

THE SMALL BUSINESS
PAPERWORK RELIEF ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, today we consider H.R. 327, the Small Business Paperwork Reduction Act, which will reduce paperwork for America's hardworking small business owners. As the son of a small business owner, I support efforts to reduce paperwork for small businesses and protect them from unnecessary and onerous regulatory requirements.

This measure, while similar to legislation approved by the House in the last two Congresses, excludes controversial language that would have waived civil fines on small businesses for first-time paperwork violations. However, I maintain significant reservations about voting on a small business bill that was never considered by the Small Business Committee on which I proudly serve.

One concern I would have liked to address in the committee is the need to balance the reduction in paperwork with the prevention of willful mistakes and worker safety hazards. It is our responsibility to ensure that the workplace remains safe. Further, we need to maintain our ability to sanction those small numbers of businesses that are undercutting their competition by willingly circumventing or ignoring the law.

Small businesses are the backbone of Rhode Island's economy and account for more than 95 percent of the job market in the state. They create new businesses and jobs; bring new and innovative services and products to the marketplace; and provide business ownership opportunities to diverse and traditionally underrepresented groups. I remain committed to the small business community of Rhode Island and will support the Small Business Paperwork Reduction Act, but I strongly urge my colleagues to continue to examine this issue through the appropriate legislative process.

IN HONOR OF KRIKOS ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR ANNUAL DINNER, AND THEIR HONOREE MR. COSTAS ATHANASIADIS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Hellenic organization KRIKOS and Mr. Costas Athanasiades, who the organization will honor at their annual dinner on March 11, 2001. KRIKOS was founded in 1974 to foster and promote cooperation and fellowship among Hellenes and phil-Hellenes throughout the world. KRIKOS also aims to preserve and enrich Hellenic heritage.

In their attempts to spread the understanding of Hellenic issues, KRIKOS has organized more than forty conferences throughout the world and frequently publishes reports of their proceedings. Among the subjects various conferences have examined include: the Phila-

delphia conference on biotechnology, the Athens conference on telecommunications, and the New York conferences focusing on issues such as the impact of globalism and the Greek response to the Yugoslavian Civil Wars.

KRIKOS has provided guidance to college and college-bound Hellenic youth in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Additionally, KRIKOS has made it possible for students to visit abroad through a world-study program. In keeping with its dedication to scholarship, KRIKOS donated five thousand (5,000) books to the Polytechnic University in Athens.

KRIKOS was instrumental in documenting the artistic and historic treasures located in St. Catherine Monastery on Mt. Sinai. For hundreds of years St. Catherine's has been a prime destination for pilgrims to the Holy Land and KRIKOS helped computerize its properties.

Costas Athanasiades was born in Kalavassos, Cyprus on March 3, 1921, and studied in Italy where he received a degree as an agriculturalist. In 1938, he returned to his native Cyprus and spearheaded the effort to organize farmers into economically potent cooperatives. He undertook similar initiatives with the formation and development of trade unions. Mr. Athanasiades served valiantly with British Commander Montgomery's Cypriot troops during the second World War. His dream of freedom and "Enosis" (union with motherland Greece) was looked upon as subversive and revolutionary by the British colonial authorities.

Accordingly, a British military court condemned Mr. Athanasiades to a two-year detainment at a barb-wire prison camp in Egypt. In 1949, he emigrated to Australia and in 1958 he married the former Maria Pavlidou, his wife of 43 years. During his years in Australia, he nurtured and developed Hellenic institutions of his new homeland, much as he did in his native Cyprus. In 1959, he came to America, where he briefly was employed by the National Herald, a Greek American daily newspaper. Mr. Athanasiades purchased the Campana Newspaper in 1961. In conjunction with his Campana newspaper, Mr. Athanasiades has authored more than a dozen books expounding social, political, and economic commentary. He has been cited and acknowledged by many prestigious institutions, including the National Library of Congress and the United Nations, for his insights and contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the wonderful work of Costas Athanasiades, a philologist, author, and contemporary voice of Hellenism in the United States.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS
PROTECTION ACT

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Social Security Benefits Protection Act.

The bill corrects an injustice under the Social Security Act which affects beneficiaries' families. Under current law, no Social Security

benefit is paid for the month in which a recipient dies. A person could live until the last day of the month and still would not be entitled to the Social Security benefits for the month.

The Social Security Benefits Protection Act corrects that injustice. Under the Act, benefits would be paid for the final month of a recipient's life. Regardless of when the person died, they would be entitled to the Social Security payment for the month in which they died.

This small correction will provide a small benefit for the deceased person's survivors. Having lost a loved one, they should not lose the Social Security benefit for that person's last month of life.

I urge my colleagues to join in cosponsoring the Social Security Benefits Protection Act.

MRS. ORA MAE HARN

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Ora Mae Harn, a resident of the town of Marana, Arizona for the past forty-one years. Ora Mae is being honored on the occasion of her retirement last year from the Marana Health Center.

After arriving in Marana, Ora Mae worked for the Marana Unified School District from 1962–74 as a bus driver, a cafeteria cook and a warehouse assistant. Subsequently, she spent a quarter century at the Marana Health Center, serving as director of community relations (1975–79), social services director (1979–91), and finally as director until her retirement last year.

Starting in 1985, Ora Mae was a member of the Marana Town Council, and served as Marana's first female Mayor from 1990–95 and again from 1997–99. Her constant work to cultivate lasting professional relationships with regional, state and federal officials benefited Marana in many ways.

She has served as president of the Arizona Women in Municipal Government, as a member of the Pima Council on Aging (1983–87), as an active representative to the Pima Association of Governments as early as 1990 (including serving as its Chair in 1999) and has represented Marana in the League of Arizona Cities and Towns as early as 1992.

Ora Mae has been the major force in bringing floor control projects to Marana and starting the Pima County Santa Cruz Bank Protection Project. She also played a role in the levee project, which was completed and dedicated last year, and she was instrumental in bringing a federally funded housing program to Marana, earning her several awards from the Community Development Block Grant Program for her outstanding leadership and community involvement.

Ora Mae has been involved with a large number of community projects such as Marana's Founders' Day Committee, the Sister Cities Program, Yoem Pueblo Rehabilitation Project, the Lot Beautification Program, The Great American Smokeout, and The Graffiti Abatement Program. She founded the Marana Food Bank in 1985 and is currently its volunteer director. And she continues to be extremely involved with her community by volunteering for projects as varied as reading to

elementary school students and church-sponsored activities.

Married for almost fifty years to Gerald Harn, who passed away last month, she is the mother of two daughters and a son and the proud grandmother of five. Since coming to Marana, she has been an active member of the Faith Community Church congregation and has volunteered for numerous church-sponsored activities.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to commend Mrs. Ora Mae Harn for her four decades of tireless service to the town of Marana and wish her well in her retirement, which I suspect won't really be a retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA LEARNED

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleague from California, Mr. THOMPSON, wish today to honor Andrea Learned. Back in 1989, when Andrea Learned became executive director of Face to Face, an organization located in Sonoma County that cares for people with AIDS, it was a struggling grassroots organization facing a terrible epidemic that was still very new. Over the next eleven years, Andrea shaped Face to Face into one of the best and most comprehensive AIDS services organizations in the nation. Through her creative leadership, courageous innovations, and simple courage in the face of indifference and fear, she has brought new hope to our community, and most especially to Sonoma County residents and families dealing with AIDS.

Andrea Learned has been an outstanding champion of AIDS services and advocacy, not only in Sonoma County, but nationwide. She has served on both the Sonoma County AIDS Commission and on state and national planning boards, inspiring others with her steadfast commitment and refusal to give up.

Today, guided by 11 years of Andrea's leadership, Face to Face provides case management, benefits counseling, emotional support, transportation to appointments, and advocacy to hundreds of clients. It is vital work that we are proud to support.

At the end of 2000, Andrea Learned retired from Face to Face. Her staff, volunteers, and clients will miss her immensely. Mr. Speaker, today we salute Andrea Learned for her many years of dedicated work for Sonoma County.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS METROPOLITAN REGION AND ITS HONOREES, PHILIP CHRISTOPHER AND ELIZABETH KELLY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Jewish Congress Metropolitan Region on the occasion of their annual dinner. I particularly want to recognize its Co-Presidents, Michael Nussbaum and John Heffer, as well as Arthur Flug, the Executive Director, and John Baer and Trudy L. Mason, Chairs of the Executive Committee.

Ever since its inception during World War I, the American Jewish Congress (AJC) has worked tirelessly to serve as a democratic voice of American Jews. Motivated by the need to ensure the creative survival of the Jewish people, deeply cognizant of the Jewish responsibility to participate fully in public life, inspired by Jewish teachings and values, informed by liberal principles, dedicated to an activist and independent role, and committed to making its decisions through democratic processes, AJC has taken an activist role on countless issues.

AJC is an important voice on gun control, reproductive rights, sweatshops, domestic violence, and religious freedom. Members work to advance social and economic justice, women's equality, and human rights at home and abroad. The effort to fight anti-semitism and all other forms of bigotry remains a central focus of AJC. Eight decades after its founding, AJC's dedication to human rights and freedom, to separation of church and state, to the concept of a united Jewish people, to the health and strength of Israel, is as bold, steadfast, and as impassioned as ever.

The Metropolitan Region has been active in working on issues relating to education, most

recently holding forums on charter schools, teacher recruitment, and high stakes testing. The Metropolitan Region also works to promote policies to protect the environment both locally and in Israel. In addition, members work to protect human and civil rights and preserve religious liberty and the separation of church and state.

The Metropolitan Region is honoring two individuals who have been remarkable advocates for freedom. Philip Christopher is the recipient of the Man of the Year Award. Mr. Christopher has been a successful businessman and an energetic advocate for the Greek-American community. As President and CEO of the Audiovox Corporation, he has emerged as a major leader in cellular communications. Despite the pressures of running a major corporation, Mr. Christopher has devoted a great deal of time to public policy and is one of the most prominent proponents of freedom for Cyprus. As a member of the Democratic National Committee Greek American Leadership Council, President of the International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus, President of the Pancyprian Association of America, the Supreme President of the Cyprus Federation of American, and President of the Hellenic American Sports League, Mr. Christopher has brought dynamic leadership and a strong sense of purpose to his efforts to fight for the Greek-American community.

Elizabeth Kelly is the recipient of the Devorah Award. She has been a strong advocate for better health care. Shortly after her arrival in the United States, she founded the Uninsured Irish Foundation to provide health care to uninsured Irish Americans. Today she is President and Chief Executive Officer of New York Network Management LLC and the affiliated Physician Independent Practice Association. In 1996, Ms. Kelly petitioned New York State to grant discounts based on the risk management that could be achieved through her organization. This program set a precedent that allows physician members of Independent Practice Associations to receive malpractice premium discounts for the first time in the history of the State. An advocate for better models for the delivery of health care, Ms. Kelly has been an innovator and a visionary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the achievements of the American Jewish Congress Metropolitan Region and its honorees, Philip Christopher and Elizabeth Kelly.