

change. It is now time to invest in democracy in Belarus. The existing window for the opposition might be temporary. People in Belarus need our support, and we have to be with them until the end of this existing brutal regime.

#### NEWS FOR THE PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, as we speak now, in my hometown of New York, United Nations leaders from all over the world are coming in. The major issue is the Palestinian claim they're going to go to the United Nations to have a declared state of their own.

I have news for the Palestinian leadership. The only way they can have a state of their own is to sit down face-to-face with Israel in face-to-face negotiations and hammer out an agreement, an agreement which is the two-state solution, an Israeli Jewish state and a Palestinian Arab state.

The Palestinians cannot try to impose any kind of solution that doesn't work. If two adversaries want to hash out a disagreement to come to an agreement, then they need face-to-face negotiation. This has happened in the past. Each time Israel has accepted it, and the Palestinians have said no.

The United Nations should not discredit itself even more and continue to be the usual kangaroo court against Israel. I'm glad that the United States and the President are standing up and saying that we will veto a resolution if it comes before the Security Council.

#### PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, what happens at the United Nations this week will have a profound and lasting effect on the prospects for peace in the Middle East. If the Palestinian Authority succeeds in obtaining U.N. recognition for a Palestinian state, it will only delay genuine efforts at a negotiated settlement.

Israel has, for many years, cooperated in good faith with Palestinian and international efforts to mediate peace and work toward a two-state solution. It has made many concessions, some of which were not always in Israel's best interest. The Palestinians, unsatisfied with these efforts at the negotiating table, are seeking an end-run around Israel in an attempt to gain statehood by means of the United Nations.

Watching this spectacle unfold, I was reminded of the time I spent in Namibia in the late eighties and early nineties, where the U.N. General Assembly had arbitrarily designated one

of the political parties the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people. That had the effect of delaying the negotiating process that ultimately led to Namibia's independence. The same designation was awarded several decades ago to the PLO, and it had a similar effect.

The U.S. Government should use all the tools at its disposal, fiscal and otherwise, to ensure that that same outcome is avoided here.

#### CONSTITUTION DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend each American who celebrated Constitution Day, which was last Saturday, September 17.

Over the past few decades, many Americans have expressed disgust with our out-of-control reach of government and erosion of the very freedoms that we claim to protect.

The powers of Congress are clearly laid out in article I, which is the most expansive article of the Constitution for a reason. Our Founding Fathers fully intended for power to rest with the people, in a legislative body.

I'm proud to say that during this Congress, the House has taken significant steps to restate its constitutional authority and has given an earnest attempt to returning to a constitutional government.

One example is the TRAIN Act on the floor this week, legislation intended to rein in the executive branch's gross regulatory overreach. From the debt limit debate to each spending bill considered on the floor, this process has been about more than just our need for fiscal reform. It's about the timeless principles of freedom, justice, and opportunity that have provided America with 224 years of prosperity and the future promise of our Nation, if we continue to hold these principles dear.

□ 1800

#### NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER'S MILITARY

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALAZZO. This morning I had the honor and privilege to spend 2 hours with 86 World War II veterans from Mississippi. These exceptional men and women inspired generations of Americans such as me to serve their country.

Sadly, though, when I returned to my office after honoring these American heroes, I saw many of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle congratulating themselves on the ill-conceived, lame brain, lame duck session repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Despite the questionable reports, surveys, and

certifications, which I believe were flawed from the beginning, I have no doubt that we have taken a wrong turn.

The 111th Congress obviously failed the American people on so many levels. Repeal of DADT is just another glaring example of their failures. Social experiments like this repeal have no place in our military, and I for one apologize to those who have served and those who are currently serving.

God help us all.

#### ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Several years ago, my wife and I, accompanied by a number of other Members and their spouses, were privileged to be in the State of Israel at the time the Israeli Government made a very difficult decision to turn over Gaza to the Palestinian Authority.

It was a very controversial decision. The question was: Would this gesture of goodwill be reciprocated by the other side? Unfortunately, of course, it was not. As in other gestures by the Israeli Government, the response has been: Give us more and we will not commit to the existence of Israel, but you have to commit to the existence of a Palestinian state.

Let there be no mistake. It is a bipartisan support on the floor of the House for the State of Israel at this time of great need for them when they face all sorts of problems in the United Nations and elsewhere.

Let us be clear. We will not be divided on this. Republicans, Democrats, conservatives, and liberals here in the House of Representatives and the United States Senate support Israel in their effort to remain free and to not be forced into positions that are totally unfair.

#### A CELEBRATION OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say that Democrats in Congress continue to work tirelessly to improve the lives of America's Latino families. During the 111th Congress, we passed historic legislation that made college more accessible and affordable and broadened the scope of health care for very many families.

When Democrats controlled the Congress, we increased the maximum Pell Grant, in a bipartisan vote, from \$4,050 to the current \$5,550, an increase of 37 percent. While I was chairman of the Subcommittee on Higher Ed, I proudly stood next to President Obama when he signed the historic Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 into law. This new law increased college aid for the 39 percent of Hispanic