

TRIBUTE TO HARRY PASTER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the constituents of my district in honoring Mr. Harry Paster. Next month, one of the guiding lights of American advertising will retire after a most distinguished 47-year career. Harry Paster, a legend in the advertising world, will be retiring from his position as executive vice president of the American Association of Advertising Agencies [AAAA] on September 30, 1995.

American advertising is one of the Nation's most vibrant and important industries, and for over 77 years, the leadership of the AAAA has advanced and strengthened the advertising agency business throughout the U.S. One of the most respected and dedicated members of that leadership team has been the AAAA's executive vice president, Harry Paster.

Mr. Paster, who earned his bachelor's degree at City College of New York and his master's degree from New York University, started with AAAA as a statistician in 1948. Subsequently, he was promoted to vice president, to senior vice president, and in 1980, to executive vice president of the association. In each of these positions, Mr. Paster demanded the highest standards from his industry and from himself.

In 1992 Mr. Paster's dynamic career and extraordinary contributions to the advertising agency business were aptly recognized when he was named Man of the Year by the Advertising Club of New York and awarded the prestigious Silver Medal by the American Advertising Federation.

When Harry Paster retires next month from the industry that he has nurtured and led for almost five decades, his humor, his counsel and his unparalleled insight into the people and the workings of the advertising business will be sorely missed. I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me, and Harry's countless friends in commending Harry Paster for his dedicated service and in wishing him the very best for a most rewarding and fulfilling retirement.

VIEQUES LANDS TRANSFER ACT
OF 1995**HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Vieques Lands Transfer Act of 1995. The purpose of this legislation is to authorize and direct the transfer of certain lands on the Island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, to the Municipality of Vieques for public purposes which benefit the people of the island.

The Island of Vieques is located in the Caribbean Sea, approximately 6 miles east from the eastern coast of Puerto Rico and 22 miles southwest of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Vieques is a long narrow island nearly 22 miles long and 4.5 miles wide at its widest point. It has an area of about 33,000 acres or

51 square miles of land and, according to the 1990 census, a population of 8,602. The island's two towns, Isabel Segunda and Esperanza, have populations of 1,702 and 1,656, respectively. The other residents are classified as rural inhabitants. Vieques is a civilian municipality of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and is divided into seven wards—barrios.

The Navy and Marine Corps conduct Atlantic Fleet training and readiness exercises at the Puerto Rico-Virgin Island complex known as the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Range [AFWTR]. Headquartered at Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Ceiba, PR, the complex consists of four ranges: the inner range on the east end of Vieques; the outer range which is an easterly ocean range extending both north and south of Puerto Rico; the underwater tracking range at St. Croix, VI; and an electronic warfare range which overlaps all of the ranges.

On Vieques, but outside the inner range, is the Naval Ammunition Facility [NAF] which occupies the entire range of the civilian zone—approximately 8,000 acres. The Navy uses this facility for deep storage of conventional ammunition. Ships delivering the ordnance dock at Mosquito Pier, located on the northern coast of the NAF. From there, it is transported by truck to bunkers distributed throughout the NAF. Most of the ammunition is destined for off-island use by the Navy, the Marines and the Puerto Rican National Guard. Occasionally, ammunition is transferred overland from the NAF to the ground maneuver area located east of the civilian zone. At present, training exercises are not carried out at the NAF.

Since the 1940's, when the U.S. Navy acquired 78 percent—approximately 26,000 of 33,000 acres—of Vieques' territory, the island has suffered a prolonged and ever-increasing economic crisis and a massive out-migration. From a population of around 15,000 in the 1940's, Vieques currently has 8,602 inhabitants. An unemployment rate higher than 50 percent, lack of adequate housing, health, educational facilities, and a growing crime rate are among the clearest manifestations of the critical economic situation on Vieques. According to the 1990 census, the per-capita income in the island was \$2,997, and the Viequense families with an income below the established poverty level reached 70 percent in 1989.

Women must be flown by emergency plane to the main island of Puerto Rico to give birth due to the poor conditions of Vieques' hospital. The island also suffers from the highest rate of broken families among Puerto Rico's 78 municipalities.

In the late 1970's, Viequense fishermen spearheaded a drive to stop the bombing on the island and end restrictions on fishing. Many of them were arrested.

In 1980, our colleague from California and now ranking minority member of the House National Security Committee, Congressman RON DELLUMS, directed a House Armed Services Committee panel review of the naval training activities on the island of Vieques. This panel concluded in its final report to the committee that the Navy "should locate an alternative site" and that "[i]n the interim, the Navy should make every effort to work closely with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in implementing programs to alleviate the impact of its activities and in particular explore turning

over additional land to the island for civilian use."

In 1983, while Governor of Puerto Rico, I signed an agreement with the Department of the Navy whereby the Puerto Rican Government agreed to drop all litigations in court against the military for ecological and economic damage on Vieques in exchange of a Navy commitment to mitigate the ecological impact of their activities and help with local economic development. All of the economic projects set up in Vieques with assistance from the Navy closed down within 1 or 2 years after initiating operations.

Lack of control of over two-thirds of the island by the municipal government is widely recognized as the principal cause of Vieques' economic and social woes. Trying to find a solution to the current problems, the local planning board and the municipal government, in close coordination with the government of Puerto Rico and the State legislature have designed and commenced the implementation of a tourism industry strategy. But the truth of the fact is that this gloomy economic picture can only be improved if and when the municipal government of Vieques acquires sufficient lands to develop the required infrastructure for the implementation of the tourism industry strategy.

My bill would transfer the 8,000 acres of land that currently comprise the NAF to the municipal government of Vieques. The transfer would take place only after the municipality submits to the Secretary of Defense a detailed plan of the public purposes for which the conveyed property will be used—such as housing, schools, hospitals, libraries, parks and recreation, agriculture, conservation and economic development—and such plan is approved by the committees with jurisdiction in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate.

The eastern part of Vieques, which comprises approximately 15,000 acres, would still remain U.S. Navy property. This means that, even with the adoption of this bill, the Navy would still control nearly half of the island.

Puerto Rico has a long and proud tradition of supporting national defense. This has been shown time and time again as hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans have demonstrated their valor and patriotism through service in the U.S. Armed Forces. Today, more than ever, we stand ready to assume an even bigger role in the defense and values for which our Nation stands.

This bill is in no way contrary to that tradition, but rather one that I believe provides a solution which will be beneficial for both the people of Vieques and the U.S. Navy. I am hopeful that it will receive favorable congressional action at an early date.

HEALTH UNIT COORDINATORS DAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, 1995 is the 50th anniversary of the profession of health unit coordinators. Michigan, along with many other States and local municipalities have designated August 23, two weeks from today, as Health Unit Coordinator Day. I support these

efforts to recognize those who play a vital role in the delivery of health care services in America.

Prior to World War II, hospitals were staffed by physicians, nurses, some specialists, and a few support personnel such as cooks and janitors. Health unit coordinator positions simply did not exist. Wartime casualties required that nurses and physicians receive support to answer phones and run errands. Before the arrival of such support personnel, many desk duties were interrupted or simply ignored until the arrival of floor clerks. This position evolved into what is today known as a health unit coordinator. Over the past half century, health unit coordinators have been known by more than 75 different titles.

We all must take responsibility for our health, but ultimately, our well-being depends on the cooperation and coordination that exists between the many individuals devoted to maintaining health. Doctors, nurses, dietitians, teachers, parents, and health unit coordinators all play important roles.

The National Association of Health Unit Coordinators has also been doing its part to improve the health of Americans. This professional organization advocates progressive changes in health care practice by providing a forum that encourages mutual exchange of ideas while advancing knowledge and technology in the health care field.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the profession is a proud milestone for health unit coordinators across the country. I urge my colleagues to join with me and the National Association of Health Unit Coordinators in recognizing August 23, 1995, as Health Unit Coordinator Day.

THE RURAL HEALTH
CONSOLIDATED GRANT ACT

HON. PAT WILLIAMS

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will vote on an appropriations bill that drastically cuts the modest inroads that we have made toward alleviating the barriers our rural communities face in obtaining quality health care. The health services available in rural areas have suffered over the course of the last few decades from the centralizing effects of the marketplace and the desire of practitioners to specialize. Rural States rely on the small amount of Federal funds available to them to counteract these pulls and provide their residents with care.

Mr. Speaker, 55 million Americans—nearly one quarter of our Nation's population—live in rural areas, yet many of these folks find it difficult to obtain even the most basic health care services. Forty percent of rural Americans live in areas with fewer than one primary-care physician for every 3,500 residents. Rural hospitals are in financial jeopardy and rural communities are finding it difficult to recruit doctors and other practitioners. Rural areas are plagued by a shortage of physicians, hospitals, and clinics. As a result, many folks must travel long distances and often through harsh weather conditions to get care. This is a hardship on many rural Americans, especially the elderly and the poor.

Mr. Speaker, as I see it, we have two options: either first, hope that the Senate restores the funding that the House has cut from these small rural health programs; or second, plan for the future and offer an alternative approach that recognizes both the necessity of maintaining the small stream of funding that goes to rural health and the reality that the current set of disparate programs are too small and limited in scope to effectively and comprehensively address the problems facing rural America today.

Today I am introducing legislation that finds that middle ground. My bill is the result of countless discussions with rural residents, doctors, nurses, hospitals, and policymakers. It reflects the lessons they've learned and the experiences they've had with breaking through the chronic isolation that plagues rural America to provide care to its residents.

My bill provides a new direction for rural health. It creates a single program aimed at enabling rural communities to develop their own sustainable health care delivery systems. Furthermore, it reaffirms that providing health care to underserved rural Americans is and will remain a priority.

Mr. Speaker, no community is viable without health care. Folks need to be healthy in order to go to work, pay taxes, attend school, and raise a family. That is why the decision to live in a rural area must not be a decision to accept inferior health care. Access to care in rural America is critical for both our local rural economies as well as the health of each individual rural American.

HONORING LINDA GALLIGAN-ROY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a strong and devoted woman, Ms. Linda Galligan-Roy. Ms. Roy serves as a role model for each of us seeking to improve ourself and our community.

As a young widow battling a drug addiction, Ms. Roy has stood firm in the face of challenge. She has set difficult goals and has accomplished them through hard work and untiring dedication. Dubbed the "Concrete Queen," Ms. Roy excels in the male-dominated field of construction work. While building houses, Ms. Roy breaks down the barriers women face in society. Her passion makes her strong and her determination makes her capable.

Ms. Roy has overcome tremendous personal challenges in addition to her professional success. At age 15, her mother's death forced her to leave school and enter the working world to help her father care for her younger siblings. Today she continues to demonstrate zestful spirit and strength: recovering from her dependency on drugs, she aspires to be a writer and plans to enroll in college.

Ms. Roy not only hopes and strives to better herself but also to share what she has learned with others. She has written about many of her life experiences, from her love of construction work to the devastating effect that drugs had on her life. In a piece entitled "A Knock on the Window," she describes the horror of

substance addiction with vivid reality. As she expressed in a letter to me, her goal is to stop at least one person from developing a drug addiction. I admire and salute both her selflessness and its potential.

It is people like Ms. Roy who are leading the way for other women and men who seek new opportunities. Her perseverance is inspirational; she leads by example. Mr. Speaker, I know the sacrifices and commitment necessary to accomplish all that this woman has, and I ask you to join with me in honoring Ms. Linda Galligan-Roy.

THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF 2D LT.
EDWARD C. DAHLGREN IN
WORLD WAR II

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 2, 1995

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to speak today about an exceptional Mainer who served this country with great honor and courage during one of history's most terrifying wars, World War II.

To complete his mission in the face of insurmountable odds, 2d Lt. Edward C. Dahlgren exhibited uncommon courage and skill. He was awarded this country's highest form of gratitude, the Congressional Medal of Honor. I would like to honor him again as the 50th anniversary of World War II draws near.

Second Lieutenant Dahlgren was the commander of the 3d Platoon that was charged with rescuing another American unit that was surrounded by the Germans in Oberhoffen, France. Lieutenant Dahlgren risked almost certain death to draw fire away from his fellow soldiers. He alone charged a fortified German position under heavy fire and fought his way into their building. Eight German soldiers surrendered. With his courage and skill, he alone attacked again—five more Germans surrendered. He attacked again—10 Germans surrendered, and again with another soldier—16 Germans surrendered. These heroic charges made by Lieutenant Dahlgren at fortified German strongholds resulted in the surrender of 49 Germans and the safety of the American platoons. Lieutenant Dahlgren truly earned this country's highest honor.

Maine has a long and proud tradition of sending brave soldiers to fight for freedom at home and abroad. These men have exhibited enormous skill and unbreakable courage in the face of death. From Joshua Chamberlain in the Civil War through Gary Gordon in Somalia and countless numbers in between, Maine patriots have fought so that others might live free.

I am proud of Lieutenant Dahlgren for all that he has given to the world. He fought not only for America, but to rid the world from one of the most dangerous threats it had ever known, the Axis powers. The efforts of Lieutenant Dahlgren and his troops helped liberate Europe from the deadly grip of Nazism. This country and the world will never forget his sacrifice.