

CONGRESS SHOULD SUPPORT
"SAFE COPS" PROGRAM

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I had the pleasure of speaking at a Capitol Hill press conference to endorse a new police protection program called Safe Cops. I would like to take this opportunity to urge all my colleagues to support this excellent initiative.

The program is being sponsored by Eques Publishing Corp. of Freehold, NJ—publishers of Wanted magazine. Eques Publishing will offer a \$10,000 reward to any person providing information that leads to the arrest and conviction of anyone who discharges a firearm at a law enforcement officer anywhere in the United States. Wanted is a new monthly publication that profiles America's most dangerous fugitives.

The "Safe Cops" program has the strong endorsement of the National Police Defense Foundation [NPDF], the Law Enforcement Alliance of America [LEAA], and the Guardian Angels. I would like to thank Shannon Williams of Eques Publishing, Joseph Occhipinti of the NPDF, Jim Fotis and Steve Chand of the LEAA, and Curtis Sliwa of the Guardian Angels for their strong support of this program and America's law enforcement officers. I would also like to thank my colleagues SUSAN MOLINARI, SCOTT MCINNIS, and ROBERT DORNAN for attending the press conference and expressing their support for the program.

As a former sheriff, I have seen first hand the sacrifices America's law enforcement officers have made in the fight against crime. Every day of the year some 600,000 Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to protect our communities and homes. Tragically, some 150 law enforcement officers are killed in the line of duty every year. Thousands more are injured. It is a tough, dangerous and all too often, thankless job.

Eques Publishing should be commended for their commitment to protecting our Nation's law enforcement officers. Their new reward program deserves the support of every Member of Congress and every American. I am proud to support the "Safe Cops" program.

HONORING PORSHIA MARIE
ZABALA

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Porshia Marie Zabala, a 13-year-old student from West Covina, CA.

Like most young adults, Marie enjoys playing sports, roller skating, and being among friends. Marie is uniquely blessed with an extraordinary talent to write poetry. Her poetry is inspired by a childhood filled with mixed messages of love and divorce, happiness and loneliness, and life and death. Her mother, Irene Zabala, and her grandparents are the pillars of support that motivate her creative

spirit. Her letter to me conveyed the bond of love and devotion she has for her family.

Part of her family included her godfather, Nino Arthur. Porshia spent many hours by his bedside before he died of AIDS in 1991. His death was hard on her and inspired the following poem:

(By Porshia Marie Zabala)

Sometimes I want to cry.
Sometimes I want to scream.
And sometimes I'm just not me.
All my troubles seemed so-so-far away.
Now they're all here to stay.
Just so suddenly
I'm not the girl I used to be.
Now there's a shadow hanging over me.
There's no way I could get you to stay.
God just wanted to take you away.
I never knew what to say, when you were dying. Sick in bed.

And when I helped brighten your life, your smile helped brighten mine, in many different ways.

But, now that you're gone, those three words I had to say never really came out the right way.

So now I'll just say, I Love You, in that very special way.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Porshia for nomination as Poet of the Year for 1995 by the International Society of Poets. I wish Porshia continued success with her poetry and future endeavors.

FIFTH ANNUAL DAY OF THE
AFRICAN CHILD

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Fifth Annual Day of the African Child. Nineteen years ago today, a terrible tragedy ensued in Soweto, South Africa. June 16, 1976 marks the beginning of a 5 day riot during which South African police massacred almost 200 protestors, many of them children. The Day of the African Child is dedicated to their memory. By commemorating this day, we are also promoting cross-cultural awareness and celebrating Africa's progress in meeting the needs of its children.

Unfortunately, there are still many impediments to further progress. Violence still ravages the lives of many African children. In the past decade, 2 million African children died as a result of armed conflict, 4 to 5 million were rendered physically disabled, and over 17 million were driven out of their homes. In addition, some 200,000 children under the age of 15 were forced into service in various African armies.

Let us use this day, and all those after, to focus on the desperate situation of children in Africa. Let us all contribute to a better world for our children, where they can expect to live a life free of violence, and receive the benefits of education, good health care, and safe shelter.

Although there is quite a distance to go, there have been some remarkable achievements in the last 35 years. In fact, U.S. development aid to Africa has been instrumental in helping millions of children live healthier and safer lives. For example, the death rate of children under 5 has been cut in half since 1960. The average life expectancy in Africa has

risen to 54 years, an increase of 13 years since 1960. African governments provided safe water and adequate sanitation to an additional 120 million people during the 1980's, and now over 80 percent of the children living in urban areas have access to safe water. In addition, about 69 percent of African girls are now enrolled in primary school, up from 44 percent in the 1970's.

But this is still not enough. We must get behind this momentum of change we helped create and not stop until we have accomplished what we originally set out to do: to make this a safer world for our children. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating today as the Day of the African Child. But, I also urge them to take one step further. Children are the world's most priceless resources, and we should honor them every day of the year.

TRIBUTE TO THE LITTLE HAITI
HOUSING ASSOCIATION

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize and honor a group of people who truly believe in creating a better Miami for all of its residents.

Mr. Speaker, the group of people I am referring to is the Little Haiti Housing Association, Inc. and Citibank, F.S.B., Florida. Together, they have forged a formidable, lasting partnership in the Little Haiti community. Recently, this partnership has received the Social Compact's 1995 Outstanding Community Investment Award. This award is bestowed upon a handful of unsung heroes and organizations who invest their creative efforts and talents in at-risk communities around the country.

In 1993, the Little Haiti Housing Association and Citibank launched the Affordable Home Ownership/Education Program. This program has enabled 21 very low-income families in Little Haiti to become proud home owners. This program has also equipped 62 additional families with the wherewithal to purchase their own homes.

By leveraging public money with private funds and support, the Affordable Home Ownership Education Program purchases abandoned or foreclosed properties, renovates them and later sells them to program participants. Participants of the program are asked to commit to a 6 month individualized Home Ownership Training Program. During these 6 months, participants attend personalized counseling sessions, workshops, and class. The training program specifically addresses issues which will prepare Little Haiti residents for all the responsibilities and concerns that accompany home ownership.

The role this program plays in this community is particularly important when one understands what it means to live in Little Haiti. Almost one out of every two people in Little Haiti lives in poverty; and the average income for a family of five is less than \$14,000 per year. Further, 70 percent of family income, on average, is devoted to paying rent. And finally, nearly three-quarters of all available housing is available only on a rental basis. The residents of Little Haiti are hard working Americans. It is

easy to see how discouraging it would be to complete an 8 hour or more workday and come home to a house that you do not even own. Home ownership will be an integral component in jump-starting this very proud community.

Because of the Affordable Housing Ownership/Education Program, the benefits currently accruing to this community are threefold: the conversion of abandoned dwellings into family housing beautifies the community, and increases stability and pride of the residents. The new home owners are role models. Their self-determination and belief in the betterment of their community is something we should all strive to emulate.

In an area which is beset by poverty and other problems, the Little Haiti Housing Association, Inc. and Citibank of Florida have addressed a critical need within this community. These organizations as well as the individual participants of the program have demonstrated their commitment to delivering stability and a sense of community back to Little Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Home Ownership/Education Program in Little Haiti is clearly an example of what public-private partnerships are capable of achieving. To my colleagues, I believe that the Affordable Home Ownership/Education Program is an ideal way to recreate cohesive, strong communities, and may be an effective way to turning around communities within your own districts. Because of the partnership between the Little Haiti Housing Association, Inc. and Citibank of Florida, communities across the Nation are given a benchmark, a model—if you will—of what this country can do for those in need; and furthermore, what those in need are willing to do for themselves.

I would like to join the Social Compact in honoring this group of truly inspiring Floridians. I congratulate the Little Haiti Housing Authority and Citibank, F.S.B., Florida for creating an opportunity for residents of Little Haiti to own homes and build a stronger community. I also commend this program to my colleagues who are interested in promoting home ownership within their own communities.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES SMITH OF METHUEN, MA FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE METHUEN PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding educator, Mr. James Smith.

For over 30 years, Mr. Smith was a member of the Methuen, MA public schools family. He dedicated his life to teaching, coaching, and guiding young students at the Tenney Middle School.

Mr. Smith began his distinguished career in 1958 as a teacher in Plymouth, NH. Seven years later he moved to Methuen and began his long tenure in the Methuen public school system. Throughout his career, he has assisted countless numbers of students. Each of his students has been a recipient of his sincere kindness, care, and responsible guid-

ance. His supervision and instruction have been significant factors in shaping young students and preparing them for the future.

In his role as principal, teacher, coach, and sometimes parent, Mr. Smith has provided emotional as well as educational support. He has made many invaluable contributions to the Methuen community. Unfortunately, our society often takes its teachers for granted. But, when we consider the positive effects a teacher can have on the lives of children we begin to appreciate the value of the profession.

Mr. Smith's commitment is a lesson about teaching through example. He dedicated himself to improving his community and he succeeded. He is held in the highest esteem by all who know him. I know many parents, students, and colleagues are grateful to James Smith for his contributions. I extend my congratulations and best wishes to him on his retirement. I know that the Tenney Middle School will continue to benefit from Mr. Smith's involvement and contributions.

COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD, JUNE 16, 1995

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in commemoration of the fifth annual Day of the African Child. It was 19 years ago on this date that a massacre of schoolchildren took place in the town of Soweto, South Africa. Starting in 1991, the Day of the African Child has served as an annual awareness day, alerting the entire world of the continued progress and the daily plight of children throughout the African continent.

This year's campaign is particularly special because we explore the challenges and celebrate the progress encountered by children in armed conflict. It is chilling to realize that according to a recent study commissioned by UNICEF 75 percent of children interviewed in Rwanda had witnessed mass killings in multiple areas. Equally shocking is the reality that boys as young as 11 years old are being recruited to serve in the armed forces of Africa's war-torn countries.

The Day of the African Child is not just a time to recognize hardship but also an opportunity to dispel fallacy. It is important to realize that the continent of Africa is not a land of conflict-laden countries destined for decay and destruction. It is a place of potential growth and change, hope and progress.

Just in the last 35 years, the infant mortality rate has been cut in half and the average life expectancy in Africa has jumped 13 years to the age of 54. Over 80 percent of children living in urban areas have access to safe drinking water and African governments have provided safe drinking water and adequate sanitation to an additional 120 million people during the 1980's alone. In the area of education, over two-thirds of school age girls are enrolled in primary school. That's 25 percent more than in the 1970's.

While these advances are impressive they also vividly illuminate the daunting reality; African children have yet to even approach the basic humanitarian standards enjoyed by their

counterparts in industrial nations. It is for this reason that we observe the Day of the African Child. And it is for this very reason that today and every June 16 we must remember not forget, recognize not sidestep, and reinvigorate not doom the plight and the promise of the children of Africa.

SEGALOFF LEADS U.S. ROWING TEAM TO GOLD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 1995

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the U.S. Rowing Team for its tremendous performance at the 1995 Pan American Games in Mar del Plata, Argentina. In 21 events, the national team won 18 medals, including 10 gold.

The men's four and eight boats were led to gold medal victories by coxswain Steven Segaloff, of New Haven, CT. I would especially like to congratulate Steven. He and his family have been friends of mine for many years and I have watched Steven develop from an exceptional local athlete to a world-class competitor.

At an early age, Steven devoted countless hours to practicing and preparing for rowing competitions. His career as a coxswain began at the Yale boathouse on the Housatonic River in Derby, where he filled in for regular varsity coxes when they missed practice. Steven continued his career as a coxswain for Cornell University's varsity crew team. Like his father, Jim Segaloff, a veteran coxswain of 30 years who still continues to race at the New Haven Rowing Club, Steven developed a drive and passion for rowing.

After graduating from Cornell with a degree in American Studies, Steven prepared for his intended legal career by working for Senator JOSEPH BIDEN as a staff assistant to the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1993. But when U.S. national rowing coach Mike Spracklen asked him to cox for the national team, Steven put his legal and political ambitions on hold to train and compete in the World Cup Regatta in Germany.

Since then, Steven has led our national crew team to numerous victories, including first place finishes at the 1994 World Rowing Championships, the 1994 Henley Royal Regatta in London, the 1994 Goodwill Games, and recently at the Pan American Games in Argentina.

Now, preparing for the 1996 Summer Olympics, Steven hopes to fulfill his dream of winning an Olympic gold medal in Atlanta. His hard work and sacrifice, and that of the national rowing team, have earned the team international recognition and made us proud. I would like to wish the best of luck to Steven and the entire team as they train and compete in preparation for the Olympics. Bring home the gold in 1996!