

it is affecting people in the Second Congressional District of West Virginia. The recent energy crisis in California has become front-page news in papers throughout the country and rightfully so. Other regions are suffering too, though, and unless action is taken soon, the problems of Californians will become the problems of everyone. Evelyn P. Jones of Montrose, Randolph County, West Virginia, is a citizen in my district whose plight is particularly distressing. Her caring son, James A. Jones, who is the workers' compensation program manager for the Library of Congress, brought Evelyn's situation to my attention. I want to tell her story because I think that it is representative of others in my district and state as well as throughout the country.

Evelyn Jones is a retiree living on a fixed income of \$500 a month. She lives on the family farm and takes care of her 90-year-old sister. The rising cost of home heating oil has placed Mrs. Jones in a terrible financial quandary. Her heating oil bills from last September 12 through March 3 totaled \$1725.55. Fortunately for Evelyn, she has a close-knit family, many of whom live in nearby Elkins and help her buy food, medicine, and other necessities.

Were it not for Evelyn's family, she would likely have to make the difficult decision of choosing between adequate heating, food, or medicine. I have little doubt that many citizens of a similar disposition do, in fact, have to make such decisions. Congress has provided some relief in the form of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). However, many citizens in need are either not eligible for this program or do not like the idea of government help. Clearly, a more comprehensive policy approach is needed to provide both short-term relief and long-term solutions to high prices and energy shortages.

The Washington Post reports that gas prices have risen to a nationwide average of \$1.68 per gallon of regular unleaded. The Energy Department has estimated that the cost this summer will range from \$1.50 to \$1.75, a five percent increase from last year. In some areas of the country, prices may reach \$3.00 per gallon. The rising price of gasoline is representative of the rising prices of petroleum products in general. Certainly a great many causes factor into such prices. A decline in domestic production and infrastructure accompanied by an increase in demand has left the country ill prepared for the current struggles. Congress and the Bush Administration must be receptive to new ideas and solutions to correct the neglect of the past.

The current energy situation was not created overnight and it will not be corrected easily. I look forward to working with my fellow members in the House of Representatives as well as the President and his administration to begin to solve this complex problem. The Evelyn P. Joneses of our country demand that effective action be taken soon.

TO HONOR THE U.S. COMMISSION
ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM COMMISSIONERS FOR
THEIR SERVICE, MAY 15, 1999–
MAY 14, 2001

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank the nine men and women who have completed their two-year term of service to our nation as commissioners on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. This commission was created by Congress to generate a heightened awareness to the never ending atrocities associated with persecution of individuals around the world for their religious beliefs.

As a result of their investigations, hearings, and reports of religious rights abuses, these commissioners have provided Congress and the administration with timely and accurate information used to formulate U.S. policy. In this capacity, chairman Elliott Abrams and commissioners Nina Shea, Rabbi David Saperstein, Dr. Friuz Kazemzadeh, Michael K. Young, Laila Al-Marayati, John R. Bolton, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, and Justice Charles Z. Smith have served our nation with distinction, honor and faithfulness from May 15, 1999, until May 14, 2001.

I was pleased to hear that because of her faithful commitment to religious freedom issues around the world and her stellar performance during her first term, Ms. Nina Shea has just been appointed to serve a second term on the commission.

These commissioners have made sound policy recommendations to the president, the secretary of state, and Congress with respect to matters involving international religious freedom. They have testified before Congress numerous times, held timely hearings to investigate religious persecution atrocities in such countries as Sudan, China, Vietnam, Indonesia and Burma, and have worked with the non-governmental organization community to bring aid and comfort to the oppressed of the world.

Those around the world suffering persecution for their religious beliefs have truly benefited from the commitment of these nine servants of conscience. These commissioners have professionally completed their responsibilities by producing annual reports and conducting ongoing reviews of the facts and circumstances of violations of religious freedom around the world. Each of their activities has helped to bring visibility to any oppressor government that violates the basic freedoms of their citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I have come to appreciate each of these commissioners for their dedication and professionalism in protecting the rights of all citizens of the world who practice religious worship, be they Christian, Jewish, Muslim or any other faith. Their service to the American people and the peoples of the world has established credibility and relevance of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. I know many of my colleagues in the House join me in saluting Elliott Abrams, Nina Shea, Rabbi David Saperstein, Dr. Friuz Kazemzadeh, Michael K. Young, Laila Al-Marayati, John R. Bolton, Cardinal

Theodore McCarrick, and Justice Charles Z. Smith for representing the United States in the cause to protect religious freedom around the world for these past two years.

MOZART CLUB OF WILKES-BARRE CELEBRATES 95TH YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Mozart Club of Wilkes-Barre, which is celebrating its 95th year this month. The club, a group for those 50 and older led by President Elenora Butcofski Grant, is a member of both the Pennsylvania and National Federations of Music Clubs.

The Mozart Club was founded on October 10, 1906, by a young Miss Euda Hance, who later became Mrs. A. Livingston Davenport, and 14 of her friends in her living room.

The mission of the Mozart Club is stated in its constitution: "The object of this club shall be to encourage and promote musical interest among its members; to encourage the development of musical talent in the youth of the community and to cooperate with the Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs and the National Federation of Music Clubs in their specific plans for the advancement of music."

Over the years, the members of the Mozart Club have certainly fulfilled that mission. They have played major roles in establishing musical institutions such as the Community Concert Association, the Opera Guild and the Wyoming Valley Philharmonic Orchestra. They have fostered young talents through scholarships, and in 1926 they founded the Junior Mozart Club for children with musical interests.

Both the Pennsylvania and National Federations have awarded the Mozart Club honors through the years and in 1974, the National Federation granted it the Award of Highest Merit in the Parade of American Music from a panel of judges headed by composer Samuel Barber.

Active members of the Mozart Club must audition to be accepted as performing members. Many of these musicians are degreed performers who teach in schools or colleges or have their own private studios. At each monthly meeting, the club presents a musical program, which is open to the public. While the performers are sometimes guests, more often the club draws on the considerable talent within its own ranks.

Among the club's other activities are: providing a yearly scholarship to a local graduate musician, taking part in the Fine Arts Fiesta, celebrating National Music Week, providing help for the State Federation Festival, providing programs for nursing home residents and sponsoring a series of opera trips to New York City each spring and fall.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the many good works of the Mozart Club and its 95th anniversary, and I wish them its members all the best as they continue with their many endeavors.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH
WEEK**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues of the Women's Caucus to discuss the importance of women's health.

It is an especially appropriate topic because this week is National Women's Health Week.

As a Caucus, we are working hard to improve health for all women. From protecting Social Security and strengthening Medicare to working for equality for all women.

And we are working to add a reliable, affordable prescription drug benefit.

Today, there are 6 million more women in the United States than men. Women are 51 percent of the U.S. population.

And the projected life expectancy for women in this country is 80 years.

Therefore, we must ensure that the progress we have made to improve women's health continues.

To this point, I urge my distinguished colleagues to join me in the following measures.

I am working to improve the health and well-being of women—young and old.

On May 2nd, I, joined with Mrs. MORELLA of Maryland, reintroduced the Osteoporosis Early Detection and Prevention Act, H.R. 1683.

May marks Osteoporosis Prevention Month. Osteoporosis is a disease characterized by low bone mass or brittle bones. The statistics are startling. 71 percent of women with osteoporosis are not diagnosed, leaving them at increased risk for fractures. And osteoporosis causes 300,000 new hip fractures each year. My bill would require private insurers to reimburse for bone mass measurement. Prevention and early detection are critical in combating this disease.

Last week, Congresswoman KELLY and I reintroduced the Cancer Screening Coverage Act, H.R. 1809, to give everyone a fighting chance in detecting cancer at its earliest stages. CASCA as we call this bill, applies to private health insurance plans and to the Federal Employees Health Benefits plan, requiring these plans to cover cancer screenings.

Cancer screening allows for the detection of cancer in its earliest form, when the cost of treatment is the least. And more importantly, it is estimated that the rate of survival would increase from 80% to 95% if all Americans participated in regular cancer screenings. The legislation we introduced has the power to save thousands of lives.

I am also working with my distinguished colleague, CONNIE MORELLA, to make women's health research a priority. We, joined by many members of the Women's Caucus, introduced the Women's Health Office Act, H.R. 1784, to make the women's health offices at the Department of Health and Human Services permanent.

And for our littlest people and their moms, I have introduced the Breastfeeding Promotion Act, which supports and protects mothers who choose to breastfeed. Everyday, new medical studies are released highlighting the positive health effects of breastfeeding for both mother and child. Just today, a new study was released showing that breastfed babies are less likely to become overweight children.

Again, let's celebrate National Women's Health Week. We must continue to work hard to ensure that the priorities of our nation include policies that protect and promote the health and well-being of women and their families. I urge my colleagues to join me on these measures.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2002 AND 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1646) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and for other purposes:

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Hyde amendment, which would prohibit foreign non-governmental organizations which receive population aid from the United States from using their OWN funds to provide abortion services or counsel women about abortion options.

This amendment would place an unfair restriction on family planning efforts in developing nations. How can a democratic country like the United States have in place a policy which has the very un-democratic effect of restricting free speech? The Hyde amendment would restrict the ability of foreign nongovernmental organizations to talk openly to patients about their health care options. It is simply unfair.

Reproductive health care is a matter of life and death in developing countries. Family planning programs provide critical health care services for women and families in the world's poorest regions. Taking away U.S. funds for foreign organizations who use their own money to counsel women about abortion options will do real harm to important international family planning efforts.

While opponents of international family planning may attempt to cast this vote as an abortion-related matter—it is not. It has been illegal to use U.S. funds for abortion overseas since 1973. This vote is about whether women overseas should have access to needed family planning information. I think they should and I urge my colleagues to vote against the Hyde amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM
HENRY SEWARD**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, William Henry Seward was born in Florida, Orange County, New York on May 16, 1801; two-hundred years ago.

The son of Samuel Sweezy Seward and Mary (Jennings) Seward, he graduated from Union College in 1820, studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1822. In 1823, he

moved to Auburn, New York, where he entered Judge Elijah Miller's law office and, one year later, married Frances Adeline Miller, the daughter of Judge Miller.

Seward was interested in politics early in his career and became actively involved in the Anti-Masonic movement after 1828. With the backing of Thurlow Weed, the Whig newspaper editor, he was elected to the New York State Senate in 1830 where he served for four years. He was nominated by the Whigs for governor in 1834, but was defeated by William L. Marcy. From 1834 to 1838 he practiced law and served as an agent for the Holland Land Company, settling settlers' claims in Chautauqua County.

In 1838 Seward was elected governor of New York State and again in 1840. He favored internal improvements, public support of Catholic schools, and began to favor free soil and abolition positions. From 1842 to 1848 he again practiced law, first in the court of chancery and later in patent cases. He also defended cases involving fugitive slave laws.

In 1849 Seward was elected to the United States Senate, and increasingly built a reputation as an anti-slavery senator. After 1855, the Whig party merged into the Republican party, and Seward became one of the leading Republicans. He was passed over as the presidential nominee in 1856 and, though he was the front runner in 1860, Lincoln was given the nomination.

After Lincoln's election, Seward was appointed to the post of Secretary of State, a position he held until 1869 serving under both presidents Lincoln and Johnson.

As Secretary of State Seward was a central force in the administration. The major issues he dealt with during the Civil War years were the possibility of European intervention, the outfitting of Confederate cruisers in British ports, the Trent affair and the French invasion of Mexico. Seward was also interested in territorial expansion, and in 1867 negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia.

Seward was seriously wounded in the Lincoln assassination conspiracy, and after 1865 his health was not good. He retired from public life upon Grant's election, and despite his poor health, took a trip around the world in 1871. William Henry Seward died in Auburn on October 10, 1872.

THE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT COMMON SENSE DEPRECIATION ACT

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I am joined by my colleague from Maryland, Congressman BEN CARDIN and several of our other colleagues, to introduce legislation that will return common sense to the Internal Revenue Code by changing the depreciation period for computer equipment.

The depreciation provisions in the Code have not been updated since the 1980s. Since that time, the technology available to manufacturers has literally exploded. Tax rules require businesses and manufacturers to keep their computer equipment "on the books" for five years. In highly competitive industries, the average economic life of the equipment ranges