

Despite the challenges they face—or maybe in spite of them—women in the United States and around the world contribute to their families and their countries in countless ways.

In the United States, March is Women's History Month. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of women such as Carrie Chapman Catt, a native of Ripon, Wisconsin, who served as the last president of the National American Women Suffrage Association, and was the founder and first president of the National League of Women Voters. Her influence on the direction and success of the suffrage movement is legendary, and her legacy in grassroots organizing is equally significant. She led a tireless lobbying campaign in Congress, sent letters and telegrams, and eventually met directly with the President—using all the tools of direct action with which political organizers are now so familiar today.

Catt's crusade for suffrage saw a homefront victory on June 10, 1919, when Wisconsin became the first state to deliver ratification of the constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote before it was adopted as the Nineteenth Amendment in August of 1920.

The legacy of Carrie Chapman Catt is alive and well today—in Wisconsin and across the globe—as women take a more and more active role in the political process. I am proud to serve alongside Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN, the first woman elected to Congress from Wisconsin. The 106th Congress includes a record 67 women—nine in the Senate and 58 in the House of Representatives.

As Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on African Affairs of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I have monitored how the women of Africa participate in the political process and make vital contributions to the economies of their countries. During the recent assembly and presidential elections in Nigeria, women served as poll workers and were candidates for the assembly. I regret that voter turnout among women was noticeably low, but was pleased to see some progress being made.

One way in which the Senate can honor women worldwide is to fulfill our long-overdue constitutional obligation to offer our advice and consent to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) at the earliest possible date. This year marks the 20th anniversary of CEDAW, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 1979. CEDAW was signed by the United States on July 17, 1980, and was transmitted to the Senate for its advice and consent by President Carter on November 12, 1980. Almost two decades later, the treaty is still pending before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. As of December 1998, 163 countries have ratified CEDAW. Only three signatories have yet to ratify the con-

vention: Afghanistan, San Tome and Principe, and the United States. It is high time for us to ratify this important document.

In closing, Mr. President, as the father of two daughters, I am hopeful that the world we leave to our children and grandchildren will be devoid of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence. As we prepare to enter the 21st century, we must redouble our efforts to protect and promote the rights of women and girls at home and abroad. ●

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA AND COMMEMORATING THE BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE

● Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for Senate Resolution 57 condemning the Cuban government's human rights record and calling on the President to make all efforts necessary to pass a resolution condemning Cuba at the UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

Many people have written and spoken about the latest crackdown in Cuba as if they were discovering for the first time the nature of Fidel Castro's brutal regime. Fidel Castro is a tyrant. He rules with absolute authority and uses fear and greed to maintain his power. For forty years he has demonstrated to us his nature. He has not changed. We must continue our pressure on him—voice our opposition to him. And we must continue our support for the struggling Cuban people. The choice should not be difficult to make: we must stand with those suffering under one of the few totalitarian Marxists remaining in power in the world, and we must stand up to condemn the actions of the brutal regime.

One clear reminder of who we are dealing with is the murder in the Florida straits of four Americans in 1996. They were flying a humanitarian mission when the Cuban Air Force shot their unarmed aircraft out of the sky. For three years, Mr. President, we have all known about this murder, and for three years, I have been struggling to understand why this administration refuses to take appropriate action.

The Boston Globe published a very powerful essay by columnist Jeff Jacoby to mark this anniversary. I'd like to read from it. Jeff captures the starkness of the mismatched foreign policy in place, comparing the act, which Fidel Castro committed with this administration's unprincipled response. His piece is titled "Murder Over the High Seas."

They were trying to save lives. Three years ago this week, they paid with their own.

When Armando Alejandro, Carlos Costa, Mario de la Pena, and Pablo Morales took to the skies that day in their little blue-and-white Cessna 337s, their plan was to search the Florida Straits for stranded boat people, refugees fleeing Cuba in makeshift rafts or flimsy inner tubes. There was little enough the fliers could do for any rafters they came

upon—toss down food and bottled water, radio their location to the Coast Guard—but that little could make the difference between life and death.

Of the four, Carlos was the most experienced. He had flown more than 500 such missions for Brothers to the Rescue, and had saved scores of boat people from drowning or dying of thirst. Armando, by contrast, was going up for only the second time. What all four had in common was a love of American liberty—and a profound concern for any Cubans so desperate to escape Fidel Castro's Caribbean hellspot that they would risk their lives to get away.

On Feb. 24, 1996, Carlos, Armando, Mario, and Pablo took off from an airfield in Opa-Locka, Fla. They intended to fly just below the 24th parallel, well north of Cuba's territorial waters. Both planes contacted Havana air-traffic controllers as they approached the 24th parallel, identifying themselves and giving their position. Whereupon the Cuban Air Force, without warning and without reason, scrambled two MiG fighters and blew the rescue planes out of the sky.

The Cessnas and their passengers were disintegrated by the Cuban MiGs. Only a large oil slick marked the spot where they went down. No bodies were ever recovered.

Three of the men—Carlos, Mario, and Armando—were US citizens. Pablo, a former refugee who had himself been saved by Brothers to the Rescue in 1992, was a permanent US resident. What happens when four American civilians are butchered in cold blood, over international waters, by the air force of a Third World dictatorship? What terrible retribution does the United States exact for a quadruple murder so barbaric and unprovoked?

The astonishing answer is: Nothing happens. There is no retribution. Indeed, the Clinton administration takes the position not only that Castro must not be punished for the four lives he destroyed, but that the victims' families must not be permitted to recover anything for their loss.

In the wake of the shootdown, under intense political pressure, President Clinton agreed to sign the Helms-Burton Act. Title III of the statute allows American citizens whose property was confiscated by the Cuban government—Castro nationalized billions of dollars' worth of American assets in the 1960s—to file suit against any foreign company using that property. Title IV bars any officer of a foreign company trafficking in stolen American property from receiving a visa to enter the United States.

Properly enforced, Helms-Burton would weaken Castro's grip on power by reducing the flow of foreign capital into his treasury. But Helms-Burton is not properly enforced. Title III has never taken effect because Clinton keeps suspending it (as the law permits him to do if he finds that a suspension "will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba"). Title IV has never taken effect because the State Department refuses to carry it out.

The hobbling of Helms-Burton is a stinging insult to the memory of the four murdered men. But the Clinton administration has delivered a cut unkindlier still.

In 1996, the families of Armando, Carlos, and Mario sued the Cuban government for damages caused by the wrongful deaths of their loved ones, a legal remedy specifically authorized by the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act. In December 1997, Senior US District Judge James Lawrence King awarded the plaintiffs \$187.7 million in damages. "Cuba's extrajudicial killings . . . were inhumane acts against innocent civilians," he wrote in his final judgment. "The fact that the killings were premeditated and intentional, outside Cuban territory, wholly

disproportionate, and executed without warning . . . makes this act unique in its brazen flouting of international norms."

But when the families attempted to collect their judgment out of frozen Cuban assets, the Clinton administration blocked them. The president famous for feeling people's pain is less concerned with the pain of grief-stricken Americans, it would appear, than with the pain Castro might feel if the judgment were paid.

The administration's position is staggering. Castro is an open and declared enemy of the United States and has been for 40 years. In sending combat aircraft to slaughter four unarmed Americans engaged in humanitarian rescue work, he committed an act of war. The response of the United States should have been to remove Castro from power and put him in the dock for crimes against humanity. (for the murder of just "one" American in 1989, the United States invaded Panama and seized Manuel Noriega.)

Clinton's appeasement of Castro is a cruel betrayal. The families of the dead Brothers of the Rescue deserve better from their government. And the tormented people of Cuba, bleeding under Castro's whip, deserve better from their free and powerful neighbor to the north.

Mr. President, it is clear to me that the United States has failed to stand up for the protection of the individual when damaged by international terrorism. I spoke last week about this administration's failure to adequately address terrorism in the Middle East. The pattern remains consistent—appease the enemies of freedom, the advocates of terror, in the hopes that they will not strike again. This approach simply fails. I don't know how to say it any more directly than that. This approach fails.

The Congress passed a law last year supporting the awarding of damages from the frozen assets of terrorist states being held by the Treasury Department to American victims. This law can help the families of the Brothers to the Rescue pilots. The President, however, waived this relief asserting our national security interests would be better served by protecting Castro's money. How can this be? Nobody has provided to me an adequate explanation of what interest would cause us to protect terrorism and shun American victims.

Mr. President, this resolution calls on the United States to stand up for freedom, justice, and human dignity. It states that the President of the United States should lead on this issue by having the United States introduce and make all efforts necessary to pass a resolution in Geneva condemning the human rights record of the Cuban government. Mr. President, if there is one time and one place where we are obliged to condemn human rights practices, it is at the UN Commission meeting in Geneva each year. That is what this resolution calls for, and I call for its immediate passage.●

JOE DIMAGGIO

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. "Joe, Joe DiMaggio, we want you on our side!" Well, he is on the other side now, but stays with us in our memories.

Mine are, well, special to me. It would be in 1938 or 1939 in Manhattan. The Depression lingered. Life was, well, life. But there was even so somebody who made a great difference and that was Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees. I admired him as no other man. Read of him each day, or so it seemed, in the Daily News. And yet I had never seen him play. One summer day my mother somehow found the needful sixty cents. Fifty cents for a ticket at the Stadium, a nickel for the subway up and back. Off I went in high expectation. But Gehrig, disease I must assume was now in progress, got no hit. A young rookie I had scarce noticed hit a home run. Joe DiMaggio. It began to drizzle, but they kept the game going just long enough so there would be no raincheck. I went home lifeless and lay on my bed desolate.

Clearly I was in pain, if that is the word. The next day my mother somehow came up with yet another sixty cents. Up I went. And the exact same sequence occurred.

I went home. But not lifeless. To the contrary, animated.

For I hated Joe DiMaggio. For life.

I knew this to be a sin, but it did not matter. Gehrig retired, then died. My animus only grew more animated.

Thirty years and some went by. I was now the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations. One evening I was having dinner at an Italian restaurant in midtown. As our company was about finished, who walked in but DiMaggio himself, accompanied by a friend. They took a table against the wall opposite. I watched. He looked over, smiled and gave a sort of wave. Emboldened, as we were leaving, I went over to shake hands. He rose wonderfully to the occasion.

I went out on 54th Street as I recall. And of a sudden was struck as if by some Old Testament lightning. "My God," I thought, "he has forgiven me!" He must have known about me all those years, but he returned hate with love. My soul had been in danger and he had rescued me.

Still years later, just a little while ago the Yankees won another pennant. Mayor Guiliani arranged a parade from the Battery to City Hall. Joe was in the lead car; I was to follow. As we waited to get started, I went up to him, introduced myself and told of having watched him at the Stadium these many years ago. "But I have to tell you," I added, "Lou Gehrig was my hero."

"He was my hero, too," said Joe.●

RECOGNIZING BERNICE SHIVLEY,
FIRST BOOK COORDINATOR,
PEND OREILLE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Bernice Shivley in my home state of Washington for her efforts to promote literacy in her community. As I have traveled around

Washington state, I hear again and again about the great strides "First Book" has made in improving children's literacy and in particular, I hear remarkable praise for Bernice Shivley, the First Book Coordinator in Pend Oreille County.

First Book is a national non-profit organization with a single mission: To give disadvantaged children the opportunity to read and own their first new book. At the national level, First Book has developed a sustained network of strategic partnerships with groups and companies like the American Library Association and Barnes & Noble, Inc. The key to First Book's success, however, is the inspiration and commitment of local communities.

In each locality, First Book establishes an advisory board comprised of volunteer leaders including librarians, teachers, retailers, and public officials. These boards work with existing local literacy programs to increase the availability of tutors, book grants, and to promote special events—all in the name of improved literacy. Most importantly, perhaps, First Book reaches out to the children who are most difficult to reach: the children in soap kitchens and in homeless shelters, in church basements and in youth centers.

In Pend Oreille County, which is in the northeast corner of Washington state, Bernice Shivley has made the success of First Book her passion. The regional coordinator for First Book tells me that "Bernice is a model for what First Book is all about." She has graciously volunteered her time and has spent countless hours creating an advisory board, securing donations from area business, and identifying local literacy programs to support. For these reasons, I am awarding Bernice the second of my weekly "Innovation in Education Awards."

It is the actions of people like Bernice around the country that should remind us here in Washington, DC that those closest to our children are best equipped to make important decisions regarding their education. I commend Bernice for her outstanding work on behalf of the children and citizens of Pend Oreille County.●

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize March 8th as the annual celebration of International Women's Day in the State of New Jersey.

International Women's Day began in 1911, when over one million people from around the world gathered to honor women in the workplace and enhance women's rights universally. The many citizens from Austria, Denmark, Germany, Sweden and the United States attended rallies in their home countries and called for women to have the right to vote, the right to hold public office, for vocational training and to end discrimination against women in the workplace.