

TRIBUTE TO PHIL ROSENSTEIN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, Quite often, the familiar faces we see and depend upon have entire stories behind them that we don't know. Phil Rosenstein of Corpus Christi has a familiar face, one that is always reliably around when there is a civic event, or if there is a cause to be advocated.

I have been friends with Phil for several decades and he has a beautiful heart and a way of finding out what people need and how to get it to them. Everyone should know what a great man Phil is, what a great American he is, what a unique, charitable human being, what an everyday hero he is.

An orphan raised in New York City, Phil came to Corpus Christi and joined the Merchant Marine and proceeded to see the world and his place in it. He visited orphanages all over the Far East, taking candy and clothing, offering financial assistance to them and, most importantly, drawing attention to their plight in the United States, connecting many Asian orphans with American families.

As a Merchant marine for 40 years Phil never forgot his adopted hometown of Corpus Christi, and he combined that devotion with his love of the arts. As a Merchant Marine traveling to a host of foreign lands, Phil always set forth to find fine art and antiques that he purchased and donated to museums in the Coastal Bend. He was appointed field representative of the Corpus Christi Museum.

He was also the Mayor Luther Jones' goodwill ambassador, representing Corpus Christi well and arranging for exchanges between Yokosuka, Japan and South Texas (Yokosuka was then the sister city to Corpus Christi).

Phil helps those who need help, particularly seniors and children. Visiting local nursing homes led him to become the Mayor's volunteer liaison to senior citizens and senior care centers. He got them cable and purchased television sets for seniors. The Senior Community Service Awards confers an annual award to companies and agencies that have done the most for the senior community. In 1990, Phil won the award as a citizen, not a business nor a service agency.

For his service in the Merchant Marine in World War II, Phil won service medals for campaigns in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean war zones, but those who depend upon HAM radios for contact with the world most value his service to them. At his own expense, while he was a Merchant Marine, he bought, set up, replaced or repaired any number of HAM radios for people living across the South and Midwest. He knew the world was too far away for those who were paralyzed or stricken with some manner of disability that kept them in the home, so he helped them with their HAM radios if they asked.

He started the school supply program for needy children in Corpus Christi and was noted for his assistance to the Head Start program in Corpus Christi. He donated shoes to needy kids in Corpus Christi, even getting the crew of a ship on which he served to donate money for children's shoes in his hometown.

Once, Phil noted that crosswalks at a school needed repainting. When the city didn't get to

it, he bought the paint and painted it himself—this is a metaphor for his whole life. When he saw a need, he went to fill it. (Even if it made the city unhappy.)

I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Phil Rosenstein, a unique American, a good Samaritan, and an extraordinary patriot.

SUPPORT OF NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the second annual observance this February 7, 2002, of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. I strongly believe that National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day will bring much needed attention to the disproportionate and rapidly increasing rate of HIV/AIDS infection among African Americans. The goal of this nationwide effort is to mobilize local communities for the purpose of encouraging African Americans to be tested for HIV/AIDS.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that AIDS is the number one killer of African American men and women ages 25–44. This annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is greatly needed to stem the tide of continuing devastation by HIV/AIDS in Black communities across the nation. The objectives of the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day are: HIV/AIDS education; Increase testing for HIV infection; and HIV/AIDS Advocacy involvement.

I fully support the various schedule activities that will take place across our nation seeking to provide awareness of this devastating disease.

NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, which will take place on February 7, 2002.

While significant progress has been made in the diagnosis and treatment of HIV and AIDS, the underlying reality is that the HIV epidemic in our country is far from over and disproportionately affects African-Americans. African-Americans comprise 12 percent of the U.S. population yet 47 percent of all new AIDS cases in 2000 were among African-Americans. Among women, an astonishing 63 percent of new AIDS cases were African-American, and three-fourths of these women acquired HIV through heterosexual sex. The National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases reports that AIDS is now the fifth leading cause of death in the United States among people aged 25 to 44, and is the leading cause of death for black men in this age group. Among black women in this age group, HIV ranks third.

We will not have a truly effective arsenal against HIV/AIDS until we have an effective vaccine, improved education and prevention campaigns, and increased access to retroviral treatments. But before these come to pass, we must attack the most serious obstacles to overcoming the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the African-American community: denial and delusion. It is only when patients accept the possibility that they or their partner may be infected with HIV that health care workers can consider treatment options; it is only when African-Americans accept that their community is also at risk that education and prevention campaigns will be effective.

Mr. Speaker, these disturbing statistics demonstrate that while we may have won some battles against HIV/AIDS, the war is far from over. Programs aimed at education and prevention must be expanded, and treatment options must be available to all Americans. It is my hope that National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day will draw attention to the effects of this terrible disease on the African-American community and remove some of the stigma associated with the disease.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEE BAHRYCH**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to pay tribute today to a woman whose life is the very embodiment of kindness, selflessness and love. Lee Bahrych is both inspirational and courageous, and a true testament to the inherent greatness that resides in all of humanity. Throughout her life, she has consistently given her time, effort and love to others, and it is with a great deal of satisfaction and pride that I pay tribute to her as we celebrate her tremendous accomplishment of being named the recipient of the Colorado Women 2002 Power of One Award.

Lee's long list of accomplishments is as impressive as the award being bestowed upon her today. The dedication and quality with which she has conducted herself in her distinguished career in the Colorado House of Representatives, as well as in the many philanthropic endeavors she has undertaken in her lifetime is truly remarkable. After retiring from the Colorado House of Representatives in order to attend to a loved one who had fallen ill, Lee began a much-appreciated effort to beautify the State Capitol. She created an attractive setting in the basement so that citizens could come to the State Capitol and find an aesthetically pleasing environment while experiencing government in action. This remarkably selfless act has served to enrich the experience of innumerable Coloradans who visit the State Capitol each day, and we, as Coloradans, will always be thankful for her effort.

In addition to her efforts at the State Capitol, Lee has created one of the most well kept treasures in all of Colorado. She has spent countless volunteer hours interviewing former and current leaders of Colorado, capturing on tape a priceless historical account of actions taken on behalf of the citizens of Colorado. She has spent innumerable hours with former

Governors and other political leaders from the state, recording humorous, sad, dramatic and moving stories that will forever be preserved because of Lee's hard work and passion. She is also a talented woodworker, having crafted numerous pieces of fine furniture; a white water rafter, having conquered some of the toughest rivers in the world; and a mother of three successful daughters. She is truly a remarkable woman, who has lived her life in a manner befitting her remarkable character and personality.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you today in order to bring the life of such an extraordinarily caring and compassionate woman to the attention of this body of Congress. Lee Bahrych has lived a truly remarkable life, and I, along with the people of Colorado whose lives she has so profoundly affected and enriched, are eternally grateful for everything she has done. I wish to offer her my sincere congratulations today on being named the recipient of the Colorado Women 2002 Power of One Award, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING NANCY PELOSI
ON EARNING THE POSITION OF
DEMOCRATIC WHIP

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, one of the things we all prize and value is the friendships each of us have made with our colleagues, our staff, and the people that work in this building and on the Hill. It is indeed a unique place where lasting friendships are made—and that is among the many things that make this a special place to work.

As Wallace Stegner once wrote, "Friendship is a relationship that has no formal shape . . . there are no rules . . . or obligations . . . or bonds, as in marriage or the family. It is held together by neither law . . . nor property . . . nor blood, there is no glue in it but mutual liking. It is therefore rare."

NANCY PELOSI is a wonderful, bright and strong person, and I treasure her friendship. Maya Angelou once stated that "the most called-upon prerequisite of a friend is an accessible ear." And I'm sure NANCY will master the art of lending her ear to over 200 people all at the same time!

From the moment she first arrived in 1987, it was clear that NANCY PELOSI not only had leadership skills, but that she had steadfast resolve and determination. When I look at her career, I can think of no one whose fought harder and has been more dedicated to promoting the basic values of human rights, freedom and democracy.

She was one of the first Members to join the Central American working group to promote peace and democracy in the region. She was one of the first to raise our awareness about the need to invest in breast cancer and HIV/AIDS research. She wouldn't let Congress go home in 1996 without passing a law to protect the historic Presidio park in San Francisco. She taught us that in order to tackle the basic problems of poverty, we need to allow women and their families to plan for their future. And we need to ensure they have enough resources to raise their children.

But when she led the fight on our trade relationship with China, the world knew just how committed and focused NANCY PELOSI could be. She never, ever forgot the tens of thousands of political prisoners and dissidents that were being held in Chinese prisons for simply trying to express themselves freely. And she was undoubtedly responsible for the release of dissident Wei Jing Sheng [Way Zhing Zhang] from Chinese prison.

NANCY never lost sight of the basic values of democracy, and her belief, her tenacity, and her commitment to those values could not be challenged. There's an image that comes to mind; I think we all remember the lone Chinese dissident standing in front of a tank in Tiananmen Square. Wherever that tank went, he tried to stop it. He was standing up for his belief that Chinese citizens should be treated with dignity, respect, and should have the right of free expression. Every time I see that often-played film on the news, or see that picture in a magazine, I think of NANCY.

NANCY is like that dissident; wherever there is injustice, wherever there is inhumanity, wherever there is indecency, NANCY will stand firmly in the way. She will have the courage to stand up and say, "that's not right," and you know what? Others will follow. That's why she is a leader.

As our whip, NANCY will get our votes, but she will also raise our consciousness. She will remind all of us about what's important, about why we are here, and she will never let us forget where we came from. She will lead us by example, and she will push us to be better Members and better citizens. She will, to paraphrase Eleanor Roosevelt, make us do the thing we think we can't. And in many ways, today's swearing in is just another example of how NANCY has followed the words of John F. Kennedy, "Things do not happen. Things are made to happen."

I have no doubt NANCY will help us all do the things we think we can't, and she will make these things happen.

Congratulations to NANCY on earning the position of Democratic Whip.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE
THAT SCHEDULED TAX RELIEF
SHOULD NOT BE SUSPENDED OR
REPEALED

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2002

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this farcical, time-wasting resolution.

Have we no real work to do?

We have a duty to protect our great nation in times of crisis and war. We do not, however, have a duty to help our Republican colleagues look out for their fat cat buddies through an unbalanced and, frankly, unfair tax cut like the one passed last year.

The tax cut was passed; that is over. I would now, however, ask my colleagues to join me in opposing this ridiculous resolution today.

I would further ask that my colleagues join me in cosponsoring a bill introduced by my good friend from Massachusetts, Representa-

tive FRANK. His bill, H.R. 2935, would repeal the reduction in the top income tax rate. This would add about \$100 billion to federal revenue over the next 10 years. All of this money would go into the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds, so we can keep our commitment to our seniors.

Mr. Speaker, the budget submitted by President Bush this week proposes a budget deficit every year for the next decade. This means a \$1.5 trillion budget deficit over the next 10 years. The Bush tax plan that passed last year left too little room for error, and no room for unexpected events like September 11. No one in this chamber would deny that we need to defend our nation, but we must do so in a fiscally responsible manner. In addition to the threats posed by terrorism both at home and abroad, we face other great domestic challenges. Our kids are taught in dilapidated schools that are not equipped to handle technology that is so vital to their future. Seniors cannot afford the prescription drugs they so desperately need. We have no Patients' Bill of Rights and we must do more to protect our environment. These are important issues that need to be addressed before we give tax cuts to the fat cats. Mr. Speaker, where are our priorities?

It was bad enough to debate this foolish policy once. I am perplexed as to why the GOP leadership now wants us to waste time reaffirming our support for this ridiculous tax scheme. I am forced to conclude that my Republican colleagues truly believe we have no more important work to do.

I ask my colleagues to reject this resolution and to stand strong for fiscal responsibility.

NO ROOM FOR RACISM
RESOLUTION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution condemning discrimination and supporting the No Room for Racism campaign initiated by citizens of Hayward, California.

Since the horrific attacks on September 11, 2001, our country has come together in remarkable ways. Citizens across the nation have donated blood, volunteered their time, and contributed money to help those who were victimized by the ruthless attacks. During this difficult time, America's true colors have been displayed to the world. In times of national crisis, we take care of each other.

Unfortunately, despite this unity, some of our citizens have misplaced their anger at the terrorists by discriminating against their fellow Americans. Although this has not been widespread, even a few reports of discrimination and hatred are cause for concern. Discrimination against anyone in America is simply not consistent with our heritage or our laws. In order to combat discrimination, all Americans must work for tolerance and social justice.

Citizens in my district have taken the initiative to do just that. They have launched a campaign called "No Room for Racism" condemning all acts of discrimination against people because of their appearance. I applaud the citizens of Hayward for this worthy endeavor.