

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

POLAR BEARS PLIGHT

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the plight of seven polar bears languishing in a traveling animal show called the Suarez Brothers Circus. The circus is based in Mexico and travels around Central and South America, throughout the year, with its menagerie.

In May 2001, the USFWS, in consultation with USDA, decided to issue a permit to allow the circus into Puerto Rico. This permit was issued over the objection of the Marine Mammal Commission. The Commission warned that the provenance of the bears was questionable and that there were serious deficiencies in the required paperwork for the bears. In June, Dr. Terry Maple, Director of Zoo Atlanta, contacted USDA and asserted that at least one of the bears had been imported under a false identity. The use of doctored or fabricated records is grounds for denying the circus a permit to exhibit.

In August, during the hottest days of summer, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources filed animal cruelty charges against the circus for keeping the bears in 113 degree heat without access to water or air conditioning. Additional charges have been added for maintaining the bears in "dirty or parasitic conditions". Their trial date is scheduled for January 22, 2002.

In October, the Marine Mammal Commission again wrote to USFWS and APHIS and outlined the numerous violations of federal law and expressed a fundamental concern about the appropriateness of using polar bears outdoors in a tropical climate. In their letter, the Commission noted violations of the Animal Welfare Act reported by APHIS on eight separate inspections. These violations included serious charges including inaccessibility to water and fans, a lack of structural integrity in the holding pens, and a lack of veterinary care.

Just two weeks ago, APHIS testified before the Resources Committee that it has inspected the circus at least eleven times since June—as compared to the average number of inspections being one per year. The USDA has documented a clear pattern of non-compliance with the bare minimum standards of the Animal Welfare Act.

Mr. Speaker, these polar bears are clearly suffering and need relief. These animals should be confiscated and placed in facilities that are capable of caring for their unique needs. Members of the House and Senate, including the Delegate from Puerto Rico, are circulating letters to colleagues and to the federal agencies requesting urgent action in this case, including an investigation and confiscation of the polar bears.

Puerto Rico is no place for polar bears.

RECOGNIZING EAST SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S HEROES

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize some real heroes from my district. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, America has witnessed the best that our Nation has to offer. Men and women from every walk of life and every background have come together to help those in need and to comfort those who have experienced loss.

A group of individuals from my district have contributed to this effort. These men and women, from firefighting agencies all over East San Diego County, recently traveled crosscountry to New York assisting in efforts to rescue victims in the World Trade Center attacks. For four and a half days, these brave firefighters gave help wherever it was needed.

My fellow colleagues, join me in recognizing Jeff Beeler, Daryn Drum, Ted Kakuris, Marco Maldonado, Scott Springett, Paul Mascoso, Don Anderson, Steve Swaney, Mike Scott, Gerry Brewster, Mike Blood, Beverly Harrell-Bruder, Paul Hyde, Rich Leap, Brian Kidwell, Buz Miller, Jon Handley, Perry Peake, Steve Peters, Jerry Sadler, David Tegardine, Eric Swanson, and David Williams for all their efforts and sacrifices.

Firefighters across this country serve their communities every day with the unofficial motto of, "Leave Nobody Behind." Regardless of who you are, these individuals risk their lives to protect those in danger. Today, more than ever, the children of our Nation are saying with pride that they would like to be firemen and women when they grow up. On behalf of San Diego County, I want to thank these firefighters from our community whose actions serve as a strong reminder that America has a good heart and that we will continue to take care of those in need.

HONORING THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER'S ROCKY FLATS COORDINATOR MARY HARLOW

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the important work of Mary Harlow, the Rocky Flats Coordinator for the City of Westminster, Colorado.

Mary, known to her friends and colleagues as "Mickey", is leaving this post after nearly seven years of service to her community on the vast array of issues regarding Rocky Flats—the Department of Energy's former nuclear weapons production facility located just west of Westminster. I join with her friends and co-workers in wishing her well in her fu-

ture endeavors, which I understand may involve retiring to North Carolina.

The site was originally used for processing plutonium and other materials to fashion triggers for nuclear weapons in a nearly 400 acre industrial complex surrounded by a 6,000 acre open buffer zone. That mission now is done, and DOE is working to clean up Rocky Flats so it can be closed. This is a complex, highly technical, and politically charged project—one of the more extensive cleanup efforts in Colorado and the nation, and one that poses unique and serious challenges. Mickey has met these challenges and developed a mastery of the issues and effective strategies to influence the decisions affecting the cleanup to ensure protection for the citizens of Westminster and people throughout the Front Range region.

She also has been very effective in building coalitions with other surrounding communities and citizen groups to address pressing issues. Many have relied on her to sift through the thick, technical documents and provide input. Her work has resulted in better plans and approaches to the cleanup and closure and enhanced citizen involvement at the site—not to mention the valuable advice she has provided to Westminster officials.

Mickey began her work on Rocky Flats for the city in 1994. Since then she has recorded many accomplishments. Among other things, she served as an official with the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board, represented Westminster on a task force to determine potential future uses of the industrial area of the site, and helped create a focus group to evaluate the cleanup agreement governing the site. In addition, she co-chaired the oversight panel that evaluated the proper and safe level for the cleanup of radioactive contamination of the soil at the site. On the national level, she participated with representatives from other nuclear weapons sites to develop long-term stewardship of DOE nuclear weapons sites, examine the effects of low-level radiation, and promote development and use of innovative cleanup technologies.

For all of this and more, especially her positive outlook and personable demeanor, Mickey has been a valuable asset in our efforts to ensure a thorough, effective and safe cleanup of Rocky Flats. Her legacy of service will help Colorado and the nation to transform Rocky Flats from a problem into an open space and wildlife asset for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER NANCY MORRIS, RSCJ ON BEING AWARDED THE 2001 ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Nancy Morris, RSCJ, a distinguished citizen and a resident of San Mateo

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

County, who is being honored on November 6, 2001 by the Sacred Heart Schools of Atherton, California, with the 2001 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award.

Sister Nancy Morris, RSCJ was born and raised in Piedmont, California and is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley. She entered religious life and the Society of the Sacred Heart in 1951. She began her illustrious career in school administration in 1961 when she became Principal at Sacred Heart Broadway in San Francisco. Five years later she was named head of the San Diego College for Women which is now the University of San Diego. In 1971, Sister Morris became the Director of Schools in Atherton, a position she held with distinction for eighteen years. During her tenure, the boarding school was closed, and in 1984 Sacred Heart Preparatory admitted boys for the first time in its history.

She continues to be an active, vital member of the Sacred Heart community, preserving its history and traditions for today's students and their families. She is widely revered as a woman of uncompromising integrity who has the highest standards for anyone who works with children, including herself. Her understanding of the spirit of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat is unmatched and her knowledge of the history of Sacred Heart Schools Atherton is unequalled.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Sister Nancy Morris as she receives the 2001 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting her and thanking her for her extraordinary service to our community which has strengthened our country.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I rise to speak on this social disease and the harm it imposes on our communities.

Domestic violence is an unyielding presence in our society and has extended past the status of a law enforcement issue into a global health problem with far-reaching effects. Domestic violence triggers a seemingly endless string of physical, sexual, and psychological strain that occurs regardless of race, class, age, sexual orientation, and religion, and tends to transmit patterns of violent behavior to children who witness or are victims to domestic violence.

The numbers of victims involved are staggering. Last year six out of ten rapes were committed by an intimate male partner, relative, friend or an acquaintance. A woman is raped every 6 minutes and is physically abused by her husband every 9 seconds. Each year, approximately 1.5 million women are raped and may be physically assaulted by an intimate partner. In 1999, 1218 women were killed by a current or former partner. According to the Department of Justice, nearly half of the violent crimes against women are not reported to the police. Victims of domestic violence are often economically dependent on their offenders and are forced to remain with

them and endure abuse. Many women who flee abusive homes and turn to shelters are turned away due to lack of resources. Even wealthier women may find their personal funds inaccessible after leaving a violent situation.

Domestic violence particularly plagues our children. One in five child murders was committed by a family member. An estimated 70 percent of men who abuse their female partners also abuse their children. Children of battered women are 12 to 14 times more likely to be abused sexually by their mother's partner. In homes where spousal abuse occurs, children are abused at a rate 1500 percent higher than the national average. These figures may be shocking statistics to some of us, but for many Americans domestic violence is a harsh reality.

In Guam, of the 2,090 violent offenses reported to the Guam Police Department, 661 arrests were made for family violence. In 1999, the Guam Child Protective Services received 1,908 referrals, and between 1997 and 1999, the Guam Adult Protective Services received 907 referrals for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Domestic violence is an epidemic that we can no longer afford to tolerate. Every woman, man, and child has the right to a healthy and safe environment. Numerous national and state organizations have contributed to efforts in raising awareness, conducting programs encouraging preventive mechanisms, providing counseling services, and building centers or shelters for victims and their families.

In recognition of this growing concern and the need to address this issue, October has been declared "Family Violence Awareness Month" by the Governor of Guam. This annual proclamation and commemoration has included a Silent Witness Ceremony in honor of domestic violence victims, a "Hands Across Guam Rally" for island-wide community outreach, a Family Violence Conference for the general public and professional staff, and a Poster Exhibition for Elementary Schools including children's artwork on family and love.

Guam has also benefitted from the \$300 million in Services, Training, Officers and Prosecution (STOP) Violence Against Women grant funds, which were awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Violence Against Women Office to 4,715 grant recipients nationwide. Of these funds, 51 grants were awarded to agencies and organizations in Guam, totaling more than \$2.5 million.

Domestic violence is a widespread and growing problem needing urgent and constant attention. Together we must all work to educate and eliminate domestic crimes so that women, children, and families can live in a safe and nurturing home environment. Therefore, I urge my fellow colleagues to stand together in support of this issue for all victims of domestic violence and for the health and safety of our entire Nation.

PROCLAMATION FOR JOEL LIPSY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young men, Joel Lipy.

The Boy Scouts of his troop will honor him as they recognize his achievements by giving him the Eagle Scout honor on Sunday, November 18th.

Since the beginning of this century, the Boy Scouts of America have provided thousands of boys and young men each year with the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

This award is presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. Becoming an Eagle Scout is an extraordinary award with which only the finest Boy Scouts are honored. To earn the award—the highest advancement rank in Scouting—a Boy Scout must demonstrate proficiency in the rigorous areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of these awards, as their activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Joel Lipy, and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young man on his day of recognition. Congratulations to Joel and his family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING PREVENTION ACT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by 43 of my colleagues in introducing the "Accidental Shooting Prevention Act" to address the large number of firearm injuries and deaths that occur when users mistakenly fire guns they believe are not loaded. This sensible bipartisan legislation would require that all semiautomatic firearms manufactured after January 1, 2005, which have removable magazines, be equipped with plainly visible chamber load indicators and magazine disconnect mechanisms.

As with many other consumer products, firearm design can reduce the risk of injury. But unlike other products, gun design decisions have been largely left to manufacturers. Fortunately, firearms manufacturers have already produced many guns with safety devices, such as chamber load indicators and magazine disconnect mechanisms, which can help reduce the risk of accidental injuries.

A chamber load indicator indicates that the gun's firing chamber is loaded with ammunition, but to be effective, a user must be aware of the indicator. Generally, chamber load indicators display the presence of ammunition via a small protrusion somewhere on the handgun. Unfortunately, most chamber load indicators do not clearly indicate their existence to untrained users or observers. We must ensure