

TRIBUTE TO EVA DEAN

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional woman, Ms. Eva Dean, who will be honored for her outstanding community service on Friday, September 12, 1997, in Helena, AR. Ms. Dean is being recognized for her many years as an advocate for the poor and needy of her community. At 76 years old, Ms. Dean continues to be active in political and social endeavors. She has exemplified the spirit of community that is so vital to the future of our country. I commend Ms. Eva Dean for her selfless dedication and service to the citizens of Helena and on behalf of her friends and family, I stand here today to say a heartfelt thank you.

TERRORISM IN ISRAEL MUST BE STOPPED

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for an end to the terror in Israel and to condemn those who seek to end the peace process by striking at innocent civilians.

Over the past month and half, the citizens of Israel have been the victims of several ruthless and cowardly acts of terrorism. On July 30, two suicide bombers killed 15 Israelis and wounded over 170 others in a popular marketplace. On September 4, bombers struck again at a busy pedestrian shopping mall, killing 5 people and wounding more than 150. The extremist Muslim group, Hamas, has claimed responsibility for both attacks, with the goal of derailing the Middle East peace process and destroying Israel.

While I believe that the peace process should continue to move forward, it cannot do so unless Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, Yasir Arafat, and other Arab leaders, begin to take seriously their role in stamping out acts of terror throughout the region.

A main tenet of the Oslo Accords is that Israel will give land to the Palestinian people only if they can demonstrate their commitment to peace by taking an active role in putting an end to violence and terrorism. It is clear from recent events that Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian Authority are not living up to this commitment.

While the Israeli government has taken active steps to adhere to the Oslo Accords, the Palestinian Authority has cut off negotiations with Israel and violated the Oslo agreement by terminating security cooperation with Israel that was intended to crack down on terrorism. And in an act that says a great deal about Palestinian leaders' attitude about terrorism, within days of the July bombing that killed 15 Israelis, Arafat publicly embraced an extremist Hamas leader. These are hardly the actions of a man who is committed to ending terrorism and forging a lasting partnership with Israel.

I am encouraged by the fact that Madeleine Albright has undertaken her first visit to the Middle East since becoming U.S. Secretary of

State. I call on Secretary Albright to tell Chairman Arafat and other Arab leaders that the United States is fully committed to pursuing a lasting peace in the Middle East, but will not back down in the face of those who would use terrorism as a weapon against peace.

Secretary Albright should also make it clear to Arafat that he cannot continue to inflame passions in this situation by blaming the Israelis themselves for these acts of terror. Following the bombing in July, and again this month, Arafat claimed that the Israeli government should be held partially responsible for these atrocities because it has created a hostile environment for Arabs living in the region. This type of irresponsible scapegoating only encourages further acts of terrorism and undermines the entire peace process.

Mr. Speaker, the Middle East peace process is at a genuine crossroads. At this tenuous time, the United States must recommit itself to moving the process forward while helping to protect Israel against those who are waging a war of terror against the Israeli people. I call on all of my colleagues to assist in this effort, and I offer whatever encouragement I can to the Israeli people at this difficult time.

THE DEATH PENALTY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting my Washington Report for Wednesday, September 3, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

THE DEATH PENALTY

Several recent criminal trials have raised the profile of the death penalty in the United States. Use of the death penalty is accelerating, aided by changes in court procedures and in state and federal laws. Since a 1976 Supreme Court decision that revived the use of capital punishment, 398 persons have been executed in the United States. About 3,000 persons are currently on "death row": sentenced to death but awaiting court appeals. Roughly 40 are women. Because of the seriousness and irreversibility of the punishment, most states require immediate review of all death sentences. In 1996, 45 persons were executed. Forty persons were executed in the first half of 1997, the fastest rate since the 1950s.

The death penalty is quite popular in public opinion polls. Politicians often point to their support of the death penalty as evidence they are "tough on crime". By supporting the death penalty they believe (and I think quite sincerely) that they are doing something about crime. Yet I have serious doubts that executions are either an effective or appropriate response to the worst crimes.

First, I am concerned with the irreversibility of the execution and the possibility of error that exists in the use of the death penalty. Since 1973, 69 persons have been released from death row with evidence of their innocence. With new rules limiting appeals, however, even persons who can reasonably demonstrate their innocence with new evidence could conceivably be executed. Most Americans have reasonable confidence in our judicial system, but mistakes are made. If we have the death penalty, we will execute innocent people. For the innocent victim of an error in a capital case, there is

no remedial action. Also, execution of an innocent person lets the real murderer off the hook. If the government never made a mistake, I would be much more inclined to support the death penalty.

Second, the administration of the death penalty is seriously flawed. It is both expensive and unfair. Nationally, we spend about \$10 billion per year to implement the death penalty. The cost of the death penalty per executed prisoner in Texas is \$2.3 million—three times the cost to put someone in maximum security for 40 years. Even if the death penalty could be proven to deter crime, there are more prudent ways to allocate our judicial resources. For example, the funds spent on death penalty cases could be used to deploy more police officers, to hire more prosecutors, and to keep other criminals in prison longer. These steps are more likely to reduce the overall crime rate.

The use of the death penalty often results in a distortion of our justice system. Each death penalty case is so widely publicized and magnified that it becomes extremely difficult for the evidence to be considered carefully and dispassionately. The purpose of a trial is to seek truth; that purpose is thwarted by the sensationalism of a capital case. Because it is very hard to convict a person of a capital crime, the entire criminal process becomes so lengthy and complex that it is often not possible to achieve a fair and effective administration of justice. Too many persons sentenced to die have ineffective legal representation. The poor, uneducated, mentally handicapped, and eccentric are executed disproportionately more than middle class whites—even comparing similarly heinous murder cases. The race of the victim is often an important factor. In all of the executions since 1976, almost 90% of the murder victims were white, although half of all victims in the United States are black. No matter what you think of capital punishment, a legal system that will end a life must first provide justice. I have come to the view that the death sentence cannot be fairly and decently administered.

Third, for all its expense, the death penalty has not been proven to deter crime. Murder rates in states with the death penalty are just as high as in neighboring states without it. No connection has ever been shown between murder rates and capital punishment. At the very least, the burden ought to be on death penalty supporters to prove that it does, in fact, deter crimes. I do not think such credible evidence exists today. There may be cases in which a criminal would not kill because he does not want to risk the death penalty, but there may also be situations where the death penalty could encourage a criminal to kill, such as when a criminal thinks he is going to be executed anyway, so it might be safer for him to kill a witness or an informer.

Fourth, the interests of society can be fully protected with life in prison without parole. A guaranteed life sentence, with no hope for parole, will be just as effective at preventing that person from committing future crimes. When government makes a mistake and convicts an innocent person, we would still have the opportunity to correct the mistake. Public opinion polls show that support for the death penalty drops sharply when people are given the alternative of life sentences without parole.

Fifth, my basic view is that the taking of life, even by the state, is simply wrong—even when the person executed is morally reprehensible. The state has the right and the obligation to punish a murderer severely, but it should not endorse more killing. The death penalty demeans our society and violates a basic tenet of most Americans' religious heritage: Thou shalt not kill. Religious

leaders such as the Pope decry the use of the death penalty. Proponents argue that taking a life—even an occasional innocent life—is a necessary cost of social order. I disagree. We should not lower ourselves to the level of the criminals. The death sentence endorses violence, and violence begets violence. We must show every compassion for crime victims, and deal severely with those convicted of egregious crimes, but the state should follow a higher moral standard than criminals.

I prefer to impose life without parole for serious crimes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 8, and Tuesday, September 9, I was necessarily absent from the House and unable to cast the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Nay on rollcall vote No. 369, the Blunt amendment which sought to reduce funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration by \$11.2 million and increase funding for vocational education by \$11.2 million.

Nay on rollcall vote No. 370, the Norwood amendment which sought to reduce funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration by \$11.2 million and increase funding for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act by \$11.2 million.

Nay on rollcall vote No. 371, the Miller of California motion to adjourn.

Nay on rollcall vote No. 372, the Doggett motion to adjourn.

Nay on rollcall vote No. 373, the Souder amendment that sought to transfer \$21 million from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Federal enforcement account and \$2 million from the executive direction and administration account to the compliance assistance account.

Nay on rollcall vote No. 374, the McIntosh motion that the Committee rise.

Yea on rollcall vote No. 376, the Burton amendment that sought to provide \$1 million in funding for the "We the People" educational program designed to educate high school and middle school students on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Nay on rollcall vote No. 377, the Coburn amendment that sought to transfer \$35 million to the State AIDS Drug Assistance Program from a variety of accounts.

Yea on rollcall vote No. 378, the Castle substitute amendment to the Istook amendment to require health centers that receive Federal planning funds to encourage family involvement and to counsel minors on methods to resist coercive sexual activities.

Yea on rollcall vote No. 379, the Istook amendment as amended by the Castle substitute amendment that requires providers of services under title X of the Public Health Service Act to certify that family participation is encouraged in the decision of minors to seek family planning services and that counseling is provided on how to resist coercive sexual activities.

VINCENT "JIM" GIANNOTTI
HONORED

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, in recent years we have appropriately focused on the spirit of voluntarism and the benefits to both the volunteer and the service to which time is being given. It is an honor for me to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and the American people an individual who exemplifies voluntarism and who has given so much of himself. Mr. Vincent "Jim" Giannotti of Meriden, CT, has served as a volunteer to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Meriden since September 18, 1979. This Friday, September 12, 1997, Jim will retire from the medical center after completing 18 years of volunteer service.

It is significant that Jim's service to the medical center didn't start until he was 72 years of age. This coming December 18, Jim will celebrate his 90th birthday. Since 1979, he has contributed over 19,000 hours of his time to the medical center.

Jim began his service with the delivery of newspapers to patients, visiting with them along the way, and giving them both friendship and companionship. He also volunteered in the Surgicenter and was a patient representative volunteer. Jim could always be counted on to fill in wherever he could and would gladly accept any assignment. He was not only a valuable asset to the volunteer department, but to the entire hospital as well.

Jim Giannotti is held in the highest esteem and is clearly respected by all who know him. Over the years, his tireless efforts and his unselfish donation of time and energy have helped the lives of so many and has helped Veterans Memorial Medical Center better serve the community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of the people whose life he has touched, I want to congratulate Vincent "Jim" Giannotti upon his retirement and to thank him for his many years of service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HAZEL HAWKINS-RUSSELL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor of the House today to honor and praise a magnificent educator and leader. I am proud to have her working in my district, continuing the tradition of educational excellence in our community. She is an outstanding advocate for increasing educational opportunities for minorities and those with special needs. The woman of whom I speak so highly and hold in such high esteem is Dr. Hazel Hawkins-Russell, who has persisted tirelessly with her work in education for 50 years. Dr. Hawkins-Russell has been a tremendous influence and positive role model for the youth of Riverside, CA.

Back in 1947, Dr. Hawkins-Russell made history as the first African-American school teacher to be hired in what was then known

as the Riverside city schools. For the next 23 years, she taught both elementary and junior high schools where she touched the lives of all of her students. Her enthusiasm and positive spirit served as an inspiration, and every student left Dr. Hawkins-Russell's class with a little piece of her in their hearts.

In 1970, after her career as a teacher, Dr. Hawkins-Russell became a consultant for the Pupil Services Department of the Riverside Unified School District. It was her responsibility to have an extensive knowledge of all California laws relating to minors. She provided technical assistance to schools in all discipline cases, prepared each case for hearing panels, and worked extensively with youth groups and services. Dr. Hawkins-Russell's mission was to help children who were having problems and prevent them from slipping through the cracks unnoticed or ignored.

From 1974 to 1982, Dr. Hawkins-Russell was the coordinator of the Emergency School Aid Act, a federally funded program that provided aid in remedial math and reading, as well as programs in multi-cultural awareness, human relations, tutorial assistance, staff development, parent effectiveness training, and conflict resolution. She was selected three times to assist in evaluation of ESAA proposals on a national level here in Washington, DC, and once on a regional level in San Francisco.

Aside from her job, Dr. Hawkins-Russell was actively involved with several organizations that are devoted to improving education. She was president of the Association of California Intergroup Relations Educators, worked as interim co-director at Riverside NAACP Child Development Centers, and was a member of the Western Riverside County Mental Health Association and the Attorney General's Commission on Racial, Religious and Minority Violence. She also served on the State library steering committee as a representative of San Bernardino, Orange, Inyo, and Riverside Counties and was elected as a delegate for the State of California to the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services.

Let me add to this amazing list of achievements by mentioning a few honors she has received. She has been recognized with the ACIRE Presidents Award, the YWCA Award for Outstanding Community Leadership, a certificate for outstanding service at the First National Human Relations Conference, the Derby Club Outstanding Black Woman Inland Area Trophy, and most recently, the Ida Louise Jackson Graduate Achievement Award presented by Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Dr. Hawkins-Russell continues to work in education as an adjunct faculty member at Riverside Community College. Dr. Hawkins-Russell's drive for excellence is a rare commodity, and she has touched the lives of many during her 50-year career as an educator. I am extremely privileged to have such an exceptional person serving the youth in my district. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Hawkins-Russell for her 50 years of hard work and the accomplishments she has made for education in my district, as well as the Nation. She has set a standard for community service and leadership that will remain for years to come. I hope that Dr. Hawkins-Russell will continue to be an advocate for children and quality education. I wish her happiness and good luck in her future endeavors.