

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MIGDALIA PEREZ

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 1995

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District, Ms. Migdalia Perez. On Monday, February 27, 1995, Ms. Migdalia will be honored as one of the recipients of the National Association of Private Industry Councils [NAPIC] 1995 distinguished participant awards. This event will take place at the NAPIC's conference in Washington, DC.

Ms. Perez, a resident of Portage, IN, is the only individual in the State of Indiana who is being honored, and 1 of 10 throughout the country. This is the first time a Hoosier is being honored by NAPIC. Moreover, on August 30, 1994, Migdalia was honored for successfully completing training programs through Kankakee Workforce Development Services. This award was part of an annual award ceremony honoring statewide graduates of the Indiana Workforce Development System.

Migdalia came to the United States from Puerto Rico with her husband, Alex, who suffers from muscular dystrophy. In order to succeed in the United States, Migdalia learned to read English. She then entered school at IVY Tech in the respiratory technician program while continuing to receive tutoring through the Portage Adult Education Center. At IVY Tech, Migdalia made the dean's list three consecutive semesters. Currently, she is employed as a respiratory technician at Methodist Hospital in Gary, IN. Migdalia and her husband now have two children, Alex and Danny. She is an excellent role model for her children and family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring this amazing woman, not only for her commitment to betterment of her self and her family, but for becoming a remarkable role model for her community.

BROOKLYN IRISH-AMERICAN PARADE

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee on the occasion of its 20th annual parade.

The Irish-American community in Brooklyn is one of the oldest and most active groups in the borough. The annual parade highlights the cultural, educational, and historical accomplishments of the Irish community and fosters an appreciation of Irish heritage. It is a festive event that is among the most important traditions in Brooklyn.

This parade is dedicated to the memory of Kaye Brideson, a member of the parade founding committee and a former columnist of the Home Reporter newspaper. The theme of this year's parade is "An Gorta Mor"—The Great Famine—which struck Ireland from 1845 to 1850. The parade committee and the Irish-American community will remember and honor the millions who died in Ireland of hunger and disease during The Great Famine and the thousands more that perished on coffin ships in their escape to America.

I would like to thank the parade committee for organizing this truly outstanding event.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 22, 1995

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleagues from Ohio and New Jersey, Messrs. STOKES and PAYNE, for calling this special order on Black History Month and choosing this year's appropriate theme; Reflections on 1895: Douglass, DuBois, Washington.

This theme sets forth the resolve, dedication and commitment of three giants, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, and Booker T. Washington, who were profound scholars and leaders.

Their determination to change the course of history for African-Americans have inspired peoples of all races to continue fighting for freedom, equal access, and justice—without regard to skin color.

The goals that these leaders championed in the 19th century remain every bit as significant today. The only thing that has changed is the scope of their dreams and the new challenges that face the African-American community.

Like Frederick Douglass, African-American community leaders and organizations are united in their efforts to achieve greater political equality for all citizens of color.

In the city of San Francisco, Eva Patterson has worked as a tireless advocate for political, economic, and social justice. As the executive director of the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights, Ms. Patterson continues to be an eloquent spokesperson on human and civil rights issues, and leads an organization which is known nationwide for its effective advocacy on behalf of the poor, the oppressed, and the ignored of our society.

As the first African-American to receive a Ph.D. in history from Harvard University, W.E.B. DuBois understood that education represented the key to economic advancement and remained an activist for expanded educational opportunities for African-Americans until he died in 1963.

Like Dr. DuBois, Larry Gray, of the San Francisco Midnight Basketball League, has also worked to expand educational opportuni-

ties for young African-American men in San Francisco's western addition. Larry Gray, an ex-NBA player, is a role model to the youth of San Francisco, emphasizing the value of education, job training, and peer support in the development of African-American youth.

Also like Dr. DuBois, another African-American, Cmdr. Richard Holder, has stressed the importance of self-sufficiency and achievement in his career.

Commander Holder, the head of San Francisco's Special Operations Division, is the highest-ranking African-American in the San Francisco Police Department. He is known for his commitment to assisting his community through initiating community policing, participating in neighborhood organizations, and serving as a role model to all young people in San Francisco.

Like Booker T. Washington, who concentrated on the economic development of African-Americans, Etienne Le Grande has developed an organization devoted to economic empowerment. As executive director and founder of WISE—Women Initiatives for Self-Employment—Etienne has become a leader in small business creation and incubation in the San Francisco Bay Area. Through her efforts, hundreds of women, primarily low-income and minority, have been helped in finding and realizing their dreams of ownership and self-sufficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate to represent California's 8th Congressional District and to work with the many outstanding African-American leaders and community organizations based in the city of San Francisco.

I have had the privilege of extolling the achievements of other African-American leaders on previous occasions, and there are many more yet to recognize. But recognizing them for their work is not enough: we, as Members of Congress honoring Black History Month, must pledge to support their efforts and enable them to continue their efforts until true economic, social, and political justice is achieved.

As we work toward greater equality and freedom in our society, we must remind ourselves that the efforts of Mr. Gray, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Holder, and Ms. Le Grande, and their predecessors, represent struggles that deserve credit and appreciation every day—not just during Black History Month.

ROLLING BACK THE REGULATORY TIDE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked day 50 of our Republican Contract With America. Today we continue to move forward to carry out our mandate with the people. We promise to work to make Government smaller, less costly, and less intrusive. The

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

people are fed up. They want big government out of their lives.

Extensive bureaucratic redtape suffocates American businesses and individuals. The Regulatory Transition Act, H.R. 450, represents a crucial first step in lifting the regulatory burden. This moratorium will stop the flood of new Federal regulations while we work to ensure that future regulations will benefit the American people, not smother them.

The American taxpayers, small business owners, property owners, and local governments have waited too long for Congress to take commonsense action. We must work now to lift the burden of excessive and costly Government regulation.

The Republican regulatory reform provisions of the Contract With America promote economic growth, roll back the regulatory tide, restore the rights of property owners, and make Government bureaucrats accountable for the economic load they force upon American taxpayers. Out of control Federal regulation impose hidden taxes on American families. The Heritage Foundation estimates that Federal regulations cost each American household \$5,000 per year.

A temporary moratorium on new Federal regulations and real regulatory reform will help get Government off the backs of the people and their businesses. Mr. Speaker, restoring common sense to the regulatory process will enable employers to invest in their workers and the future of America, not Government bank accounts.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 22, 1995

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate my dear friend and colleague LOUIS STOKES who once again has called upon the Members of the House to come together to pay tribute to the deeds and accomplishments of African-Americans during Black History Month.

It is a great history we have to remember, one that could take us back to the first slave ship that arrived on the American shores. But even as we would rejoice over those many positive developments, from the Emancipation Proclamation to the Voting Rights Act, we must now look around us and consider that many of the gains of our recent history are now threatened by a wave of scapegoating that is sweeping the country.

How sad it is that, because of economic frustration and doubts about the future, so many Americans are now pointing fingers of blame to those who are the weakest among us. How unfortunate it is that by doing so, we are allowing many of our political leaders to destroy the safety net that has been erected to protect the poor, the sick, the children, and the aged. It is as if, in their partisan zeal, they would do away completely with the legacy of the great President Franklin Roosevelt.

The first victim in this misguided crusade is affirmative action. It is no secret that even some of our Presidential candidates have made it their target, one even saying that if

elected he will make it the first item on the national agenda.

Just this week in the House of Representatives, a vote was taken to take down the first plank of the affirmative action structure. No, it was not that well-known or popular because few minorities or women could benefit directly from it. But it was important. By providing tax incentives for the sale of radio and television stations to minorities and women this provision in the law gave those groups a chance to improve the horrendously negative images that prevail in the media.

How tiresome and insulting it has been over the years to see nothing but Amos 'n Andy, buffoons and now criminals as the stereotypes of blacks in the movies and on television. This provision was meant to give minority broadcasters a chance to reflect images that would elevate rather than denigrate their children and their families, to broadcast something different from the killers, pimps, and drug dealers that have become the latest stereotypes of black males portrayed on television.

This action by the House was the first assault on affirmative action. In California next year, it will be followed by a referendum that would outlaw any preference in the areas of employment, education, and business. That movement promises to be adopted in other States around the country, and may well be addressed by the U.S. Congress even before that.

What an outrage it is that in our great country, the home of every minority group, every race and religion, that we should now be taking steps away from having everyone represented in all our institutions. Indeed, we are all Americans, and if affirmative action is what it takes to have us all represented, then affirmative action it must be. What are we doing, after all, but making our institutions better, including the best of every group, painting the gorgeous mosaic, that makes America what it is.

The assault on affirmative action is only the tip of the iceberg in what is clearly a broad campaign of scapegoating. The focus is now on African-Americans, but it is expanding to include other minorities, the poor and immigrants. This is a campaign that began in the last election, where the principle themes were crime and welfare. These appeals were not so blatant as the infamous Willie Horton ads in the first Bush campaign, but the objective was the same.

The assault has intensified since last November, and has been broadened to include a generalized campaign against high ranking Black officials from Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders to Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. Both of these officials without being charged with any crime came under the attack of right wing Republicans who found them easy targets for political attacks.

Also in the political arena, the U.S. Supreme Court has weighed in with the strong input from Justice Clarence Thomas, and is now widely expected to shatter, not only affirmative action but the very laws which have made it possible to elect thousands of Blacks and Latinos to public office, from local sheriffs to Members of Congress. The alleged constitutional offense involves the use of gerrymandering to create electoral districts that have made it easier to elect minorities to office. It is the same system that no one chal-

lenged when used to enhance the chances to elect Republicans or Democrats.

The attacks on Black Americans in some cases has reverted to the cruder forms. Hate crimes reported to the FBI almost doubled between 1991 and 1993, with Blacks accounting for 57 percent of the 1,689 victims. On the cultural front, three books were published in 1994 that renew claims that Blacks are genetically inferior.

The current challenge to affirmative action in the Congress, therefore, is only part of a broader effort to turn back the clock on Civil Rights while unraveling the entire safety net that has protected those in our society who have the least.

The current campaign to cut \$780 billion in taxes over the next 10 years while maintaining defense, Social Security, Medicare and payments on the national debt used to be called Voodoo economics. Now, in the context of the Contract With America, of balanced budget amendments, block grants and welfare reform, it is a recipe for savaging the poor, minorities, the aged, the sick and the children.

Indeed much of the Contract With America will trample on the poor, but particularly on African-Americans who disproportionately rely on these benefits. The contract targets not only teen-age mothers who are so bereft of hope that only having a child—in or out of wedlock—will provide any sense of accomplishment.

But cutting back on crime and drug prevention programs, the contract turns it back on the youths, especially young, untrained, unemployed Black males who are being left to the whims of streets, with nothing more to look forward to than more jails. The balanced budget amendment puts at risk programs in education, public transportation and other programs most needed by the poor and minorities.

During this Black History Month, we must rejoice in the accomplishments of the past, but we must remain vigilant of the challenges in the present. The threat to affirmative action, education, employment and to the social safety meant may be only the beginning.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY'S 15TH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, I rise, today, to acknowledge and extend my heartfelt congratulations to the human relations commission and the friends of the human relations commission of Santa Clara County on the occasion of their 15th Annual Human Relations Awards Banquet being held on February 23, 1995.

This event pays tribute to all members and friends of the commission who have given of themselves to serve others. Their dedication to the citizens of Santa Clara County has enabled hundreds of individuals to realize their full human and civil rights.