

local politics, a form of direct democracy that would be the cornerstone of American independence from the monarchy in Great Britain. Even today, Longmeadow elects selectmen, just as they did when the community was founded. The founders and parishioners of the First Church of Christ left a fine blueprint on how democracy at its most fundamental roots, can have a lasting effect on a community and on a nation.

Mr. Speaker, The First Church of Christ still has much to offer to its parishioners and is still the cornerstone of Longmeadow even after the original meeting house has long been replaced. As they continue to celebrate their 300th anniversary year, I wish them all the best in their endeavors to preserve their rich history and community involvement that has been the legacy of the First Church of Christ.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE DESIGNATION OF A PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE BALKANS

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing a resolution to recommend the designation of a Presidential Special Envoy for the Balkans.

In November of 1995 the United States government spearheaded a series of peace talks in Dayton, Ohio, that ended more than three years of warfare and ethnic cleansing that plagued much of the Balkans region. Ultimately, from those talks stemmed the Dayton Peace Accords, which essentially established the new-nation state of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, as time has evolved since Dayton, the U.S. has made uneven attempts to continue this important dialogue and revisit the many weaknesses in the original Dayton Agreement. As many have said over the years, the Dayton Accords solved the war of the 1990s but did not fully resolve the Constitutional and governmental needs for this new nation state.

The time has come to lend our services in aid to this important region and help Bosnia thaw her "frozen conflict," as it has been referred regarding the present situation. This new nation must continue to move forward toward full integration into our important western alliances. Bosnia and Herzegovina must further develop active and free capital markets in order to help secure governmental structures that fully protect the economic, political, and religious rights for her three recognized constituent peoples—the Croat Bosnians, the Bosniak Muslims, and the Serb Bosnians.

Croat Bosnians have had over the years trouble consistently electing a truly representative Croatian to the tri-partite Presidency in Sarajevo. In addition, many Croats in Bosnia still do not have full ownership of their pre-war properties and are unable to return to their homesteads. A country is respected for how it treats its smallest constituencies, and in reality the future success of the Croats in Bosnia is the glue that will hold Bosnia and Herzegovina together in the future.

While the U.S. has urged the Bosnian government to initiate needed revisions them-

selves, we have witnessed this relatively new nation state, which maintains great political and economic potential, actually fall back into occasional violent patterns as witnessed in February 2014.

As the Representative of the 44th district of California, an area steeped in Balkans culture with a very active Croatian American community, I have heard firsthand the concerns arising from growing general instability and the economic and political difficulties experienced by the Croatian Bosnians, the smallest of the three Dayton recognized constituent peoples of Bosnia.

As I have stated before, this region is integral to the future success of our interdependent international community and a Europe that is whole and prosperous. We have an obligation to support the democratic and free market progress that has been hard won over the last two decades in the Balkans. The United States and Europe cannot be distracted by other regions dominating the news.

My Resolution will establish a much needed independent Special Envoy for the Secretary of State. This Envoy shall fully investigate the current state of affairs and provide a comprehensive report to the Congress and the Administration. This report will recommend additional and alternative methods for assisting Bosnia and Herzegovina in developing a fully functional and stable system of government—a system that her people so adamantly desire and fully deserve.

Therefore, I call upon this 114th Congress to designate a special Presidential Envoy to evaluate the successes and shortcomings of the Dayton Peace Accords, and to provide tangible policy recommendations so that we may assist this region to fully establish the security and prosperity that its citizens demand for themselves. It is my greatest hope that the United States can remain a catalyst for change and success in the Balkans, as it illustrated earlier during the era of the Dayton Accords.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN PAULINE LUND

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Evelyn Lund of Lenox, Iowa, for being inducted into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Iowa State Fair. Inductees to the Hall of Fame have demonstrated dedication, encouragement, commitment, and guidance to Iowa's 4-H students through the years.

Evelyn was born and raised in Adams County, Iowa and has served on the Adams County Youth and 4-H committee. Her encouraging smile and positive attitude with all 4-H members made her a great fit for her role as a youth leader. Evelyn and her husband Paul are the parents of three children, Nancy, Laurie, and Charles. Each of their children were active in 4-H programs growing up. Today, Evelyn encourages a third generation of 4-H members in Adams County to develop skills and confidence through various 4-H programs.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Evelyn for earning this award. She is a shining

example of how encouragement and a positive influence can have a lasting impact on our youth. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Evelyn for this accomplishment and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DON EDWARDS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, sadly, I note the passing of our former colleague, Don Edwards, on October 1. While Don retired from his seat representing his district in Northern California in 1994, he left a lasting legacy after his 32-year career in the House.

Taking office in 1963, Don came to Congress at a time when our country was in dire need of men of conscience and the courage to lead on issues concerning civil rights, civil liberties, and the proper limits of government power. Don answered the call, quickly registering his support for landmark legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As a Member of the Judiciary Committee, he became the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, a position he used for decades to protect the fundamental rights of all Americans.

He fought particularly hard, in reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act, to preserve the Section 5 preclearance requirements for states that had a legacy of voting rights abuses. He realized how critical this law is to the foundational aspirations of America, and said, "If you can't vote, you are not a real citizen."

Another area where Don focused his energies concerned the uncovering and elimination of abusive government surveillance. Having been an FBI agent for a brief period prior to his military service in World War II, Don brought to Congress an understanding of the need for government to enforce the laws while not violating the civil liberties of those it is designed to serve. His work on the Judiciary Committee included actions to reign in government surveillance, and he was also instrumental in shutting down the House Un-American Activities Committee, whose sad legacy continues to caution Congress not to abuse its considerable powers.

In matters of foreign affairs and the use of U.S. military power, he showed wise judgment in opposing the Vietnam War and also opposed the use of military force in other instances, such as the war in the Persian Gulf in 1991.

I knew Don Edwards as a principled man who never stopped believing that the government's coercive powers should be subject to the highest levels of scrutiny, and that we should never forget that our government exists through the consent of the governed, with the purpose of preserving and not eroding our rights. We are grateful for his service to Congress and this country. He will be missed, but we will continue the work he devoted himself to in the Judiciary Committee and in Congress.