

1991–1992. In this capacity, Dr. Valentine traveled around the world representing Presbyterians and sharing his faith.

Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Valentine has demonstrated deep concern for all victims of oppression and injustice, not only in Baltimore but throughout the global community, especially in Central America. A visit from Dr. Valentine and other members of the Baltimore Presbytery, always meant that I would get educated as to the needs of people in distress or despair. We agreed more often than not as to the action our country had to take to assist these efforts to elevate the condition of all peoples.

Dr. Valentine's strong faith and advocacy will be missed, but I am sure he would not be leaving without a well trained and compassionate replacement—I know his coworkers are well prepared to continue his work. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Valentine for his service to his faith and his community and to wish him fair winds and a following sea as he enjoys his retirement.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA POLICE RETIREMENT EQUALITY ACT OF 2000

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia Police Retirement Equality Act of 2000, a bill to provide equity in retirement benefits for Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers. This bill would correct an inequity by granting MPD officers and increase in retirement benefits based on the value of longevity bonus pay comparable to those received by D.C. firefighters.

Longevity pay, adopted by the District in 1972, is a bonus granted to both police officers and firefighters, in addition to base salary, as a retention incentive after officers reach milestones in service of fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, and thirty years. A D.C. firefighter, whose retirement benefits are identical in every other aspect to those of a MPD officer, receives a retirement annuity based on the combined value of base salary and longevity bonus pay. An MPD officer's retirement annuity is based only on base salary, not the longevity bonus, and is therefore lower than that of a D.C. firefighter. This benefit was negotiated by D.C. firefighters as part of a 1993 collective bargaining agreement. By 1995, MPD officials were not able to negotiate the same benefit because the District had entered into financial crisis and was essentially insolvent. The District has recovered and has had balanced budgets and surpluses for three years. MPD officers attempted to gain equal retirement benefits with D.C. firefighters through the 1997 Revitalization Act, in which the federal government assumed full responsibility for the District's unfunded pension liability for teacher's, firefighters and police officers. At that time, Representative CONNIE MORELLA, who is an original cosponsor of this bill and has constituents affected by this inequity, introduced legislation similar to the bill I introduced today. That bill was not adopted at that time.

Since then, the Council, the Mayor, and the control board have agreed to pay for this in-

creased annuity benefit if the federal government agrees to pay for the portion of the program that would have been incurred prior to the 1997 Revitalization Act and therefore assumed by the federal government as is the case with firefighters.

This bill amends the 1997 Revitalization Act by authorizing the federal government to pay for the additional pension liability accrued prior to 1997 for police officers. The city will pay for the increased benefits accrued since the 1997 Revitalization Act. All officers retiring before enactment of the Police Retirement Act will receive the retirement benefits at the current level. Only officers retiring after this legislation is passed would be eligible for the increased annuity.

There was no intention to leave police officers worse off than firefighters in this city. Police officers should not have lower retirement pay because their collective bargaining agreement was negotiated at a low point in the city's financial picture, while the firefighters got in just under the wire. At a time when Chief Charles Ramsey is upgrading the quality of police officers, and even bringing in experienced officers on a lateral basis, we need true equity if we want a first-class police department. The retirement pay differential may be an anomaly, but its resulting unfairness hurts not only individual officers but public safety in the city. The city is willing to pay its share to correct this inequity. The Congress must do the same.

I would like to thank Representative TOM DAVIS, Chairman of the District of Columbia Subcommittee, Representatives STENY HOYER, CONNIE MORELLA, and AL WYNN for being original cosponsors of this bill to restore basic parity to the retirements of District police officers and firefighters, and urge swift passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent and unable to vote from March 21, 2000 to March 24, 2000 because I accompanied the President of the United States on his historic visit to India and Pakistan.

On March 21, 2000:
I would have voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 288 (Roll Call number 56).

I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 182 (Roll Call number 57).

On March 22, 2000:
I would have voted in favor of approving the journal (Roll Call number 58).

I would have voted against on ordering the Previous Question H. Res. 444 (Roll Call number 59).

I would have voted against on agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 444 (Roll Call number 60).

I would have voted against considering S. 1287 (Roll Call number 61).

I would have voted in favor of recommitting S. 1287 with Instructions (Roll Call number 62).

I would have voted against S. 1287 (Roll Call number 63).

I would have voted against ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 445 (Roll Call number 64).

I would have voted for passage of H.R. 3822 (Roll Call number 65).

March 23, 2000:
I would have voted in favor of approving the Journal (Roll Call number 66).

I would have voted against the previous question on H. Res. 446 (Roll Call number 67).

I would have voted against the amended H. Res. 446 (Roll Call number 68).

I would have voted against the motion to rise on H. Con. Res. 290 (Roll Call number 69).

I would have voted in favor of the Owens substitute to H. Con. Res. 290 (Roll Call number 70).

I would have voted in favor of the DeFazio substitute to H. Con. Res. 290 (Roll Call number 71).

I would have voted in favor of the Stenhomm substitute to H. Con. Res. 290 (Roll Call number 72).

I would have voted against Sununu amendment to H. Con. Res. 290 (Roll Call number 73).

I would have voted in favor of the Spratt substitute to H. Con. Res. 290 (Roll Call number 74).

March 24, 2000:
I would have voted against H. Con. Res. 290 (Roll Call number 75).

TRIBUTE TO SALLY MORRISEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a living legend, Sally Morrissey. On March 24, 2000, Mrs. Morrissey reached a milestone in her life, when she celebrated her 80th birthday. On this day people from all over the nation came to celebrate this event with her.

Mrs. Morrissey is Durango Herald's longest running writer. She wrote a column dubbed "Sally Says" for 36 years. Locals swear by her columns, learning about travels, hospital stays, visiting relatives and the ongoing beat of new grandchildren. From an early age, she has demonstrated curiosity and an outgoing temperament, a combination that has served her well as a journalist. From 1982 to 1985, Sally joined the Peace Corps where she lived in Costa Rica and Guatemala.

Sally and her late husband, John Morrissey, Jr., raised a beautiful family of four children, 12 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Some of her other achievements involve: the Peace Beyond War Award from the U.S. Government, the Eye Mission Award, the Animas Grange Citizen of the Year, AAUW's Outstanding Woman of the Year, the Barbershoppers' Harmony Award. In addition, Sally is active in the Reading Club, Tuesday Literary Club, La Plata County Historical Society, Durango Arts Center, Friends of the Arts, the Sewing Club, and an honorary member of Beta Sigma Phi.

On the wall of her apartment, Mrs. Morrissey has a quote by Helen Keller: "So much has been given to me, I have no time to ponder over that which has been denied." Mrs. Morrissey lives her life according to this quote. Mr. Speaker, I ask that we all wish a happy

birthday to this outstanding American, wife, mother, journalist and friend. Hopefully we can all learn from the wonderful example that Mrs. Morrissey has set and follow the life of dignity and integrity that she has led.

OIL PRICE REDUCTION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3822) to reduce, suspend, or terminate any assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to each country determined by the President to be engaged in oil price fixing to the detriment of the United States economy, and for other purposes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in opposition to the Oil Price Reduction Act. This bill does not give the President any more authority or require more action than he currently possesses. Furthermore, the Republican leadership refused to allow any waivers for Democratic amendments that would have significantly improved this measure.

This bill authorizes the President to reduce, suspend, or terminate assistance, such as military assistance or foreign aid, to countries that fix oil prices to the disadvantage of the American economy. Oil price fixing under this measure is defined as participation in any agreement, arrangement or understanding with other countries that are oil exporters that increase the price of oil or natural gas by means of limiting oil or gas production or establishing minimum prices for oil or gas. Furthermore, this bill would require the President to report to Congress as to whether major oil exporters are engaged in the defined oil price fixing to the detriment of the U.S. economy.

It requires the President to "undertake a concerted diplomatic effort to convince" countries accused of oil price fixing that their production levels are inadequate and have significant negative impacts on world economies. Recently, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries [OPEC] acted in concert to decrease oil production and hold approximately 4 million barrels of oil a day. Since this decision to curtail production of 6 percent of the global supply of oil, prices have steadily increased from \$11 a barrel in December 1998 to \$30 a barrel just last month. The United States has not seen prices this high since the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

Our Nation's truckers, airlines, railroads, buses, and automobiles have been adversely impacted by these drastic oil production cuts. Our Nation needs relief; however, we must be careful not to rush legislation that may not fully address our energy needs. I support the Democratic leadership's effort to include the enforcement provisions of this bill that will enable the President to effectively address situations where oil price fixing threatens the U.S. economy.

RETIREMENT TRIBUTE TO DR. H.G. BRYANT

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dr. H.G. Bryant, Jr., of my district on the occasion of his retirement from Swedish Match North American, Inc., an employer of many in Owensboro, KY.

Dr. Bryant has been with Swedish Match for more than 30 years in a number of positions. He began his career in 1968 as a senior scientist with Liggett Group and ends his career as vice president for research and development, quality control and leaf procurement of Pinkerton Tobacco Co., which is now Swedish Match.

During his time at Swedish Match, Dr. Bryant has made a number of valuable contributions to the Owensboro area. He has served on the Kentucky Wesleyan College board of trustees, the Owensboro Community College Foundation and the Kentucky Council on Economic Education. His civic contributions to the community also include support of the United Way and local food banks.

Dr. Bryant has been a good friend to many in the community of Owensboro, as an employer and a civic leader. Today I acknowledge his commitments and achievements, along with his family, and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ROSEGARTEN, MAYOR OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Robert Rosegarten upon his retirement as Mayor of The Village of Great Neck Plaza, NY, on Friday, March 24th.

Mayor Rosegarten's work in Great Neck Plaza has been recognized on both the national and state level. His work to revitalize the downtown Great Neck shopping area is a model for local municipalities nationwide. Under the mayor's dynamic supervision, the village of Great Neck Plaza has not only experienced financial success, but is also highly regarded for its aesthetic beauty. Mayor Rosegarten's service to the community will undoubtedly be used as a measuring stick for future Great Neck public officials.

Prior to his distinguished service as mayor of Great Neck Plaza for the past 8 years, Mr. Rosegarten held the position of deputy mayor for 8 years and was also a village trustee for 2 years. Mayor Rosegarten has further distinguished himself in the Great Neck community as president of the Great Neck Village Officials Association, commissioner of the Great Neck Central Police Auxiliary and member of the executive board of Great Neck's United Community Fund.

In addition to his work in the village of Great Neck Plaza, Mayor Rosegarten has been a successful executive in the advertising industry for over a quarter of a century.

Robert Rosegarten is an avid sculptor and painter, whose art works have gained wide attention by appearing in many local galleries on Long Island. Mayor Rosegarten is a loving father of three sons and a proud grandfather to six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in honoring Robert Rosegarten as he completes another milestone in his career and in wishing him many more years of active service to his family and his community.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, thanks to the efforts of enterprising women in Sonoma County, CA, March is Women's History Month. As we celebrate women's history, we must focus on the future of women. The right to choose and make family planning decisions is central to women's liberty and freedom in that future. Family planning represents an opportunity for women and empowers families to make decisions that impact their quality of life and their future.

United States support for international family planning is an integral part of a progressive agenda for women and a foreign policy agenda that saves the lives of women and children and improves life circumstances. Unfortunately, many impoverished women are held hostage to the conservative politics of the right wing of the Republican party and damaging restrictions on international family planning assistance that conservatives forced into law.

Last year, conservatives forced President Clinton to accept the undemocratic "global gag rule" restrictions that force foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to give up their right to participate in their own democratic process to become eligible for U.S. funds. These restrictions contradict the main objective of U.S. foreign policy, fostering democracy and stability throughout the world. They represent a strong setback for women and democracy. If the U.S. Government tried to impose similar restrictions on U.S.-based organizations, they would, without a doubt, be unconstitutional. They are undemocratic and deny women a fundamental right.

Restrictions on family planning assistance will restrict access for poor women, which will result in more unintended pregnancies, more births, more maternal deaths and injuries and more abortions. The World Health Organization estimates that 600,000 women die each year from pregnancy-related causes and more than 150 million married women who want contraceptives have no access to them.

Soon, I will introduce legislation, along with Representative NITA LOWEY and Representative CHRIS SHAYS, to ensure that the current restrictions are never again included in law. This forthcoming legislation, the Global Democracy Promotion Act, will stop foreign NGOs from being forced to relinquish their right to free speech in order to participate in U.S.-supported family planning programs. If we can't impose these restrictions on U.S. organizations, we shouldn't be imposing them on foreign organizations. If passed, our legislation will stop foreign NGOs from being