

PTA, Council Board of Directors, vice president of Glenn's Hope, a Pasadena Foothill Valley YWCA board member and Altadena Christian Children's Center board member. She was a Pasadena city commissioner on the Commission on the Status of Women and the Human Services Commission. Some of the current organizations she serves include as a board member of Child Care Information Services, Pasadena City College Measure "P" Bond Oversight Committee, Women at Work, Pasadena Beautiful, Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women, Pasadena Planned Parenthood, and Delta Kappa Gamma. Angie is the vice president of the San Rafael Library Associates and the president of the Rose Bowl Bruins Board of Directors.

Angie has received many awards over the years for her service to the community, including four from the Pasadena PTA, the 1985 Pasadena Council of Women's Clubs Volunteer of the Year Award and the Pasadena YWCA Second Century Award in 1985.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Angelita "Angie" Mont O'Brien.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNAL HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Signal Hill Fire Department located near Belleville, IL.

In 1946, the city of East St. Louis advised Signal Hill residents their fire department would no longer respond outside of the city limits. At the same time, the city of Belleville said their fire department would only respond to the Country Club Place subdivision if that neighborhood was annexed into the city.

Given the choice of annexation or lack of fire protection, a group of civic-minded citizens gathered to form the Signal Hill Fire Department. In July of 1946, the voters of the proposed fire protection district approved the formation of a taxing district that would provide funding for the fire department.

Sixty years later, the courage and dedication of the firefighters, as well as the consistent support of the community are still the hallmark of this volunteer fire department.

From its earliest days, the Signal Hill Fire Department has been guided and staffed by individuals who have been highly motivated, enjoy a challenge, and are sincerely interested helping others. The call to duty has been answered by several hundred community members who have given freely of their time to protect others from the perils of fire.

Significant progress has been made though the years as the Signal Hill Fire Department has not only kept pace with new procedures and equipment but has often been at the forefront of evolving technological advances. Signal Hill became the first fire department in all of Southern Illinois to acquire a thermal imaging camera. Two years later, they were profiled by the Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency, National Volunteer Fire Council, and the U.S. Fire Administration as an extraordinary example of recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters. More recently, Signal Hill became the first volunteer fire department in all of St. Clair County and Southwestern Illinois to earn the distinguished ISO Class 3 rating.

The Signal Hill Fire Department has been a shining example of dedication and professionalism, made possible by the sacrifices that their volunteer firefighters and their families have made since 1946. Their compassion, valor, and unselfish acts of courage make each of them an everyday hero.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 60th anniversary of the Signal Hill Fire Department and to wish the best to them for continued service in the future.

PATRIOT ACT ADDITIONAL REAUTHORIZATION AMENDMENTS

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose this bill that seeks to make much needed changes to the House approved PATRIOT Act Conference Report. What we are voting on today are "Additional Reauthorizing amendments" for the PATRIOT Act. Unfortunately, these proposed changes do not go far enough and they fail to strike the proper balance between freedom and security.

When the PATRIOT Act came before the House last year, I made clear that, as written, it failed to protect the civil liberties of the American people from the overzealous police powers of the state. That is why some United States Senators who shared my concern worked for months to draft new safeguards to prevent the abridgment of our constitutionally granted civil rights. While good-intentioned, the small concessions they were able to win do not address the vast majority of objectionable provisions in the bill and some even make it worse.

The sponsors of this legislation will say that it makes needed improvements to the PATRIOT Act. However, when read closely some of these so-called "improvements" actually make the PATRIOT Act worse. For example, one of these amendments actually creates a previously non-existent one year gag order on recipients of national security letters. Under this change, the records of library patrons are still subject to secret searches and investigators do not have to promptly inform the patron of the searches. And these changes make the PATRIOT Act worse by actually preventing librarians from challenging these searches in court for at least a full year. Currently, no period of time exists to delay judicial review of national security letters.

Robert Kennedy speaking in Georgia, a state at the center of the civil rights movement, said, "we know that if one man's rights are denied, the rights of all are endangered." What Bobby Kennedy understood, but what too many of my colleagues forget, is that we are all bound together in our collective human existence. This means that the denial of our neighbor's rights puts our own rights in jeopardy. Yet, this bill does not sufficiently change

the PATRIOT Act to ensure that the liberties and freedoms of all American's are protected.

For example, even with these amendments, it would still be legal under the PATRIOT Act for police or investigators to conduct so called "sneak and peak" searches of our homes or property without being notified until long after they are gone. One might expect to hear about this type of practice in state controlled or oppressive regimes around the globe. Yet, America was founded on the principle of individual liberty and freedom.

The PATRIOT Act legalizes what previously has been considered the violation of Americans civil rights. It is flawed and we can do better.

I urge my colleague to heed the words of one of our nation's founding fathers James Madison whom I quoted the first time this bill came to the House floor. Speaking in 1788 before the Virginia Convention (not all that far from where we are today) he explained what I believe is the unanswered problem with the Patriot Act. He said, "I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations." As Madison said over 200 years ago, the liberty and freedoms we as Americans cherish are being eroded today not at the barricade, but in our library and at our local doctor's office. Sadly, these so-called "improvements" are not enough, and the PATRIOT Act remains fatally flawed. It is for this reason that I urge my colleagues to vote no on this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely concerned regarding the proliferation of nuclear weapons around the world in general and the threat that Iran poses in particular. I agree that we must make it a priority to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear technologies and materials for development of nuclear weapons. That is why we must not impede any and all diplomatic means to achieve this. I voted present on H. Con. Res 345 (rollcall No. 12) because this resolution seems to foreclose some important diplomatic options towards achieving that goal.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TEXAS STATE CHAMPION ARGYLE GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior performance of the Argyle Girls Basketball Team on their Texas State Championship in the 2A division on March 4th, 2006.

The Eagles won the final game 51-33 to become the Texas UIL Class 2A state champions at the University of Texas' Frank Erwin Center. The championship game was their