

Ron Kind (D-3-WI), Ron Klink (D-4-PA); Dennis Kucinich (D-10-OH), Tom Lantos (D-12-CA), John Lewis (D-5-GA), William O. Lipinski (D-3-IL), James H. Maloney (D-5-CT), Thomas Manton (D-7-NY), Matthew Martinez (D-31-CA), Frank Mascara (D-20-PA), Carolyn McCarthy (D-4-NY), Jim McGovern (D-3-MA), Cynthia Ann McKinney (D-4-GA), Marty Meehan (D-5-MA), Jack Metcalf (R-2-WA), George Miller (D-7-CA), Patsy Mink (D-2-HI), Jerrold Nadler (D-8-NY), Jim Oberstar (D-8-MN), David R. Obey (D-7-WI), John Olver (D-1-MA), Frank Pallone (D-6-NJ), William J. Pascrell (D-8-NJ), Colin Peterson (D-7-MN), Glen Poshard (D-19-IL), Steve Rothman (D-9-NJ), Lynn Rivers (D-13-MI), Bobby Rush (D-1-IL).

Martin Sabo (D-5-MN), Bernard Sanders (I-At Large-VT), Adam Smith (D-9-WA), Debbie Stabenow (D-8-MI), Pete Stark (D-13-CA), Ted Strickland (D-6-OH), Karen Thurman (D-5-FL), John Tierney (D-6-MA), Ed Towns (D-10-NY), James A. Traficant, Jr. (D-17-OH), Bruce Vento (D-4-MN), Nydia Velasquez (D-12-NY), Peter J. Visclosky (D-1-IN), Maxine Waters (D-35-CA), Mel Watt (D-12-NC), Henry Waxman (D-29-CA), Robert Wexler (D-19-FL), Robert A. Weygand (D-2-RI), Sid Yates (D-9-IL).

IN HONOR OF JOSE ROSARIO:
FOUNDER OF FOCUS AND A
LEADER IN THE HISPANIC COM-
MUNITY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding gentleman, Jose Rosario, who served as the founding father of FOCUS and contributor for the endowment of the Hispanic American community. On October 10, 1997, the Puerto Rican Congress Inc. will posthumously honor Mr. Rosario with a special reception at the Hilton in Secaucus, NJ.

Mr. Rosario, born in Moca, PR, passed away on August 29, 1997, in Carolina, PR. He was a hardworking accountant and a licensed real estate agent. Before moving to New Jersey 40 years ago with his wife Phyllis, he worked for the commonwealth of Puerto Rico. It is through his roots and heritage that he left a legacy of determination for improving human services in the Hispanic-American community.

Mr. Rosario, El Viejo as he was known to his friends, founded FOCUS, the Newark based social services agency, in 1967. Its mission was to provide education, job training, and other services for underprivileged Hispanics from the Newark area. Today, known as the Focus Hispanic Center for Community Development, the agency, led by Casto Maldonado, executive director, and Frank Morales, chairman of the FOCUS board of trustees, serves more than 9,000 clients every year through grants and donations to fund an annual budget of over \$1 million.

Mr. Rosario also established the New Jersey Office of Hispanic Affairs which set up the first bilingual education program in New Jersey schools and successfully pushed for passage of a law requiring Spanish interpreters in

the courts. Mr. Rosario pressed for the State high school equivalency examination to be given in Spanish, helped establish the New Jersey Puerto Rican Statewide Parade Committee, and in 1977 was awarded a seton hall honorary degree in humanities or improving the way of life for Hispanics in New Jersey.

I thank the Puerto Rican Congress for this tribute and it is an honor and a pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of this celebrated man. He is deeply respected for his tenacity in seeking the advancement of all Hispanic-Americans. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to this remarkable gentleman.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY B. GONZALEZ

SPEECH OF

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to pay tribute today to a longtime friend and dean of the Texas delegation, the Honorable HENRY B. GONZALEZ, who has announced that he will resign from Congress this year after 36 years of outstanding service.

For most of his life, HENRY GONZALEZ has been a dedicated public servant, both in Congress and previously in local and State government in Texas. As chairman and ranking minority member on the Committee on Banking and Financial Services in the House of Representatives, he has made his imprint on our Nation's banking, financial, and housing laws. As Representative of the 20th Congressional district of Texas, he has been a formidable advocate for policies and programs affecting his constituents. And as dean of the Texas delegation, he has been a respected and influential colleague.

I knew HENRY GONZALEZ when he first served in the Texas State Senate. Previously, he had been a member and mayor pro-tem of the San Antonio City Council, deputy director of the San Antonio Housing Authority and probation officer for Texas County. He worked as a civilian cable and radio censor during World War II and operated a Spanish/English translating business with his father. He also taught math to veterans and citizenship classes to resident aliens. HENRY was born and raised and educated in San Antonio schools, with the exception of studying civil engineering for 3 years at the University of Texas at Austin before graduating from St. Mary's University school of law. His life has been one of giving to those who needed him.

In all that he has done in public service, HENRY GONZALEZ has been an outstanding Representative for his constituents in Texas, the Hispanic community, and our Nation. During Hispanic Heritage Month, I can think of no one more deserving of our respect and our gratitude for 36 years of dedicated service in the House of Representatives than my good friend and colleague, HENRY B. GONZALEZ. As we adjourn today, I ask that my colleagues join me in bidding him a fond farewell and in wishing him God speed in his retirement.

AMERICAN LAND SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 901) to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surrounding those public lands and acquired lands:

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 901, The American Land Sovereignty Act. No longer can we sit back and let the United Nations dictate US domestic policy or infringe on our national sovereignty.

This is not a new argument. How many times do we have to hear about the abuses of the United Nations. In Alabama we hear that the United Nations is mired in one boondoggle after another, how we owe them \$1 billion, or how our troops are going to be forced to miss Christmas because some foreign dignitary believes it is reassuring to have our military guarding his personal possessions. Now we learn that the UN has declared certain pieces of United States soil to possess international status, independent of US sovereignty.

This is becoming unacceptable and borders on ridiculous. How much of this are we going to stomach before we tell the UN that it does not control the United States. The People govern the United States, and, as Representatives, we here in Congress are given the honor of governing this nation on behalf of our constituents. We need to unequivocally inform the UN that this is our country, not theirs. We need to tell the UN that we are going to hold it under close scrutiny and question all its actions.

Today, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 901. This important piece of legislation is a first step into curtailing the greedy clutches of the United Nations. It requires the Administration to seek Congressional approval before it can nominate any US land for inclusion on the World Heritage List. In addition, H.R. 901 stipulates that all lands that are to be included as a Biosphere Reserve must also be brought before Congress.

This bill sends a clear message to the UN and President Clinton that we are not going to allow any organization to disregard American Sovereignty. If the UN wants to make decrees that affect the United States, it must learn that it has to go through proper channels and ask permission.

The citizens of the United States, not the UN, will determine their own lives and their own futures.

TRIBUTE TO THE ARTIST WYLAND

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the 76th Wyland

Whaling Wall in the city of Detroit on October 13, 1997. Wyland has chosen his home town to paint the 76th and final wall as part of his Great Lakes Midwest Tour.

In the tradition of Jacques Cousteau, by whom he was inspired as a youngster, Wyland has dedicated his career to educating and raising public awareness of the critical importance of our oceans and marine life. He is internationally renowned, with murals in Canada, Japan, Australia, France, and Mexico. His work will continue as he has set a goal of 100 murals worldwide by the year 2011.

While 1998 has been declared the "International Year of the Ocean," the people of Michigan, surrounded by the Great Lakes, have always treasured the unique habitat and wildlife fostered by marine environments. Each of Wyland's whaling walls will serve to heighten awareness and encourage future generations to appreciate and recognize the importance of marine habitats.

Mr. speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commanding Wyland, a native Detroit, for his vision, dedication to our environment, and commitment to educating children and the public at large about our endangered oceans. I extend my gratitude for his donation of time and talent to beautifying our city, and encouragement as he continues to his 100th Whaling Wall Mural in the year 2011.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION RESOLUTION AND ADJUDICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHEN E. BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 1997

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I on the House National Security Committee, are in the process of completing the congressional review of sexual misconduct in the military. As difficult and shocking as that review has been, it pales in comparison to the problems that are coming to light in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, this Nation's second largest agency, is a department that possesses a climate and culture that can only be described as openly hostile to women.

This culture not only allows the harassment of women, it aggressively moves to cover-up any allegations made by employees and often rewards those who have been convicted of wrong-doing.

There is a bunker mentality prevalent at the VA. It appears that the VA, when faced with accusations of sexual harassment, hunkers down and waits out the controversy while speaking aggressively. In reality, the attitude is that the VA winks at the claims of sexual harassment, protects the accused and victimizes the accusers.

As Kathy Lyons, a nurse with the VA described the VA process as, "The way they handle the thing is to punish the victims."

In 1993, this committee considered enacting legislation to re-organize the VA equal opportunity reporting system in light of abuses at the Atlanta VA hospital by the director, associate director, and chief of staff. At that time,

Secretary Brown convinced the committee that he had a "Zero tolerance" for sexual harassment and the committee did not pass the legislation.

My good friend and colleague, Congressman JAMES CLYBURN stated at that time that, "I don't care what you try to do, how many procedures you put in, how many training sessions you have, if your employees do not perceive the process or whatever you've done to be an adequate response to their past problems, there is going to be absolutely no trust in the process at all."

The problem has persisted. The pattern of reward and coverup, had it been undertaken in the military, would result in a major scandal. In the VA, it merely constitutes business as usual.

In April, the VA Committee held hearings that revealed, as described by Subcommittee of VA Oversight TERRY EVERETT, a pattern of "Club MED" treatment for senior VA employees that had been accused of sexually harassing their employees.

Following that hearing, Chairman EVERETT also stated that, "I have a concern there is a Good-Ole-Boy network out there and that there is a culture within the VA that protects the managers."

Specifically, the committee found that:

A hospital director in North Carolina who groped and abused female employees who was transferred to Florida to a job specifically created for him that preserved his six-figure salary;

A VA Director in Virginia who was reassigned to Atlanta after he was accused of seven accounts of sexual harassment.

A VA personnel director in California has been reprimanded but not severely punished after an investigation into his rape and sodomy of employees in his hospital.

Reports that since 1993, the VA has punished nine VA managers for various sexual harassment complaints.

Reports that the VA Headquarters in Washington alone has 73 equal opportunity complaints pending by employees at that facility.

Overall, the VA work force is 8.52 percent of the total Federal work force, but files 14.1 percent of all harassment cases filed within the Government.

These cases illustrate that the VA's culture is one of paying off the accusers and covering for the perpetrators.

The overall culture starts with the leadership at the highest levels of the VA. The fact that Acting VA Secretary and Secretary designate Hershel Gober is married to VA counsel Mary Lou Keener and that Mr. Gober's nomination has been placed on hold for irregularities in his background investigation is evidence of problems and conflict of interest at the top. I am deeply concerned this situation has been allowed to exist at the VA.

During consideration of this bill in committee, I offered an amendment that would establish an independent panel to assess the culture of the VA with regards to sexual harassment, equal opportunity, and hostility in the workplace.

I am pleased and honored that my colleagues accepted my amendment on a bipartisan basis. This is a sign that Members on both sides of the aisle recognized the problems within the VA and the need to look at those problems.

Four years after this committee's initial hearings, egregious problems still exist. I have

doubts in the VA's ability to police themselves. They simply have no grasp on the scope of these problems.

H.R. 1703 is designed to establish a new VA employment discrimination complaint resolution system. This legislation addresses the problem with the system within the VA.

My amendment tasks a panel to look at the people, their attitudes and practices within the VA. We need a baseline look at the culture within the VA, and recommendations on how to change that culture.

Some of the cases that the VA Committee has probed could have been handled even with the old EEO system in place. Within the VA, there was merely a failure to aggressively pursue. We need to know why those within the VA have this attitude, and what can be done to correct the situation.

RECOGNITION OF "A SAFE PLACE" FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with gratitude and admiration to acknowledge A Safe Place which will be honored on Saturday, October 11, 1997 for its dedication, service, and tireless commitment to the bay area community.

A Safe Place provides crucial supportive and transitional services to battered women and their children. The mission of this organization is to decrease the number of battered women and educate the community on the issue of domestic violence. This extraordinary organization also provides personal support and attention to battered women, assisting them in becoming self-sufficient and providing skills to develop positive self images which in my opinion, is crucial in breaking the cycle of violence. I cannot emphasize enough the value of these services to our community. All those who have tirelessly cared, and passionately struggled to create this organization and expand its resources must be commended.

In 1976, a small group of women working in a shelter in San Francisco, La Casa de las Madres, began a shelter in the East Bay. Soon after, they began providing referral services and crisis counseling from a small office in Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Oakland run solely by volunteers. The initial, attentive activist focused on the needs of the community, and created the basis for a holistic and nurturing environment for women and children, and a community outreach violence prevention program.

With this objective as the foundation for A Safe Place, the L.C. and Mary J. Scaggs Foundation provided a grant in 1978 which made it possible to fund three half-time positions. Over time, with grants, corporate contributions, and individual donations, the staff was expanded.

In December of 1980, A Safe Place was forced to find new facilities, or shut down completely. With the help of the media, the organization received a \$100,000 anonymous donation and a \$75,000 interest-free loan, which enabled them to purchase a house to be used as their new permanent facility. In March of 1981, the doors were opened and the house