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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

FEDERAL ADOPTION SERVICES ACT OF 1999

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I will soon be introducing an important pro-child bill, the Federal Adoption Service Act of 1999. This bill is offered as a companion bill in the House to the bill offered in the Senate by Senator JESSE HELMS, S. 42.

The Federal Adoption Service Act of 1999 corrects a serious omission from Title X services, adoption. Adoption has been called the "loving option." It offers mothers who are using Title X services the choice of life.

No woman, Mr. Speaker, should be given only partial choices by a clinic, especially a federally funded clinic. Every woman in America should know about the option of adoption. Let me repeat. Every woman in America should know about the option of adoption.

Planned Parenthood clinics have been confronted time and time again on this floor because they seem to be promoting an abortion and contraceptive agenda. The very fact that this federally funded program does not offer adoption as a choice proves the

contentiousness of this program, and that is why we need this bill.

Women today are increasingly pro-life. A recent survey found that 53 percent of the females that responded thought abortion should be allowed only in cases of rape, incest, and to save the life of the mother. This figure is up from 45 percent in 1996. We must offer these women the option of sharing life.

My bill would amend Title X of the Public Health Service Act to permit federally funded planning services to provide adoption services based on the needs of the community and the ability of a clinic to offer these services.

Adoption is a wonderful solution for many loving parents unable to have children and for many expectant mothers who feel incapable of providing for their child. The Federal Government should be instrumental in helping make this option available for all mothers.

Congress has repeatedly shown itself to be supportive of adoption. With tax credits and Adoption Opportunity grants, we have taken the stance that adoption is a wonderful option and one that should be made easier for all.

Mr. Speaker, it is unimaginable that there has never been a specific adoption provision for federally funded family planning clinics. Congress has taken an active role in encouraging the adoption of foster children, yet it overlooked the needy Title X clinics.

Recently, my home State of Florida took a bold step by creating a "Choose Life" license plate. This plate's proceeds will go to not-for-profit agencies supporting adoption. I am proud that the organization that promoted this plate and gathered the needed petition signatures is based in my home State in Ocala, Florida. I applaud the "Choose Life" organization for their hard work and dedication. Thanks to their efforts, adoption agencies in Florida will benefit.

My bill will not force a mother to give up her child. Nor will this bill force family planning clinics to provide adoption services. Rather, it will state that Federal policy is to allow and encourage adoption as a choice for family planning.

The Federal Adoption Service Act of 1999 is a rational solution offering women another option. I hope my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this sensible proposal.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BALLENGER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, in November of 1996, Linda Stone was fatally shot by her abusive husband in the parking lot of Austin's Oak Hill Motorola plant. Her death was tragic for more than the simple reason that it occurred unnecessarily.

Linda Stone was employed at that Motorola plant; and, on the day of her death, she was en route to make extra security arrangements with her employer because of new threats from her husband. This occurred in a community that has been a leader in domestic violence assistance and prevention for over two decades.

I think Our Safe Place enjoys broader community support than any public service organization in central Texas. But since stories such as Linda are becoming all too commonplace, I am introducing a bill today that will give new options to those unfortunate victims who face danger in the workplace.

The Domestic Violence Economic Security Act will provide that no State shall deny unemployment assistance solely because a victim has left work due to a reasonable fear of domestic violence. This approach to the problem

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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was originally suggested to me by my friend, Texas State Representative Sheri Greenberg, who sponsored a similar measure in the Texas legislature, got it passed in the House, though it did not finally make it through the Texas Senate at the conclusion of our legislative session.

We recognize that each year six-and-a-half million acts of violence are perpetrated against women, and nearly a million of these occur in the work environment. Victims attempting to escape these abusive relationships often find themselves most vulnerable where they spend the most time, and that is at the workplace. In fact, 96 percent of domestic violence victims report that they have had some type of problem in the workplace as a result of abuse or their abuser, ranging from threatening calls to unwanted and harassing visits.

For victims who are financially dependent on their job, avoiding violence in the workplace can be extremely challenging. A victim manages to escape the relationship at home and move out. But giving up a job is another thing and even more difficult to change.

The resulting harassment, of course, hurts both the employer and the employee. At least 94 percent of corporate security managers have reported that they rank domestic violence as a very high security problem in the workplace. Businesses recognize that domestic violence is not only harmful to workers who are victims, but it is bad for business.

My bill gives a new alternative to employers and employees confronted with violence in the workplace. It ensures that no victim who leaves a job because of a reasonable fear of violence is denied some assistance. For these victims, unemployment compensation would provide a temporary form of financial assistance until a safer job can be found. In cases such as Linda Stone's, this monetary support could mean the difference between continued abuse and self-sufficiency.

Second, this bill gives some general guidance to the States that they can follow in determining eligibility. They are advised to consider factors such as whether the applicant has been offered work at home or in a different location, whether a law enforcement officer or health care professional has advised them to leave and find a new workplace. And the States, of course, could consider other factors that they deem relevant. These standards will give our States the means to correctly identify and assist the victims who need temporary financial assistance.

Tragically, in this country, every 15 seconds another woman is battered. When that violence spills out into the workplace, everyone loses. For victims attempting to escape abuse, the Domestic Violence Economic Security Act will provide temporary assistance while not otherwise affecting the existing unemployment compensation requirements.

Too many victims across our country face a daily struggle of needless workplace violence. This bill assures them a safe avenue to self-sufficiency.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL STANLEY WAWRZYNIAK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding Marine, Lieutenant Colonel Stanley "Ski" Wawrzyniak, a native of Gary, West Virginia.

Although Lieutenant Colonel Wawrzyniak passed away in 1995, his legacy is still felt in the ranks of the Marine Corps, particularly in the Marine community of eastern North Carolina, where he made his home.

His courage and discipline as a dutiful Marine served as an inspiration to all that knew him. Even now, his courage under fire, fighting expertise, and leadership skills are widely remembered and respected.

Stanley's 35 years in the Corps and his record of valor distinguish him as a Marine Corps hero. He was awarded two Navy Crosses, one Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and four Purple Hearts.

Although highly decorated, Stanley loved the Marines he served with and always gave 110 percent in every situation.

Mr. Speaker, after dropping out of high school, Stanley enlisted in the United States Navy. After serving 23 months, he was released from active duty in September of 1946. Three days later, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

He went to China in the late 1940s and entered the Korean War. In two tours with the 5th Marines in Korea, he was awarded two Navy Crosses, a Silver Star, and three Purple Hearts.

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In 1953, as a Master Sergeant, Stanley was commissioned a Marine Second Lieutenant while serving at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

In the years between his commissioning and his time in Vietnam, Stanley went through the Basic Officers School, Underwater Demolition and Mountain Leadership Training Course, where he broke his spine on a mountain drop, yet hiked out unassisted. He also went through Evasion, Escape and Survival school, where he led his team in avoiding capture and finished first in his class.

As a matter of fact, he finished first in a lot of things, such as Army Airborne School and Army Ranger School.

Mr. Speaker, in July of 1965 then Major Wawrzyniak embarked for Vietnam. He served in the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment and was awarded two Bronze Stars and his fourth Purple Heart.

During his time in the Marine Corps, Stanley demonstrated his great love for his country and his fellow Marines. However, his accomplishments did not end with his military career. Perhaps his proudest legacy remains with the strong relationship he held with his wife Adaline, his two daughters, Bernadette and Paula, and his sons Michael, Andrew and Stanley.

With a career that, although distinguished, would have strained even the strongest of family ties, Stanley took the time to mend the relationships that were most important to him.

Mr. Speaker, shortly after his retirement and until the time of his death, Stanley's two youngest sons were living in the Swansboro, North Carolina, area and working in the building trades. He went to work as a foreman with the same contractor who employed his sons. This gave him the opportunity to accomplish two things that were very important to him. First, he was able to work side by side with his sons and rebuild relationships with them that had suffered during his long service-related separations. Second, he was able to build homes. For a man whose entire life had been spent at war in foreign countries, he felt a great sense of accomplishment from building homes. The fact that he did it side by side with his sons made it that much more important to him.

Lieutenant Colonel Stanley Wawrzyniak's life can best be described by the quote from General Chesty Puller, perhaps the most famous of all Marines. He said, and I quote, the real rewards of military service are not the medals you wear on your chest. The real rewards are the looks in the eyes of men who have served with you, men who understand the nature of your service, men who have observed your actions in the most stressful of conditions and have seen the depth of your character.

Mr. Speaker, Stanley Wawrzyniak is a man who served as an example to all of us. He is sorely missed, but his remarkable service to this country is something that will ensure his memory will live on.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the life of a truly exemplary Marine, LtCol Stanley "Ski" Wawrzyniak, a native of Gary, West Virginia. Although LtCol Wawrzyniak passed away in 1995, his legacy is still felt in the ranks of the Marine Corps, and particularly in the Marine community of eastern North Carolina where he made his home. He was one of the last of the old fashioned, hard charging, hill taking sort of Marine. The sort of men who fought without laser guided weapons, global communications, or spy satellites. His courage and discipline in living his life as a Marine and in carrying out his duties was an inspiration to all those who knew him. Even now his memory is widely known and respected for his courage under fire, his fighting expertise, and his leadership skills.

LtCol Wawrzyniak's thirty-five years in the Corps and his record of valor, distinguish him as Marine Corps hero. He earned two Navy Crosses, one Silver Star, two Bronze Stars,