

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SOCIAL WORK MONTH

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, Guam has designated the month of March 2001 as "Social Work Month"—the focus revolving around the 23rd Anniversary of the Guam Association of Social Workers (GASW), their 20th annual training conference and the formal establishment of the Guam Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

For the past 23 years GASW has endeavored to establish a network that would provide professional support for social workers in the region. Already in its 20th year, the annual GASW training conference has served to promote and facilitate this objective. This year, conferees from the many islands of Micronesia gathered together on Guam to discuss, learn, and share the latest issues, techniques, and information pertaining to the rapidly changing and demanding field of Social Work.

This year's theme, "Trends in Health, Technology and Human Services," focused upon key issues such as the formation of communities through the processes of inclusion and exclusion, the complex situations of the people involved, and the need for increased skill, thorough analysis, creative visions, and solutions in order for social workers to become better advocates for the community. These issues were addressed and their objectives were met.

This year also marks the establishment of the Guam Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). After seven years of negotiations and plenty of hard work, the organization's president Gerard Schwab recently announced that the board of directors had approved their by laws and articles of incorporation. The Chapter is now registered with the Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation. With creation of the Guam Chapter, members within the region stand to benefit from access to the resources of the national association. In addition, Guam is now a voting member of the NASW in national social policy matters. I am sure that this organization will bring together colleagues in the field of Social Work enabling them to pool their resources together and work collectively towards mutual benefits.

"Social Work Month" culminated with an awards dinner where awards for Community Service and the Social Worker of the Year were presented. This year's Community Service Award was presented to the Community Social Development Unit (CSDU) of the Department of Youth Affairs (DYA). Dr. Ulla-Katrina Craig was named Social Worker of the Year.

First established in 1996, CSDU was brought about by the Department of Youth Affairs to provide community-based outreach programs to troubled youth and their families. From one satellite office, CSDU has now ex-

panded to three district offices where approximately 30 programs are administered by 40 professional staff members. Staff members work weekends and holidays providing services to more than 400 clients per week.

Dr. Craig is the director of the Micronesian Health and Aging Studies at the University of Guam. Originally, an engineer, she decided to shift her area of concentration in order to closely work with people rather than spend her time inanimate objects. She has published numerous articles and is considered an authority on aging and neurological and behavioral disorders. Having worked closely with Dr. Craig, I can vouch for the fact that she is a great communicator, advocate and nurturer. She has a personable, approachable and loving way that crosses over language, culture and social barriers.

Also deserving of note are the Guam Alliance for Mental Health Incorporated (GAMHI), the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority, and PacifiCare Asia Pacific, this year's nominees for the Community Service Award. Louise Toves, Grace R. Taitano, and Monica Tinkham, on the other hand, were the nominees for Social Worker of the Year. They are all winners in my book.

As we go about with our daily lives, we must take a moment to reflect upon the services provided by the people dedicated to the field of Social Work. With the recent unfortunate incidents plaguing the nation, especially, the island of Guam, we depend upon these people to provide the necessary guidance and direction that will enable us to heal and, hopefully, prevent future problems. I congratulate this year's awardees, the Guam Association of Social Workers (GASW), and the Guam Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). I urge them to keep up the good work and I wish them all the best in the years to come.

CROATIAN SONS LODGE NUMBER 170

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 94th Anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, April 29, 2001.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees who have attained fifty years of membership include: Edwin C. Bronikowski, Anthony Bucich, Virginia Carija, Anna Gee, Mary Kocevar, Michael E. Krall, Catherine Michael, Basil Movchan, Dorothy Pavlakovic,

Ethel M. Podrebarac, Rose Marie Radulovich, Martha Sablich, Mary Stewart, and Theresa M. Znika.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with over 300 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this important designation.

This memorable day will begin with a morning mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Benedict Benakovich officiating. The festivities will be culturally enriched by the performance of several Croatian musical groups. The Hoosier Hrvati Adult Tamburitza Orchestra directed by Jerry Banina, the Croatian Glee Club "Preradovic," and the Croatian Strings Tamburitzans and Junior Dancers directed by Dennis Barunica will perform at this gala event. A formal dinner banquet will end the day's festivities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge president Betty Morgavan, and all the other members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families. I am proud to represent these gifted residents of the First Congressional District of Indiana.

RECOGNIZING VALOR IN THE CAPTURE OF JAMIL ABDULLAH AL-AMIN

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, all too often, federal law enforcement agents are criticized for problems that occur under their watch, without receiving the same level of attention when things go well. In an effort to partially correct this trend, I would like to commend three employees of the United States Marshals Service (USMS) for their extraordinary bravery in the capture of Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin.

Formerly known as H. Rap Brown, Al-Amin has a long history of encouraging and participating in violent action. That history continued, when on March 16, 2000, he shot two Fulton County, Georgia sheriff's deputies. After learning that Al-Amin was hiding in the Selma, Alabama area, a federal manhunt began.

After Al-Amin was located in a wooded area, he fired upon USMS personnel with an assault rifle. Despite the danger Al-Amin posed to their lives, Inspectors Jerry Lowery and Joseph Parker, and Deputy U.S. Marshal James Ergas maneuvered through the snake infested woods toward Al-Amin.

They succeeded in containing the armed suspect for two hours while awaiting backup,

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

and established a perimeter. Due to their competence and bravery, Al-Amin was arrested without further loss of life, and the weapons he used in both incidents were recovered.

The bravery of Inspectors Lowery and Parker, and Deputy Ergas is yet another example of the high standards of professionalism and dedication honored by federal law enforcement officers every day. I add my voice to the many others who truly appreciate the work they do to keep our homes, schools, and neighborhoods safe.

STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT
PROTECTION ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I join today with Mr. Shaw and a broad bipartisan group of our colleagues from the House Ways and Means Committee in introducing the Structured Settlement Protection Act.

I was the Chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee that considered the original bipartisan legislation in 1982 that enacted the structured settlement tax rules. The Ways and Means Committee, acting on a bipartisan basis, adopted the structured settlement tax rules that are in the Code today to provide long-term financial protection to seriously-injured victims and their families, so that these families would not have to turn to taxpayer-financed programs to meet their basic living and medical needs.

As a long-time supporter of structured settlements, I have been gravely concerned about the impact of so-called “factoring”—in which future damage payments are sold off for a discounted lump sum—on this long-term financial security that Congress intended to achieve for injured victims and their families. That is why I have worked actively with Mr. Shaw and our colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee over several years to put forward legislation to protect structured settlements and the injured victims and their families who depend upon them.

The Structured Settlement Protection Act that we are introducing today with broad bipartisan support on the Ways and Means Committee will bring a final resolution to the factoring issue, protecting the hundreds of thousands of structured settlement recipients and the longstanding Congressional policy of almost two decades.

The Act works in conjunction with complementary State structured settlement protection legislation that already has been enacted by 19 States and is under active consideration in an additional 20 States. The Act and the complementary State legislation rely upon a State court review process to ensure that the structured settlement fulfills its intended purpose of providing long-term financial protection for injured people, while enabling the victim to get access to future payments if the court determines that such access is in the best interests of the injured person, taking into account the welfare and support of his or her dependents, and determines that the sale of future payments does not violate any State or Federal statutes or existing court orders.

This Federal legislation is necessary to ensure compliance with State regulation given

the nationwide operation of the factoring industry, to encourage the remaining States to adopt the necessary regulatory legislation, and to put to rest tax uncertainties that factoring transactions have created for the other parties to the structured settlement.

I understand that the Act has the support of both the National Structured Settlements Trade Association on behalf of the structured settlement industry and the National Association of Settlement Purchasers on behalf of the factoring industry. Given this joint support, the legislation should be non-controversial.

We have worked hard on a bipartisan basis to resolve this issue. I strongly urge that we move forward to enact this bipartisan legislation as soon as possible.

TRIBUTE TO HERMOSA BEACH
POLICE CHIEF VAL STRASSER

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, a man with an even bigger heart retired March 31 as chief of police for the city of Hermosa Beach.

Chief Val Strasser served the community tirelessly. Joining the Hermosa Beach police force on September 16, 1973, he was promoted through the ranks until he was appointed chief in July 1993. During the course of his career, he made many friends and I am proud to be counted among them.

Chief Strasser was the epitome of community policing. He is remembered for fostering close ties between the department and the community. He understood that for law enforcement to be successful, it has to enlist all citizens and recruit them to be vigilant.

Chief Strasser had an open-door policy and encouraged citizens to drop in without an appointment to share their concerns, offer advice, or just plain complain. He always received them warmly and always tried to be responsive. Along the way, he made many, many friends and admirers.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Hermosa Beach is known for its surf, sand, and sea. Because of the leadership of Chief Strasser and the dedication of his officers and civilian personnel, Hermosa Beach is also a safe city where residents and visitors can enjoy its small town quaintness as well as its diverse cultural and recreational opportunities.

Val Strasser will be remembered fondly by residents and this Member of Congress. I join in wishing the best to Chief Strasser and his wife, Becky, as they look forward to their retirement years together.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. THOMAS
E. STARZL

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Thomas E. Starzl, a pioneer in the field of organ transplantation, on this year's 20th anniversary of the first liver transplant performed in Pittsburgh.

Born on March 11, 1926 in LeMars, Iowa, Dr. Starzl received a bachelor's degree in biology at Westminster College before going on to earn a master's degree in anatomy, a Ph.D. in neurophysiology, and an M.D. with distinction at Northwestern University Medical School. Following postgraduate work and a number of surgical fellowships and residencies, he returned to Northwestern University to serve on its faculty. Dr. Starzl moved on to the University of Colorado School of Medicine in 1962, and performed the world's first human liver transplant the following year.

Dr. Starzl joined the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, which already had an established kidney transplant program, in 1981 as a professor of surgery. On February 26 of that year he performed the region's first liver transplant. Amazingly, of the 30 transplant patients that first year, 11 are still alive today because of Dr. Starzl's commitment to the great promise of the procedure despite earlier failed attempts.

A major factor in the success of organ transplantation is the development of immunosuppressant drugs. Dr. Starzl was instrumental in this development, which advanced transplantation to an accepted form of treatment for patients with end-stage diseases of the liver, kidney and heart. It also shed light on the possibility that other organs could be successfully transplanted.

With Dr. Starzl as chief, the University of Pittsburgh transplant program soon became the largest in the world. In the past two decades, over 11,300 transplants have been performed at UPMC Presbyterian, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, and major advances by university faculty have had a tremendous impact on the entire field of transplantation. Among the countless “firsts” for this transplant program are the world's first multivisceral transplant, heart/liver transplant, and heart/liver/kidney transplant.

From the first successful liver transplant in 1967, through the development of surgical techniques and anti-rejection drugs that revolutionized the field, to his pioneering efforts at xenotransplantation, Dr. Starzl is among the most cited scientists in the field of clinical medicine. Now retired from clinical practice, he continues to influence all aspects of organ transplantation as director emeritus of the institute that now bears his name, the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Dr. Tom Starzl for his tireless devotion and countless accomplishments in the field of organ transplantation.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE ALBERT
TAITANO CARBULLIDO

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the island of Guam bids farewell to an esteemed public servant. Albert Taitano Carbullido, a colleague in the field of government service and public administration, passed away on March 23, 2001, at the age of eighty-two.

He was born on January 19, 1919, in the village of Agat, Guam—the son of Antonio