

with the information that they need to ensure that they receive the best health care possible? We all talk about the importance of extending prescription drug benefits to the American people. Mr. Speaker, my bill, which will benefit the American people by enabling them to have access to accurate and timely information about prescription drugs, is an important first step, and I sincerely hope that this House will recognize it as so.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP ERIC  
McDANIEL

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bishop Eric McDaniel, who was consecrated by his Senior Bishop, Sherman Watkins, in Columbus, OH, during the Holy Convocation of the Higher Ground Assemblies on June 23, 2001.

Bishop Eric McDaniel is the oldest of four children born to Bishop Allen and Lady Richardine McDaniel, and the proud father of Brittney and Bria McDaniel. As a child, Eric McDaniel demonstrated a gift for a life in ministry, in the areas of music and the preached word. At the age of 13, he became the church organist and choir director. At the age 16, he accepted his call to ministry and preached his initial sermon.

His combined musical talent and personal faith in God inspired Bishop McDaniel to write songs. He had no idea that one day his songs would reach the level of success that they have. Some of his songs include: "It Shall be Done," "Spirit Touch Me One More Time," "Thank You," "Come Unto Me," "Restore Your Joy," "When We Reach That Place," among many others.

In May 1993, Bishop McDaniel responded to the call of God to the office of pastor, and founded the Lord's Church Family Workshop Center, Inc., in the Bronx, NY. In June 2000, he was appointed to the office of Bishop and was consecrated one year later by his Senior Bishop.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop McDaniel is a fine example of a great community leader and a person dedicated through his faith to helping others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Bishop Eric McDaniel and in wishing him continued success.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 592

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Council 592 in Belleville, Illinois.

The Knights of Columbus organization was founded in 1882 by a 29-year-old parish priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven,

Connecticut. Today, more than a century later, the Knights of Columbus has become the largest lay organization of the Catholic Church. The order has been called "the strong right arm of the church" and has been praised by popes, presidents, and other world leaders, for support of the Church, programs of evangelization and Catholic education, civic involvement and aid to those in need. As recently as 1992, Mother Theresa of Calcutta praised the Knights in a speech on the occasion of her reception of the first Knights of Columbus Gaudium et Spes Award.

Thanks to the inspired work of Father McGivney, as well as the millions of other Knights over the past century—the Knights of Columbus now stands at its pinnacle of membership, benefits, and service. Currently there are over 1.6 million Knights of Columbus—more than ever before in the order's history. Together, with their families, the Knights are over 6 million strong. They have grown to more than 12,000 Councils in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Panama, the Virgin Islands, Guatemala, Guam, and Saipan.

One of the largest Knights of Columbus Councils in Illinois and one of the most active in the nation is observing its 100th Anniversary. Council 592, which has grown from 35 members to more than 900 today has a long history of service. Council 592 started in the old Lovington Building in East St. Louis and served as its first headquarters. As their membership increased, the Council moved to the old Odd Fellows building in East St. Louis.

Council 592 has always played an important role in the community. Its civic, fraternal, and charitable projects were numerous. One such event that Council 592 started was their annual picnic. Started in 1922, the picnic was the forerunner of the Knights of Columbus picnics now held across the United States.

Inspired by the results of their activities, the Council's members started an extensive building program. The new Knights of Columbus building was opened in 1925 at a cost of a half a million dollars. The building, a brick structure of combined modern and Gothic architecture, was one of the most attractive buildings in East St. Louis and one of the finest Knights of Columbus buildings in the country. This new building served as the scene of the city's many dances, wedding receptions, meetings and other functions. It had a swimming pool, bowling alley, gymnasium, cafeteria, meeting hall, and a 41 person bachelor quarters. In the late 1960's the Council decided to move its operations to Belleville, Illinois on the edge of East St. Louis on Lebanon Road. The new facility opened in 1969.

Council 592's first, second, and third degree teams have repeatedly been acknowledged as the best in the Midwest. The Council's members have also been instrumental in starting nearly 20 other Knights of Columbus Councils in the area since 1901. A large number of Council members served in World War I and II as well as the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Many members remain part of our armed forces today.

Charity remains a part of Council's 592's efforts. Their main charitable event is the annual Tootsie Roll day with the proceeds going to charitable organizations. The Council continues to hold numerous activities during the year for families of members. They work with the Ainaid Shrine Bonds for Braces as well as the Crippled Children's Hospital.

The Knights of Columbus are Catholic gentlemen committed to the exemplification of charity, unity, fraternity, patriotism, and defense of the priesthood. The Order is consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. They are unequivocal in their loyalty to the Pope, the Vicar of Christ on Earth. It is firmly committed to the protection of human life, from conception to natural death, and to the preservation and defense of the family. It was on these bedrock principles that the Order was founded over a century ago and remains true to them today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Council 592 and to honor its members both past, present, and future.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2506) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Conyers-McKinney-Schakowsky Amendment and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

Last year, this House approved funding for Plan Colombia, ostensibly to fight the drug war in Colombia. Now repackaged as the Andean Initiative, it is the same failed policy that we have been pursuing for the past decade. It will not work because it ignores the fundamental realities of the region. It is impossible to stem the flow of illegal drugs from Colombia without addressing the civil war, paramilitary violence, unequal distribution of wealth and the breakdown of civil society.

Continuing to fund the Andean Initiative will result in more violence in Colombia. It will increase the number of displaced people. It will allow paramilitary violence to continue. Already this year paramilitaries have killed 529 people. It will continue a civil war that all military experts agree is hopelessly stalemated. And to the degree that it has any impact on eliminating coca production in Southern Colombia, it will simply shift that production to other parts of Colombia or neighboring countries. Crop substitution and alternative development projects, already underfunded in Plan Colombia, have not even begun. Because of U.S. funding, fumigation of coca fields has begun, leaving these farmers without any source of income. Imagine you were a poor farmer in Colombia, what would you do to provide income for your family?

Aerial fumigation may successfully kill coca plants, but it also contaminates other food sources. And it certainly creates fear and suspicion among the people in eradication areas.

Mr. Chairman, I believe we can reduce coca production in Colombia and the Andean region. However, military helicopters and aerial

fumigation are never going to solve the problem. These tactics merely escalate the conflict and undermine the peace process in Colombia. Until we can move beyond the military strategy of Plan Colombia, we will never solve the drug problem, nor will we bring peace to Colombia.

A TRIBUTE TO SANTA CLARITA, CALIFORNIA'S 'HERO OF THE WEEK' PROGRAM

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful program in the city of Santa Clarita called "Hero of the Week" as well as those individuals who have been honored in the program.

The program is sponsored jointly by the City of Santa Clarita Anti-Gang Task Force and Mad About Rising Crime Santa Clarita Chapter under the direction of Mr. Gary Popejoy. Started by Maria Fulkerson and Lorraine Grimaldo of the Santa Clarita Anti-Gang Task Force, the "Hero of the Week" program focuses on the positive actions of our youth rather than the negative. The program honors students for the constructive choices they have demonstrated. The students from the Santa Clarita Valley Junior and Senior High Schools are recommended by teachers and principals based on their observations of the student exhibiting positive behavior.

The students that are selected exhibit the qualities that we are looking for in future leaders of our nation. These students, many of whom have experienced difficult times in their own lives, have made remarkable improvements through this program. I am pleased to honor these students today here on the House floor.

On May 24th, 2001, the "Hero of the Week" program honored 44 members of my community for their outstanding activities that truly made them heroes in our neighborhood. These students have faced serious obstacles and, in many cases, faltered in the face of adversity. However, none of these students gave up. Their hard work and determination have truly earned them the title "Hero" in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude these remarks by listing the students honored by the city. I congratulate them and the sponsoring organizations for such a worthwhile and beneficial program.

HERO OF WEEK HONOREES

Chanine Adams, Nicole Anderson-Melendez, Leonardo Barragan, Samantha Berson, Laura Besenty, Junior Brambila, Marco Cardenas, Cassandra Cabrera, Sonny Castro, Josh Cook, Nick Dawson, Mae Ann Esperaza, Jose Flores, Michael Glazier, Alana Comez, Dustin Gustaveson, Kristina Hagen, Julie Henry, Timothy Holmes, Kristyn Kennedy, Milad Khatibi, Michael Kolb, Jason Komen, Mandy Laroche, Jane Lin, Shady Mansy, Jesse Marshall, Azadeh Mirbod, Ericka Ortega, Michael Ortiz, Kelly Polen, Jonathan Salgado, Cesar Santillan, Tara Stewart, Rafael Urquieta, Victor Vasquez, Antonio Wall, Mena Wasif, Adam Weiler, Lyndsey Wilson, Brandi Wright, Amanda Yaffe, and Dennis Yongmaneeratana.

CONGRESS MUST END LABOR RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ON AMERICAN SOIL

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, years have passed since the Departments of Labor-Interior-Justice and INS first documented widespread sweatshop conditions under the American Flag in the U.S. territory of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (US/CNMI). Years have passed since national media such as ABC's 20/20 first reported that thousands of young, Asian women in the US/CNMI toil as many as 12 hours a day at sub-minimum wages under dangerous and unhealthy conditions. And years have passed since U.S. Congress first had the chance to protect those who work on American soil by finally ending the exemption that has allowed this U.S. territory from following U.S. labor and immigration laws. Yet the Congress has turned a blind eye and allowed this exploitation to continue.

Too many US/CNMI clothing manufacturers continue to show complete disregard for U.S. laws. During the three-year period that ended on June 1, 2001, nearly 60% of the factories inspected by the Wage and Hour division of the Department of Labor had wage violations, and in one case, a single US/CNMI corporation owed more than \$1 million in back-wages to its employees.

The Congress is partly responsible for the conditions that led to these labor violations. As you may be aware, federal immigration and minimum wage laws were not immediately extended to the territory when the Congress first established the US/CNMI. The temporary exemption was intended to help the territory develop its economy with local workers while responding to local concerns that U.S. immigration laws were too lax. However, the opposite has turned out to be the case. The local government has used its local control over its own lax immigration procedures to create a caste system that relegates disenfranchised foreign workers to the most abusive labor conditions and lowest wages. According to 1999 statistics, foreign workers held more than 85% of all private sector jobs, where they worked for sub-minimum wages, while nearly 50% of local residents held government jobs, where starting salaries are more than seven times that of the private sector.

For many years, the US/CNMI has aggressively developed an economy based on the importation of tens of thousands of desperately poor foreign workers from Asia who pay between \$3,000-\$7,000 for what they are told are good jobs in "America." Instead these workers are surrounded by barbed wire as the toil under the same dangerous unhealthy working conditions that are far too common in many of the countries from which they came. This practice of shipping indebted women from their native countries to sweatshops on American soil continues today, and it could easily lead to many more cases of human trafficking. While the Congress took the important step last year of passing legislation that allows for more aggressive criminal prosecution of human traffickers after they have committed that deplorable crime, we must also place im-

migration into the American territories under the control of the Federal government so that we can better prevent human trafficking before it ever happens.

Many of our constituents would be surprised to learn that the garments manufactured in the US/CNMI—in foreign owned factories with foreign labor and foreign fabric—are awarded use of the "Made in USA" label and enter the states both quota and duty free. In 2000, over \$1 billion worth of garments came to the states, depriving the U.S. taxpayers of more than \$200 million in duty fees. We are allowing US/CNMI garment manufacturers to deceive American consumers with the use of this label, and we are providing them with an enormous subsidy as they do it. This cannot continue. We must only offer the benefits of the "Made in the USA" label and duty free importing to those U.S. territories that agree to follow U.S. laws.

While the House Republicans have refused to even hold a hearing on the exploitation of workers in the US/CNMI, I am glad to report that we are beginning to win support from other places. On May 15, 2001, the Bush Administration endorsed the idea of federalizing immigration policy in the US/CNMI in the form of a letter from John Ashcroft's Assistant Attorney General. The Bush Administration endorsement argued that extending Federal rules to the territory: . . . would improve immigration policy by guarding against the exploitation and abuse of individuals, by helping ensure that the United States adheres to its international treaty obligation to protect refugees, and by further hindering the entry into United States territory of aliens engaged in international organized crime, terrorism, or other such activities.

Congress cannot continue to stand by and allow these labor abuses to continue on American soil. Today, I am joined by more than 40 co-sponsors as we introduce the "CNMI Human Dignity Act," which would require that the Americans living in the US/CNMI live under the same laws as all of our constituents in our home districts. This legislation would extend U.S. immigration and minimum wage laws to the US/CNMI. This legislation also includes a provision to preserve the integrity of the "Made in USA" label by requiring that this benefit only be allowed for garments made in compliance with U.S. immigration and labor practices. It also conditions duty-free and quota-free imports from the US/CNMI upon compliance with U.S. laws. In addition, the legislation creates a one-time grandfather provision that allows non-resident individuals who have been long-term employees in the US/CNMI on the date of enactment to apply for permanent residence. Lastly, this legislation would assure that U.S. Customs agents have the authority to board and inspect ships in US/CNMI waters to address the numerous allegations of illegal transhipment of fully completed garments from Asia.

No member of the House of Representatives would tolerate sub-minimum wages and other severe forms of labor exploitation in his or her home district, and we should not tolerate those conditions in the American territories either. I urge you to join me in supporting the CNMI Human Dignity Act.