

for those human services, and she also wrote a report to Congress on her findings, entitled: "The Golden Years: A Tarnished Myth." Joan had found that the Golden Years for the elderly were not exactly golden—but she also knew what kind of help was going to be necessary in order to make them golden.

After that effort, Joan then served as the coordinating supervisor of the Neighborhood Youth Corps, responsible for developing and implementing an internal evaluation instrument, and recommending to management appropriate changes to make the program more efficient and effective for the youth intended to be served. These findings too became a written report to the U.S. Department of Labor and were used extensively to improve and enhance neighborhood youth corps programs.

In 1967, Joan became the interim executive director of the Southwestern Community Action Council, where she got so busy doing what needed to be done, she never left—until now.

Joan Ross knew long before Federal legislation was enacted, that West Virginia's southern area was very different from the rest of the Nation. More than 63 percent rural, the State had hidden poverty pockets that neighboring urban areas and officials knew nothing about, or not enough to pay attention.

When, in 1964, the Economic Opportunity Act was passed creating her agency, community schools and businesses, restaurants and movie theaters—were not yet integrated. Hungry school children were not receiving hot lunches, and health care was nonexistent in most rural areas. At that time, the mentally impaired or disabled child and adult were not mainstreamed into society—but were kept hidden, either in institutions or by their families. In 1964, Joan had already found that substandard housing was accepted as a consequence of poverty, but not as a contributing factor, and people who were poor were perceived as poor by choice—but Joan Ross knew better.

The enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act gave Joan Ross, and many other directors of CAP agencies nationwide the opportunity to bring people together who were concerned about their communities—their counties, cities and rural hamlets—people who wanted to find a way to help the poor help themselves.

Joan, along with the staff which she recruited and who have served with her for nearly the same length of years at Southwestern, took it upon herself to become a pioneer in Lyndon Johnson's war on Poverty, taking on new programs that no one else would touch—and making them work as they were intended to work: Helping the poor to help themselves.

The people in southern West Virginia, brought together by Joan Ross and kept together by her unstinting efforts over the years, were somewhat awed by the sight of bankers working with welfare mothers, rural folks with urban folks—young people with senior citizens—and volunteers with working people.

When Joan Ross began her service with the Southwestern Community Action Agency as its interim director 26 years ago, her job was to help organize and stabilize the agency. Over more than a quarter century, she has seen the program grow from a tenuous one to a multi-million dollars corporation—still receiving Federal support from a few remaining programs under the old OEA—but which has grown and

continued to survive because of the resources she has generated from other Federal programs, from private foundations, and local contributions.

Under her very distinguished stewardship, the Southwestern Community Action Agency has done everything from weatherizing existing substandard housing, to building housing projects, for the elderly, for the low-income families, for the homeless, and for the mentally impaired.

She pioneered the Head Start Program in our region, overseeing four county-wide Head Start Projects, as well as Head Start's Parent Child Centers, providing educational opportunities to pre-school children and their families, saw to the fluoridation of the water system, advocated for the mentally ill, conducted several national demonstrations, some of which have resulted in Federal legislation, provided services to the homeless and to troubled youth, provided training which has led to jobs for the unemployed, helped provide small low interest loans to low income people who were trying to start up their own business—and she piloted countless other programs designed to help the poor stop being poor.

The story of Joan Ross and her career in public service is about excellence. When it comes to bringing people together from all walks of life and inspiring them—challenging them—to work together and to make a big difference, she has no equal. Joan Ross did all this regardless of anyone's cultural, ethnic, or racial origins. She did it regardless of a person's age, or whether they were from rural or urban settings, and all other socio-economic factors were taken into consideration for residents throughout her service area.

Joan Ross's life has been about uniting people, never dividing them.

While Joan spent 26 years counseling, cajoling, inspiring and challenging people from all walks of life—from County Commissions to the State Legislature to the U.S. Congress—from the poorest to the richest in our region—ultimately getting them to do the right thing—she was completely and selflessly involved at every other level of community service. How she found the time or the energy, we will never know. For example: During these 26 years Joan served as a member of the Junior League of Huntington, was active in her church, served as chairperson of the board of trustees of the greater West Virginia Employees Health and Welfare Trust, served as president of the WV Community Action Directors Association, served on the Greenbrier Mission Development Fund, was chairperson of the State Visiting Committee of West Virginia University, as chairperson of the Cabell-Huntington Red Cross, as the national vice president of the Council of Agriculture Research, Extension and Training, served on the West Virginia Mental Health Planning Committee, as well as with the West Virginia Alliance for the Mentally Ill, as president of the Prester Center for Mental Health, Chaired the Policy Committee of the WV State Jobs Training Coordinating Council, president of the Forest Management Corporation, and still serves as a member of the Huntington Hospital for Rehabilitation Board of Directors. And all this time, Joan was raising her four children and being a supportive wife to her husband, Dr. Thomas Ross.

I have known Joan Ross for all of these years, and have been both inspired and hum-

bled by her always dynamic, often gentle and compassionate approach to getting all the jobs done that were hers to do, and getting them done by, and for, the right people. By her example she brought dignity and a quality of life to thousands of men, women and children in southern West Virginia who had, until Joan began her life-long career of outreach to the poor, remained immersed in poverty.

She will be sorely missed as she returns to the heart of her family to spend some quality time with them—but knowing Joan, she will always be involved in the affairs of her community and indeed in public affairs throughout the State.

AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1561), to consolidate the foreign affairs agencies of the United States; to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal year 1996 and 1997; to responsibly reduce the authorizations of appropriations for United States foreign assistance programs for fiscal year 1996 and 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I want to express my strong support for the amendment proposed by my distinguished friend from Florida, Mr. HASTINGS. His reasonable amendment calls for restoration of funding for the development fund for Africa to the levels allocated for this program in the past. I welcome this amendment by my distinguished colleague, and I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of his fair and sensible proposal.

Development assistance to Africa now is a preventive medicine against future more grave problems, such as those that have plagued Somalia and Rwanda in recent years. The peoples of Africa are among the most vulnerable people on earth, the peoples most in need of our help anywhere. If we can encourage the advancement of the African countries through programs that focus on economic and political development, this will be important in preventing future problems. Assistance now will help prevent crises in the future. As with medical care, prevention is far more cost-effective than post-crisis intervention. A few million dollars today to assist the countries of Africa deal with their very serious problems can save our Nation billions in the future by preventing or minimizing the development of humanitarian emergencies and totalitarian regimes that could some day once again threaten the peace and stability of that continent.

Development assistance is an investment in the future stability of that Continent. We need only remember the horrifying television pictures of the crisis in Rwanda last summer to be reminded of the dreadful cost of instability and crisis in Africa. To the extent that we are able to prevent such humanitarian disasters by fostering economic development and political stability, we are saving resources and contributing to global stability, goals which are clearly in our national interest.

The amendment of my friend from Florida to maintain development aid to Africa at current modest levels will be an important impetus to further economic and political development in South Africa. All of us in this Congress were cheered a year ago to see the first free, universal and multi-racial elections take place in South Africa. For years Americans have followed closely and sought to encourage developments in South Africa to bring about an end to apartheid and to encourage democratic development. While all of us have been delighted with the progress that has taken place thus far, the democratic evolution of South Africa depends on economic progress in South Africa. Furthermore, the progress in South Africa could be undermined if development lags and instability increases in the rest of Africa.

Furthermore, our assistance is not simply altruistic. Africa is a continent of rapidly growing countries, countries which are potential markets for United States products which our workers and our factories produce. These countries are sources of important goods and products that the American people and the American economy require. It is in our own national interest to foster economic development and progress for the peoples of Africa.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the amendment of Mr. Hastings.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1530) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. KIM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Gilman amendment which modifies section 563 of the pending bill regarding the determination of whereabouts and status of missing persons.

First, though, I want to take a moment to recognize the unselfish support and dedication our colleague BEN GILMAN, the chairman of the International Relations Committee, has given to trying to help realize the fullest possible accounting of American POW/MIA's. Since coming to Congress in 1973, BEN GILMAN has been a responsible voice in protecting the rights of the families and trying to find answers to the questions about the fates of their missing loved ones. I think we all owe a debt of gratitude to Chairman GILMAN for his never-ending service and commitment to this most complex and frustrating of issues.

Section 563 of the National Defense Authorization Act would require the Secretary of Defense to centralize the oversight and policy responsibility for accounting for missing personnel. It also codifies and standardizes the procedures for accounting for members of the Armed Forces or civilian employees of the Defense Department who become missing as a result of military operations.

The Gilman amendment further refines and improves these new procedures:

First, it requires that the State Department, the Transportation Department, and the Central Intelligence Agency and other relevant agencies appoint an officer responsible for handling missing person issues. Among the 2,204 Americans still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam war are civilians associated with the State Department and Coast Guard personnel.

Second, it directs the Defense Department office to coordinate with these other agencies thereby ensuring a common, focused approach to achieving the fullest possible accounting of missing Americans.

Third, it changes from 24 hours to 30 days the time allotted to a family member in responding to the Defense Department board of inquiry.

Fourth, it extends the time after which the Defense Department can terminate the board after first notice of a disappearance from 20 to 30 years. Many of the still unresolved POW/MIA cases from the Vietnam war date back to a loss over 20 years ago.

Fifth, it provides the family of the missing American the right of judicial review for any finding of death made by the board.

I support this effort to improve the system of determining the status of missing Americans. While some may claim the system does not need fixing, the last 22 years of very frustrating experiences by the families of missing Americans underscores to me the need for statutory reforms. I think this measure goes a long way in implementing the kinds of changes these trying experiences have identified.

However, that is not to say that section 536, even with the improvements offered by the Gilman amendment, is perfect. I have reviewed the concerns raised by the Defense Department about these proposed changes and I believe further refinements are in order to address some of these issues.

Furthermore, I am concerned about the lack of definitive language regarding the rights of the primary next of kin, especially with regard to other family members. While I understand the interest in expanding the decision-making process to include other family members, I am aware of the complications this can present to both the Government and the families themselves. The present set of rights and responsibilities accorded to the primary next of kin should be maintained. This relationship in its current form appears to have worked well. In fact, I believe that some of the overall concerns raised by the Defense Department could be mitigated by clearing defining the principal role of the primary next of kin.

I am sure that these further improvements can be made during consideration of this issue by the other body or during the House-Senate conference on the fiscal year 1996 National Defense Authorization Act.

Hopefully, with more comprehensive accounting from Vietnam and these new procedures for determining the whereabouts and status of missing personnel, we will be able to bring a close to this final chapter of the Vietnam war.

FLAG DAY

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate not a person, not a place, but a symbol. That symbol is the flag of the United States of America. Today, on Flag Day, we celebrate all this symbol has come to represent.

During World War II the Marines planted Old Glory at Iwo Jima; the U.S. astronauts placed the flag on the Moon; and every day our flag hangs behind the Speaker's chair as an individual reminder of why each one of us here in the House of Representatives have chosen to come to our Nation's Capitol. It is to insure the preservation and enhancement of the greatest form of government ever conceived.

Mr. Speaker, as you may be aware, evidence from archaeological digs proves that individuals created flags as early as 3500 B.C. These findings have shown that national pride symbolized by a flag has existed for thousands of years. It is no wonder that immediately upon colonization America's first settlers raised colonial flags; and that upon unification of the United States, one flag was raised to symbolize the birth of our new Nation.

The American flag is not merely a piece of cloth, rather it is a concrete symbol of what is valued in America. Almost 80 years ago on this day President Woodrow Wilson said:

This flag, which we honor and under which we serve, is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thought and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation. The choices are ours . . .

Having the honor of being a Congressman from the State of New Jersey, I am proud of the contribution our State has had to the creation of the flag. Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a resident of New Jersey, was responsible for the stars in the U.S. flag.

Since a New Jerseyian helped create the flag, I am pleased to help take steps to forbid the desecration of the American flag.

Congressman GERALD SOLOMON (R-NY) has introduced H.J. Res. 79, a Constitutional amendment to prohibit physical desecration of the Flag of the United States. Some individuals will argue that this issue deals with the constitutional issue of free speech. I would argue that freedom of speech should be exercised and celebrated, and that even the freest of societies needs a common baseline of decency that should not be crossed. Without this baseline, a free society could quickly become an anarchical one. If it were not for our system of government and its institutions, these rights would not exist. As the symbol of those institutions, the flag deserves our respect and should be protected from gross defamation.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.J. Res. 79. I am convinced this amendment to our Constitution is one of the best ways in which we can restore the proper sense of respect and appreciation for our flag and our institutions.