

Why don't I know? Where can I learn?
What does it mean?

Our children don't understand the constant fighting
When the grownups take up arms in foreign lands
Their eyes and ears look to hear peaceful solutions
Their tiny souls wish them to lend a helping hand.

Our children sometimes need our conversation
To help discuss, sort out confusion, simply explain
Somewhere to turn, just to be heard, express opinions
Never silent, looked down upon, new knowledge gained.

Our children come enwrapped in many colors
The most precious gifts that God will ever give
Teach them respect, pride in their culture, always love them
Ensure their world will be a better place to live.

Our children are the leaders of their tomorrow
Share your wisdom, understanding, make them strong
Learn to accept one another for their differences
Dismiss all others who will tell them that they're wrong.

—Paula McCoy-Pinderhughes.

HONORING KAREN D. CALL

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Karen D. Call who was one of 10 teachers nationwide to win the Reader's Digest American Heroes in Education Awards.

Ms. Call has devoted her life to the noble profession of teaching. Her commitment to making a difference in other people's lives inspired her to develop a unique program that affects both young and adults.

Seventeen years ago, she started teaching a supplemental, 30-minute extra reading class for at-risk children in the second grade. Understanding that more was needed for the children in Safford, a low-income, rural community where English was many times not spoken, she found a way to expand the program. It was transformed into a district wide-effort that reaches children from pre-school through high school.

The uniqueness of the program lies in the inclusion of parents and children in the learning process. Classes now range from at-home learning for pre-school children to adult literacy to English-as-a-second language.

By including parents in the process, attendance in her evening classes has grown from a few parents to over almost 70. By making her workshops a family affair, she has secured the success of her program.

At a time when our children's education has become a national priority, true heroes as Karen Call serve as a source of inspiration and hope for others whose selfless devotion to the honorable profession of teaching remains unrecognized. For in the teachers like Karen Call lies the future of our youth and our nation. I send my sincerest congratulations to Ms.

Call for this deserved recognition and applaud her commitment and dedication.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday, June 13, 1995, and Wednesday morning, June 14, 1995, I was granted a leave of absence due to illness in my family. I therefore missed the following rollcall votes: On Tuesday, rollcall No. 370—had I been present, I would have voted "yea;" rollcall No. 369—had I been present, I would have voted "yea;" rollcall No. 368—had I been present, I would have voted "yea;" rollcall No. 367—had I been present, I would have voted "yea;" On Wednesday, rollcall No. 373—had I been present, I would have voted "nay;" rollcall No. 372—had I been present, I would have voted "yea;" and rollcall No. 371—had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

A TRIBUTE TO SOUTH GLENS FALLS CENTRAL SCHOOL VOLUNTEER/MENTOR PROGRAM

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today and pay tribute to a program which provides a tremendous service to the students and community of South Glens Falls. The Volunteer/Mentor Program is completing its second year of service helping elementary and middle school children with their self-esteem, allowing them to meet their academic and personal potential.

Young people comprise America's greatest asset. In that respect, a program like this one is invaluable and representative of that uniquely American concept of volunteerism. In this day and age especially, our children are subject to an alarming range of negative influences. Therefore, it is critical that we call upon the entire community to assist our young people in overcoming problems with their self-esteem by countering the impact of damaging social ills. That is why the service of the 60 volunteers in this program is so critical.

Allow me to recount some of the efforts of these mentors. They meet with the students in small, or even one-to-one settings for at least 45 minutes per week. This relationship between mentor and child lasts for a minimum of one school year, whereby affected children receive the degree of attention they need to ensure they reach their maximum potential. These volunteers and the children often establish such strong bonds that many mentors have extended their service for a second year.

This type of devotion exemplifies those qualities which makes Americans, and America, great. I have always felt that there are three distinct reasons for this greatness, American pride, patriotism and volunteerism. The American people have been noted for this voluntary service, be it in the fire departments, civic and community organizations, or extracurricular programs at our schools.

Mr. Speaker, the United States of America is the longest continuing democracy in the world and a model for emerging countries. In that same mold, people like those who comprise the Volunteer/Mentor Program in the South Glens Falls Central School District are models for all of us here.

I have always been one to judge people based on what they return to their community. By that measure, these volunteers are truly great Americans. I ask, Mr. Speaker, that you, and all fellow Members, join me in paying tribute to this program that works to protect our future.

IN SUPPORT OF THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before this distinguished body to express my strong support for the Day of the African Child and the efforts of UNICEF to help the children of Africa.

The Day of the African Child was founded to commemorate the lives of the children who were massacred in Soweto, South Africa, on June 16, 1976. They joined together to rally against the sinister scourge of apartheid, and the Day of the African Child is a chance for us to unite against another blight; impoverishment. It is also an opportunity to bring public attention to a forgotten realm; a place where 30 million children are malnourished and many have lost their homes and families. These children's lives are irrevocably scarred by the mental wounds of the violence that ravages their homelands. However, it is also a time to reflect upon the many positive programs that have come to fruition. Many African nations have achieved real progress in attaining the needs of their children. Unfortunately, we are constantly reminded of the threat to the fragile lives of children by the civil strife that was most recently, and most graphically, illustrated in the carnage of Rwanda. That is why the theme of this years Day of the African Child is "Children in Armed Conflict."

Now in its 5th year, the Day of the African Child utilizes the backdrop of the struggle and sacrifice of those heroic children in Soweto, to provide a forum for understanding and recognizing the many challenges that African children face today. It is a day to transcend the man-made boundaries that keep us apart, and to recommit and focus our efforts to the protection and development of our most precious resource. We must work together to stop the violence, illness, and instability that continue to plague the children of Africa.

Rwanda is a recent example of the traumatizing and tragic effect armed conflict on children, the innocent victims. In the strife that has spread across Africa in the last decade, an estimated 2 million children have been killed. Children have borne witness to unspeakable acts of brutality. As the attention of the world community has been focused on other parts of the world in the last 10 years, the situation has not improved. The impact of the crises are just as severe as the famines and armed conflicts of the 1980's. More ominously, the reaction of the world to these tragedies has been dangerously slow, and donor

fatigue is a prevailing ailment that taints relief efforts.

However, the Day of the African Child is also a day to recognize and acknowledge the gains that African countries have had in helping the plight of their children. The situation is, indeed, grave, but contrary to popular misconception, African nations have taken considerable steps in improving the lives of their children. We must wholeheartedly direct more resources toward education initiatives and community rebuilding. We do have the capability, resources, and the conditions that are favorable to succeed in creating a better life for our children. We can fight disease, illiteracy, and malnutrition with simple, low-cost solutions. It is estimated that a child in Africa can be educated for about \$20 a day. With the goal of universal primary school access, the U.N. Children's Fund [UNICEF] has set the years between 1995 and 2000 as the target period to increase primary school enrollment and retention rate. This achievable goal of basic education is also geared to correct the tremendous disparity in the enrollment of female children.

In addition, the United Nations has successfully carried out Days of Tranquility during which children are immunized against the six major childhood killers. Warring parties have also been convinced to let convoys carrying desperately needed food and medicine to the innocent women and children trapped in war-torn areas.

For some the Day of the African Child will be a day to rejoice and enumerate the notable progress that has been achieved to ease the suffering of our planet's most precious citizens. For others, however, it will be a day to reflect, and to remind us, of the existing adversity and suffering that challenges all of us to preserve in our efforts.

I urge all my colleagues to recognize this important day which not only acknowledges the struggles of the African youth, but of children everywhere, as they will someday inherit the mantle of freedom and liberty that we hold so dear.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL REGARDING D.C. CHILD CUSTODY CASE

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which would allow Hilary Morgan, now known as Ellen Morgan and her mother Dr. Elizabeth Morgan to return safely to the United States.

In August of 1987, Dr. Morgan was jailed for civil contempt after she hid Hilary and refused to give up for a 2 week court-ordered unsupervised visitation with her father. Hilary's case, as many throughout the world are aware, involves alleged child abuse by the father. It portrays perhaps the most painful aspect of our own judicial system; a child's welfare and child custody proceedings.

Dr. Morgan spent over 2-years in the District of Columbia jail, until my colleague from Virginia, the Honorable FRANK WOLF offered legislation limiting to 12 months the time an individual could be incarcerated for civil contempt

in child custody cases in the District of Columbia. The bill, approved by this body, in essence freed Dr. Morgan from the D.C. jail. Upon her release she left the country and joined her daughter who was living with relatives in New Zealand. Elizabeth and Ellen remain in New Zealand, to this day.

Pending court orders pertaining to both the mother and the child place unacceptable obstacles in the path of their safe return. This bill seeks to remove those obstacles.

Ellen has indicated personally to me that she would like to return safely to the United States, which is her home.

Ellen will be 13 years old in August and has lived over half her life in New Zealand, away from her family and her home. Dr. Morgan a renowned plastic surgeon, due to local restrictions, has been unable to practice medicine. The Morgan family has suffered greatly, and Ellen wants to come home. We should not force this child, who has suffered so much in her young life to remain in exile if the situation can be remedied.

We should not and can not allow the judicial systems antiquated order to continue to punish this child or to force her to grow up away from her family or her country. The legislation I introduce today will remedy the situation and allow Ellen to come back to the United States and pursue her dreams.

Unfortunately, judicial proceedings and media coverage tended to focus on disputes between two well-known parents. The court order, now over 7 years old, does not address the current circumstances or the welfare of a young teenage child.

Under the provisions of this bill, the current orders relating to the penalties to the mother and visitation by the father, would no longer be operable. However, no bar would be placed on any court from revisiting this issue at any time and weighing the markedly changed circumstances since the original court decree.

Intervention in this issue is not unprecedented, but in my judgment merited for the child's own welfare and desire to return to her native country.

FDA'S CAUTION IS KILLING PEOPLE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues an editorial from the June 4, 1995, Los Angeles Times written by James P. Driscoll.

Mr. Driscoll, an AIDS activist, is currently vice president of Direct Action for Treatment in San Francisco. He has been working with my constituent, Alzheimer's activist George Rehnquist, to pressure the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] to approve tacrine, the first drug for treating Alzheimer's disease.

One of the most wasteful, bureaucratic agencies in the Federal Government today is the FDA. They have delayed approval for medicines for sometimes up to years to the detriment of the health of American citizens.

Mr. Driscoll's perspective on drug research, "FDA's Caution is Killing People," brings awareness to the needless deaths caused by

FDA's senseless delay of approval on vital medicines. I agree that Congress should no longer tolerate this practice.

[From the Los Angeles Times, June 4, 1995]

FDA'S "CAUTION" IS KILLING PEOPLE

(By James P. Driscoll)

During the 1950s, drug approval in the United States was a relatively quick and simple process. Then came thalidomide. European regulators had approved this tranquilizer without realizing that it could affect a fetus, and several hundred birth defects resulted worldwide. Capitalizing on the tragedy, liberals in Congress expanded the Food and Drug Administration's powers and altered its priorities.

After amendments in 1962, a peculiar system of drug approval emerged. With each passing year, that system grew more dilatory, more unbalanced and more costly to patients.

FDA's top priority became—and remains—prevention of new thalidomides.

Much of our gross national product is spent on prevention: national defense, vaccination, policing, flood control, sanitation, auto safety, cholesterol tests, anti-terrorist measures and burglar alarms.

Our prevention needs are boundless, but resources are limited and must be allocated wisely. Too much allocated to a minor prevention need will leave major needs neglected. Ideally, the greatest good for the greatest number should determine priorities. In reality, narrow self-interest often prevails. Thus, defense contractors build new weapons the country doesn't need. Farmers get subsidies to grow surplus crops. And FDA churns out burdensome regulations that delay drug approval and actually harm patients.

To better understand FDA's narrow priority, we need to see it in light of the kinds of problems that beset drug regulators. The least common problems are the thalidomides, drugs approved before their safety hazards are known. Even with the pre-1962 FDA, this kind of problem never was a threat comparable to food poisoning or plane crashes. But since Congress blamed FDA for mistaken approvals, the agency made preventing new thalidomides its top priority. Through scare tactics and deception, FDA sold the public on this priority.

Congress and the public are beginning to realize that they have been unwitting parties to a deal made in hell. To prevent a minor threat to public health, FDA created a major health tragedy: needless deaths and suffering caused by delaying useful medicines.

Rational priorities would seek a balance that minimizes the total deaths caused by both mistaken approvals and delays. Rationality and balance are hard. Delay is easy and deals made in hell are tempting.

A recent FDA delay resulted in 3,500 deaths—those kidney cancer patients who, by the FDA's own figures, would have been saved if the drug Interleukin 2 had been approved here as quickly as it was in Europe. These kidney cancer deaths exceed the number of babies deformed by thalidomide. And Interleukin 2 is only the tip of the iceberg. Delays in approving heart drugs, cancer drugs, AIDS drugs and life-saving devices have contributed to tens of thousands of deaths.

Congress has tolerated FDA delay because its dangers are difficult to prove. Individual patients usually don't know about the unapproved drug or device that could save their lives. Patients who suffer the worst loss from FDA delay cannot protest from their graves. Fearing retaliation, drug companies avoid blaming FDA for delays.

Few people grasp the complexities of drug development. Few politicians bother to