

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PHIL ENGLISH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, on June 6th and part of June 7, 2000, due to a death in my family, I missed the following votes:

Had I been present on June 6th, on Rollcall votes 234, 235, 236, and 237, I would have voted "aye" on all four votes.

Had I been present on June 7th, on Rollcall votes 238, 239, and 240, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DOCTOR  
DENNIS ALAN VIDMAR ON THE  
OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT  
AFTER TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS  
OF SERVICE IN THE UNITED  
STATES NAVY

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding member of our armed forces. Tomorrow, Friday, June 9, 2000, Dr. Dennis Alan Vidmar will conclude his illustrious twenty-eight year career of service in the United States Navy.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis Vidmar was born in Cleveland, Ohio in August of 1950. He attended Case Western Reserve University and received his Bachelor of Science and MD degrees from the Ohio State University. In 1972, Dr. Vidmar began his military service as a First Division Officer aboard the U.S.S. *Detroit*. For the next twenty-eight years, Dr. Vidmar would devote his energy and talents to the field of medicine and to the service of his nation.

Currently, Dr. Vidmar serves as a Captain in the United States Navy Medical Corps in the Dermatology Department at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. In addition, Dr. Vidmar is a Professor of Military Medicine and Dermatology in the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Dennis Vidmar has truly been an asset to the profession of medicine and to the United States Navy. His excellent care and unselfish dedication in directing the Dermatology Department have proven invaluable in the treatment of his patients. Dr. Vidmar has been published more than thirty times in various military and medical journals. Clearly, Dr. Vidmar's work has been outstanding and his efforts admirable. To honor his service, he has been awarded the Navy Achievement Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal.

Mr. Speaker, it is often said that success of America is due in part to the dedicated efforts of her sons and daughters. Dr. Dennis Vidmar has spent a large part of his life furthering the profession of medicine and honorably serving his nation in the United States Navy. While his work will be sorely missed, we wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors. At this

time, I would urge my colleagues of the 106th Congress to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Dr. Dennis Vidmar—an outstanding doctor, a dedicated Naval officer, and a true American hero.

## IN RECOGNITION OF MARY PETRO

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Petro as she is honored by the Jefferson Democratic Club of Flushing for her many years of dedicated service as a District Leader.

The Jefferson Club is one of the oldest Democratic clubs in Queens County, New York. Mary Petro served valiantly and with great distinction as a District Leader from 1976 until she stepped down last year. In this capacity, Mary played an instrumental role in local New York City politics for nearly a quarter of a century, through devoted service to her community, to the Borough of Queens, to the Jefferson Club and to the Queens County Democratic Organization. Mary's service to her community and her involvement in civic affairs are legendary in the Borough of Queens.

In 1968, Mary moved to Flushing, and immediately became an active member of the community. Mary has volunteered her time and her energies to countless community organizations and charitable endeavors, pre-eminently among them the Police Athletic League. For her work as the chief PAL fundraiser for the 109th Precinct, and as an officer of the 109th Precinct's Community Council, Mary was named a "Civilian Patrolman of the Month."

Despite her tireless community service, Mary Petro has been a faithful employee of Con Edison for more than four decades, and a caring and devoted wife to her husband, Jimmy, for more than 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the pleasure of knowing Mary Petro for a quarter of a century. I have been constantly amazed by her boundless energy, and her innumerable good works done on behalf of her community and her party.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in extending our thanks and appreciation to Mary Petro as she is honored by the Jefferson Democratic Club of Flushing for her many years of service to the people of Queens County.

REPRESENTATIVE LEE: POLITICIAN WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 2000*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. It aptly describes my good friend and colleague, Representative BARBARA LEE, as someone who makes a difference because she thinks globally and acts locally. Her

compassion for those who are less fortunate is matched by her legislative skill. We are most fortunate to have her as part of the Bay Area delegation.

[From the Oakland Tribune]

REP. LEE: POLITICIAN WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE

(By Paul Cobb)

Congresswoman Barbara Lee is one woman who does make a difference because she acts and thinks globally and locally simultaneously.

During her young career in the United States Congress as a member of the powerful Banking and International Relations committees, she has often stood alone with her "votes of conscience" on Kosovo, Cuba, Colombia and Banking legislation.

## CONNECT THE DOTS

She has often disagreed with President Clinton, her own party and members of the Republican Party. Yet, she has won their respect by making them realize they need her because she knows how to meld pressing social and moral issues with practical, vital, economic and security interests.

Schooled by the likes of Ron Dellums, former Oakland mayor Lionel J. Wilson, Willie Brown, John George, Gus Newport, Maudelle Shirek, Haziaiah Williams and Bishop Will Herzfeld, Congresswoman Lee knows how to "connect the dots."

She matches money to needs.

Knowing that money, economic and financial interests are the mother's milk of politics, Lee has managed to stand alone in the fiery furnace of opposition to votes on the White House's agenda and still bring home the bread and bacon to her district. Oakland's port, schools, housing community development and health programs, such as AIDS funding have increased during her tenure.

Even though she doesn't sound her own trumpet or spend excessive time raising funds for her own campaign coffers, she's not about to allow the vital concerns of her constituents to be drowned out by the noisy symbolism of political rhetoric.

Last week the Leach/Lee World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act (H.R. 3519) passed the House by a unanimous voice vote.

Lee has surprised and floored her fellow congresspersons and watchers with the passage of H.R. 3519 because she put together a bi-partisan effort around an explosive and contentious issue. And, what is more, she astounded legislative leaders on both sides of the aisle by expanding the understanding of the global AIDS crisis. By skillfully demonstrating that the AIDS scourge threatens our national security and financial institutions, she connected needs to resources.

Lee garnered the support of Republican committee chair James Leach and thanked and acknowledged the leadership of former Congressman Dellums, now serving as chair of the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) and a leader of the Constituency of Africa, for being "my mentor and inspiration."

## SECURITY INTERESTS

Lee utilized her membership on the Domestic and International Monetary Policy Subcommittee to talk with the President, Secretary of Treasury, United Nations officials, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other financial institutions to develop her plan to commit the U.S. to \$500 million in seed money. The funds would then be leveraged 9:1 from funds donated by other G-7 nations and the private sector.

"If the moral and health arguments don't work, then the economic and security interests will," said Lee as she pointed to photos

taken while she was a member of the California Assembly and Senate where she managed to get more than 60 legislative bills signed by then-Gov. Pete Wilson.

With the support of Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, Lee says she will monitor the progress of her bill in the U.S. Senate.

Lee confidently pointed to the portion of Oakland seen from her 10th floor office in the Dellums Federal Building and said, "I know that the legislative process from bill to law and then to funding is dynamic. But I will be vigilant. No stone will go unturned because this disease knows no boundaries. The whole world is at risk to this AIDS pandemic of biblical proportion."

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass. introduced S2033 as a companion bill and its language has been included in the Helms/Biden Foreign Affairs Technical Assistance Act. Lee's proposed trust fund, housed at the World Bank, would use its leveraging capacity to increase the resources for the fund. Lee envisions esteemed world leaders such as Nelson Mandela and Ron Dellums as part of the fund's governance structure to assure that the monies go to needy regions.

#### GIANTS' SHOULDERS

How did a newly elected congresswoman who represents the most left-of-center constituency in the country manage to get arch-conservative Republican Sen. Jesse Helms to support the intent of her legislation while simultaneously coordinating grassroots organizations and AIDS service organizations?

"With a lot of hard work," Lee said. "I can stand up to the legislative leaders in both parties because I stand on the shoulders of giants who preceded me."

With an earnestness and conviction she pointed to the photos depicting some of the causes, neighborhoods and political leaders she's worked for or with and said "every time I walk past the Lionel Wilson Building, Elihu Harris Building, Judge Don McCull statue and into the Dellums Federal building, I'm humbled by the awesome responsibility. And, because I have been blessed to have been connected to all those giants, I won't lose my focus."

Lee's office is encouraging the public to join the African American Walking Tour of Downtown Oakland Sunday, July 16, 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. She praised the African American Museum and Library (AAMLO), the Oakland Heritage Alliance (OHA), the Oakland Tours Program, and the Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey for collaborating on the tours.

"I want all children and families, especially African Americans, to tour these places because it reminds me of my childhood in El Paso, Texas when I first started seeking answers to the questions of who I was and where I came from," said Lee.

She said she will invite her congressional colleagues, who will be in Oakland August 12 seeking solutions to issues of housing affordability, redlining, neighborhood reinvestment and undercapitalization, to also participate in the walking tours as well as Oakland's Chabot Science Center. Lee, a Mills College and University of California, Berkeley graduate, is also helping to find funding to make the Chabot Center a magnet for math, science and astronomy for children. "I want the first astronauts to Mars to come from my district," she says.

Eleven million of the world's 14 million AIDS deaths are in Africa.

"Africa is the epicenter of this epidemic. We need to declare a global state-of-emergency, like we pioneered in Alameda County, and provide the money to fund strategies to address the AIDS deaths," Lee said.

"This disease has plagued us like the Bubonic Plague once did and it knows no

boundaries. It is not just found in Africa. It is moving swiftly in India, Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean as well," Lee said.

And here in Alameda County, she warns of a corresponding calamity facing African Americans because she says the statistical profile of AIDS incidence shows a reversal of infection rates that once were 70 to 30 percent white to non-white that are now the exact opposite.

#### IN HONOR OF THE 40 JOURNALISTS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES PURSUING THE NEWS IN 1999

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the commemoration of World Press Freedom Day was held in May, when the names of journalists who have died covering the news were added to The Freedom Forum Journalists Memorial located in Arlington, Virginia. There were 40 people who died in 1999 in their efforts to bring us the news from around the world.

We owe a debt of gratitude to these journalists who risked their lives to bring us the news about many dangerous places in the world, from Sierra Leone to Chechnya to Bosnia to Kosovo. Were it not for their courage and bravery, perhaps the world would never have known about the horrors and the atrocities that have been and are now taking place there.

The deadliest country from which to report last year was the nation of Sierra Leone, as 10 journalists died there in 1999—the most in any one country. Sierra Leone has been a battlefield that has taken the lives of many of the world's finest journalists, including the most recent casualties that are still fresh in many of our minds—Reuters correspondent Kurt Schork and Associated Press cameraman Miguel Gil Moreno de Mora, who, along with four Sierra Leone soldiers, were shot to death there just two weeks ago in a rebel ambush.

Mr. Speaker, I am sharing with our colleagues a news release from the Newseum and also a list of the names of the 40 journalists who died in 1999.

#### THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO JOURNALISTS WHO DIED COVERING THE NEWS SINCE 1812 TO BE ADDED TO JOURNALISTS MEMORIAL

CEREMONY TO TAKE PLACE ON WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY, MAY 3, AT 11 A.M.

ARLINGTON, VA.—The names of 332 journalists who died covering the news since 1812, including 40 journalists killed in 1999, will be added May 3 to The Freedom Forum Journalists Memorial. The memorial, located in Freedom Park, now pays tribute to 1,369 reporters, editors, photographers and broadcasters killed as a result of covering the news. May 3 also marks World Press Freedom Day.

Thomas Johnson, chairman and chief executive officer of the CNN News, will speak at the 11 a.m. ceremony in Freedom Park, following readings by journalists of names on the memorial. The ceremony will be attended by friends, family members and colleagues of journalists honored on the memorial, as well as representatives of the news organizations for which the slain journalists worked.

Two hundred and ninety-two of the names to be added are of journalists who died be-

tween 1812 and the end of 1998. These deaths were discovered or verified during ongoing research conducted by The Freedom Forum since the memorial was originally dedicated in May 1996. The remaining 40 names are those journalists killed last year.

"Sadly, we have learned that by this time next year, it is likely that another 30 to 40 journalists will have died pursuing the truth," said Charles L. Overby, chairman and chief executive officer of The Freedom Forum. "We must never forget them, and we hope this memorial will be a part of their legacy."

Myles Tierney of Associated Press Television News is one of the names being added to the memorial. The 34-year-old American producer was covering Sierra Leone's civil war when a rebel fighter opened fire with a semiautomatic rifle on the car Tierney was traveling in, killing him instantly.

Sierra Leone was the deadliest country for journalists in 1999, with ten deaths occurring there. Latin America, particularly Colombia, remains a dangerous place for those covering stories about politics, drug trafficking and organized crime.

Popular political satirist Jaime Garzon was shot five times in the head and chest while driving to his Bogota radio station. He had been threatened repeatedly by Carlos Castano, leader of the United Self Defense Forces of Colombia, a right-wing paramilitary organization fighting against leftist guerrillas. Garzon had scheduled a meeting with Castano Aug. 14, the day after he was killed.

"In an age of information overload, it is easy to forget that there are people still willing to die for journalism," said Peter S. Prichard, president of The Free Forum and Newseum. "The memorial reminds us what sacrifices journalists are willing to make for a free press."

Journalists' names are added each year to the glass panels of the monument, which stands at the apex of Freedom Park, adjacent to the Newseum and The Freedom Forum World Center in Arlington, VA.

Research by Freedom Forum staff and the Committee to Protect Journalists documents incidents where journalists were killed or died while covering the news. Some were killed reporting on wars, natural disasters or violent crimes, some were injured or fell ill while on assignment, and some were murdered to silence their reporting. Journalists who died as a result of accidents unrelated to an assignment are not listed, nor are those who instigated the violence that caused their deaths. An independent panel of journalists and journalism historians reviews difficult cases.

A list of the names of the 40 journalists who died in 1999 is attached. To view a database listing the 1,369 memorialized journalists, their affiliations and the circumstances of their death, visit the Newseum online at [www.freedomforum.org/newseumnews/memorial.asp](http://www.freedomforum.org/newseumnews/memorial.asp) or [www.newseum.org/newseum/aboutthenewseum/freedompark.htm#memorial](http://www.newseum.org/newseum/aboutthenewseum/freedompark.htm#memorial).

The Newseum, the only interactive museum of news, takes visitors behind the scenes to see and experience how and why news is made. The 72,000-square-foot Newseum is funded by The Freedom Forum, a nonpartisan, international foundation dedicated to free press, free speech and free spirit for all people. The Newseum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days. Freedom Park is open daily from dawn to dusk. Admission is free.

1999

Ricardo Gangeme—El Informador Chubutense (Argentina) in Argentina.