

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD R.
CASANOVA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to honor Richard R. Casanova, who has been named Los Angeles Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year. Mr. Casanova is driven by a sense of civic responsibility to protect our community while he is on-duty and to volunteer his services while he is off-duty.

Richard currently serves as a member of the Los Angeles Fire Department in a dual capacity as both a Paramedic and Firefighter. His extensive training as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), a paramedic and as a first aid instructor for the American Red Cross, combined with his many years of dedicated service makes him a valuable asset to the citizens of West Valley.

In addition, Richard is deeply devoted to his wife Peggy and their six children, and is a tireless volunteer in the community. At his local parish he does everything from serve as a youth ministry team member to serve as the disaster preparedness coordinator. Among other numerous activities, he also conducts first aid and CPR instruction for Scouts, local schools, and businesses and is the American Red Cross On-Call Instructor for CPR and First Aid.

The West Valley Community recognizes Richard as an outstanding father, fireman, and community servant. As his Representative in the U.S. Congress, I join the citizens of the West Valley in thanking him for his years of dedicated service to our community, and in extending our warm congratulations and best wishes on his recognition as Firefighter of the Year.

“RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
END TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES
IN U.S. TERRITORY”

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have received a copy of a resolution passed by the Federation of Asian People of Guam in support of H.R. 1450, the Insular Fair Wage and Human Rights Act. This legislation is urgently needed to stop the inexcusable pattern of labor and human rights abuses in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [CNMI].

Over 35 Members of the House, as well as prominent human rights and religious groups, and national labor organizations are unified in their support of this legislation. This bill would mandate needed reforms in the CNMI's minimum wage and immigration policies that have allowed the recruitment of a disenfranchised, low paid foreign workforce that now outnumbers the local, indigenous population. These workers are treated as commodities, with little individual value, and are regularly

denied the labor, health and safety protections guaranteed by U.S. law. We must send a strong message to the CNMI government that these continued abuses will not be tolerated on U.S. soil.

The resolution that follows was adopted by the Federation of Asian People on Guam, an umbrella organization of several Asian-American interest groups on Guam. The resolution states, in part, the CNMI can no longer conceal the evidence of ongoing labor and immigration abuses and these same problems were pointed out to Gov. Froilan Tenorio and local and Federal officials in the FADG Resolution 94-1 3 years ago. The resolution further states that H.R. 1450 will hopefully stem the corruption which consumes everyone including the innocent in the CNMI.

I thank the Federation of Asian People for their strong support on this most important issue and ask that the Resolution 97-1 be printed here in full.

Federation of Asian People on Guam (FAPG) Resolution No. 97-1

Relative to commending and supporting Representative GEORGE MILLER on his legislation to strip CNMI of many of its immigration and labor powers.

Be It Resolved By The Board of Directors of the Federation of Asian People of Guam:

Whereas, the Honorable George Miller, a Senior U.S. Congressman, Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources who has the jurisdiction over Territorial Issues, aims to introduce a legislation to remove the power of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands on Immigration and Labor Control; and

Whereas, according to continuing reports, the CNMI can no longer conceal the evidence of ongoing labor and immigration abuses; that the CNMI is accused of using that local control to import and abuse thousands of low-paid Asian workers; that these same problems were pointed out to Governor Froilan Tenorio and to local and federal officials in the FAPG Resolution 94.1 three years ago; and

Whereas the CNMI were branded “Hell Holes” for foreign workers during the announcement of new legislation aimed at the Commonwealth, according to a statement read on behalf of John Sweeney, President of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations; and

Whereas, “this continued pattern of abuse and indifference to human exploitation demands a rapid and bipartisan response from the Congress and the Clinton Administration”, to quote Representative George Miller while announcing the new initiative which declares to one and all that these sordid conditions not be tolerated on U.S. soil, and

Whereas, we pray that the first Twenty Five stout-hearted Congressmen sponsors of the bill to remove CNMI's local authority to set minimum wage rates, enforce U.S. immigration law and limit use of “Made in the USA” labels to garment factories that abide by U.S. labor standards be joined by others to restore the integrity of the CNMI Government; and

Whereas, this legislation will hopefully stem the malignant growth of CNMI's social cancer which consumes everyone including the innocent, brought about by illegal drugs, public corruption, victimization of guest workers through violations of their human rights, abuse, neglect and discrimination, forced prostitution, exploitation of minors, and other depravities crying for vengeance in heaven; and therefore be it

Resolved, the Federation of Asian People on Guam commends, expresses gratitude to the sponsors of the bill entitled Insular Fair Wage and Human Rights Act of 1997, and extends strong support and full endorsement of Congressman George Miller's endeavors to preserve Universal Human Rights and the U.S. brand of Justice; and be it further

Resolved, that the FAPG President certify to and the Federation's Secretary attest the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Honorable George Miller; to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich; to Jaime Cardinal Sin, Archdiocese of Manila, Philippines; to Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron, of Agana Basilica; to Bishop Thomas Camacho of Chalan Kanoa, Saipan; to the supporters of this bill representing groups and agencies in California, Hawaii, Alaska, Florida, Guam, CNMI, all of U.S.A., the Philippines & other Pacific Basin/Rim jurisdictions; to members of the electronic and printed media; to the U.S. Departments of Interior, Labor, Justice and Commerce and to his Excellency, Bill Clinton, President of the United States of America.

Robert Kao, President FAPG, Former President, United Chinese Association; Irene Cheng, Secretary, FAPG; Roger Ruelos, President, Filipino, Community of Guam; John Vega, Public Relations Officer, FAPG, Former President, FAPG & FCG; Charles Lee, Vice President, FAPG, President, Korean Association of Guam; Calvin Lai, Treasurer, FAPG, President, Vietnamese-Chinese Association; Pete Hemlani, President, Indian, Community of Guam; Resty Albeza, Board Member, FAPG; Eddie del Rosario, Chartered Member, FAPG, Former President, Filipino Community of Guam.

FRANK KELLY'S VISION FOR
HUMANITY

HON. WALTER H. CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, we in Santa Barbara are blessed to have as our neighbor and community leader Frank Kelly, the Vice President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. Frank has been a voice for peace, justice and basic human rights for many years, and I am pleased to count him as a close friend.

Recently, Frank authored a thought-provoking article in the Santa Barbara News-Press calling on Congress to enact a resolution calling for “A Day of Celebration for Humanity.” I commend Frank's piece to my colleagues, and I look forward to discussing the important issues raised in it as we debate the critical public policy decisions of the 105th Congress.

[From the Santa Barbara News-Press, Mar. 30, 1997]

A CHAIR FOR EVERYONE AT HUMANITY'S
TABLE

(By Frank K. Kelly)

By kneeling at the feet of grieving Israeli families whose daughters had been killed by a Jordanian soldier, King Hussein of Jordan demonstrated the compassion that goes beyond all boundaries.

He kissed them and asked to be regarded as a member of each family. To the parents of one girl he said: “I feel like I have lost a child.”

In the wars of this bloody century, millions of children have been slaughtered. All

of them belonged to the great human family. All of us have been wounded by those losses, although we may not realize it. We are all related to one another—and the King of Jordan brought that home to us in a powerful way.

The time has come for the human family to celebrate its unity, its diversity, its tremendous gifts, its abilities in many fields, its infinite capacities for compassion and creativity. Although this is an age of terrible tragedies and immense sufferings, it is also an age of unprecedented strides in many areas.

I believe we should consider "A Day of Celebration for Humanity"—an annual festival to remind us of the marvelous capacities of human beings.

There are many acts of kindness, many outpourings of love and devotion, many works of art emerging from the minds and souls of those who share the DNA molecules that make us human.

Let us salute one another, let us bow down as the King of Jordan did to comfort the afflicted ones among us, let us blow horns around the world, let us dance and be grateful for all the blessings we have, for the hopes we have, for the signs of love we can see everywhere if we open our eyes.

In the midst of our celebration, we will not forget that we have to help one another, care for one another, extend our hands to those who need food and shelter and encouragement. We will take everyone into the circle of humanity—and leave no one out.

Each year—perhaps on New Year's Day—there should be a 24-hour, worldwide remembrance of the achievements of people around the Earth. The resources of the Information Age are available now to bring together all of us in that commemoration.

Artists, musicians, film producers, writers, dancers, singers and composers, sculptors and painters, television and radio communicators, could be asked to give their services for a "Festival of the Human Family."

It could be organized by a Committee for Humanity, formed by representatives of the arts and sciences. Jacques Cousteau, the oceanographer; Yehudi Menuhin, the violinist; King Hussein of Jordan; and Maya Angelou, the poet, might be asked to serve as honorary chairpersons.

The committee could include leaders from all countries represented at the United Nations, journalists and educators from every continent, legislators and judges, business executives, presidents of trade unions, philosophers and members of all religions, children of all ages, women from many backgrounds, and Nobel Prize winners. Its headquarters might be in Geneva, where many international organizations have offices.

On the day of celebration, the creative attainments and highest qualities of compassion and courage demonstrated by human beings would be presented in global broadcasts—perhaps with introductory statements by George Lucas and Steven Spielberg, visionary film producers, and Arthur Clarke, author of "2001," on their hopes for humanity in the coming century.

On that day, the noblest aspirations of human beings would be hailed. The finest works of the human spirit would shine around the world. The day would be an occasion of renewed confidence for every human person on this planet—every member of the huge family which now includes millions of mysterious beings. It would depict the crises through which humanity has passed in its epic journey from the seas to the stars. All the peaks of human experience would be recognized and acclaimed.

The day might end with the singing of the "Ode to Joy" which concludes Beethoven's Ninth Symphony—with choirs from every

nation, with voices being heard from every part of the beautiful planet on which humanity arose.

Such a day could give us new ways of seeing that Thomas Merton was right when he said: "It is a glorious destiny to be a human being."

We were created with divine sparks that cannot be extinguished. We were shaped by a mind which gave us a sense of belonging to the universe. With the creative power shared with us by that loving mind, we can find the ways out of our tremendous problems and overcome the dangers that beset us in this time of testing.

In his inaugural address in January of this year, President Clinton urged us to remember that the greatest progress we have yet to make is in the human heart. He referred to Martin Luther King's high dream of human equality and he declared: "King's dream was the American dream. His quest is our quest."

King's vision was more than an American vision. It was a vision for the whole human family. It is time to revive that vision—and to join with people everywhere to show what can be done by the members of that awesome stream of people moving forward together.

I urge the U.S. Congress to adopt a non-partisan resolution calling for "A Day of Celebration" and urging legislators and other leaders of all nations to join Americans in making that day a worldwide day for human unity. I urge the president and the executives of all countries to give their support to that proposal.

The time has come to take a giant step for humanity!

AUTHORIZING A CALIFORNIA URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL RE- SEARCH CENTER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to authorize the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] to establish a California Urban Environmental Research and Education Center [CUEREC].

I am honored to be joined in this effort by nine California colleagues: Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. TORRES, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. FILNER.

Legislation to authorize EPA research programs was unfortunately not acted upon in the last Congress. However, CUEREC did receive a line item in the 1995 Department of VA, HUD and independent agencies appropriations bill to cover start-up costs. This line item has allowed CUEREC to begin its first year of operation and the Center was dedicated on October 21, 1994 at a tree planting ceremony on the Cal State Hayward campus.

The bill requests \$4.5 million for fiscal year 1998 because CUEREC is mandated to work with all 22 California State Universities in its second year of operation and because CUEREC will need this level of support to carry out the activities set out for it in the legislation.

Currently, CUEREC is in the process of linking California's major university system—the Cal State University [CSU] campuses, the University of California [UC] campuses, as well as private universities and colleges—to deal with the employment and environmental challenges

of California's military base closures and defense conversion. Among other activities CUEREC will: help remove market barriers for small environmental business enterprise development; help in military base conversion and utilization focused on increasing sustainable economic development and job creation throughout California; encourage the transfer of government developed and/or sponsored environmental technology to the private sector while working closely with such laboratories as Lawrence Livermore, Sandia, and Lawrence-Berkeley; encourage the funding of viable environmental projects throughout California; assist women and minority owned small businesses in complying with local, state, and federal environmental regulations and taking advantage of opportunities in sustainable economic development; avoid duplication in environmental research and education programs by developing an on-line data base of such activities available to all California universities and colleges; help coordinate Cal State and UC environmental applied research and education programs; and advise local, state, and federal officials on the economic and environmental implications of development programs throughout California.

Prior to CUEREC, no EPA sponsored research center had been established in California. Seventeen such EPA sponsored research centers have already been established in other states. CUEREC would be the first to focus on urban environmental policy, base closures, and defense conversion environmental problems. CUEREC would also be the first to include all of the universities and colleges in a single state.

Both Senators were very supportive of the legislation last year. CUEREC is a unique program, providing many important benefits for California and a cost effective model university based program for the nation and I urge my California colleagues to support it.

WOMEN'S HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, next year, women's high school basketball in the Sixth District of North Carolina should be extremely interesting. The reason being that two of the State champions from this year will play in the same conference. Ledford High School, located just outside Thomasville, NC, and High Point Central High School in High Point, NC, secured the championships in the 2-A and 3-A divisions of the State playoffs respectively.

The end of March brought the State 2-A season to a close. Ledford High School, in an impressive victory over St. Pauls, captured the State 2-A championship. This is only the second championship victory in the school's history.

After an impressive 29-2 season, the Ledford Panthers faced the Saint Pauls Bulldogs (28-2) in the season finale. Both teams were anxious to take home the victory and the game proved to be a challenge for all those involved. Head coach John Ralls, with the assistance of Joe Davis and Allen Patterson led the Panthers to a 59-57 come-from-behind