

nor is nuclear energy an economic choice for Iran. So what is the motive?

It should not be a revelation to anyone that Iran is seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.

In 1991, Ayatollah Mohajerani, one of Rafsanjani's deputies, clarified the need to obtain nuclear weapons. "Since the enemy has nuclear facilities," he said, "Islamic countries must be armed with the same capacity."

In 1989, Rafsanjani underscored the need to obtain an atomic arsenal, stressing that "Iran cannot overlook the reality of nuclear strength in the modern world." Nuclear arms, in the Tehran mullahs' view, are "the most important strategic guarantee" of their survival.

For this reason, I introduced the Iran Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act. The bill will eliminate the use of U.S. taxpayer dollars to the International Atomic Energy Agency to provide assistance to Iran for the completion of the Bushehr plant. The U.S. believes that the completion of the Bushehr plant could provide Iran with substantial expertise to advance its nuclear weapons program. It is ludicrous for the U.S. to support a plant—even indirectly—which could pose a threat to the United States and to stability in the Middle East.

Beyond, Iran's nuclear weapons development program, there is substantial evidence of its efforts to develop other weapons of mass destruction.

Last year, Satellite reconnaissance of the Shahid Hemat Industrial Group research facility, not far south of Tehran, had picked up the heat signature of an engine test for a new generation of Iranian ballistic missiles, "each capable of carrying a 2,200-lb. warhead more than 800 miles," within strategic range of Israel.

In January, a senior Clinton administration official told the Associated Press that "Iran's purchase of Russian missile technology is giving Iran an opportunity to 'leap ahead' in developing new weapons" and according to a CIA report, Iran remains the largest illicit buyer of conventional weapons among 'pariah' states, buying an estimated \$20 million to \$30 million worth of U.S. military parts in 1997.

After the cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq War in 1988, Tehran stepped up its efforts to produce an indigenous chemical and biological arsenal. Thanks to equipment and technology legally or illegally imported from abroad, the Tehran regime is presently able to produce a series of biological and chemical weapons. Defense Secretary Cohen has expressed concern that Iran may have produced up to 200 tons of VX nerve agent and 6,000 gallons of anthrax.

Tehran's unrelenting quest for nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles clearly attests that the clerical regime has no intention of moderating its behavior. Appeasement by the West will only provide the mullahs with more room to maneuver. We need a comprehensive policy, that both protects us from the current threat and safeguards our future interests in that part of the world.

Firmness is the only means of deterring Khatami and the clerical regime from their quest for an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. We must make it clear, especially now when the mullahs may well be on their last legs, that we support the kind of progress towards democracy and genuine reform promised by the democratic opposition.

IRAN: HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS
PERSIST

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, over the past year, I have listened with interest to promises of moderation and reform from Iran, but after a year of Mohammad Khatami's tenure as president, I cannot but help to conclude that the current regime continues to be one of the major violators of human rights and proponents of terrorist activities around the world. The only policy that can be successful vis-à-vis Iran is a policy of firmness. Firmness, however, will only prove effective when it is coupled with support for the establishment of democracy in Iran.

On May 21st, I had the honor of hosting a gathering at which a number of my esteemed colleagues as well as experts on Iran and the region addressed various aspects of the question. In urging the administration to pursue a policy in favor of the Iranian people and their resistance, the speakers emphasized that the U.S. should not make the same mistake made during the Shah's time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the remarks I prepared for this briefing for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I would like to thank every one of you for participating in this event today. I believe it is very important that we keep our focus on the issue of human rights. Not long ago, I watched a video tape smuggled out of Iran by the Mojahedin Opposition Movement. It showed for the first time actual scenes of people being stoned to death in Iran. Four individuals were brought out, buried up to their waists, and stoned to death in the most cruel, gruesome and painful scene I have ever witnessed in my life. And this still goes on in Iran, officially. Since the election of Iran's new president, the government has announced the stoning of 7 people, four of them women.

Tens of thousands of Iranians have been executed for their political beliefs since 1981. My question is, what is our administration doing about these ongoing rights violations? What have we done to relieve the suffering of the Iranian people?

I believe our policy must be very firm about condemning human rights violations in Iran, and about supporting advocates of democracy, such as Maryam Rajavi. Change will come to Iran, but not from the current regime. We will not get anywhere by cuddling repressive dictators.

THE SITUATION IN IRAN

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Iranian government under President Mohammad Khatami remains a brutal and oppressive regime. Despite words of moderation and conciliation, the Iranian government continues to actively and aggressively sponsor international terrorism. It continues to brutally oppress the Iranian people. In today's Iran there is still no freedom of the press. Under the Khatami government, there is still no freedom of religion or

freedom of speech. Human rights abuses continue unabated.

On May 21st, a number of my colleagues in Congress held a press briefing in the Rayburn Building to discuss the prospects for change in Iran, and how U.S. policy should be shaped to encourage democracy and freedom in Iran. While I was unable to attend the briefing, I did release a written statement. In addition to Members of Congress, other distinguished experts participated in the briefing, including former U.S. Ambassador James Akins, who served in our nation's Foreign Service with great distinction from 1956 to 1976. Ambassador Akins spent much of his career in the Middle East in such places as Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. He is the author of numerous articles about the Middle East. He is now an international and economic consultant. I would like to insert into the RECORD the written remarks I prepared for the briefing, as well as the remarks made by Ambassador Akins.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR., BRIEFING ON "U.S. POLICY OPTIONS & PROSPECTS FOR CHANGE IN IRAN", MAY 21, 1998

As we approach the one-year anniversary of Mohammad Khatami's election as President of Iran, it is appropriate to assess how much Iran has changed over the past year, and how U.S. policy should be shaped to encourage democracy and freedom in Iran. While President Khatami has spoken quite differently than his predecessor, Iran's actions both domestically and internationally, have not materially changed.

Iran still supports international terrorism. Iran continues to deny its people basic freedoms and human rights. Iran continues to treat its women like cattle.

There is chaos and conflict throughout the government. One thing is clear—President Khatami may have—may have—good intentions, but his good intentions have not yet resulted in a change in Iran's behavior internationally or internally.

Yet, our State Department continues to grope, hope and search for moderates in the Iranian regime. Our State Department continues to pursue a flawed policy of appeasement. When will the State Department learn that the moderates in the regime they are so desperately searching for, don't exist!

It's time for the State Department to recognize and support those Iranians inside and outside Iran who are struggling on behalf of a democratic and free Iran—including the Iranian Resistance.

The State Department's refusal to recognize the Resistance, and their labeling the Resistance as a terrorist organization is a travesty! Such a policy of appeasement and weakness plays right into the hands of the terrorist strongmen ruling Iran.

Let me repeat: there are no moderates in the Iranian government. Goodwill gestures from the U.S. will be perceived by the Iranian regime as a sign of weakness. Such gestures will achieve little, and will only embolden the Iranian mullahs to continue their non-stop campaign of terror and repression.

Contrary to the hopes of the Clinton Administration, Khatami's election last May has not resulted in any changes in Iran's domestic or foreign policies. Iran still poses a grave threat to U.S. security and world peace. Iran's ongoing support for terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hizbollah continues to threaten the Oslo Accords and other initiatives to establish a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Khatami's election has not halted or diminished Iran's efforts to expand its arsenal

of weapons of mass destruction, including the development of ballistic missiles that could threaten Israel, Western Europe and U.S. troops stationed overseas. Iran also continues its covert efforts to develop nuclear weapons.

Instead of trying to appease the Iran regime, the Clinton Administration should adopt tough policies that make it clear that the U.S. will not, in any shape or form, condone the outlaw behavior of the mullahs. Such a policy should include a real trade embargo, an all-out diplomatic offensive to get our allies to abandon their appeasement policies and join the U.S. in a total embargo of the Iranian regime, and open and full support for those Iranians dedicated to the principles of democracy, religious freedom and equality—including the National Council of Resistance.

The NCR has made remarkable and dramatic strides forward in recent years. It has brought together Iranians from all walks of life in a unified effort to bring democracy, freedom and human rights to Iran. Like many groups struggling against a repressive and cold-blooded regime, the NCR has evolved over the years. It has undergone a number of dramatic changes.

Let there be no illusions about how seriously the Iranian regime takes the threat to their rule posed by the NCR. All over the world, members of the Resistance have been assassinated by the regime. If, as the regime claims, the NCR does not have any support inside Iran, why does the regime continue to go to such great lengths to assassinate Resistance leaders? Why does the regime go to such great lengths to discredit and undermine the Resistance? It is because the Iranian Resistance has real and deep support—both inside Iran and among those Iranians living in exile.

Instead of employing a gross and outrageous double standard, the U.S. government should officially recognize and support the Iranian Resistance and other groups struggling for freedom in Iran. History shows that the worst way to deal with a dictatorship is through appeasement. Just ask Neville Chamberlain.

THE "NEW" IRAN—

For a quarter of a century from the early 1950's when the CIA restored him to his throne until the late 1970's our policy was one of unconditional support for Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Along with Turkey and Israel, Iran became one of the "pillars of our defense" in the Middle East. Our diplomats, our secret service and indeed our presidents were so beguiled by the Shah that they were blind to unmistakable signs that his people had turned against him. President Carter's New Year's eve 1978 toast to his country as "an island of stability" in a sea of chaos has made the history books. Much worse, the first cable from the Embassy suggesting that his regime just might be in serious trouble was sent to Washington in October, 1978. About the same time the CIA reported that Iran was "not in a revolutionary or even a pre-revolutionary stage."

The Shah fled the country three months later and after a brutal internal struggle, secular opponents of the monarchy were killed or driven out of the country and a theocracy was established. It opposed the West, it opposed all liberal thought and it characterized the United States which had been so closely associated with the Shah as the font of all evil, as the embodiment of the Great Satan himself.

One year ago Iran had its first relatively free presidential election. Only four candidates out of 238 aspirants were approved by the Council of Guardians, which itself had

been chosen by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme religious leader. But there was a real choice. The government's favorite, Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, was a dour conservative of the Khomeini model; there were two non-entities and the fourth was Mohammad Khatami, an obscure cleric who had served as Minister of Islamic Guidance in the 1980's.

To the world's surprise and the consternation of the ruling mullahs, Khatami won 70 percent of the votes—not so much for any reputation for moderation but simply because he was most certainly not the government's favorite. He was installed as President and he survives. Some American policymakers and American businessmen have read much into his implied promises of reform and change. They even argue, in face of strong evidence to the contrary, that internal reforms have already been adopted or that they are about to be so. While some of these Americans are, no doubt, sincere, others who argue for a softening of American sanctions on Iran may have allowed their judgment to be colored by the prospects of lucrative contracts for new oil and gas pipelines from the former Soviet Union through Iran to Turkey or to the Persian Gulf.

The State Department is clearly divided and confused. In an admitted effort to curry favor with the mullahs at no apparent cost to the United States, one branch of the State Department branded as a "terrorist organization" the Majahedin Khalq, the largest and best organized of the Iranian opposition movements and the prime target of official Iranian terrorism at home and abroad. History repeated itself; during the Iran-Contra affair the mullahs insisted on the same condemnation of the Mujahedin and the State Department complied. The mullahs welcomed the announcement as a triumph of their regime as they did 15 years earlier but, again exactly as in the mid-1980's made no changes in internal or external policies. Not much later another branch of the State Department ranked Iran as the "most active state sponsor of terrorism."

But hasn't there been some evidence of change? Well, in the last several years a few restrictions on social life have gradually been relaxed; the Revolutionary Guard is less fervently revolutionary and can now usually be bribed not to break into private homes where "immoral activities" might be suspected. Visitors to Tehran—but no place else—notice that the all-encompassing chedors prescribed for women are not quite as concealing as they had been; some have even reported seeing wisps of feminine hair slipping out from the head covering. The state-run press is free to criticize certain actions of government officials, mostly those of rival factions. As American team of wrestlers was allowed into the country where it was received with wild popular enthusiasm. And Khatami spoke of "opening up informal contacts" with the United States.

But nothing more. The basic reforms and changes in theocratic rule which most Iranians want have not been made. Any one suspected of questioning the religious basis of the ruling theocracy is arrested, tortured and murdered. In the year of Khatami's presidency tens of thousands of "enemies of the people" usually accused of "drug use", "adultery" or general "corruption" have been arrested and often tortured. According to official figures, 199 have been executed; Iranians believe the true figure is much higher. Moderate religious leaders, including the highly respected Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, who have questioned the actions of the ruling mullahs, are imprisoned or kept under house arrest.

Opposition to the Arab-Israeli peace talks is as strong as ever but the tone has changed to triumphalism now that "the peace talks

have clearly failed". Iran continues to give financial and military support to the Hizbullah and Hamas and to welcome their leaders to Tehran.

The death threat against Salman Rushdie has not been lifted; indeed, the reward for his murder has been increased. Critics of the regime continue to be assassinated abroad. In the year of the Khatami presidency 24 have been killed, a sharp increase compared to the previous year.

Iran, whose natural gas reserves are the second largest in the world, could enjoy exceedingly cheap electricity. Yet electricity remains in short supply and the regime continues the fiction that the nuclear reactions under construction are exclusively for production of domestic electricity. It imports missile technology from China, North Korea and Pakistan, and has recently tested missiles with a range of 1400 kilometers.

The "opening to America" which Khatami seemed to favor was dismissed contemptuously by Ayatollah Khamenei. Khatami then quickly explained that he had been misinterpreted. The United States remains the "great Satan" and the anniversary of the capture of the "Nest of Spies", the American Embassy, is still celebrated.

The failure to proceed with a rapprochement with the United States can not be ascribed to Khatami who, for all we know, may well be a closet moderate, a modernizer who would really like to make life easier for his countrymen. He simply does not have the ability—even assuming the will—to make significant changes. His title of "President" implies authority when he has little; he is outranked and frequently overruled by Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the head of the Council of Expediency and by the Supreme Guide himself, the Ayatollah Khamenei.

The Iranian people revolted against the Shah not to turn the clock back to the Middle Ages but because they were sickened by the corruption of his court and his government, by the lack of freedom of expression and by the excesses of SAVAK, the Shah's secret police. Ayatollah Khomeini promised them a "government of God on earth" but he and his successor have given them a government whose corruption exceeds that of the Shah and whose human rights abuses are an order of magnitude worse. In the 20 years of the rule of mullahs, 120,000 Iranians have been sentenced to death after quasi-legal proceedings—some 40 times the number executed during the entire reign of the late Shah.

The election a year ago was important. Although it was not so much the victory of Khatami as it was the humiliating defeat of Neteq Nouri, the Ayatollah's favorite, the Iranian people convincingly demonstrated its desire for real change, real liberalization and an end to corruption and oppression. Some, perhaps many Iranians hoped that Khatami would be the instrument to achieve these goals but he has done nothing. And now, after a year, all illusions about the new President have evaporated; the mass of Iranians who want radical reform must look elsewhere. And they do. In almost daily demonstrations in Tehran and in all provincial capitals the mullahs' favorite old chant "Death to the Israel and America" has given way to youthful shouts of "Death to Despotism".

The leader of the Iranian Resistance, Massoud Rajavi, may well be right when he said recently "The government of the mullahs is entering its final stage; the time to prepare for its overthrow has arrived."

My enduring nightmare is that one of our major foreign policy blunders in the Middle East is about to be repeated. The United States supported the Shah long after it was clear to every objective observer that almost all Iranians had turned against him. It would

be ironic, it would be tragic if we were to open relations with the Iranian theocracy just as the Iranian people have concluded it must go.

A SPECIAL SALUTE TO THE
"ARTISTIC DISCOVERY" WINNERS

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the young students from the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio who participated in the annual "An Artistic Discovery" competition. Later this month students from all around the nation will have their artwork displayed in the Rotunda Tunnel in the Capitol Building. I take special pride in sponsoring the "An Artistic Discovery" competition for the students in my Congressional district. This art contest provides an innovative way to recognize the talents of many of our nation's youngest creative minds. This contest also provides a forum in which we can encourage our young people to develop their talents in a positive way.

I am proud to report that in the Eleventh Congressional District, "An Artistic Discovery" is as successful as it has been in the past years. This year there were more than 300 entries from 10 different schools within the district. The judge, who had the arduous task of choosing the best entry out of an outstanding array of talented work, decided upon Becky Miklos, a 16-year-old tenth grader from Bedford High School. The sophomore's artistic endeavor entitled "Pensive" is a very poignant pastel drawing that truly deserves the honor of Best-in-Show. I look forward to welcoming Becky to Washington, D.C. for the grand opening of the "Artistic Discovery" national exhibition. Last year's winner was also from Bedford High School, senior Monica Grevious, so I am very pleased to recognize Bedford High School for its encouragement of the artistic talents of these young people.

As we conclude this year's "Artistic Discovery" competition in the Eleventh Congressional District, I want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude toward not only this year's participants but also their art teachers. Many of these young people have grown from this experience and it was essential to have the encouragement of friends, family, and educators behind them 100 percent. The role of art teachers in the tutoring and development of many of these young students is also very important. If it were not for the art teachers in the Eleventh District, I am sure this competition would not be as successful as it has been these past years.

Mr. Speaker, I feel the achievement of "Artistic Discovery" is one that should be continued. After my retirement at the end of this year, I hope that my successor will continue this program that rewards the artistic endeavors of young people. As a firm supporter of the arts, I realize we should start investing time and encouragement into artists at a young age. The success of this competition only proves that many young people, given the proper encouragement, can be winners.

Every single one of the students who participated throughout the Eleventh District is a winner in their own right and I want to offer them my personal congratulations. Given an opportunity to showcase their talents, these young people have responded to the call for art with a very positive and talented display of ability. They should all be saluted.

Beaumont School: Amanda Amigo, Cara Bastulli, Missy Blakeley, Cristin Brown, Michelle Burkacki, Monique Christian, Clare Christie, Asia Clark, Kim Cunningham, Catherine Davenport, Kara Dunne, Katie Fejes, Carol Ferkovic, Maggie Garvey, Laura Golombek, Roberta Hannibal, Melissa Harasty, Dana Hardy, Meredith Harger, Christine Havach, Lindsey Hubler, Jennifer Jansa, Sara Jenne, Raina Kratky, Jessica Kress, Quinn Kucia, Daniella La China, Megan Lewicki, Carmen Licate, Halle Malcomb, Kate Marotta, Lisa Mawby, Sarena McKee, Christine Miller, Meghann Mooney, Liz Nielsen, Christina Pamies, Susie Quilligan, Jennifer Reali, Leda Remmert, Jamie Reynolds, Nicole Rimedio, Julie Shina, Sarah Stanitz, Daniela Tartakoff, Jenni Traverse, Sarah Venables, Julia Wadsworth, Margaret Wadsworth, Meg Winchester, Maggie Wojton, and Lisa Yafonaro. Art teachers: Ellen Carreras and Sr. M. Lucia, O.S.U.

Bedford High School: Ian Adams, Joe Allie, Zayle Anderson, Daniel Apanasewicz, Kelly Apanasewicz, Bryan Braund, James Bruce, Jessica Bruening, Karen Certo, Danielle Coleman, Jessica Coleman, Robert Cooper, Robin Davis, Eric Delphia, Megan Duffy, Judah Early, Becky Frank, Sean Goins, Jessica Janaco, Michelle Janacek, Sandeep Kaur, Papawee Koontaweelaphon, Erin Long, Sarah Long, Alyssa Lyons, Carlos Mann, Angela Mecone, Becky Miklos, Anthony Mooreland, Michelle Moran, Alyssa Ottaviano, Melissa Petro, Michael Pietrzak, Erin Posanti, Kara Pusniak, Kristen Roberts, Ariel Robinson, Nikolas Rongers, Stephen Stubbs, Talia Thomas, Brandon Vecchio, Amy Virotsko, Josh Wells, and Kevin Williams. Art teachers: Bob Bush, Dagmar Clements, Lou Panutsos, and Jennifer Pozz.

Cleveland Heights High School: Jo Anna Adorjan, Rebecca Chizeck, Larry Chy, Lauren Kalman, Bram Lambrecht, Kelsey Martin-Keating, Elise McDonough, Brian Ross, and Theresa Vitale. Art teacher: Susan Hood-Cogan.

East High School: George Moss, Chris Quackenbush, and Derrick Walker. Art Teacher: Jaunace Watkins.

Cleveland School of the Arts: Monique Boyd, Brandon Huon, Richard E. Jackson, Joshua Jones, Michael Lemieux, Kevin Melicant, Nicole Murray, Isaiah Perkins, Nakia Pollard, Bayete Shropshire, and Rodney Taylor. Art teachers: Danny Carver and Andrew Hamlett.

Garfield Heights High School: Kate Bednarski, Jennifer Bucell, Amanda Bujak, Joelle Burchfield, Frank Buttitta, Amber Chapek, Karen Cherney, Dan Dregely, Anthony Evers, Alisha Fogle, Kevin Gliniski, Keith A. Goose, Jr., Lauren Harper, Jeremy Jakupca, Christy Jeffries, Suzanne Jones, Ben Klein, Jennifer Langman, Becky Merbler, Justin Meyers, Katherine Parker, Terry Phillips, Alena Quinones, Ralph Rasiak, Ryder Reynolds, Stephen Romain, Alyssa Sedlecky,

Lorinda Svihik, Amanda Thomas, Lana Witkowski, and Adam Zimmerman. Art teacher: Christine French.

John Hay High School: Lillian Bryant, Armid burton, Rosolyn Carter, Pamela Davis, Michelle Denson, Quan Duong, Otis Hope, Shamica Jackson, Luddie Long, David Malone, Jason Moorman, Kenneth Roberts, Lavar Thompson, Kenneth Wallace, Jr., and Andre Whittingham. Art teachers: Richard Chappini, Harriet Goldner, and Kathleen Yates.

Maple Heights High School: Rahan Boxley, Emily Bryant, Andre Burton, Soo Choi, Shaunte Conwell, Danielle Czaplenski, Bonnie Glover, Maria Kopec, Calvin Little, Shayna Papes, Brent Peters, Henry Sharpley, Anthony Simmons, Sarah Titus, Sara Trinidad, and Richard Trojanski. Art teacher: Karen Mehling-DeMauro.

Lutheran East High School: George M. Bruhn, Lori Ann Kusterbeck, Jennifer Moore, and LaToya Nicole Vaughn. Art teacher: Rhonda Wadsworth.

Shaker Heights High School: Kamilah Butler, Sayaka Fujioka, Sarah Rebecca Glauser, Scott Green, Rochana M. Jones, Jennifer Kaufman, Carrie LeWine, Christine Powers, Melanie L. Pulley, Matthew B. Schorgl, R. Matthew Shenk, John Stephens, Kimberlee Venable, and Lindsey Wolkin. Art teachers: Malcolm Brown, James Hoffman, and Susan Weiner.

IN HONOR OF LARRY DICK

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Dick and to offer my congratulations on the opening of the Veteran's Affairs Modesto Outreach Clinic in California's great Central Valley.

The Modesto Outreach Clinic has been a tremendous success. Much of this success is directly because of Larry's efforts. Not only has he been working with the VA Screening Program for 11 years—which translates to 379 Fridays—during which time he has screened more than 8,500 veterans, Larry has tirelessly "beat the bushes" for veterans.

He and the American Legion Post have served as sponsor, administrative coordinator, publicist and very strong advocate for the VA Modesto Outreach Clinic.

A past Commander for American Legion Post No. 74, last year Larry was named "Man of the Year For Community Services" in Stanislaus County, California.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a privilege to honor Larry and commend him for his efforts on behalf of veterans. His willingness to be such an exemplary model of volunteerism reflects great credit on himself. He is truly an example of one man standing up to make a difference in the lives of those around him.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives rise and join me in honoring Larry Dick.