

Mr. Speaker, I support the amendment to reduce the NEA's funding offered by Mr. STEARNS of Florida. Mr. STEARNS amendment would shift a small amount—2 percent—of the NEA funds to wildland fire management. The NEA is funded at \$98 million. Private funds for the arts are in excess of \$ 10 billion. This is \$10,098,000,000 for the arts. Mr. Speaker, just outside of my hometown of Ft. Collins, Colorado a massive wildfire is raging, destroying homes and wildlife habitat. This is only one of thousands of wildfires not just in the West, but the entire United States. Is 2 percent too much to ask for a serious threat which is affecting thousands of people? Is 2 percent too much to ask for when you contrast my plea with the highly offensive and political "productions" the taxpayers are involuntarily funding through the NEA? Clearly, such a small transfer is not too much to ask, and is the right and responsible action for Congress to take. How can anyone argue seriously for more funding for productions like "The Pope and The Witch" against fire management funds?

The Stearns amendment is a concerted effort to regain those federal dollars that were so egregiously misused. The amendment sends a clear message to the NEA: Congress will not support the use of taxpayer dollars to promote anti-Catholic hate speech or any other anti-religious bigotry. I am outraged, not only as a Catholic, but as a citizen of this country founded on principles of religious tolerance. The government of the United States has no place in financially endorsing the efforts of a communist playwright in his political mission of defaming a sacred institution which is embraced by millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I am an ardent defender of free speech, and believe firmly in the right of free Americans to speak against any virtue, yet we must not confuse the right to "free speech" with the perversion of "subsidized speech." Mr. Fo's right to say what he will clearly does not entail a right to public funding. In fact the greater offense is to the conscientious Americans forced to subsidize Fo's bigotry at the hands of the NEA's despotic administrators.

It is time the United States government remove itself from the dangerous practice of supporting anti-religious campaigns of any kind whether in the name of art. The amendment is a necessary step in doing just that.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 21, 2000, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 298.

Had I been present, the following is how I would have voted: Rollcall No. 298 (H. Res. 528) "yea". "Providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 90; Withdrawing the Approval of the Congress from the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization."

HINCHEY AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York Mr. HINCHEY.

Congressman HINCHEY has been a tireless crusader for the rights of our nation's veterans, and this amendment highlights this fact by forcing the VA to abandon its flawed funding formula for providing for the health care needs of America's veterans.

Under the current system, VERA bases its resource allocation on sending more dollars to areas where there are more veterans—not where the needs are the greatest.

While that may sound rationale—the result has been horrendous for areas of the country like Queens and the Bronx, where I represent.

The facts bare out that increasingly more VA dollars are going to the South and Southwest portions of the country where more veterans live—veterans who are often younger and healthier. The result is less resources in the areas of the country, like New York City, where the veterans are older, sicker, and in more desperate need of care.

I held a recent veterans Town Hall meeting in my district at the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association office in Jackson Heights.

There, a constituent informed me of a VA hospital he saw while on vacation in Florida.

It was a state of the art facility, with plenty of doctors and nurses on call—and no patients.

They informed me that the place was virtually empty—but they have the best money can buy.

In New York City, meanwhile, we continue to see lay-offs of the professional doctors and nurses at our VA hospitals and clinics; long lines for care; and a far too high ratio of nurses per patient.

I am not saying that we should deprive our veterans in the South and Southwest part of the country their fair share of resources—all we ask for this amendment is that the VA provide equal treatment and resources to all veterans regardless of where they reside.

It is a shame that the VERA system has pitted veterans in one region of the country versus veterans in other regions.

Therefore, I am supportive of the Hinckley amendment to prohibit any federal funds from implementing or administering the VERA system.

I ask all of my colleagues from throughout the nation to support this amendment that has caused so much pain for so many veterans.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE ROBERT TRENT JONES, SR.

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of one of the legendary figures in the world of golf, Robert Trent Jones, Sr. When Trent Jones died last week at the age of 93,

he was regarded as the greatest golf course designer in history and the patriarch of the first family of golf.

His accomplishments in golf course construction and design are stunning in both their scope and beauty. He created more than 350 courses and remodeled more than 150 others. In a profession where designing a half-dozen well-regarded courses is an achievement, 79 of Trent Jones's courses were used for national championships including the U.S. Open. Every continent in the world hosts one of his courses, and he was fond of saying, "The sun never sets on a Robert Trent Jones golf course."

The U.S. Open was played so many times on a Robert Trent Jones, Sr. course he became inextricably linked to this premier golf event. He was known as the "Open Doctor" because he frequently was called to change a course in anticipation of it hosting the world's top golfers at the Open.

And while the "Open Doctor" was a name he was pleased to be called in public, he was just as proud of the names he was called by golfers, privately muttered under their breath as they finished a round on one of his courses. Trent Jones believed a golfer needed to attack a course—and the course should attack back. His courses were beautiful to look at, but a challenge to play. He believed par meant par. To break par one should be an extraordinary golfer.

Golf is a game where stories and legends have a particular importance. Trent Jones enjoyed the stories professional golfers told about his courses and the challenge they presented. The great Ben Hogan called one of his courses a "monster" and at a reception for Hogan's U.S. Open victory Mr. Hogan told Mr. Jones's wife, lone, "If your husband had to play this course for a living, he'd be on the breadline." Twenty years later at another U.S. Open a professional golfer said the course was too difficult. When the pro was asked what the course was missing he said, "Eighty acres of corn and a few cows."

In a now legendary story, at the 1954 U.S. Open, golfers were complaining that a hole Trent Jones had redesigned for the tournament was too difficult. Jones, himself an outstanding golfer, played the hole prior to the tournament with the club pro, the tournament chair and another golfer. Other Open golfers gathered around the tee in eager anticipation of tee shots going into a huge water hazard Jones had placed in front of the green.

After the first three golfers teed off and made it to the green, Mr. Jones swung a 4-iron and promptly made a hole in one. Turning to the golfers around him he said, "Gentlemen, the hole is fair. Eminently fair."

Mr. Speaker, in addition to all of these achievements, Robert Trent Jones, Sr. was the head of perhaps golfing's greatest dynasty. His two sons, Robert Trent Jones, Jr. and Rees Jones are also world famous golf course designers and are icons in the golfing world.

Robert Trent Jones, Sr. died last week on the eve of the 100th U.S. Open at Pebble Beach in California. The tournament, won by Tiger Woods, was one of the most memorable played and signaled the arrival of an outstanding champion.

One legend departing and one just arriving. Trent Jones would have understood the beauty and harmony of that. He knew that was

what the game of golf was about. He knew that was what life was about. And if you ever walk one of his courses, you will see that his work reflected those truths.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Robert Trent Jones, Sr. and express our condolences to his two sons, Bobby and Rees and their families. Robert Trent Jones, Jr. and his wife, Clairboome, are distinguished members of my Congressional District and I consider them to be a part of my family as well.

THE JING LYMAN CIVIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, members of the American Leadership Forum have come to Washington, DC this week to hold what they call a "gathering." ALF's senior fellows have come from around the nation to meet and reflect on the idea of civic engagement, develop projects to increase civic involvement and to announce the recipient of a prestigious award being given for the first time.

The award is called the Jing Lyman Civic Leadership Award. It is named after Jing Lyman, one of the most outstanding individuals I've ever had the privilege to know. She is a national treasure and one of America's great women.

Her contributions to our nation and its communities are numerous. Of particular note are her activities that reflect the values of the American Leadership Forum for which Jing has served as National Board Chair. In several organizations, Jing's role was creator and leader. She was the founder and board president of the National Organization for Women's Enterprise, Inc. She was a founding member and chair of the Women and Foundations organization. She was a founding member and executive committee member of the Stanford Midpeninsula Urban Coalition, and she was a founding member and the first director of the Midpeninsula Citizens for Fair Housing.

Mr. Speaker, the recipient of the American Leadership Forum's first Jing Lyman Award will be selected based on his or her substantial accomplishments in innovative community building and for building bridges beyond his or her own sphere or influence. Throughout her life, Jing Lyman has developed groundbreaking organizations in her community to connect women to the opportunities our society offers, and she has continually expanded her sphere of influence beyond Stanford University in order to build housing for the poor and disadvantaged throughout the community.

While working on these civic activities Jing Lyman has been an active member of the Stanford University community. She has been a steady and devoted partner to Stanford University's President Emeritus Richard Lyman. Together they have been an inspiration to thousands of Stanford students. They are my close friends and my frequent advisors.

Another great American woman, Eleanor Roosevelt, wrote, "Friends, you and me. You brought another friend. And then there were three. We started our group, our circle of

friends. And like that circle, there is no beginning or end." Jing Lyman's achievements have reflected this simple dynamic. She has not only accomplished a great deal, but she has gained innumerable friends and admirers along the way. The projects and organizations she has founded and advanced, will live long beyond ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to Jing Lyman on the occasion of this inaugural award, and to convey the gratitude of the American people and their Congress for the extraordinary and lasting contributions she has made to our Nation.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT CELEBRATES ITS 50TH YEAR!

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and the American people the celebration of an event, and the history of an activity, that has gone on now for fifty years. Today and tomorrow, June 22nd and 23rd, 2000, the American Red Cross Blood Services, Connecticut Region, is marking its fiftieth anniversary of blood collections in Connecticut.

In 1950, at the Danbury Teacher's College, now the campus of Western Connecticut State University, in my congressional district, the first efforts to collect blood in Connecticut began. During that year, about 10,000 pints of whole blood were taken using sterile glass bottles. In 1999, nearly 160,000 pints were collected using sterile plastic collection kits.

We have come a long way in advancing this very necessary program. Not only is the Red Cross to be congratulated for its efforts, but the people of Connecticut are to be commended for supporting the program and making the collections possible. The American Red Cross Blood Services continues to serve Connecticut's hospital Banking and Financial patients as the only provider of blood products to our state's 33 hospitals, as well as providing this and other forms of assistance in their disaster relief efforts.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Connecticut's 5th District and the state as a whole, I congratulate the American Red Cross, and in particular, the American Red Cross Blood Services, Connecticut Region, for their commitment to our area and for the wonderful service they provide to all of us on a daily basis.

A RUSH TO DEATH IS NEVER NECESSARY

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Gary Graham (Shaka Sankofa) was exterminated by the State of Texas yesterday, June 22, 2000. He was killed with a lethal injection despite that

fact that there are many reasons to doubt the guilty verdict which placed him on death row. Gary Graham clearly deserved more time alive to investigate fully all of the irregularities surrounding his trial. Since death is irreversible and human life is sacred, time should not have been rushed. The American people and their powerful State Governors should fully note recent developments which indicate that a large percentage of the people on death row are probably not guilty. Gross inadequacies in the criminal justice system are generating deadly mistakes. In my opinion there are too many people who approve of the death penalty as a just punishment for certain crimes. At the same time almost no American citizens approve of the execution of innocent victims. Gary Graham was the 222nd person executed in Texas since the state resumed capital punishment in 1982. He was the 135th person executed during the present Governor's tenure. Mr. Speaker, the Rap poem below summarizes this disgracefully sad situation.

CREDO OF THE EXECUTIONER

When in doubt
Just let them die
Ambitious Governors
Never cry
Witness eyes
Never lie
Bargain basement lawyers
Refuse to pry
Treat the truth
Like a spy
Voters yell for blood
Compassion is swept away
In a primitive flood
Savages satisfied
Delighted that so many
In great Texas
Have already died
When in doubt
Kill them first
Then publicly pray
Moral indignation
Soon fades away.

RECOGNIZING THE CHINATOWN HEALTH CLINIC

HON. NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great honor to recognize the achievements of an outstanding organization that provides excellent services in New York's 12th Congressional District. The Chinatown Health Clinic (CHC), located in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, was selected as one of the winners of this year's "Models That Work" competition sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, for their Primary Care Mental Health Bridge Program (PCMHP).

The Chinatown Health Clinic is a non-profit, community based health care facility established in 1971 to provide health care services to the New York City Asian community. CHC provide access to quality and culturally sensitive health care and health education services. It advocates on behalf of the Asian community who, due to cultural, language, education or financial barriers, may not have access to basic health care services or health education activities.

The Bridge Program was created by the Chinatown Health Clinic in response to the