

proceeded to make the change. I go all the way back to the 1974 treasurer's campaign with Joan Finney, and there's not a stronger, more determined woman in all of Kansas political life, ever. And among women I would say she stands tall in terms of being able to set her sights on an objective and go for it in a world where, when she started, it wasn't particularly easy for women.

The Kansas City Star had it right recently, when they wrote:

People credited Finney's success to her campaign style, kidding that she had crossed every creek in Kansas. And she was the master one-on-one politician, grasping a voter's hand in both of hers. She saw herself as a populist who listened to everybody.

The Associated Press quoted Republican State Senator David Adkins of Leawood, Kansas, as saying,

You had to see Joan Finney work a bean feed to understand her appeal. She would walk in and she already knew half the people there, and the other half, before she left they would think she was their best friend.

Her good friend, Kansas Senate Democratic Leader Anthony Hensley hit the nail on the head when he said,

She literally went door-to-door all of her political career. She'd walk in the parades, speak at the chili suppers, campaign in bowling alleys and grocery stores, just picking up bits and pieces from the people.

In 1991, the Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas gave her the name White Morning Star Woman after she became the first governor to issue an official proclamation to recognize the sovereignty of American Indian tribes. The state's four tribes and Indian leaders nationwide admired Governor Finney for supporting tribal efforts to open casinos on reservations as an income source for them and for being sympathetic to their efforts to assert their sovereignty.

As Governor, she appointed women to an unprecedented number of top jobs in state government. On average, at least half of her cabinet members were women, and her staff of advisors was almost exclusively female. As Kansas Insurance Commissioner Kathleen Sebelius recently commented,

I don't think there's any question that Joan Finney was one of the most remarkable politicians I've ever known. She changed the face of politics in this state and made it possible for women like me to be seriously considered for statewide office. She pushed women along every step of the way.... She has an impressive place in American history and an incredible place in Kansas history.

During her four years as Governor, the state rewrote its law for distributing money to public schools, revised its abortion law, overhauled its workers' compensation system, re-enacted a capital punishment law, and signed four compacts that allowed Indian tribes in northeast Kansas to open casinos. Legislators rejected her proposals to amend the state constitution to provide for public initiatives and referendums. Finney also took credit for opening international markets to dozens of Kansas businesses due to a series of international trade missions she undertook.

Most importantly, though, Joan Finney will be remembered as a true populist leader in the finest sense of the word. As she said to the Topeka Capital-Journal shortly before her election as Governor:

I believe the people should be supreme in all things. Even if I don't agree and the ma-

majority want a certain issue and believe in a certain issue, I accept that and I will stand by the people.

Governor Finney was a genuine Kansas pioneer, particularly for women in public life. She truly loved people and the people of Kansas loved and respected her. As Commissioner Sebelius noted,

She had the heart of a true Kansan—someone with strong values, ideals and pride. We should all be so lucky to live like that.

We may never see another leader in our state with her determination, self-confidence and independent spirit, and that truly is our loss.

Governor Joan Finney is survived by her husband, Spencer Finney, and their three children, Sally Finney, Dick Finney, and Mary Holaday. I join with them in mourning the loss of this unique, incredible woman.

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### HOMELESS VETERANS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2001*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the "Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2001." I intend to have hearings on this measure in September and to ask the House to consider it shortly thereafter.

This is a great Nation, Mr. Speaker, and Fortune smiles on us in this country in so many ways. But tragically, a few are left behind, and a large number of America's veterans are counted among them. Currently, we believe that some 225,000 veterans are homeless on a given night. For these veterans, access to VA benefits, specialized services and effective outreach are vital components to any hope of individual stability and improvement in their prospects.

It is important to create and maintain programs that give veterans the opportunity to become self-sufficient, and to concentrate our resources on programs that work. We know this is not an immediate process but instead constitutes a long-term challenge and struggle for many, both for those who are homeless and those who are trying to help. Also, I believe that some of our government's homeless assistance programs ought to stress prevention as an integral part of any strategy to help homeless veterans. This bill I am introducing, the Homeless Veterans Assistance Act, incorporates a number of these goals.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to pinpoint any one cause of homelessness among veterans. Many problems and difficulties could be traceable to an individual's experience in military service, exposure to combat, or return to a seemingly uncaring civilian society. In fact, we know that a majority of homeless veterans today suffer from serious mental illness, including post-traumatic stress disorder, and illegal substance use often complicates their situations. Many have served time in jail. These individual conditions have far-reaching effects on veterans and their families.

A veteran with an impaired mental state may lose the ability to maintain stable employment. Absent employment, it eventually becomes difficult to maintain any type of permanent housing. The vicious cycle only acceler-

ates once employment and housing are lost. The absence of these two important anchors to society is a precursor for increased utilization of medical resources in emergency rooms, VA and other public hospitals and, unfortunately, the resources of America's courtrooms, jails and prisons.

A full platter of medical services may be available to veterans through VA medical facilities, but without better coordination within and across Federal programs relief is only temporary, because veterans once released from VA health care frequently are exposed to the same challenges that created these conditions in the first place. This is why prevention and accountability are two important priorities of my bill. We need to find new ways to prevent veterans from spiraling down to homelessness, but to be responsible we should also provide for them and their caregivers a sense of accountability. And we should not expect veterans to complete this arduous journey alone.

This bill will hold accountable the three federal departments most directly involved in homeless assistance for veterans: Veterans' Affairs, Labor, and Housing and Urban Development. These agencies need to help homeless veterans make a transition to self-reliance; my bill urges them, and in some cases requires them, to cooperate more fully to address the problem of homelessness among veterans.

The bill improves and expands VA's homeless grant and per diem program. Recipients of these funds are contributing substantially to the fulfillment of this bill's objective: to reduce homelessness and provide for the specialty needs of homeless veterans. The initiative I am introducing authorizes higher funding for the program. It also provides a new mechanism for setting the per diem payment so that it will be adjusted regularly. Finally, it eliminates some of the intricate accounting procedures associated with the receipt of the payment.

It is important that any investment produced at taxpayers' expense to help homeless veterans must do the job for which it is intended, or those funds should be returned to the government and put to better use. The existing law requires grant recipients to submit plans, specifications, and specific timetables for implementation of their programs. If the grant recipients cannot meet these obligations, the United States should be entitled to recover the total of unused amounts provided in the grant. My bill would thus bring greater accountability to VA's program to help homeless veterans.

Working is the key to helping homeless veterans rejoin American society, but this is a process that begins with quality medical care and other supportive services including counseling and transitional housing. The Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program was designed to put homeless veterans back into the labor force. The Secretary of Labor has the authority to determine appropriate job training, counseling, and placement services to aid the transition of homeless veterans back into the labor force.

This bill makes support services available to veterans in need. As homeless veterans begin to make a transition back into the labor force the respective departments must make available essential services to help these veterans. For example, the bill urges the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to increase contracts with

community agencies for representative payee services to help some of these homeless veterans manage their own personal funds and thereby avoid poor choices some of them have made that lead to personal catastrophe. The entity acting as a representative on the veteran's behalf can work with care providers of the Veterans' Health Administration and other parties to a veteran's reintegration to ensure that government funds are used appropriately to help the veteran be reestablished in society.

As I indicated, prevention of homelessness among veterans is an important objective of this bill. This should certainly include veterans transitioning from institutional settings who are at risk for homelessness. As I indicated and as we well know, many homeless veterans have been in jail or in prison. I believe we need to consider making provision for the particular services incarcerated veterans need, and begin providing them before they are released from these institutions into society. The bill includes a demonstration program to test the prevention hypothesis within the institutionalized veteran population, at 6 demonstration sites, one of which will be a Bureau of Prisons facility. The purpose of this program is to provide incarcerated veterans with information, referral and counseling with respect to job training and placement, housing, health care, and other needs determined necessary to assist the veteran in the transition from institutional living to civil life.

Also, Mr. Speaker, some programs with very high success rates have been growing on their own, basically without government intervention. One such program that comes to mind is the "Oxford House" concept. In this model, a group of recovering alcoholics determined to stay sober band together to rent a residential property. Oxford House, Inc., provides earnest money deposits, and the rest is up to the individuals to govern their own lives and run their own homes. This program has been highly effective, and now there are over 800 Oxford Houses nationwide. The bill authorizes a small demonstration project to provide housing assistance to veterans in group houses with similar goals of self-governance. This bill authorizes the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to make grants up to \$5,000 for the purpose of subsidizing housing for veterans who present this need. Elements of the Department of Veterans' Affairs recently have helped sponsor 20 such houses. My bill will provide for 50 more in fiscal year 2003 and an additional 50 houses in fiscal year 2004. This is a model worth exploring.

Mr. Speaker, these are the highlights of my bill, the "Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2001." I believe the bill will accomplish very important goals. It will provide needed assistance to homeless veterans, lift them to a sustainable level that will prevent them from returning to a state of homelessness, and help them to become self-sufficient individuals who are accountable for their own actions. This bill will also hold all grant and contract recipients accountable for performing their promised services in exchange for government investments, and promote a greater opportunity to work across departments to provide the best possible service for our Nation's homeless veterans. It also sponsors innovative approaches at prevention of homelessness in high-risk groups within the veteran population.

These are good purposes on which I believe we can all agree, Mr. Speaker, so I am very

pleased to offer this bill to the House. On behalf of homeless veterans who need these services, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM E. LEONARD, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION LEADER

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2001*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to bring to your attention the great life and great works of William E. Leonard. Bill is an old friend and one of the true community leaders of San Bernardino County. He will culminate a 30-year career guiding California's transportation system with the opening next month of what is probably the state's last major freeway: The Foothill Freeway.

The life blood of any community that hopes to succeed and grow are leaders who will step forward and commit their energy, time and personal resources to the goals of that community. Over the years, San Bernardino County has had relatively few leaders who have had the vision to see how the entire region might work together, and the courage to push that vision toward success.

Bill Leonard has been right at the point of able responsible leadership for all of San Bernardino County. For most of my three decades in public life, I have worked with Bill Leonard to improve the economy and quality of life for the residents of the Inland Empire. Although he never sought elected office, Mr. Leonard has been one of the region's—indeed the entire state's—most influential leaders on transportation.

After rising to the rank of First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1946, Mr. Leonard joined his father at the Leonard Realty and Building Company in his hometown San Bernardino. He was active in many construction projects throughout the area, and soon began his public service career as a member of the state Athletic Commission in 1956.

San Bernardino County had already established a statewide reputation for powerful highway planners. Local leaders like publisher James Guthrie and grocer Milton Sage, who served on the California Highway Commission, helped set the standard that allowed the state to create one of the best road systems in the nation. William Leonard carried on that tradition as a member of the state highway commission from 1973 to 1977, and on its successor, the California Transportation Commission, from 1985 to 1993. He was chairman of that commission in 1990-91. He is still a member of the HighSpeed Rail Authority.

Mr. Speaker, we know that a strong family life is the most important factor in a person's success in life. Bill and Bobbi Leonard created a family environment that emphasized a commitment to personal integrity and public service, and this is evident in the lives of their children. Daughter Christene is an elementary school teacher in San Bernardino; son Fred retired after a distinguished 20-year career in the U.S. Air Force. And William Leonard Jr. has been a highly-respected member of the California Assembly and State Senate for the

past 23 years, serving as minority leader in both chambers and providing another generation of strong community leadership for the Inland Empire.

Bill Leonard has shown his commitment to action in many ways: He is a board member of the National Orange Show and many hospital, university and community groups. He has received a number of prestigious awards. But he will soon be recognized for his greatest contribution—to ensure the area's roads meet the needs of our citizens. The Legislature has voted to name the interchange of Interstate 15 and the new Foothill Freeway as the William E. Leonard Interchange. It is a fitting memorial to a man who spent his life working for the citizens of the Inland Empire and California, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on a career of outstanding public service.

IN HONOR OF LIFE RESOURCES NETWORK

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2001*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Life Resources Network for its excellent accomplishments in social services that provide women with life affirming alternatives to abortion. Over 1,370,000 children, or one quarter of all pregnancies, are aborted each year. While many mothers and fathers want to raise their children, they often feel that abortion is their only viable option.

The mission of Life Resources Network is to solve underlying social issues that lead to unintended pregnancies and the societal pressures that compel both men and women to abort their children. This non-profit organization is operated by more than 100 volunteers that have logged over 1,370 hours. These volunteers focus on distributing the Women's Resource Guide in order to connect women with services that can enhance their lives and the lives of their children. This guide is a directory of services offering information on housing, adoption services, medical care, employment, birth preparation, and many other valuable resources.

From January 2000 to May 2001, Life Resources Network was able to educate 108,000 people through an active Speaker's Bureau and Media Outreach. The bureau covered topics including human life development, post-abortion trauma and abortion alternatives and also equipped teenagers with the facts about pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes and pregnancy prevention.

Life Resources Network has shown remarkable progress in uniting individuals, businesses, and organizations of different philosophies and working together to build a society that offers affirming solutions that elevate women and improve the lives of their children. I would like to personally thank the management and all of the many volunteers at Life Resources for their exemplary efforts to foster a community that promotes healthy choices for women and a healthy environment for their children.