

that all of us in East Tennessee are the better for.

I commend Gary for his selfless contributions to East Tennessee and its water resources and wish him the best as he transitions into this new stage in life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 31, 2012 I missed votes due to a meeting in my district with constituents in Urbana, IL on pressing local issues. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" for S. 679, Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011; "aye" for H.R. 828, Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2011; and "aye" for H.R. 3803, District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

IN HONOR OF DR. JOHN PETER GROTHE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Dr. John Peter Grothe who passed away on June 16th, 2012 at the age of 81. Dr. Grothe was a dedicated public servant who counted among his proudest achievements drafting the original Peace Corps legislation and giving it the name "Peace Corps" when he worked for Senator Hubert Humphrey. Dr. Grothe was a dedicated educator, author, and public speaker whose passion and work touched countless lives.

Dr. Grothe was born on May 28, 1931 in San Francisco to Walter and Dorothy Grothe and grew up in Hillsborough, California. He earned his BA and MA degrees in Journalism from Stanford University and later went on to earn his PhD in Political Science from George Washington University. After his work with Senator Humphrey, Dr. Grothe was appointed Deputy Director of the United Nations Division of the U.S. Peace Corps.

Following this appointment, Dr. Grothe launched a long career in academia, serving as an Adjunct Professor at the Graduate School of International Policy Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in my Congressional District where he was the Director of International Student Programs and taught American Politics and Cross-Cultural Communications. Dr. Grothe also held positions at San Jose State University, Odense University in Denmark, and State University of New York, Stony Brook. Dr. Grothe brought his knowledge and abilities to his work as a visiting research scholar, lecturing in Sweden, Norway, and 51 other countries. He also served with the American Field Service as an adviser, leader, and volunteer.

Dr. Grothe was also an accomplished author who wrote *To Win the Minds of Men—A Study of the Propaganda War in East Germany* and penned numerous scholarly articles

that appeared in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*, among other publications.

Dr. Grothe was an inspiring mentor, leader and volunteer who served as a father figure to many. He was committed to creating opportunity for tomorrow's leaders and made a financial contribution that allowed 145 qualified international and minority students to pursue their educational goals. The Peter Grothe Scholarship Fund for Women in Developing Countries was created to continue Dr. Grothe's tradition of providing educational opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my deepest condolences to Dr. Grothe's sister, Ms. Carol Stevens, and half siblings, Mr. Tom Grothe, and Ms. Heidi Carman. Dr. Grothe leaves an inspiring legacy and he will be deeply missed.

CELEBRATING IAB'S FIRST 30 YEARS

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today Dr. Burgess and I rise to recognize the Independent Association of Businesses (IAB), a leading national trade association, in celebrating 30 years of supporting small business owners and self-employed individuals. IAB was founded in 1982 and after years of growth, now serves more than one million members.

IAB was founded in Washington, DC and maintains its administrative headquarters in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. IAB is a non-profit, 501(c)(6) designated business organization, and has been recognized by numerous State and Federal officials for its success in aiding and advancing small businesses. The organization has had success in providing businesses and individuals with beneficial tools such as research, advocacy, and access to numerous services. Additionally, members have the opportunity to become associates with IAB in order to further promote the organization's efforts.

After 30 years, IAB continues to put the interests of both business owners and consumers first. It is our pleasure to recognize the Independent Association of Businesses for 30 years of service and this significant milestone in its history. We are privileged to represent IAB, America's Premier Membership Association in the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF SEYMOUR S. LEVANDER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional achievements and outstanding career of Seymour S. Levander. Sy, as his friends and family know him, will turn 89 years old later this year, is a beloved father and grandfather. Sy, the son of immi-

grant refugees from Europe, began his version of the American Dream growing up in the Bronx, graduating from James Madison High School in 1941. He continued his academic studies at Cooper Union University, graduating in 1944 and teaching electrical engineering there for a short time.

Sy then started designing and selling equipment for the building trade, which was booming at that time in post-war America. In the 1950s, Sy, seeing an opportunity, struck out on his own and started his own business which he owned and ran until he sold the firm at the age of 66 at his wife Ellenore's request. However, retirement didn't take with Sy, and he continued to work. At the tender young age of 71, he started a new engineering and sales firm with younger partners where he continues his storied career in the construction industry to this day, still going in to work at age 88. Sy's knowledge, work ethic, and old-fashioned integrity are the stuff of legend in the industry. Over the years, he has been honored several times by ASHRAE, the nationwide building technology society, as well as other industry organizations.

Sy has also been a terrific community leader and a fighter for the underdog throughout his life. Through his businesses and a lifetime of charitable endeavors, he has created opportunities for people from all walks of life and backgrounds. In addition, he and his beloved wife Ellenore, who unfortunately passed away this year after 67 years of marriage, were founders of the Pelham Jewish Center, which has been a primary focus of his energies and care for many years.

Mr. Speaker, while he has many achievements to his name, Sy is most proud of his two children, a doctor and a lawyer; his daughter-in-law, an architect; and his four grandchildren, who are, respectively, the first trumpet for the San Francisco Opera and a music professor at Berkley, a doctor interning at Stony Brook University Medical Center, a law student and Human Rights Fellow at Columbia University Law School, and a rising junior at Dartmouth College. I ask all of our colleagues to rise and join me in honoring Seymour S. Levander.

IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 742, CONDEMNING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FOR SELLING WEAPONS TO SYRIA

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 742, a resolution I introduced condemning the Russian government for selling weapons to the Assad regime of Syria.

A bipartisan companion resolution sponsored by Senators CORNYN (R-TX) and DURBIN (D-IL) has been introduced in the Senate as S. Res. 494. I am proud that my colleagues SHEILA JACKSON LEE, DAVE CAMP, SUE MYRICK, BILL PASCRELL, JR. and BETTY MCCOLLUM have joined me as original co-sponsors of this important resolution.

The resolution is endorsed by the American Syrian Coalition, ASC, and I ask unanimous consent to include in the record a letter of

support from ASC Chairman Mahmoud Khattab. I welcome and invite all members of the House to co-sponsor this resolution.

I am proud that I was able to work with Republican colleagues in the House and the Senate on a resolution that puts the Congress on record in calling upon the government of Russia to immediately end all weapons sales to Syria, support international sanctions against the regime of Syrian President Assad, and to use its influence to help bring about a peaceful transition of leadership within the government of Syria.

Mr. Speaker, what began as a peaceful stand against tyranny has morphed into the bloodiest movement of the Arab Spring. According to the International Red Cross, more than 16,000 men, women and children have been killed in the conflict, and the violence has increased substantially in the past few weeks. An estimated 1 million Syrians have also been internally displaced and tens of thousands more have fled to neighboring countries.

The massacres in Houla and Tremseh where dozens if not hundreds of civilians were killed are just two of the more shocking examples of the terror that has gripped this nation for over a year.

Battles are currently raging for the country's two largest cities, the capital Damascus and the commercial center Aleppo. In Aleppo rockets and shells have routinely been landing in residential areas, and there have been sightings of fighter planes over the city. The international community is holding its breath as the Assad regime gears up for what many fear will be a massacre of the city. A rebel victory in Aleppo would be a decisive turning point in the war, and this is something the Syrian government will prevent from happening at all costs.

President Assad's brutal crackdown in response to these protests has been directly fueled by the unrelenting support of the Russian Federation. Throughout the mass murders, torture and other atrocities perpetrated by the regime, Russia has continued to send weapons, knowing they are not being used for self defense purposes.

Although the vast majority of the world has condemned the actions of President Assad and his government, China and Russia have refused to support any efforts to end the violence. Russia in particular has been Mr. Assad's staunchest defender. The Russian Federation has now vetoed three United Nations Security Council Resolutions that would have imposed long overdue international sanctions against the Syrian regime.

I agree with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton when she stated, and I quote: "History will judge this council; its members must ask themselves whether continuing to allow the Assad regime to commit unspeakable violence against its own people is the legacy they want to leave."

These comments were obviously directed towards Russia and China, and Russian Defense Minister Sergei Lavrov has simply repeated Russia's support for non-intervention, and stated that any solution would have to be decided by Syrians themselves, and not a foreign power.

Mr. Lavrov says this as his country continues to send arms to Mr. Assad and his army whose firepower is already vastly superior to the rebels they are attacking.

Mr. Speaker, Russia can do what I cannot, and that is to sit idly by as thousands of innocent civilians are slaughtered because of their desire to live in a free and democratic country.

Syrian men and women fighting for democratic ideals should not be abandoned to face the wrath of a tyrant alone. They should know that they have a friend in the American government.

Today, I ask for my colleagues' support for H. Res. 742. The Russian government has enabled the Assad regime to commit murder among other mass atrocities, and they need to be held accountable for their actions.

As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security I have seen how America is an example of democracy and peace, and I wish to see the same outcome for Syria.

I stand today not only to ask for the support of my colleagues, but to show my support and admiration for the rebel fighters and all those in Syria who are fighting against oppression and cruelty.

JULY 30, 2012.

Hon. LAURA RICHARDSON,
House of Representatives, Longworth Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REP. RICHARDSON: On behalf of the American Syrian Coalition (ASC), I would like to thank you for introducing H. Res. 742, a bipartisan resolution condemning the Russian government for continuing to sell offensive weapons to the Assad regime of Syria, which is using them to violently suppress peaceful demonstrations and protests by innocent Syrian citizens.

Since the beginning of the Syrian revolution in March 2011, more than 21,000 people have been killed, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, and thousands more have been wounded, displaced, detained, and/or tortured. Emboldened by the Russian and Chinese vetoes at the U.N. Security Council, the regime continues its all-out military assault using Russian-supplied helicopter gunships and fighter jets to bomb Syrian civilians simply because they demanded freedom, dignity and democracy. Your stance with the Syrian people is courageous and we wholeheartedly appreciate your efforts to help put an end to the brutal Assad regime.

Thank you again for supporting the Syrian people and for standing up for those facing injustice at home and abroad.

Sincerely,

DR. MAHMOUD KHATTAB,
*Chairman,
American Syrian Coalition.*

HONORING NAVY LIEUTENANT
COMMANDER LAWRENCE E.
WESTERLUND

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of United States Navy Lieutenant Commander Lawrence E. Westerlund and to congratulate him on his upcoming retirement from the U.S. Navy, following 20 years of active and reserve service.

Lieutenant Commander Westerlund, a native of Fresno, California, entered the U.S. Navy through Officer Candidate School, Class 8809, in Newport, Rhode Island shortly after graduating from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California. He

was commissioned an Ensign on November 18, 1988, with his father, Richard Westerlund, and brother, Midshipman Lance Westerlund, in attendance.

After graduation from Surface Warfare Officer School in Coronado, California, he reported aboard the USS *Mahon S. Tisdale* (FFG-27), where he was assigned the position of First Lieutenant and also served as Helicopter Control Officer. He served two years aboard the USS *Tisdale*, earning his Surface Warfare Pin and deploying to Japan and Korea in support of PACE89.

In 1990, Lieutenant Commander Westerlund was promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade. He entered the U.S. Naval Reserves and became the Administrative Officer for the USS *Worden* (CG-18) naval reserve detachment based in Fresno, California.

From 1991 through 1994, Lieutenant Commander Westerlund served as a Convoy Officer for the Convoy Command Detachment in Seattle, Washington. In September of 1994, Lieutenant Commander Westerlund reported for duty with Mobile Inshore Underwater Warfare Units 103 and 104, where he served as a Division Officer and Department Head. He served multiple training periods in Korea and Bahrain with these two units.

In June 1997, Lieutenant Commander Westerlund was awarded the Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal while serving as the Physical Security Officer during Overseas Operations in Manama, Bahrain, where he was tasked with establishing waterside security watch to counter terrorist threats.

Lieutenant Commander Westerlund was recalled to active duty in April of 1998 for one year in support of stabilization operations in Bosnia. During this assignment, he was instrumental in writing a major force structure study for the US-European Command (EUCOM). While serving for the EUCOM, he was awarded his first Defense Commendation Medal and NATO Operations Medal. Shortly after returning from Bosnia, Lieutenant Commander Westerlund transferred to the Inactive Ready Reserve.

As a result of the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, Lieutenant Commander Westerlund returned to active drilling status. He was assigned to Commander Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) Det-520 in Sacramento, California—a capacity in which he served as the head of various divisions and departments.

In 2004, Lieutenant Commander Westerlund ran a successful election campaign for a seat on the Fresno City Council. Before taking office, Lieutenant Commander Westerlund returned to active duty for six months standing the Battle Watch for COMPACFLT. In January 2005, Lieutenant Commander Westerlund was sworn in as the District Four Representative for the Fresno City Council. During this time, he continued to drill in Sacramento for COMPACFLT Det-520.

Lieutenant Commander Westerlund was recalled to active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2007. He served from April 2008 to May 2009 as the Counterterrorism Train and Equip Manager for the Joint Special Operations Task Force for the Trans-Sahara for the U.S. European Special Operations Command (SOCEUR) and Africa Special Operations Command (SOCAFRICA). For