

accept the rule of law, they must reject violence, they must respect the standards of free elections, and they must peacefully accept the results.

Throughout the Middle East, the fear of free choices can no longer justify the denial of liberty. It is time to abandon the excuses that are made to avoid the hard work of democracy. There are those who say that democracy is being imposed. In fact, the opposite is true: Democracy is never imposed. It is tyranny that must be imposed.

People choose democracy freely. And successful reform is always homegrown. Just look around the world today. For the first time in history, more people are citizens of democracies than of any other form of government. This is the result of choice, not of coercion.

There are those who say that democracy leads to chaos, or conflict, or terror. In fact, the opposite is true: Freedom and democracy are the only ideas powerful enough to overcome hatred, and division, and violence. For people of diverse races and religions, the inclusive nature of democracy can lift the fear of difference that some believe is a license to kill. But people of goodwill must choose to embrace the challenge of listening, and debating, and cooperating with one another.

For neighboring countries with turbulent histories, democracy can help to build trust and settle old disputes with dignity. But leaders of vision and character must commit themselves to the difficult work that nurtures the hope of peace. And for all citizens with grievances, democracy can be a path to lasting justice. But the democratic system cannot function if certain groups have one foot in the realm of politics and one foot in the camp of terror.

There are those who say that democracy destroys social institution and erodes moral standards. In fact, the opposite is true: The success of democracy depends on public character and private virtue. For democracy to thrive, free citizens must work every day to strengthen their families, to care for their neighbors, and to support their communities.

There are those who say that long-term economic and social progress can be achieved without free minds and free markets. In fact, human potential and creativity are only fully released when governments trust their people's decisions and invest in their people's future. And the key investment is in those people's education. Because education—for men and for women—transforms their dreams into reality and enables them to overcome poverty.

There are those who say that democracy is for men alone. In fact, the opposite is true: Half a democracy is not a democracy. As one Muslim woman leader has said, "Society is like a bird. It has two wings. And a bird cannot fly if one wing is broken." Across the Middle East, women are inspiring us all.

In Kuwait, women protested to win their right to vote, carrying signs that declared: "Women are Kuwaitis, too." Last month, Kuwait's legislature voiced its agreement. In Saudi Arabia, the promise of dignity is awakening in some young women. During the recent municipal elections, I saw the image of a father who went to vote with his daughter.

Rather than cast his vote himself, he gave the ballot to his daughter, and she placed it in the ballot box. This small act of hope reveals one man's dream for his daughter. And he is not alone.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Across the Middle East today, millions of citizens are voicing their aspirations for liberty and for democracy. These men and women are expanding boundaries in ways many thought impossible just one year ago.

They are demonstrating that all great moral achievements begin with individuals

who do not accept that the reality of today must also be the reality of tomorrow.

There was a time, not long ago, after all, when liberty was threatened by slavery.

The moral worth of my ancestors, it was thought, should be valued by the demand of the market, not by the dignity of their souls. This practice was sustained through violence. But the crime of human slavery could not withstand the power of human liberty. What seemed impossible in one century became inevitable in the next.

There was a time, even more recently, when liberty was threatened by colonialism. It was believed that certain peoples required foreign masters to rule their lands and run their lives. Like slavery, this ideology of injustice was enforced through oppression.

But when brave people demanded their rights, the truth that freedom is the destiny of every nation rang true throughout the world. What seemed impossible in one decade became inevitable in the next.

Today, liberty is threatened by undemocratic governments. Some believe this is a permanent fact of history. But there are others who know better. These impatient patriots can be found in Baghdad and Beirut, in Riyadh and in Ramallah, in Amman and in Tehran and right here in Cairo.

Together, they are defining a new standard of justice for our time—a standard that is clear, and powerful, and inspiring: Liberty is the universal longing of every soul, and democracy is the ideal path for every nation.

The day is coming when the promise of a fully free and democratic world, once thought impossible, will also seem inevitable. The people of Egypt should be at the forefront of this great journey, just as you have led this region through the great journeys of the past.

A hopeful future is within the reach of every Egyptian citizen—and every man and woman in the Middle East. The choice is yours to make. But you are not alone. All free nations are your allies. So together, let us choose liberty and democracy—for our nations, for our children, and for our shared future. Thank you.

INTRODUCING THE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, America faces a crisis in health care. Health care costs continue to rise, leaving many Americans unable to afford health insurance, while those with health care coverage, and their physicians, struggle under the control of managed-care "gatekeepers." Obviously, fundamental health care reform should be one of Congress' top priorities.

Unfortunately, most health care "reform" proposals either make marginal changes or exacerbate the problem. This is because they fail to address the root of the problem with health care, which is that government policies encourage excessive reliance on third-party payers. The excessive reliance on third-party payers removes all incentive from individual patients to concern themselves with health care costs. Laws and policies promoting Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) resulted from a desperate attempt to control spiraling costs. However, instead of promoting an efficient health care system, HMOs further took control over health care away from the individual patient and physician.

Furthermore, the predominance of third-party payers means there is effectively no market for individual health insurance policies, thus those whose employers cannot offer them health benefits must either pay exorbitant fees for health insurance or do without health insurance. Since most health care providers cater to those with health insurance, it is very difficult for the uninsured to find health care that meets their needs at an affordable price. The result is many of the uninsured turn to government-funded health care systems, or use their local emergency room as their primary care physician. The result of this is declining health for the uninsured and increased burden on taxpayer-financed health care system.

Returning control over health care to the individual is the key to true health care reform. The Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act puts control of health care back into the hands of the individual through tax credits, tax deductions, Health Care Savings Accounts (HSA), and Flexible Savings Accounts. By giving individuals tax incentives to purchase their own health care, the Comprehensive Health Care Act will help more Americans obtain quality health insurance and health care. Specifically, the Comprehensive Health Care Act:

A. Provides all Americans with a tax credit for 100% of health care expenses. The tax credit is fully refundable against both income and payroll taxes.

B. Allows individuals to roll over unused amounts in cafeteria plans and Flexible Savings Accounts (FSA).

C. Makes every American eligible for an Health Savings Account (HSA), removes the requirement that individuals must obtain a high-deductible insurance policy to open an HSA; allows individuals to use their HSA to make premium payments for high-deductible policy; and allows senior citizens to use their HSA to purchase Medigap policies.

D. Repeals the 7.5 percent threshold for the deduction of medical expenses, thus making all medical expenses tax deductible.

By providing a wide range of options, this bill allows individual Americans to choose the method of financing health care that best suits their individual needs. Increasing frustration with the current health care system is leading more and more Americans to embrace this approach to health care reform. For example, a poll by the respected Zogby firm showed that over 80 percent of Americans support providing all Americans with access to a Health Savings Account. I hope all my colleagues will join this effort to put individuals back in control of health care by cosponsoring the Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act.

HONORING THE WOMEN VETERANS OF THE 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AND THE ANNUAL WOMEN VETERANS BANQUET

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the women veterans of the 10th Congressional District of Ohio—for their service, bravery, and dedication on behalf of our country. Most significantly, we

stand in tribute and remembrance of those veterans, women and men, who have made the ultimate sacrifice when they answered the call to duty.

For the past three years, the service, sacrifice and courage of women veterans of the United States Armed Forces have been honored and celebrated in Cleveland at the "Women Veterans Banquet." The idea was brought to life by U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Cindy Campbell, Desert Storm Veteran, and her husband, John Campbell.

The organizers of the Women Veterans Banquet provide a significant opportunity for the Cleveland community to honor and recognize the unwavering dedication and bravery exhibited by women who have been on the front lines of combat throughout America's history—from women soldiers on the battleground, to women piloting F-14's, to women doctors and nurses working in makeshift medical units administering to the wounded. Beyond recognizing the immense contribution and sacrifice of women soldiers and veterans, the members of the Women Veterans Banquet have also work to raise funds for the upkeep and maintenance of the Women in Military Service Memorial in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of the women of our United States Armed Forces. Let us forever remember their service, courage and steadfast commitment, and keep especially close in our hearts those soldiers, women and men, who have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country, when they heeded the call to serve.

HONORING MATTHEW MAZGAJ FOR HIS ALL AROUND EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the exemplary academic and athletic achievements Matthew Mazgaj.

Matthew is one of those students who does not go unnoticed. This article as published in the Jamestown Post Journal pays tribute to an outstanding young man.

AREA WRESTLER A STANDOUT IN AND OUT OF
CLASSROOM

(By Scott Kindberg)

Richard Rybicki saw something special in Matt Mazgaj almost from the moment he met him on the first day of school in 1998.

As his homeroom teacher at Southwestern Middle School, Rybicki was struck by Mazgaj's leadership skills, even as an 11-year-old sixth-grader.

"He was a standout in and out of the classroom as an elementary student and athlete," Rybicki said.

Fast forward more than 6 years and nothing's changed.

Mazgaj's work ethic and drive to excel, first seen by Rybicki in the late 1990s, continued throughout his tenure at Southwestern Central School. From the classroom to the football field and from his church to the wrestling mat, the Trojans senior has laid a blueprint for other students to follow.

And somewhere Frank Hyde is smiling.

Hyde, who was The Post-Journal sports editor for 34 years, valued the all-around excellence of young people.

"Matt exemplifies the type of student athlete-scholar Frank Hyde admired most—those for whom participation in sports is an important part of the educational experience, but just a part," Post-Journal Editor Cristie Herbst said.

"He valued those students who also learned through participation in sports the lessons of good sportsmanship, fair play and determination to strive toward a goal. And as just as Matt has done, Frank believed that students should apply those values in all of their activities, in and out of school," Ms. Herbst said.

Hyde, no doubt, would also be happy to know that Mazgaj is this year's recipient of the 21st annual Hyde Memorial Scholarship.

The \$1,000 scholarship, given by The Post-Journal, is awarded to the outstanding college-bound athlete from the newspaper's circulation area, which covers Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Warren counties.

The scholarship was presented during an awards assembly at Southwestern Central School on Wednesday morning.

Mazgaj has been accepted at Washington and Jefferson College, where he plans to major in biology and physics, and play football.

"I believe this type of an extensive education past high school is vital for an individual to succeed in our ever-advancing America today," Mazgaj wrote in an essay accompanying his scholarship application.

Judging from his academic performance and extracurricular activities, Mazgaj is on his way to a successful college experience.

Ranked 11th in his class with a 96 average, Mazgaj is a member of the National Honor Society, the Ophelia mentoring program and the math club; is an usher at Sacred Heart Church; and is a volunteer coach with the Southwestern Spartans midget football league team.

Athletically, he turned in one of the finest careers in school history.

In wrestling, he captured consecutive New York State Public High School Athletic Association small school championships in 2004 and 2005 at 215 pounds and shared the Ilio DiPaolo Scholarship this year.

Along the way, Mazgaj, a two-year captain, posted a 130-28 career record, was the Division 1 wrestler of the year, and twice the 215-pound division and Section 6 champion. The Trojans were also successful as a team during Mazgaj's era, claiming a small-school state championship once, Section 6 championship twice and league championship three times.

"When I first met Matt I noticed that he had an incredible work ethic that far surpassed his peers," Southwestern coach Mark Hetrick said in his letter of recommendation. "Matt was undefeated throughout middle school wrestling, but the thing that impressed me the most about this kid was his drive and motivation to get better. His hard work paid off."

Former Southwestern wrestling coach Walt Thurnau is equally complimentary.

"He has always displayed the characteristics of a true gentleman," Thurnau said in his letter of recommendation. "It doesn't matter if it's practice or competition, Matt is always respectful of his opponent or practice partner. He always treats everyone with respect and courtesy."

"Matt is very humble and would never brag about his accomplishments. If you didn't know that he was a two-time state champ, you would never learn it by listening to Matt. He still helps clean the mats and is always one of the last to leave the practice room."

Mazgaj's devotion to wrestling is immense, but his first love is on the gridiron. A firstteam all-state linebacker, The Post-

Journal co-Player of the Year and first-team all-Western New York selection last fall, Mazgaj led the Trojans to a 9-2 record and a Section 6 championship, the first sectional football title in school history. His impact, both on the field and in the classroom, was recognized when he was selected the Section 6 Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Statistically, Mazgaj, a two-year captain, holds team records for career tackles (357) and single-season tackles for a loss (22), and is tied for first in tackles in a season (133).

"I think the most important characteristic that Matt possesses is his character," Southwestern head football coach and government/economics teacher Jay Sirianni wrote in his letter of recommendation. "Matt displays the attributes of a natural leader. He has integrity, loyalty, a strong work ethic, and he leads by example. In an era with few positive role models, Matt has been a positive role model to his classmates and younger students."

Because of his considerable wrestling talents, Mazgaj could have continued his career at the Division I or Division II level. Instead, he chose to follow his heart and his true love—football.

"With making the decision to play football in college, I gave up substantial athletic scholarship financial aid," Mazgaj wrote. "Washington and Jefferson is a Division III school, and because of this they cannot give athletic scholarships. This is why I am writing to you, to try and convince you to help me continue my athletic career in a sport that I have (proven myself) on the fields at Southwestern."

"The financial assistance will help to alleviate some of the stress developed from paying for college, then graduate, and maybe medical school."

Then Mazgaj added one final sentence.

"Regardless of the monetary assistance, this award would, first and foremost, be an honor to receive."

"Matt Mazgaj is that exceptional student-athlete who comes around few times, if any, in a teacher's career," wrote Rybicki, who is also Southwestern's athletic director. "Matt will definitely leave behind a legacy which has been forged by hard work, discipline and desire."

I am honored, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor this amazing young man.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF HYPOLUXO

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, the Town of Hypoluxo, a gem in the strand of our jeweled communities of Palm Beach County, is celebrating its 50th anniversary on July 3, 2005. I have proudly represented Hypoluxo for 13 years in the United States Congress, and have come to know its residents and town leadership very well.

It is interesting to note that Hypoluxo got its name not from a Greek root, but from the Seminole name for Lake Worth which roughly translates to "water all around—no get out." Today a great number of people want to move into the friendly confines of Hypoluxo, but because no one wants to "get out", home sites are difficult to find. No doubt, because of the wonderful people and the coastal breezes.

Hypoluxo is one of the smallest communities in my District with its nearly 2,500 people, but it has in its rich heritage played a very