

4 hours of sunlight a week. All communication with his family has been severely restricted and according to Yarai Reyes, his wife, he has been fed rotten food, refused all medical care and has been kept in a cell with no electricity.

When Mr. Hernández participated in a hunger strike to protest the deplorable prison conditions, he was transferred to another prison over 400 miles away from his family and loved ones. In this prison, he languishes in a rat and insect infested dungeon which he shares with common prisoners, many of which are considered dangerous and unstable. Mr. Hernández is routinely beaten and denied access to the outside world.

Madam Speaker, on April 30, 2007, the PEN American Center, which works to advance literature, defend free expression, and to foster international literary fellowship, named Mr. Hernández the recipient of its 2007 PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award honoring international literary figures that have been imprisoned or persecuted for defending the basic human right of expression. Let me be clear, Mr. Hernández is confined in an infernal dungeon for reporting truth instead of the mandated lies of the dictatorship in Cuba.

My colleagues, it is unconscionable and condemnable that just miles from our shores, a grotesque gangster regime keeps thousands behind bars simply for supporting freedom and democracy. I ask all members of this great Congress to demand with one, united, voice, the immediate release of Normando Hernández Gonzalez and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO THE CITIZENS OF GREENSBURG, KAN- SAS

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sympathy of the citizens of Greensburg, Kansas. On May 4, 2007 a devastating tornado ripped through the community and destroyed 95 percent of the town. Ten lives were lost and 1,500 people were directly affected by this deadly terror. Greensburg was a quiet and charming town surrounded by pasture land lush and fertile. This town was preserved by generations of hardworking people who valued what they had and worked to keep it.

In the heartland, people know what it means to be a good neighbor. After this deadly tornado ripped through the community, there were countless examples, of strength, compassion and perseverance, traits we often see in Kansans. As people sifted through the shambles and rumble of what had been, at one time, their homes and personal belongings, wheat trucks and regular old four wheel drive pick-ups from neighboring towns drove in to lend a hand and a shoulder of comfort. It is heartwarming to witness how Kansans have come together in response to the Greensburg tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, my heart and prayers go out to all the citizens in Greensburg. Progress is being made and being made daily. They are picking up the pieces of their lives from what

was left from this horrible force of nature and are moving forward. The people of Greensburg obviously have tough days ahead, but I know with the resilient spirit they have demonstrated, they are up to the challenge and they will not be alone in overcoming it.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT GRADUATES OF PARAMUS' D.A.R.E. PROGRAM AT EAST BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Paramus Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students of East Brook Middle School. More than 140 students are participating in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program at East Brook Middle School, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Pankti Acharya, Omar Al-Rashdan, Danielle Ambrose, Elias Atie, Benjamin Audi, Amanda Aydin, Joseph Bacich, Matthew Barbara, Timothy Barkho, Adam Basner, Brianna Behrens, Christopher Billera, Lindsay Braverman, Vince Calupad, Eric Carminio, Tyler Casamenti, Alexa Cascione, Jessica Chakonis, Winnie Chau, Hae Chang Cheong, Daniel Choi, Emily Colasante, Matthew Criscione, Erica Cruz, Nicolas Datz, Dean Delucia, Michael DeSimone, Lillian Do, Timothy Dungan, Jermiah Emmenuel, Shannon English, Veronique Falkovich, Kenny Frohnapfel, Gia Fuerte, Cayla Gao, Kaitlyn Garcia, Miny Ge, Eric Giannantonio, Harlee Glock, Zoe Gnecco, Keisuke Goto, Tance Gozukucuk, Nicholas Gramuglia, Daniel Grisanti, Rebekah Guidroz, Aris Gungormez, Leila Hassak, Sabrina Helm, Erik Helstrom, Adriana Hemans, Kellie Heom, Darius House, Phillip Huffman, Yoon Jeong Hwang, Jaime Iacono, Suguru Ikeda, Alen Jo, Laila Jouejati, Erica Kato, Ji Soo Kim, Ah Young Kim, Victor Kim, Alexandra Kipp, Caroline Kordell, Theodore Koutros, Karen Kouyoumdjian, Anna Kuriakose, Richard Labarbiera, Kevin Lannigan, Stephanie Lasprilla, Paul Lawton, Sarah Lee, Jun Oh Lee, Monica Lehner, Andrew Licini, John Lukert, Aysia Luna, Melissa Lynch, Fabio Macias, Yu Maruyama, David Medvitz, Samuel Melendez, Paul Meyer, Matthew Miller, Koji Minoda, Edwin Montalvo, Bryan Mosquera, Heather Murphy, Stephen Oregon, Timothy Oechsner, Kevin Oh, Yula Oh, Daichi Omori, Rasha Orfali, Pamela Ospina, Abigail Ovadia, Kyrstie Pagunsan, Sylvia Pak, Michael Paladino, Thomas Palestina, Michelle Park, Dean Park, Mona Park, Sungho Park, Alex-

andra Pascual, Michael Passarelli, Kinjal Patel, Mitesh Patel, Gina Pecchinenda, Justin Peter, Kishen Pujara, Alejandra Ramirez, Elizabeth Reyes, Julia Reynolds, Colin Richardson, Jerry Rickelmann, III, Kathryn Roque, Gina Ruzhansky, Victoria Savastano, Stephen Scheideler, Gianna Scimeca, Bryan Shin, Olivia Sluka, Dominick Smith, Zachary Smith, Regina Smith, Alexis Stella, Rose Velli, Danielle Villa, Chelsea Virga, Thomas V. onborstel, Corinne Weinzierl, Alison Wolfer, Cindy Wu, Hosun Yoo, Andrew Yoon, Geena Yum, Ariana Zarour, Colette Zarour.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 22, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for six rollcall votes on that day.

Had I been present I would have voted: "no" on rollcall 390 on agreeing to the Price of Georgia amendment No. 9; "no" on rollcall 391 on agreeing to the Doolittle of California amendment No. 19; "no" on rollcall 392 on agreeing to the Hensarling of Texas amendment No. 30; "no" on rollcall 393 on agreeing to the Neugebauer of Texas amendment; "yea" on rollcall 394 on agreeing to the Neugebauer of Texas amendment No. 4; "no" on rollcall 395 on motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 1427.

IN MEMORY OF DR. BENEDICT K. ZOBRIST

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Dr. Benedict K. Zobrist, the former director of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library.

Dr. Zobrist was born in Moline, Illinois, on August 21, 1921, son of Benedict and Lila A. Colson Zobrist. He graduated from Moline High School in 1939 and went on to attend Augustana College, but left his studies to join the United States Army in 1942. After serving in World War II and upon discharge from active duty, he returned to complete his college studies. It was at Augustana College that he met Donna Anderson, his future wife. Benedict graduated in 1946 with a bachelor's degree in history and began graduate school at Stanford University. However, he returned to the Midwest to be closer to Donna and on October 23, 1948, they were united in marriage.

Dr. Zobrist resumed his studies at Northwestern University, earning both a master's degree (1948) and a doctor of philosophy degree (1953) in history. After completing his education, Dr. Zobrist joined the staff of Augustana College, where he became a full-time faculty member in 1960. In 1962, he won a Fulbright Fellowship and studied at Tunghai University in Taichung, Taiwan. He also pursued advanced studies at the East Asia Institute at Columbia University in New York in 1962-63.