

the House had with the Agency for International Development [AID] regarding the emergency needs of assistance in Lebanon in the aftermath of the fighting between Hezbollah and Israel in April.

Lebanon remains an important country for the United States and it is in our national interest to help its people as they struggle to preserve and strengthen the country's independence, territorial integrity, and freedom.

The continued fighting in southern Lebanon has brought untold suffering on Lebanese civilians often caught in the crossfire. While helping to provide immediate humanitarian assistance, there is a real need to work immediately for a Lebanese-Israeli peace agreement which produces a durable cessation of fighting, allows for a total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, holds the Lebanese Army responsible for security along the country's southern border, and implements a plan for the disarming of Hezbollah and other groups in Lebanon not already disarmed.

The congressional letter of April 18 and the AID reply of June 7 follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, April 18, 1996.

Hon. BRIAN ATWOOD,
Director, Agency for International Development,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. DIRECTOR: The purpose of this letter is to request emergency assistance for the civilian refugees in Lebanon. After 16 years of civil war, we were hopeful that Lebanon was on the road to regaining the peace and stability that made it a hallmark in the Middle East. However, due to the most recent violence in the region, several thousand civilian men, women, and children have been forced to flee their homes and have suffered great tragedy. Although any loss of life is tragic, whether it be Jewish or Arab, this situation is particularly troublesome to us as we believe the Lebanese government is unable to respond fully to this overwhelming demand upon its infrastructure and public services. Any assistance the United States could provide would be a tangible demonstration of our commitment to peace in this region.

The specific needs which we ask you to address are, in our opinion, humanitarian and easily justifiable. We have been informed that there is an immediate need for food and water supplies, water purification gear, sanitation provisions, housing materials, medicines and medical equipment. Any assistance your Department can provide will be quickly and fully employed to relieve this tragic suffering.

We are ready to work with you. Thank you very much for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

John D. Dingell, Ray LaHood, Lee H. Hamilton, Nick J. Rahall, II, Joe Knollenberg, Pat Danner, Martin Hoke, David E. Bonior, Victor Frazer, Marcy Kaptur, John Baldacci, John Conyers, Tony P. Hall, Howard Berman, Dana Eshoo, Ronald V. Dellums, Jim Moran.

U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Washington, DC, June 7, 1996.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON: Thank you for your letter of April 18, 1996, regarding the need for humanitarian assistance to civilian refugees in Lebanon. Mr. Atwood is traveling overseas and ask me to respond.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of

State are actively responding to the humanitarian needs of thousands of civilians who were displaced by the conflict in April. On April 19, the U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon, Richard Jones, issued a disaster declaration in response to a series of international appeals for assistance launched by the Government of Lebanon. USAID released \$25,000 for immediate provision to local non-governmental organizations implementing emergency relief activities. These organizations provided immediate support and lodging, mobilized ambulance fleets, mobile clinics, and first aid centers to assist the sick and wounded. Internally displaced persons also received kitchen utensils, water purification tablets, infant powdered milk, blankets, hygiene materials, and medicine.

Also, on April 19, the State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration authorized \$1 million to respond to the International Committee of the Red Cross' (ICRC) \$3 million emergency appeal for Lebanon. In addition, the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs recently provided excess military medical supplies and equipment weighing more than 29,000 pounds and valued at \$223,962 to the victims of the conflict. The cost of transporting this assistance was \$105,600.

Moreover, we have received reports from the field that the ICRC emergency appeal and the United Nations' \$8.6 million Flash Appeal for Internally Displaced Persons as a result of the emergency in Lebanon have been fully met. Total contributions towards these appeals, which currently amount to nearly \$12 million, have successfully supported first-aid activities and the provision of medical and relief supplies, including much-needed water supplies, water purification tablets and jerry cans, kitchen utensils, and personal hygiene materials, as well as the distribution of food to displaced populations.

Finally, as an initial response, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has donated \$707,000 for distribution of locally purchased food commodities, such as rice, pulses, and vegetable oil, to 100,000 beneficiaries for a 30-day period starting on May 1. WFP has already provided the Lebanese government with 80 metric tons of canned fish for distribution among the displaced population.

Thank you for sharing your concerns on this matter with us and for your kind offer to assist us in expediting this assistance. If I can be further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

JILL BUCKLEY,
Assistant Administrator, Bureau for
Legislative and Public Affairs.

TRIBUTE TO LUTHER GRIFFIN
JONES, JR.

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 1996

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American and a legendary leader in south Texas. Luther Griffin Jones, Jr. served as Corpus Christi mayor from 1979 to 1989, and upon leaving office, was named "Mayor Emeritus" by the city council. Tomorrow is Mayor Jones' 80th birthday, and true to form, he will combine his birthday with an event to support our Sister City Committee which promotes economic and cultural exchanges in south Texas.

His accomplishments are widely known and he is widely loved. Mayor Jones continues to

live an extraordinary life. He came to our community via the U.S. Army. He became the commander of the Corpus Christi Army Depot in 1967, a position he held until he retired in 1971, after 29 years of service to his country. Also in 1971, he was named the cowinner of the first Secretary of the Army Award for Achievement in Equal Employment Opportunity.

After serving as vice president of the Corpus Christi Mercantile National Bank, he began four terms of service as the mayor of Corpus Christi. During his highly successful four terms, he advocated the building of two desperately needed local facilities, a new central library and a new city hall. The Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, which has become a major south Texas tourist attraction, was also built during Mayor Jones' tenure. The aquarium has become a major element of our local economy.

In the mid-1980's, Mayor Jones worked with me in our community's effort to obtain Naval Station Ingleside [NSI], home to the U.S. Naval Mine Warfare Center of Excellence. That community effort was pivotal to the eventual decision by the Navy to locate the base in the Coastal Bend. Corpus Christi wanted the base in south Texas so much that we helped pay for it. The associated bond issue was difficult and Mayor Jones' support and advocacy were critical to its success.

Mayor Emeritus Jones has been dedicated to furthering education during his lifetime. From 1987 to 1989, he served as President of 4UCC, an organization committed to obtaining a 4-year university for the city. He has been an inspirational friend to young people in Corpus Christi, and has an elementary school named in his honor.

He has generously given of his time to causes that add to the economic viability of the Coastal Bend. He led a mayor's task force in 1993, Citizens for Affordable Water, to persuade voters of the need for raising the sales tax to buy water. In 1990, he cochaired the community investment task force to promote economic development. One year later, Governor Richards appointed him to chair the Texas Turnpike Authority, which he did at his own expense.

His life has been the example of his personal commitment to public service, and Corpus Christi has seen endless political courage in a man willing to tackle the difficult task. I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Mayor Emeritus Luther Jones, a renowned patriot and leader.

TRIBUTE TO THE OAK LAWN ELKS
LODGE NO. 2254 ON THE OCCA-
SION OF THEIR 28TH FLAG DAY
CEREMONY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Oak Lawn Elks Lodge No. 2254 on the occasion of their annual Flag Day ceremony. The celebration, on June 9, 1996, marked the 28th year of this event. The extraordinary patriotism that was exhibited at this ceremony is truly an example of the best that America has to offer.

For 28 years, the Oak Lawn Elks have honored the importance of the American flag to the history and future of the United States. In my speech at this ceremony, I spoke about the American flag and its history of inspiring hope and faith in this country as well as abroad. In her eloquent patriotic address, the Honorable Maureen Murphy, State representative, spoke about the importance of voter participation and registration. Her call for action and words of wisdom were truly awe inspiring and symbolic of great nationalism. The Oak Lawn Elks embody that true American spirit. I was especially moved to see the eight original American flags in addition to flags representing the armed services.

I would like to pay special tribute to James Fealey, chairman of the Flag Day ceremony, in addition to the officers for 1996–1997, William J. Spratt, exalted ruler; Robert Richter, leading knight; George Kerr, loyal knight; Tony Kasper, lecturing knight; Jerome Lullo, treasurer; Donald Nowak, tiler; Norman A. Gates, esquire; Jack Snow, chaplain; Dave Sonne, inner guard; Cornelius J. Houtsma, presiding justice; William P. Holm, John Prisco, James Fernatt, Kevin G. Kennedy and William Skinner, the board of trustees.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Oak Lawn Elks for continuing their tradition of patriotism and wish them the very best in the years to come. I am proud and honored to represent the Oak Lawn Elks in Congress. Their energetic salute to the flag is an event I took forward to each year.

A TRIBUTE TO DONNA LYNCH

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 1996

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to give tribute to an outstanding individual on her being nominated grand marshal for the Fourth of July celebration in Rosebush, MI.

Donna Burch was 1 of 15 children born to a farming family in Rosebush, MI. Both her and her future husband, Terry, attended Mt. Pleasant High School and shortly after graduation, in 1955, they were married. Today they are the proud parents of eight children, and Donna is best known as the home cooking inspiration of the White Wagon Restaurant and Motel.

Donna is more than just a proud mother and successful restaurateur, she is also a humanitarian and public servant. She is always ready to help organize fundraisers for good causes or to provide food and comfort for a family in need. To know Donna Lynch is a wonderful experience. Being quick with a hug, this busy, hard-working woman is a pure pleasure to be with. Easy to laugh and enjoy a good joke; yet tough enough to get the job done.

It is work such as Donna's, both for her family and for the community, that inspires us all to achieve the best we can, and to promote these qualities in others. Mr. Speaker, I know you will join my colleagues and me in honoring the work of Mrs. Donna Lynch and the legacy of service and commitment she has left for us all.

THE AMERICAN VITICULTURE AND ENOLOGY RESEARCH NETWORK

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 1996

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, a very important conference took place last week in Washington, DC. Its purpose was to create the foundation of the American Viticulture and Enology Research Network [AVERN].

AVERN is a new private-State-Federal partnership composed of wine industry leaders and researchers that could be a model for all of agriculture. I was proud to lead the effort to encourage the U.S. Department of Agriculture to participate in this network, which should lead to an efficient allocation of resources that will well serve our producers and the taxpayers.

This week, the leaders of AVERN have put in place the network to coordinate the solicitation of problems and needs from the industry nationwide. This network will further define those problems and identify potential solutions. It will prioritize the needs on a national basis and then set up the mechanisms to search for funding to solve these problems on a national level.

Another initiative integral to the wine industry is the Pacific Northwest Small Fruits Research Center. I have worked to ensure Federal funding for it, because I believe this is the kind of investment the Federal Government should be making. It is important to note that this center is also financially supported by the grape and wine growers and those who produce other berries including strawberries, blackberries, boysenberries, and cranberries.

Federal investment in research is extremely cost effective. Both AVERN and the Small Fruits Research Center are outstanding programs and I commend everyone involved with them.

TRIBUTE TO BOB SWEET, CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 1996

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an entrepreneur and community leader who has made a career out of giving back to the community in which he lives. The man I am speaking of is my good friend and constituent Bob Sweet of Alum Bank, PA. Today is a special day for Bob and his family as he is being recognized as the Bedford Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year.

After graduating from Pasadena High School, Bob went on to earn a bachelor of science degree in 1959 from the University of the Pacific in California. Upon graduation from college, Bob started what has proved to be an extremely impressive and lucrative career in business. His first job was as a sales representative for Dow Chemical Co. After 3 successful years with Dow, Bob moved onward and upward accepting a position with Westinghouse in 1962. He worked for Westinghouse for a 10-year stint in which he continued to make his way up through the ranks of the corporation.

Bob found himself at a turning point in his life when in 1972 Westinghouse transferred him to Bedford, PA. In December of that year he made the momentous decision to take his years of experience in corporate America and boldly go out into the private sector to start his own company which he called Creative Pultrusions Inc. Creative Pultrusions was born with one order from General Motors. General Motors asked the company to develop an intricate prototype pultrusion system and gave them a strict deadline in which they were required to meet. Through the leadership and drive of Bob Sweet, Creative Pultrusions fulfilled the order and got the ball rolling on what today is a multimillion dollar company which employs more than 250 people in Bedford County. Creative Pultrusions has also continued to expand over the years and just recently opened a sales office in Northants, England and a distribution center in the Netherlands.

Bob Sweet's impact on Bedford County does not stop simply at his contributions through his business life. He has been a proven community leader as well, with a long list of groups which he has devoted a great deal of his personal time toward. To name a few, these groups include the Chestnut Hill School Board, the Memorial Hospital of Bedford County Board of Directors, the Bedford United Way, and this Bedford Rotary Club.

Whether serving his customers, his colleagues, or the residents of Bedford County, Bob Sweet has built a reputation as man of his word who is always there for his friends and neighbors. Bob's wife Margie has been his partner and helper and the rock upon which his family and successes have been built. I will close on a personal note in thanking Bob for the many years of friendship and guidance which he has given both myself and my family and by congratulating him on this very special evening.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES W. HYATT

HON. BILL PAXON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 1996

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, on the 1st of June, western New York and the city of Buffalo lost one of our most respected business and community leaders, Charles W. Hyatt.

Charles Hyatt's story is an American story. Charles was a Bronze Star decorated veteran of the U.S. Army. Charles Hyatt served during World War II in the U.S. Army Signal Corps with Gen. George Patton's troops in 1944.

Charles Hyatt began his start in business as a sales representative for an art supply store in Buffalo, NY. He worked hard, learned the business, and in 1959 founded his own company, the Hyatt Graphic Supply Co. For the past 36 years, Hyatt's has provided arts and graphics supplies for teachers, painters, and artists throughout the city of Buffalo, Rochester, and western New York.

Charles Hyatt earned a national reputation as a business leader. He was named the 1988 Man of the Year for the National Art Material Association and was inducted into the association's Hall of Fame. Charles also was an active leader in his community, working closely throughout his lifetime with western New York service and charitable organizations.