

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues may be aware, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In my home State of North Dakota, as well as across the Nation, citizens have already participated in numerous activities, such as candlelight vigils, "Take Back the Night" rallies, and other forms of demonstration aimed at raising public awareness of this national tragedy.

Domestic violence is one of our Nation's most prevalent, yet misunderstood, tragedies. Recently, North Dakota's Attorney General released a report on domestic violence for 1997, and the statistics should cause us all to take notice. To cite just a few of the facts: in 1,450 incidents reported through the North Dakota Uniform Crime Reporting Program, there were 1,638 victims involved; 39 percent of all reported physical violence cases across the State were incidents of domestic violence; and among reported victims of domestic violence, 74 percent were women and 19 percent were juveniles.

These figures are even more sobering when you consider that domestic violence is one of the most severely underreported crimes. We may not be able to estimate the number of victims who, living in fear or denial, do not come forward; however, the National Crime Victimization survey, administered by the Department of Justice, reports that victims of all types of violence, including domestic, report only about half of their victimizations to the police.

Unfortunately, attitudes are slow to change, especially on such an intimate issue as domestic violence. No longer can we sit idly by, as the cycle of violence not only goes on, but oftentimes worsens. No longer can we claim that what goes on in another person's private life is none of my or your business. No longer can we blame the victims saying that they "asked for it." No longer can we make excuses.

During this month of awareness, therefore, I am proud to also mark the fifth anniversary of one of the most important stands Congress has ever taken against domestic violence: the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Through programs that bolster prosecution of sexual assault and domestic violence, increase victim services, and step up education and prevention activities, VAWA has gone far to protect individuals from sexual offenses and domestic abuse. I am proud to support reauthorization of all these programs as a cosponsor of H.R. 357, the Violence Against Women Act of 1999.

Congress, however, cannot act alone. The House of Representatives cannot pass a law to ban domestic violence. The Senate cannot force attitudes to change. It is up to all of us

to take action—through greater participation and awareness—to end this national tragedy. Advocates should not have to fight alone, and victims should not have to suffer alone. This is one issue on which the old adage holds true: If we're not part of the solution, we're part of the problem.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL ZIEGLER AND PRIDE INDUSTRIES

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Michael Ziegler and PRIDE Industries. On November 5, 1999, the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Sacramento is presenting their most prestigious Humanitarian Award to Mr. Ziegler. As friends and associates of Mr. Ziegler and the United Cerebral Palsy Association gather to celebrate, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting this special occasion.

The United Cerebral Palsy Association's Humanitarian Award is given annually to "individuals or organizations who have displayed a passion for life and a sincere desire to work toward enhancing the lives of others." Those who receive this award have fulfilled their passion and desire through extensive community involvement.

As president and chief executive officer of PRIDE Industries, Michael Ziegler has exemplified that passion and desire. He has been the guiding force behind PRIDE Industries' mission to offer employment to an ever-expanding number of individuals with disabilities. While maintaining a successful business, Mr. Ziegler has been able to significantly increase the employment rate of handicapped people in the Sacramento area.

Under the leadership of Michael Ziegler, PRIDE Industries has strived to meet four core values: mission, people, customers, and culture. Through their mission of creating good jobs for people with disabilities, they are working toward creating a challenging and rewarding environment. Energized by the fact that their efforts make a positive difference in the community, Mr. Ziegler is committed to establishing PRIDE Industries as a competitive and thriving company.

The road to success for PRIDE Industries has spanned several areas. Over the years, it has gone from a non-profit organization to a government-funded agency and finally to a privately-funded corporation. Mr. Ziegler has enabled PRIDE Industries to become one of the fastest-growing private companies in Greater Sacramento with mostly disabled employees.

As a result of increased demand for its manufacturing and service contracts, PRIDE Industries expects to add nearly 200 employees over the next 12 months. The company has service contracts in such areas as custodial work, groundskeeping, recycling, building maintenance, and various other service contracts for Air Force bases.

In addition to service contracts, PRIDE Industries has thrived in electronic contract manufacturing. It makes printed circuit boards, assemblies and repairs electronics products, and even manufactures its own brand of snowshoes.

Mr. Ziegler has built PRIDE Industries into a thriving business recognized around the world for its success and direction. He has brought self respect and hope to many people with disabilities while maintaining and operating a successful business.

Mr. Speaker, as the United Cerebral Palsy Association convenes to present Michael Ziegler with their Humanitarian Award, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most outstanding citizens. His contributions to disabled people and the community of Sacramento are commendable. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Mr. Ziegler and PRIDE Industries continued success in all their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LENORE PAQUIN

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on November 12, 1999, Ms. Lenore Paquin will retire after twenty-seven years of service to the Town of North Attleboro as the Public Health Nurse.

In addition to her role as Public Health Nurse, Ms. Paquin was especially well known for her many community and charitable works. She has been on the Board of Directors of the Visiting Nurses Association, Versa Care, New Hope, Attleboro Area Community Council and Hillside Adult Care, where she was also a founder. She has been honored by individuals and organizations too numerous to mention.

It has been said that whenever there was a need, Lenore stepped in and offered her assistance. She organized a kitchen where she distributed food to the families who were going without and arranged Thanksgiving and Christmas campaigns to alleviate the problems that families encounter during the holiday season.

When you mention the name Lenore in the Town of North Attleboro and the surrounding area, it is not necessary to mention her last name because everyone knows her and her work. A number of years ago when the Attleboro Area Business and Professional Women honored her, she spoke about the difference in taking care of patients in a hospital setting and in her role as a Public Health Nurse. She stated—"In a hospital setting you never know what happens to them when they leave. Here you walk along with them. I kind of like that . . ."

The people in the Town of North Attleboro and the surrounding area are indeed fortunate to have a person like Lenore in their midst.

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