

“A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
JAMES MAHONEY”

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, James Mahoney on the 12th day of May, 2001 was awarded a Doctorate of Public Service, conferred upon him by the Muskingum College Board of Trustees; and

Whereas, Dr. James Mahoney has profoundly influenced the educational experiences of thousands of students in Ohio as an elementary school teacher, a principal, and now as a school superintendent; and

Whereas, Dr. Mahoney successfully orchestrated the merger of three county educational service centers, creating the Muskingum Valley Educational Service Centers for which he serves as superintendent; and

Whereas, Dr. Mahoney was named “Educator of the Year” in January 2001 by the Ohio Association of Superintendents, illustrating his significant impact on the development of more than 25,000 students in his charge; and

Whereas, Dr. Mahoney has maintained a rigorously scholarly agenda during his twenty year career, authoring numerous publications on diverse topics in the educational arena;

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the impressive accomplishments of James Mahoney, an outstanding citizen of Ohio whom I am proud to call a constituent.

HEALTHY SOLUTIONS FOR AMERICA’S HARDWORKING FAMILIES

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, for centuries immigrants from all over the world have helped make the United States one of the most powerful and wealthiest nations in the world. I am proud to represent a congressional district that is home to a large and vibrant immigrant community.

I am very concerned about the lack of access to health care for immigrants. A recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation states that low-income immigrants are twice as likely to be uninsured as low-income citizens. Almost 59 percent of our nation’s 9.8 million low-income non-citizens had no health insurance in 1999, and only 15 percent received Medicaid.

We need to do more to ensure that our nation’s immigrants obtain quality health care. Preventive measures are much more cost effective than allowing individuals to become seriously ill due to lack of access to adequate healthcare services. We can and must provide better outreach to immigrant communities in their languages in order to reduce the barriers that currently make it difficult for immigrants to access health care.

Immigrants pay millions of dollars in local and state taxes and they deserve some form of health care. In fact, according to the National Academy of Sciences, immigrants pay approximately \$1,800 per year more in taxes

than they use in services, yet they never access public health services.

I support the “Healthy Solutions for America’s Hardworking Families” Agenda which will remedy some of the problems faced by immigrant communities. That agenda includes the Legal Immigrant Children’s Health Improvement Act (H.R. 1143), which will give states the option of allowing low-income legal immigrant children and pregnant women access to Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP). This bill has wide support in Congress, as well as from the American Medical Association and the National Governors Association. Allowing children and pregnant women access to federal health care programs is simply sound public health policy.

The Women Immigrants Safe Harbor Act is another key piece of legislation. This measure would allow legal immigrants who are victims of domestic violence to apply for critical safety net services such as medical and food assistance. Immigrants who are victims of domestic violence are frequently economically dependent on their abusers and isolated from their support networks. Immigrants are even more dependent and isolated because of restrictions passed in the 1996 welfare reform law, which prevent a battered immigrant from access to the resources she needs to leave the abuser.

I also support the Nutrition Assistance for Working Families and Seniors Act (H.R. 2142) which would restore food stamp eligibility for low-income legal immigrants and improve the food stamp program overall. Many tax-paying legal immigrants work low-wage jobs and they need the additional support that food stamps provide.

We must not leave the immigrant community behind, especially the women, children, and elderly who so desperately need appropriate health care. I encourage my colleagues to support the “Healthy Solutions for America’s Hardworking Families” Agenda to help the immigrant community. Our great country, as you might recall, was founded upon the great sacrifices that immigrants made for our democracy and economic prosperity.

SHAME ON MR. NATSIOS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is a disgrace that a high ranking U.S. government official is still collecting taxpayer dollars after making disparaging, discriminatory, and inaccurate comments about the people of Africa who are suffering from the ravages of HIV/AIDS. President Bush should dismiss Andrew Natsios, the new Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development at once.

Instead of offering the United States’ assistance to help the infected people of Africa receive the treatment they desperately need, Mr. Natsios stated that our efforts will not work because Africans “don’t know what Western time is,” and thus cannot take drugs at proper times. He went on to say that if you ask Africans to take medicine at a certain time, they “do not know what you are talking about.” How disgraceful. The Administrator of our nation’s lead agency for international develop-

ment and assistance should educate himself about AIDS treatment and about the peoples of the world before he reveals astonishing ignorance as well as prejudice. It’s time for Mr. Natsios to go and for the Bush Administration to instead appoint a real leader who will bring honor back to this distinguished agency.

I wish to share with my colleagues an op-ed, which appeared in the Washington Post on Friday, June 15, 2001 by Amir Attaran, Dr. Kenneth A. Freedberg, and Martin Hirsch, respected experts in the field of AIDS research and international development. They comment on Mr. Natsios’ remarks and proposed plans for U.S. funding and involvement in Africa and they make a very persuasive case for Mr. Natsios’ immediate dismissal.

[From the Washington Post, June 15, 2001]

DEAD WRONG ON AIDS

(By Amir Attaran, Kenneth A. Freedberg and Martin Hirsch)

Andrew Natsios, the Bush administration’s new chief of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has made a very bad start with regard to one of his agency’s primary missions: dealing with the scourge of AIDS in Africa. Natsios has made comments recently on the prevention and treatment of the disease in Africa that are, to say the least, disturbing, if not alarming.

His comments appeared last week in the Boston Globe and in testimony before the House International Relations Committee. On both occasions he argued strenuously against giving antiretroviral drug treatment (the AIDS treatment used in the United States today) to the 25 million Africans infected with HIV.

Although Natsios agrees that AIDS is “decimating entire societies,” when it comes to treating Africans, he says that USAID just “cannot get it done.” As Natsios sees it, the problem lies not with his agency but with African AIDS patients themselves, who “don’t know what Western time is” and thus cannot take antiretroviral drugs on the proper schedule. Ask Africans to take their drugs at a certain time of day, said Natsios, and they “do not know what you are talking about.”

In short, he argues that there is not a great deal the agency he leads can do to help HIV-positive Africans. Under his guidance, USAID will not offer antiretroviral treatment but will emphasize “abstinence, faithfulness and the use of condoms” as the essence of HIV prevention. (He also supports distribution of a drug that blocks transmission of the disease from mother to child, and drugs to fight secondary infections.) While this might save some of those not yet infected with the virus, it in effect would condemn 25 million people to death, and their children to orphanhood.

As the administration’s man in charge of international assistance, including helping Africans with AIDS, Natsios should know better. His views on AIDS are incorrect and fly in the face of years of detailed clinical experience.

Take the issue of whether AIDS should be dealt with by prevention or treatment. In backing prevention to the total exclusion of treatment, Natsios favors only modest changes in the strategies that USAID has relied on for the past 15 years, which by themselves have clearly failed to stem the pandemic. This is why expert consensus now agrees that prevention and treatment are inseparable—or, in the authoritative words of the UNAIDS expert committee, “their effectiveness is immeasurably increased when they are used together.”

The same conclusion has been reached by countless other experts, including 140 Harvard faculty members who recently published a blueprint of how antiretroviral treatment could be accomplished. Harvard physicians are now treating patients in Haiti, and others are achieving similar treatment successes in Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Uganda.

It is also disturbing that Natsios chooses to exaggerate the difficulties of AIDS treatment, as if to singlehandedly prove it would be impossible throughout Africa. Whether Africans can tell "Western time" or not is irrelevant; nearly all antiretroviral drugs are taken only twice a day—morning and evening. Sunrise and sunset are just as good as a watch in these circumstances. Nor is Natsios correct when he says the drugs have to be "kept frozen and all that." Not a single antiretroviral drug on the market today needs freezing. In fact, some bear warnings not to freeze them.

Natsios also said that "the problem with [delivering] antiretrovirals . . . is that there are no roads, or the roads are so poor." In fact, millions of AIDS patients live in cities such as Cape Town, Dakar or Lagos, where the streets are teeming with cars.

Natsios says that antiretroviral drugs are "extremely toxic," so that as many as "forty percent of people . . . who are HIV positive do not take the drugs . . . because they get so sick from the drugs that they cannot survive." This is a view shared by no one in the medical establishment today. Clinical and epidemiological studies by the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health have shown that these drugs are safe for most people and prolong life by many years.

Two facts are clear.

The first is that, in Abidjan and Johannesburg, as in Manhattan, AIDS prevention and treatment must go hand in hand. And we can accomplish this if the Bush administration contributes adequately to an international trust fund for that purpose (it has so far promised only \$200 million, or just 72 cents per American).

The second fact is that Andrew Natsios, by virtue of his unwillingness to acknowledge the first fact and his willingness to distort the true situation in Africa before Congress, is unfit to lead USAID and should resign.

HONORING THE COURAGE OF MELISSA HOLLEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a woman that is the picture of courage, Melissa Holley. Melissa is an inspiration to all, with her determination and desire. She has overcome an enormous obstacle and although the struggle is far from over, Melissa continues to push herself.

On June 25, 2000 Melissa's life was permanently altered. Melissa was involved in a roll-over accident on U.S. Highway 550 a mile south of Ridgway, Colorado. The car damaged Melissa's vital spinal nerves and crushed two vertebrae. Melissa lost all feeling below her chest. The doctor's at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado said that her paralysis was irreversible. After a 48-hour search, her father, Rob Holley, found a radical new procedure that regenerates nerve cells. It was a long shot at best, but Melissa showed her

courage by saying, "Only shot I had, what have I got to lose."

On July 9, 2000, Melissa was flown to the Sheba Medical Center in Tel Aviv, Israel and underwent surgery. The doctors braced her spinal cord, and injected her with microphages to promote healing. Melissa's recovery from surgery has been a slow and painful process. She continues to use a wheelchair, and exercises twice a week in a swimming pool. There has been a visible improvement, and Melissa now stands for an hour each day. This remarkable young lady is returning to college this spring at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. Melissa has not only managed to take a long shot and turn it to her advantage, but this year she helped prepare another young man for this procedure.

Throughout this experience Melissa has managed to stay upbeat and determined. She has impressed doctors with her attitude and perseverance, and inspired many with her strength of character. Melissa has shown courage that is rare, and for that, Mr. Speaker, she deserves the praise of Congress.

A TRIBUTE TO DARIAN LEE WILLIAMS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor and tribute to Darian Lee Williams for his devotion to his community during his brief life on the occasion of the Mike Moody and Darian Williams Memorial Basketball Game.

Throughout his entire education, Darian attended public schools within the New York City School System. He graduated from Erasmus High School in 1995. Darian continued his education after high school by pursuing a degree at Manhattan Community College and most recently attended a Technical Computer Institute.

In addition to playing trumpet in the school band, Darian loved playing sports. He played basketball for the Black Men Who Care team in addition to many other out-of-school athletic programs. Darian was also a member of the Erasmus Hall High School Varsity Basketball team. Throughout high school, Darian received numerous awards and trophies for his excellence in both basketball and football.

Through his childhood friend Ernest Glover, Darian was introduced to the Mount Sinai Baptist Church. He became a member and was baptized in 1997.

"Disco" was known by his friends as having lived and enjoyed life to its fullest. He loved to socialize with his many friends and was adored by all the people who met him.

Mr. Speaker, Darian Lee Williams devoted his short life to serving his community and church. As such, both he and his family are more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in remembering and honoring the life of this remarkable young man.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
MARTHA C. MOORE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, Martha C. Moore on the 13th day of May 2001 was awarded a Doctorate of Public Service, conferred upon her by the Muskingum College Board of Trustees; and

Whereas, Ms. Martha Moore has throughout her lifetime, demonstrated a steadfast commitment to teaching and public service across the nation, within the state of Ohio, and in scores of local communities; and,

Whereas, Ms. Moore has exerted principled influence on significant policy initiatives through her role as state and national party committee woman with the Republican Party; and

Whereas, Ms. Moore has encouraged young women to assume important roles in the American political process through her work with The Ohio Federation of Republican Women—work that ultimately generated the Martha C. Moore Mentoring Project; and

Whereas, Ms. Moore's devotion to education and civic responsibility resulted in her induction into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame; and

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the impressive accomplishments of Martha C. Moore, a citizen of Ohio whom I am proud to call a constituent.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2052, SUDAN PEACE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2052) to facilitate famine relief efforts and a comprehensive solution to the war in Sudan:

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Chairman, the people of Sudan have suffered terrible devastation in recent history, and even today as we sit in this Chamber.

One report tells of a woman who asked visitors surveying the destruction in her village, "Why do people in the West care about saving the dolphins, but not about saving us?"

A poignant, sharp statement asked out of great need for help—A good question about why people in the West for so long have ignored the plight of those sold into slavery, those whose villages, hospitals, schools and churches are bombed by the Khartoum regime that says it wants peace, but does not act that way.

Studies have shown that the devastation and destruction of tribes and peoples in Sudan is genocidal.

Statistics show that over 2 million people have died in Sudan—Do we not care?

I care—and that is precisely why I stand in firm support of Congressman TANCREDO and the Sudan Peace Act. I urge other Members to vote for this act to support the people of Southern Sudan, to fight against the destruction of entire tribes of people, and to fight against slavery that exists today.