democracies.

LACK OF LIBERTY AND FREEDOM
IN CUBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in 2014, President Obama said he wanted to go to Cuba if, and I quote, "I, with confidence, can say that we are seeing some progress in liberty and freedom. If we are going backwards," President Obama said, "then there is not much reason for me to be there. I am not interested in just validating the status quo."

Well, look at this poster, Mr. Speaker. These are human rights dissidents who were rounded up and beaten. If Obama's Cuba policy is not going backwards, I don't know what is, because the oppressive Cuban apparatus of repression only seems to be emboldened.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Havana, Raul Castro was asked by a reporter if

he would release political prisoners in Cuba. Castro looked uncomfortable. Why? Because in Cuba, there is no free press. Reporters are not allowed to ask real questions to regime leaders.

Castro said, well, there are no political prisoners in Cuba at all, and if there were, he would free them by nightfall.

That's a good one. Well, there are 11 million people imprisoned by Castro's communist regime—the entire island.

But here is a list, Mr. Speaker, of over 50 political prisoners, and this is a list comprised by the Cuban Democratic Directorate. Some of these individuals have been in jail for over 20 years. Others are constantly detained, released, and rearrested.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to enter this list into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF POLITICAL PRISONERS,
CUBAN DEMOCRATIC DIRECTORATE, MARCH
21ST, 2016

1. Yasiel Espino Aceval/Condemned 4 years/Ariza Prison
2. Alexander Palacio Reyes/Cerámica Roja Prison
3. Alexis Serrano Avila/Condemned 3 years prison
4. Andrés Fidel Alfonso Rodríguez/Melena Sur prison
5. Ernesto Borges Pérez/Combinado del Este prison
6. Carlos Amaury Calderin Roca/Valle Grande prison
7. Maria del Carmen Cala Aguilera/Pendiente/Provincial Women's Prison Holguín Province
8. Enrique Bartolomé Cambria Diaz/Kilo 8 prison
9. Misael Canet Velázquez/Kilo 8 prison
10. Santiago Cisneros Castellanos/Pendiente/Aguadores prison
11. Leonardo Cobas Pérez/Moscú prison
12. Felipe Martin Companione/Cerámica Roja prison/Condemned to 8 years in prison
13. Orlando Contreras Aguiar/Aguacate prison
14. Yeri Curbelo Aguilera/Condemned 3 years prison/Guantanamo Prison
15. Pedro de la Caridad Alvarez Pedroso
16. Jordys Manuel Dosi/Condemned 3 years prison
17. Carlos Manuel Figueroa Álvarez/Combinado del Este Prison/Condemned to 6 years prison
18. David Fernández Cardoso/Bungo Ocho Prison
19. José Daniel Gonzalez Fumero/Nieves Morejón Prison
20. Ricardo González Sendiña/condemned 6 years/Combinado del Este
21. Ariel González Sendiña/condemned 6 years/Combinado del Este
22. Eglis Heredia Rodríguez/Boniato Prison
23. Mario Alberto Hernández Leiva/Melena del Sur prison/Condemned to 3 years prison
24. Geovany Izaguirre Hernández/Aguadores Prison
25. Rolando Erimelio Jaco García/Cerámica Roja Prison
26. Javier Jouz Varona/Social Dangerousness prison/Condemned to 3 years prison
27. Isain López Luna/Valle Grande Prison
28. Noel López Gonzalez/Condemned 12 years prison
29. Michael Mediaceja Ramos/Condemned 6 months/Guanajay prison
30. Osmaní Mendosa Ferrior/Las Mangas prison