

homefinder referral service that matches seniors and disabled persons with others who wish to share a house, apartment, or mobile home at affordable rates. There are more than 350 programs throughout the country. Usually, a participant lives in the home of a senior or disabled person and provides care in lieu of rent.

Abuse in shared housing arrangements is on the rise. Most Americans do not know that senior citizens and disabled persons are all too often being manipulated and abused within the privacy of their own homes. A recent article on August 31, 1997, from the Orange County Register noted that 4 to 10 percent of Orange County's 350,000 seniors are victims of some sort of abuse. During the past 6 months, Adult Protective Services in Orange County, CA received 300 calls about financial abuse, compared with 70 calls for a similar period a year ago. These numbers ring true throughout the county, where abuse reports have risen to 2,173 in 1995 from a low of 903 in 1987. Most of these acts of abuse are either physical or financial, and unfortunately, many more cases often go unreported due to shame and reluctance on the part of the victims to report problems.

I believe that solving this problem of abuse can be done through proactive prevention. Currently, there is no national or statewide standard operating procedure available to screen shared housing participants. Shared housing referral services and senior advocates have informed me of their desire to perform criminal background checks on those who wish to live with and care for the elderly and disabled persons. H.R. 2964 will give these agencies the means necessary to protect their clients from abuse. In addition, it would exempt services using background checks from any civil liability, so they can focus strictly on providing safe living arrangements for seniors. I believe this bill will help ensure that our Nation's seniors and disabled persons can lead secure, healthy, and dignified lives. I encourage my colleagues in Congress to join me in making sure that seniors and disabled persons do not become victims.

HAITIAN REFUGEE IMMIGRATION FAIRNESS ACT OF 1997

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House passed the D.C. appropriations bill which included the Victims of Communism Relief Act, giving Nicaraguans, Cubans, and refugees immigration amnesty; and Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and certain Eastern European refugees the opportunity to apply for suspension of deportation under the standards set forth in the Immigration and Nationality Act prior to its amendment last Congress. Unfortunately, the bill did not include any relief for similarly situated Haitian refugees who fled persecution in their country and received protection in the United States. I am introducing the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1997 to resolve this inequity.

After a September 1991 coup toppled the democratically elected government in Haiti, the number of persons fleeing Haiti by boat for the

United States rose dramatically. During the Bush administration, over 40,000 Haitians were interviewed at Guantanamo Bay and approximately 10,000 Haitians met the "credible fear" asylum standard and were paroled into the United States by the Attorney General. Thus, these Haitians are in the United States legally, as parolees. The parolee status of Haitian refugees has been regularly extended but "parolee" is considered a temporary position in immigration law.

Specifically, the bill will adjust the immigration status of Guantanamo Bay Haitian parolees to legal permanent residents and permit Haitian asylees who are not otherwise covered by this act to seek equitable relief. In light of the amnesty the Nicaraguans and Cubans received, this legislation is the only solution to achieve equity and fairness for Haitian refugees.

The bill is a bipartisan and bicameral effort and is strongly supported by the administration. Senators GRAHAM, MACK, KENNEDY, ABRAHAM, MOSELEY-BRAUN, and MOYNIHAN have introduced companion legislation. Haitian refugees who are in this country legally deserve treatment equal to the Central Americans. This bill is the just and fair solution and I urge expeditious adoption of this measure next session.

MARIANO CONCEPCION CRUZ—
OCTOBER 17, 1932–NOVEMBER 3, 1997

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the island of Guam lost one of its most dedicated public servants last week on November 3. Mr. Mariano Concepcion Cruz, a former officer in the Guam Police Department was called to his eternal rest at the age of 65. He dedicated almost three decades to the people of Guam and the police department, enlisting as a patrolman in 1955 until his retirement in 1989.

Dedication and professionalism is prominently exemplified by the illustrious career of Officer Cruz. However, he is best remembered for his honesty and fairness. He viewed the law as all inclusive; applicable to everyone, from the lowest ranking citizen to the President of the United States. Officer Cruz never discriminated when it came to the law. There were several occasions when he issued traffic tickets to then-Governor Ricardo Bordallo and several of Guam's legislators. Even his own brother was issued a citation.

For his services and dedication, Officer Cruz was awarded several citations including the Commanding Officer's Citation in 1985 and the Commendation and Service Award from the Director of the Guam Police Department in 1986. The 13th Guam Legislature also passed a resolution commending him for "exemplifying the qualities that are to be encouraged in a police officer." His passing is a great loss and his presence will surely be missed.

The late Mariano Concepcion Cruz left a legacy of service and devotion to the island of Guam and its people. He is remembered by many as a mentor, and an adviser. On behalf of the people of Guam, I offer my condolences and join his widow, Rita Untalan Cruz, and their children, Priscilla and Alan in mourning

the loss of a husband, a father, and fellow servant to the people of Guam.

THANKING RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR ORGAN DONOR EFFORTS

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate 10 Ridgewood High School students for their work to raise the awareness of the importance of organ donation in their community. These students, all sophomores, walked door to door this fall, asking residents to sign donor cards. At last count, the students distributed more than 24,000 pieces of literature and 10,000 Ridgewood residents had pledged their interest in learning more about organ donation and transplantation.

I wholeheartedly commend all of these students on this magnificent humanitarian effort. They have undertaken an effort that will save many lives. This project will undoubtedly bring new hope, better health and, indeed, life to many who otherwise would have had no hope.

This community project took place in conjunction with the New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network. I would like to thank each of these students—Alyson Cangemi, Kacey Burde, Jennifer Dlugasch, Meredith Grasso, Katie Henderson, Georgette Mitchel, Tara O'Neill, Krista Pouliot, Jessica Bheden, and Morgen Weiss—and the volunteer who coordinated their effort, Ridgewood resident Janet Cangemi.

The students' project came about as an entry in the New York Daily News "Make a Difference Day" contest, which challenges volunteers to make a difference in people's lives. There are approximately 1,100 New Jersey residents waiting for life-saving organs.

The New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network was formed in June 1987 when the State's three organ procurement organizations merged into one. And that year, the legislature passed legislation requiring New Jersey hospitals to ask families of deceased patients whether organs of the deceased may be donated. The Sharing Network operates an extensive outreach program to educate the public on the need for organs and the importance of donation. Since then, the Sharing Network has more than tripled the number of organs recovered in New Jersey for transplantation. An estimated 2,600 lives have been saved through transplants.

Major religions support organ donation. The Rabbinical Council of America has approved organ donation and Pope John Paul II referred to organ donations as an act of great love.

Organ and tissue donation saves lives. Thousands of people die each year for the lack of organs because not enough people choose to be organ donors. I wish to join these young people from my community in urging everyone to sign an organ donor card. These young people deserve the recognition and commendation of this Congress.

CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which will correct a longstanding injustice to the Chugach native people of my great State of Alaska. Twenty-six years ago, Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act [ANCSA] to settle the aboriginal land claims of Alaska natives. ANCSA, though not perfect, was a bold and innovative approach to settle the issue of native land claims. Its main purpose was to convey lands traditionally used by Alaska natives to a native regional or native village corporation for their use to secure long-term cultural and economic benefits for their shareholders.

In 1980, I worked with many of my colleagues in this body to pass the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act [ANILCA] which, among other things, contained a provision which guaranteed access to Alaska Native corporations to their ANCSA lands. Without this access to their native lands selected under ANCSA, the act itself would become meaningless.

Twenty-six years after the passage of ANCSA, and 15 years since the U.S. Forest Service and the Chugach Alaska Corporation entered into the "1982 Settlement Agreement" to convey to Chugach Alaska Corporation their lands and guarantee them access to these lands, the U.S. Forest Service has yet to provide the easements needed for such access. This is unacceptable and will soon produce irreparable harm to Chugach Alaska Corporation.

My legislation will simply direct the U.S. Forest Service to fulfill their commitment to provide Chugach Alaska Corporation access to their ANCSA lands. The U.S. Forest Service is required to process the easement to accomplish access for Chugach Alaska Corporation. There has been considerable delay by the U.S. Forest Service to process this easement. Mr. Speaker, I plan to take this issue up when Congress is back for the 2d session of the 105th Congress and to pass this legislation. Both my colleagues in the Senate, Senator STEVENS and Senator MURKOWSKI support this endeavor and will work for passage.

RECOGNITION OF REV. BOB
SWEET'S RETIREMENT FROM
OLD BEDFORD VILLAGE AFTER
21 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise, Mr. Speaker, in honor of one of the outstanding people from my congressional district, Rev. Bob Sweet of Bedford, PA.

Bob Sweet served as the treasurer of Bedford County from 1963 to 1966. In 1967, he became Bedford County Commissioner, where he served the community dutifully for 8 years. It was in this capacity during the beginning of my congressional career that I became acquainted with him, and I have been fortunate

enough to count him as one of my true great friends over the years. Bob has been a reliable friend and outstanding citizen of the community for more than three decades. He is a past chairman of the Bedford County Republican Committee and past president of the Bedford County Republican Club. He is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, and a member of countless civic and religious groups, which indicates his commitment to the less fortunate in our society. Reverend Sweet is a selfless man who always seems to put the welfare of others in front of his own, and has provided moral guidance and a sense of vision upon which the community has built itself a great place to live and work.

Today, I want to pay tribute to an outstanding man of vision and perseverance, and a valued friend. Not only did Bob envision what would become a memorial to the founding fathers of Bedford County and a successful tourist attraction, he dedicated his time and enthusiasm to making his dream a reality. Bob Sweet's tireless commitment to the community in which he lives is a testament to his love of Bedford County. He and his wife have two married daughters and 4 granddaughters, all of whom serve their community with pride. I will close by thanking Bob Sweet for his endless energy and constant support, and wish him a long and healthy retirement.

FR. GEORGE G. PASSIAS HONORED
FOR TWO DECADES OF SERVICE
TO ST. NICHOLAS GREEK
CHURCH

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with my constituents and members of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church as they gather to honor Fr. George G. Passias for two decades of service to our community.

Originally a native of Chicago, Fr. George received his early education in Morton Grove, IL. At the University of Illinois, he received his B.S. in structural science and mechanical engineering, and an M.S. in theoretical and applied mechanics. Against this background of intensive education, he married Mary Ellen Orlando and maintained an active participation in the parish of St. John the Baptist in Des Plaines where he served as a teacher in the church school, was the GOYA advisor, a parish council member and executive board member.

In 1976, answering to a higher calling, Fr. George left his doctoral studies and with his wife moved to Boston to enter the Holy Cross School of Theology to undertake a master of divinity degree. He graduated in 1979 and received the Massachusetts Bible Society Award. At this point in their lives and with two children, Fr. George moved his family to Bayside, NY, and became assistant pastor of St. Nicholas.

The next 20 years were not only years of dynamic growth for the parish, but also for Fr. George. He devoted his efforts to help in making St. Nicholas a parish known for caring, learning and serving people in fulfilling themselves. Under his efforts, the church's educational programs were expanded and the Wil-

liam Spyropoulos Greek American Day School was formed. In addition, he spearheaded the formation of the young adult league, adult Bible classes and retreats for members of all ages.

In 1982, he was appointed pastor of St. Nicholas and undertook a program that rapidly expanded the physical building of St. Nicholas, increased its membership and brought to the parish a most warm and compassionate sense of dedication and involvement. It is now the largest parish in the archdiocese.

After two decades of service, Fr. George has been appointed chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Church of America. In all his years as a priest, Fr. George has been endowed with a spiritual warmth that not only made him a builder of a church, but a builder who combines all the good and positive feelings in a person that leads to success and fulfillment. As he now assumes the chancellorship of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this man who will now spread his warmth and compassion throughout our great country.

KATRINA**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when I reviewed the remarks in the September 29, 1997, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding a lady named "Katrina," I immediately felt that Congressman ABERCROMBIE had relied on an erroneous and misleading article published by the Reader's Digest some months ago. I have so advised him and he has certainly agreed to look at all the facts.

The Katrina described by a report from Robert B. Dunlap II, attorney general of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [CNMI], is one that I hope Congressman ABERCROMBIE will examine. I have high professional, political, and personal admiration for NEIL ABERCROMBIE—and I want him to have the full facts at his disposal.

The gentleman from Hawaii, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, described a situation which was reported in the Reader's Digest article this past summer. In the report by CNMI Attorney General Dunlap in response to the allegations asserted by that article, General Dunlap writes, "the article specifically stated that she was forced to dance in the nude. It is extremely important to note that the complainant had been dancing in the nude in a Manila nightclub for several years before she came to Saipan. Her entry to the Northern Marianas was a fraud as her passport and birth certificate were doctored."

The CNMI Attorney General further asserted: "The complainant filed a case with the CNMI Department of Labor. Since the CNMI does not have the authority or jurisdiction to prosecute violations of federal child labor laws, the CNMI Department of Labor addressed only her wage and hour complaints." Furthermore, the article alleges that she was forced to perform lewd sex acts with customers before a video camera. The attorney general's report further states "In fact, the said tape was produced during her interview for the position—it was learned that the said tape was