

political discourse in the United States with Meetinghouses, and honors these institutions as symbols of American freedom and independence, whose creation and preservation are reminders of the founding of our country.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION AND SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1905.

Today, it is vital that the U.S. sends a strong message to the Iranian government.

A nuclear capable Iran is our greatest security threat in a region currently defined by conflict, chaos, and uncertainty.

We must prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons through any and all means necessary.

There needs to be strong economic sanctions and focused diplomatic efforts.

As a nation it is also essential to prepare a strategy in the event that sanctions and diplomatic efforts are not successful.

Allowing Iran to become a nuclear threat is not an acceptable outcome.

That is why we must pass H.R. 1905, which increases the economic pressure on Iran's leadership to abandon their illicit efforts to develop a nuclear weapon.

Iran has the power to threaten and provoke regional allies without consequence.

We must stand with our allies in these dangerous and challenging times to prevent a nuclear capable Iran.

We must pass H.R. 1905 before it is too late for sanctions and diplomacy to reduce the Iranian threat.

RECOGNIZING ED WENZEL AND HIS HONOR FROM THE NATIONAL CIVIL WAR TRUST

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ed Wenzel for his passion, effort, and success in preserving our nation's historic Civil War battlefields. Mr. Wenzel recently received an honor from the national Civil War Trust on behalf of his preservation efforts for a Civil War battlefield site in Chantilly, Virginia. The Ox Hill Battlefield Park was dedicated in 2008 thanks in large part to the tireless efforts of Mr. Wenzel.

Mr. Wenzel spent 22 years working to preserve the grounds on which the Battle of Chantilly—referred to as the Battle of Ox Hill by the Confederacy—occurred on September 1, 1862. It was during this battle that the Union army lost commanders Major General Philip Kearny and Major General Isaac I. Stevens, but it ultimately succeeded in slowing General Stonewall Jackson and the Confederacy's advancements and ended the Second Manassas campaign. In 1915, monuments were built in commemoration of both

Major Generals Kearny and Stevens on the site.

During my tenure on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I was proud to work with Mr. Wenzel and members of the Civil War Roundtable to raise awareness of the County's Civil War heritage, to erect new historic markers, and create a new five-acre public park highlighting the monuments and the battle significance in the history of our County and our Country.

Additionally, Mr. Wenzel played a major role in the Save the Battlefield Coalition, which successfully opposed construction of a shopping mall at Manassas battlefields in 1988, and he was a founding board member of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ed Wenzel for his most recent accolade and in thanking him for his tireless pursuits to protect such important aspects of our Nation's rich history.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL PETE DEROUIN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fellow Oregonian and good friend, Lieutenant Colonel Pete Derouin of the Oregon Army National Guard, as he departs the National Guard Bureau's Office of Legislative Liaison in Washington, DC to return to Oregon. While Pete has served around the world over the past decade, he has always kept a very special place for Oregon in his heart.

Pete was born and raised in my great state and joined the Army by earning his commission through the University of Oregon's ROTC program. He served for many years as a part-time soldier in Oregon as an officer in the Oregon National Guard. After the attacks of September 11, 2001, Pete felt the call of service and decided to leave the comforts of home and make military service his full time career. Over the last decade, he has served his country in different corners of the globe, including Iraq, Bosnia, and Kosovo.

For the last four years, Pete has worked here on Capitol Hill as an outstanding advocate for the National Guard. I've worked closely with him during his time as a legislative liaison for the Guard, and have found his dedication and effectiveness to be exceptional. We worked together on obtaining approval for the new Readiness Center in The Dalles and on allowing the Oregon National Guard to retain parts of the Umatilla Chemical Depot. Pete was also instrumental in efforts to make sure that National Guard soldiers were not unfairly denied promised bonus payments due to paperwork errors by the Guard.

Now the time has come for Pete to return home to Oregon. He has been selected to lead the 2nd of the 641st Theatre Aviation Battalion, which controls all of Oregon's Army National Guard aviation assets. I have no doubt that he will serve our state and nation well in this new role.

I would like to thank Pete and his wife Andrea for tolerating the frantic pace which comes with working here in Washington, D.C.,

and wish them happiness and success as they continue their service to our nation back in Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join me in saying thank you to Lieutenant Colonel Pete Derouin for his dedication to our country.

INTRODUCTION OF COMPASSIONATE FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the "Compassionate Freedom of Choice Act." This legislation allows terminally ill patients to use drugs, treatments and devices that have not yet been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) if their physicians certify: (i) such patients have no other treatment options; and (ii) the patient executes written, informed consent that they are aware of any potential risks from the drug, device, or treatment.

It is important to remember that this legislation only applies to otherwise terminally ill patients. Denying these patents a possible opportunity to cure their illness—or at least reduce their suffering—is nonsensical and cruel. The FDA's approval process for drugs, devices, and treatments is costly and time consuming. Yet, time is the luxury terminally patients do not enjoy. So why should the FDA deny terminally-ill patients access to drugs, devices, and treatments that the patient's physicians have determined represents the patient's only possible chance for survival?

For example, the FDA refused to allow Abigail Burroughs (who was diagnosed with head and neck cancer at the age of 19) access to the cancer drugs Iressa and Erbitux by the FDA. Never mind that a renowned oncologist at Johns Hopkins had determined there was a significant chance of saving her life if she could use these new drugs. With her only chance of survival denied by the federal government, Abigail passed away on June 9, 2001, at the age of twenty-one.

Another example of why this bill is necessary is the case of thirteen-year old Anna Tomalis, who enjoyed horseback riding and soccer until she was diagnosed with embryonal sarcoma. Chemotherapy and surgery failed to reverse the cancer, so Anna's parents decided to try experimental drugs. They petitioned the FDA for approval to use Deforolimus, developed by Merk and ARIAD. Unfortunately, the FDA decided Anna was too sick to be admitted in Deforolimus's clinical trials and did not grant her a "compassionate use" exemption until three weeks before she died.

Mr. Speaker, I have attached a list of other patients who were denied access to treatments by the FDA even though their doctors believed these treatments where the only option left to potentially save their lives. I ask my colleagues to help make sure that no more Americans with terminal disease are denied treatments simply because the FDA has decided these Americans are better off facing certain death than using an "unapproved" drug, treatment, or device. Please cosponsor the Compassionate Freedom of Choice Act.