

extend a warm welcome to all of the reunion participants on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House passed H.R. 1248, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1999 by a vote of 415–3. H.R. 1248 will reauthorize the act for 5 years and expand preventive measures against violence against women.

This measure will maintain and expand battered women's shelter programs, rape prevention programs as well as provide assistance to the growing number of victims.

While I was a state senator in California, I introduced similar legislation because I believed then, as I do now, that this issue is extremely important to the lives of women and their children. It has been ignored for too long.

In the past, domestic violence was not considered a crime. Today, however, police officers are getting trained to understand these crimes as well improve their ability to enforce the law.

VAWA has provided critical services to thousands of battered women. Since VAWA passed, the Department of Justice and Health and Human Services have awarded over \$1.6 billion in grants nationwide to support the work of prosecutors, law enforcement officials, the courts, victims' advocates, health care and social service professionals, and intervention and prevention programs.

In addition, VAWA established a domestic violence hotline, which has received over half a million calls.

Unfortunately, domestic violence still devastates the lives of many women and children. Nearly 900,000 women experience violence at the hands of an intimate partner every year. Close to one-third of women murdered each year are killed by their husbands or significant other; and domestic violence accounts for over 20% of all violent crimes against women.

Children should not have to watch their mothers get beaten. Unfortunately, some of these children grow up to continue the cycle of abuse. And, they end up in prison.

Again, I am pleased with the passage of the VAWA because it has helped to save numerous lives of women and their children. This law has provided battered women and their children, a safe haven, and the support necessary for their physical and emotional security.

VAWA has given a second chance to these women as well as saved many of their lives.

Violence against women should not be tolerated. This legislation provides greater protections to all the women who have been victimized and abused.

AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House passed H.R. 5272, the inappropriately named "Peace Through Negotiations Act of 2000." This legislation is unnecessary, ill timed and not in the best interest of our country or the Middle East peace process. I believe, like the Administration, that the Palestinian Authority should not unilaterally declare statehood outside the framework of a negotiated peace settlement. Unilateral actions by either the Palestinians or Israelis can erode, disrupt, and possibly derail a peace process that we all support and want to see to conclusion in order for future generations to be able to live a normal and stable life.

For starters, this legislation was wholly unnecessary given President Arafat's recent decision not to unilaterally declare a state because it would jeopardize the peace process. Instead of acknowledging the fact that the Palestinian Authority acted with considerable restraint in making this decision, which I will note was not popular among the Palestinian people, we have unfairly and unnecessarily condemned the Palestinian Authority at the very time discussion between Arafat and Prime Minister Barak were underway.

I ask my colleagues, have you read this legislation known as the "Peace Through Negotiations Act?" I have and that is why I am concerned, because while the message sent by H.R. 5272 was bad, its substance is worse.

In particular, I am concerned that Section 4a(1) of the legislation supercedes a portion of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act and reverses a presidential determination on the national security of the United States. Reversing a standing law that has successfully guided our policy in the Middle East peace process should only be done after serious deliberations. Reversing a Presidential action that he determines is in the national security of the United States is even more serious. Both these actions are done by this legislation without a single hearing or public request for the President's views. Members of the International Relations Committee were given less than twenty-four hours notice of the mark-up of this legislation. The bill passed the Committee on Tuesday with barely half the Members present and voting. The full House passed it on Wednesday under restrictive procedures denying anyone the opportunity to amend it. This legislation is too important to be acted upon in such a rushed fashion. To have done so does not speak highly of the Republican leadership of the House of Representatives.

Moreover, the legislation is flawed because it does not address unilateral actions of all parties. In my view, the unwillingness of the legislation to address unilateral actions of both sides puts our Middle East peace process negotiators in a terrible position. We in Congress should not take actions that make the efforts of American peacemakers more difficult.

My hope is that our colleagues in the Senate do not follow the House's sad example and rush to action without sufficient consider-

ation of all of the ramifications of this legislation.

HONORING U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SOLOMON P. ORTIZ IN RECOGNITION OF THE PORT OF CORPUS CHRISTI'S DEDICATION OF ITS WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT AS THE CONGRESSMAN SOLOMON P. ORTIZ INTERNATIONAL CENTER

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, the Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus rise today to honor a respected colleague, an extraordinary Texan and effective public servant, Congressman SOLOMON P. ORTIZ. Since 1982, Congressman ORTIZ has served as a strong advocate for his constituents in the 27th Congressional District of Texas. During his 18 years of service, he has fought tirelessly to bring jobs and enhance the quality of life for residents of the Bay of Corpus Christi to the international border with Mexico.

In recognition of Congressman ORTIZ's lifetime of remarkable leadership and his work on behalf of the Port of Corpus Christi in the area of economic development and trade, Members from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus will join South Texans in Corpus Christi on September 29, 2000 to dedicate the Port of Corpus Christi's new international meeting facility and cruise terminal as "The Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center."

According to William Dodge III, Port Commission Chairman, Congressman ORTIZ "... is a strong advocate for the Port of Corpus Christi. He continues to be a leader on international trade issues that significantly impact the Port and the South Texas region. The Congressman recognizes the importance of the Port to the region and always works to ensure that the Port has the necessary resources to help fulfill the mission of diversification. Naming the waterfront development in his honor is a tribute to his contributions and support of the Port."

Working with Congressman ORTIZ in the U.S. House of Representatives, and knowing first-hand of his endless passion and dedication to public service, we, the Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus applaud and endorse the actions of the citizens of South Texas in naming the International Center in his honor. Congressman ORTIZ will continue his significant work to support and strengthen the Port of Corpus Christi, promote international commerce, and ensure that global trade benefits his constituents and the people of the United States.

We urge all our colleagues to join us today in recognition of his 18 remarkable years of service and offer our personal congratulations on the occasion of the dedication of the Port of Corpus Christi's waterfront development as "The Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center."

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOME HEALTH CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, this week I introduced the Home Health Care Protection Act of 2000, H.R. 5303, the companion bill to the Senate version introduced by Senator JEFFORDS. This bill will clarify the definition of "homebound" and improve the lives of millions of Americans who are confined to the home as well as their caregivers.

In my own family, my mother who was afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease was confined to the home for over eight years. My father was her caregiver. I was awed by his utter devotion and dedication to her care, day in and day out. Taking care of an Alzheimer's patient is grueling. It's a 24 hour a day job, 7 days a week. For many caregivers the only break in attending to the needs of the Alzheimer's patient is through adult day care services. Adult day care not only provides therapy for the Alzheimer's patient but a desperately needed break for the caregiver.

But, Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate truth is that Medicare beneficiaries are unable to attend adult day care without losing their home health benefits because of a narrow interpretation of the Medicare law. Alzheimer's patients may not attend adult day care without losing their home health benefits even though we know that adult day care services are a complement to home health benefits, relieve caregiver burdens and delay nursing home placement—all at zero cost to the Medicare program.

However, yesterday in the Commerce Committee we took a step toward correcting this situation—a victory was won for Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers. The BBA give-back package which was passed out of Committee unanimously by voice vote included language clarifying the "homebound" definition in the law allowing for Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer's disease who are confined to the home to attend adult day care services without losing their home health benefits.

While we took a step in addressing this important issue with respect to Alzheimer's patient's broader language to encompass ALL beneficiaries who are confined to the home was not included by the Chairman's mark. Furthermore, this language will not allow any beneficiaries who are confined to the home to attend religious services, or to take a slow, arduous walk around the block, or to attend once in a lifetime events like a granddaughter's graduation, or a grandson's wedding.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't right.

However, H.R. 5303, The Home Health Care Protection Act of 2000, is designed to correct this flaw. H.R. 5303, is the companion bill to the Senate version introduced by Senator JEFFORDS. It further clarifies the "homebound" definition to allow for those who have had the misfortune of an illness which confines them to the home, to attend a graduation, to go to their place of worship and to attend adult day care services.

It's time we clarify the definition of "homebound" in the Medicare law. Homebound beneficiaries should be free to leave the home under special circumstances without fear of losing their home health benefits. It's only right, Mr. Speaker. Americans who are confined to their homes deserve better. We can and should do more for them. Making the Home Health Care Protection Act of 2000 the law of the land will do just that.

COLLEAGUES PRAISE CHAIRMAN SHUSTER'S LEADERSHIP AT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HELM

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the greatest committee chairmen we have seen during the past few years in the House. He has served in the House of Representatives for 28 years, 6 of those as Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the largest and most productive committee in the Congress.

Following the committee's final full committee meeting Wednesday of this week, my colleagues and I surprised Chairman SHUSTER with the presentation of a plaque to him commemorating his achievements as Chairman.

During that presentation and speaking on behalf of Committee Democrats, Ranking Member JIM OBERSTAR (D-MN) said:

Mr. Chairman, a few short moments ago we passed a bill designating a courthouse for President Theodore Roosevelt.

I quote Roosevelt's "The Man in the Arena" speech:

"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how other strong men stumbled or how the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again, and again, because there is no effort without some error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion, who, spends himself for a worthy cause; who at best, knows in the end the triumph of the high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

Mr. Chairman, you are a man in the arena—and your achievements as Chairman speak for themselves. Everyone in this room knows the enormous accomplishments of TEA 21, AIR 21, and trust fund firewalls. Some may not know the "smaller" accomplishments that do not get the headlines—such as reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission—"little" programs that make a real difference in the lives of our people. We all serve on this Committee because we believe that its transportation, infrastructure, and environmental programs make a real difference in our constituents', and all American's lives.

Mr. Chairman, part of the joy of serving on this Committee is the way in which we work together to develop bipartisan bills. In this Congress, the Committee has: Held 114 hear-

ings; reported 98 bills, 30 percent of bills reported by all Committees in the House (325); passed 92 bills, 22 percent of all bills passed by the House (427); and 30 Transportation Committee bills have become law, 11 percent of all public laws enacted in the 106th Congress (269).

And that is the record only so far—I can say with confidence that many more Transportation Committee bills will become law before the 106th Congress adjourns.

Mr. Chairman, we, as a Committee, have worked extraordinarily well over the last 6 years under your leadership. We do not know what the elections hold this November and I am not here to predict. However, under current House Rules, you will be unable to chair the Committee in the 107th Congress. I did not want this opportunity to pass without recognizing your effective bipartisan leadership of this Committee.

On behalf of our Committee's Democrats and particularly myself, I present you with a plaque to commemorate your chairmanship. For the 104th and 105th Congresses, it lists the number of hearings held, Committee bills passed by the House of Representatives, and bills that have become law. It has a spot for the 106th Congress; we will fill that in when we have completed our work.

It also has a gavel—a gavel that you have wielded so well for these 6 years. Congratulations, Mr. Chairman.

In addition to Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. THOMAS PETRI (R-WI), Chairman of the Ground Transportation Subcommittee, said, "Chairman SHUSTER's historic leadership deservedly has been recognized by the prestigious Congressional Quarterly which named him one of the five top 'Legislative Drivers' in the Congress, (the other four being U.S. Senators), and the National Journal recently reported that 'SHUSTER has chalked up a remarkable record. Not surprisingly, his colleagues regard him as one of the last great chairmen on Capitol Hill.' We all salute Chairman SHUSTER for his extraordinary accomplishments. This has been the 6 most productive years in the Committee's history."

I have said many times that if a young Member of Congress wanted to see how to get things accomplished in the Congress, he should follow Chairman BUD SHUSTER for awhile.

Chairman SHUSTER is respected by everyone, on both sides of the aisle, and staff as well as Members.

Chairman SHUSTER has spent his career building America. The fruits of his work can be seen all over this Nation, and improvements that he started will be going on for many years.

Our economy is much stronger, and, more importantly, lives are being saved because of projects which owe their genesis in major part to BUD SHUSTER.

I personally appreciate the kindness shown to me by Chairman SHUSTER. I could not have been the Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, the highlight of my service in the Congress, if it had not been for BUD SHUSTER.

I owe him a great personal debt, but I believe our country does as well. I believe that this Nation is a much better place today because of Chairman BUD SHUSTER, and I am very proud to call him my friend and my leader.