

Each region, country, city and village that suffers from hunger is unique. It is this simple truth that guides the work of the Hunger Project. Instead of relying upon solutions that have been successful in other places, each situation is approached as a new initiative and a plan is designed specifically with the particular area in mind. Through the mobilization of both the grassroots and the local leadership, effective, specialized plans are devised and implemented. The Hunger Project stresses self-reliance and enablement; when people are given the right tools, they can create societal structures that will not only end their hunger, but also prevent it from ever happening again.

The key component of the Hunger Project's strategy is the empowerment of women. The unique position of women in society allow them to be the most effective agents of change in the battle against hunger. The responsibilities of nutrition, family planning, education and others typically fall to women, yet women are traditionally shut out of their society's development and decision making process in developing nations. The Hunger Project mobilizes women to fight for the ability to take control over their own lives and the future of their families.

This Saturday, the twenty-third of September, the Hunger Project is launching a new crusade against hunger targeted at South Asia. According to the Hunger Project's President, Joan Holmes, studies show South Asia suffers from the highest levels of childhood malnutrition in the world as a direct result of the oppression of women in this area. However, new laws in both Bangladesh and India allow women to serve in their local governments. The Hunger Project is utilizing this new opportunity to help women in those nations organize, mobilize and exercise these new rights to make hunger in their communities a memory.

Mr. Speaker, the mission and work of the Hunger Project are both admirable and vital. The dedication and commitment of individuals such as Karen Herman and other supporters of the Hunger Project are making the end of global hunger a goal within our reach. I salute their noble undertaking and look forward to working in partnership to assure that one day their vision of a world without hunger is realized.

GOVERNORS ISLAND PRESERVATION ACT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce H.R. 5242, the Governors Island Preservation Act. This legislation is a historic opportunity to preserve and protect the third and final jewel of New York Harbor, Governors Island.

Governors Island was owned and operated as a military facility by the British and American armed forces for more than 200 years. This national treasure has played an important role in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the American Civil War, World Wars I

and II, as well as hosting the site of the 1988 Reagan-Gorbachev Summit, during the cold war.

In 1800, in order to provide for the national defense, the people of the State of New York ceded control of Governors Island to the Federal Government, then, in 1958, transferred the island outright for only \$1.

The U.S. Coast Guard has now vacated Governors Island because of the high costs involved in maintaining its base there. The now unused island is being maintained by General Services Administration with an annual appropriation and, by law, must be disposed of by 2002.

New York State and New York City need our help to preserve and protect one of our Nation's most important and beautiful landmarks, and turn Governors Island into a destination with significant open and educational spaces for public use.

The State and the city of New York have worked out a detailed plan that will protect the historic nature of the island while transforming the southern tip into a 50-acre public park, complete with recreation facilities and stunning views of the Statue of Liberty and the harbor. New interactive educational facilities, including an aquarium and a historical village, are planned, as is moderately-priced family lodging and a health center. The awe-inspiring opportunity we have to establish this new public space to complement both liberty and Ellis Island is unprecedented and mandates decisive action.

Accordingly, the Governors Island Preservation Act will open the doors to this opportunity by transferring the island back to the citizens of New York for the same nominal price the Federal Government paid.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to call upon all my colleagues in asking their support for the Governors Island Preservation Act. Governor Pataki, Senators MOYNIHAN and SCHUMER, Mayor Giuliani, Speaker Silver, Representatives, NADLER, FOSSELLA, MALONEY, and myself, have all worked extremely hard to address every concern and develop bipartisan legislation which will open Governors Island up not only to the people of New York, but to our entire Nation.

HONORING GEORGE ALTAMURA AND HANDS ACROSS THE VALLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary humanitarian from my congressional district whose tireless efforts will ensure that hundreds of individuals and families in our Napa Valley will not go to bed hungry tonight.

On Saturday, September 23rd, George Altamura will chair the 7th Annual Hands Across the Valley benefit to raise funds for local food programs. Mr. Altamura has made countless contributions toward improving our community including his work with Catholic Charities providing services to at-risk youths, victims of Alzheimer's and the homeless.

None, however, are as significant and far-reaching as his efforts regarding this monumental event.

As a founding father and pioneer, George Altamura has been a driving force behind this community benefit's success. He joined Eleanor and Francis Ford Coppola as well as Linda and Johnny Miller in opening up his wonderful restaurant Bistro Don Giovanni to host the first Hands Across the Valley event in 1994. Five hundred guests participated in that inaugural evening to reduce hunger in our county.

Thanks in large part to George's leadership and determination, this event has grown every year. Because of him and his many friends, Hands Across the Valley has donated over \$600,000 to feed Napa's hungry families. This year's event is expected to be bigger and more successful than ever, with nearly 2,000 guests and volunteers working together to ensure none of our neighbors are without food.

Mr. Speaker, George Altamura has put his heart and soul into this event because he understands its importance. He knows that not everyone has shared in our nation's recent prosperity. He also understands that despite the media perception of Napa as a community for the wealthy, more than 7 percent of the county's population is below the poverty level and more than 21 percent are near the poverty level. A recent survey by the University of California and the Redwood Empire Food Bank found that 43 percent of individuals seeking food assistance each month at Napa food pantries and soup kitchens are children. The average household seeking assistance has four people. More than 30 percent do not have a stove or oven and 28 percent do not have a refrigerator.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fitting and appropriate to honor the service George Altamura has given to our community for so many years. I commend all of those involved in this annual benefit and wish them great success on Saturday. We are all better off because of their efforts.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL CREWS OF WINSTON, GEORGIA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize USA Shooting team member, Daniel Crews of Winston, Georgia. Daniel is the only member of the USA Shooting team who hails from Georgia, and we are honored he is from our Seventh District.

Daniel recently won his fourth national title in precision air rifle shooting at the national competition in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and placed 14th overall. When not shooting as a member of the USA Shooting team, Daniel shoots for the Douglas County Hawkeyes.

Daniel's dedication to excellence and perseverance makes him a role model for his peers, and I am pleased to honor his impressive accomplishments as a world-class air rifle competitor.

THE LEON S. BENSON HOLOCAUST
STUDIES COLLECTION AT THE
SAN MATEO PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Leon S. Benson family and others who have made the contributions to the Leon S. Benson Holocaust Studies Collection of the San Mateo Public Library. The official dedication ceremony for this excellent collection will take place this Sunday, September 24, 2000, and I wanted to take a moment to share with my colleagues some information about this wonderful educational endeavor.

Leon S. Benson, like myself, was a survivor of the Holocaust. After he passed away in January of last year, his family embarked on a fund-raising drive to create a permanent Holocaust studies collection at the San Mateo Public Library that would honor his legacy. I am delighted that our library will have this collection of books and multimedia reference materials.

Mr. Speaker, it is extremely important to have this type of research facility at the San Mateo Public Library. First and most importantly, it provides a resource for students of San Mateo and neighboring communities. As many of you are aware, California public schools require High School students to study the Holocaust, as well as the policies of Nazi Germany that led up to it. The Benson collection provides an excellent local resource which our students will put to good use when they do research for their assignments.

Second, the collection will be a valuable asset to all who visit the San Mateo Public Library. I would hope that the Leon S. Benson Holocaust collection is utilized, not just by students, but by others who need to know of this dark period in the history of mankind. Only through education and awareness can we confront anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia and bigotry and work to eradicate them.

One of the major problems facing Holocaust historians in this country, as well as the rest of the world, is the fact that people who lived through the atrocities, people like Mr. Benson, are passing on, and their first-hand knowledge of the Shoah passes with them. Preserving the history of that dark era of humanity is a critical necessity. Mr. Speaker, I can think of no better way to honor the legacy of a survivor of the Holocaust than in the manner which Leon Benson's family have chosen to honor him.

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, because September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month this is an excellent time to reflect on the problems faced by working parents struggling to meet the needs of a child stricken with cancer. I am sure that all would agree that there are few Americans more in need of tax relief than

families forced to devote every available resource to caring for a child with a terminal illness such as cancer. This is why I have introduced the Family Health Tax Cut Act (H.R. 4799). This legislation provides a \$3,000 tax credit to parents caring for a child with cancer, another terminal disease, or any other serious health condition requiring long-term care. H.R. 4799 also helps all working parents provide routine health care for their children by providing them with a \$500 per child tax credit.

The bill will be particularly helpful to those parents whose employers cannot afford to provide their employees' health insurance. Oftentimes those employees work in low-income jobs and thus must struggle to provide adequate health care for their children. This burden is magnified when the child needs special care to cope with cancer or a physical disability. Yet, thanks to Congress' refusal to grant individuals the same tax breaks for health-care expenses it grants businesses, these hard-working parents receive little or no tax relief to help them cope with the tremendous expenses of caring for a child requiring for a child requiring long-term or specialized care.

According to research on the effects of this bill done by my staff and legislative counsel, the benefit of these tax credits would begin to be felt by joint filers with incomes slightly above 18,000 dollars a year or single income filers with incomes slightly above 15,000 dollars per year. Clearly this bill will be of the most benefit to working families balancing the demands of taxation with the needs of their children.

Under the Family Health Tax Cut Act, a struggling single mother with an asthmatic child would at last be able to provide for her child's needs; while a working-class family will have less worry about how they will pay the bills if one of their children requires lengthy hospitalization or some other form of specialized care.

Mr. Speaker, it is tough enough for working families to cope with a child with a serious illness without having to sacrifice resources that should be used for the care of that child to the federal government. It is hard to think of a more compassionate action this Congress can take than to reduce taxes on America's parents in order to allow them to help provide quality health care to their children. I therefore call on my colleagues to join me in helping working parents provide health care to their children by cosponsoring H.R. 4799, the Family Health Tax Cut Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on September 14, 2000, I was detained with business in my District, and therefore unable to cast my votes on rollcall numbers 472 through 476. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote 475, and "no" on rollcall votes 472, 473, 474 and 476.

Mr. Speaker, I am unable to support the Conference Report for H.R. 4516, the Legislative Branch Appropriations for F.Y. 2001, because it bypassed the normal appropriations

process. Moreover, this legislation raises Members' salaries while falling half a million dollars short of the Administration's budget to fund more important priorities of the American people. However, there are several provisions in the report which I strongly support. I applaud the conferees for fully funding the Administration's law enforcement initiatives, including a proposal to add 600 AFT agents to more fully enforce existing gun laws. In addition, I strongly support the provision which would repeal the 3 percent telephone excise tax that was levied as a luxury tax over 100 years ago to fund the Spanish American War. Finally, the \$258 million for the U.S. Customs Department's automation program in the legislation is critical, and I am pleased the conferees recognized its importance. I look forward to enacting these measures in a bill that better funds other needed priorities, which is arrived at through a more thorough discussion between Members of Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEREDITARY
DISORDERS NEWBORN
SCREENING ACT OF 2000

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, there is no uniform federal standard for screening newborn infants for hereditary disorders. Currently, states decide for themselves on an individual basis the types of disorders for which newborns are screened. As a result of this piecemeal approach, a haphazard system prevails under which detectable disorders—disorders that can profoundly affect the health of an infant for life—may or may not be found early enough to make a difference depending on the state in which a newborn lives. If a newborn lives in a state that happens not to screen for a particular disorder, the failure to screen could result in a tragic outcome that might have been different had the infant simply lived in another state. This system essentially subjects newborns with detectable disorders to a game of "Russian Roulette".

Last month, the Newborn Screening Task Force, which was convened by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) at the request of the Health Resources and Services Administration, published a report on newborn screening in the AAP journal Pediatrics. Among the report's recommendations is a call to "adhere to nationally recognized recommendations and standards for the validity of tests." "State newborn screening systems" the Task Force observed "have a responsibility to review the appropriateness of existing tests [and] tests for additional conditions." In other words, the Task Force is calling on the states to eliminate the disparities that exist in newborn screening by expanding their programs to test for a common set of core disorders.

Achieving this goal is no small task for the states. The technology for screening, which continues to advance at a rapid pace, is extremely expensive, and there needs to be a more coordinated system for developing and implementing an expanded newborn screening program. The federal government can and should assist in creating this system.

Today I am introducing legislation that will work towards eliminating the disparities that