

Pauline C. Garcia. Pauline illustrated the spirit of kindness to her community, and prepared young children to be the future leaders of their communities. Her compassion will live on in the hearts of those lives she touched and I extend my deepest sympathy and I have no doubt that her memory will continue to be a source of inspiration and comfort for her family.

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12TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

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**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 12th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Twelve years ago, people from across the country gathered to celebrate the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, one of the Nation's landmark civil rights laws since the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The ADA opened up the true promise of America to people with disabilities who, for decades have been held back—not by a wheelchair and a flight of insurmountable stairs—but by simple public ignorance.

Because of the Americans with Disabilities Act, people with disabilities are gaining equal access to public sector services. The public sector has rallied to the ADA's goals and states and local governments have developed some of the most innovative and meaningful responses to the ADA.

As a result of this important civil rights law, employers now provide a range of adjustment measures to ensure that employees with disabilities can keep their place in the job market, resulting in unprecedented economic opportunities for our disabled population.

ADA has torn down barriers that prevented people with disabilities from getting access to education, the job market, and simply living their daily lives.

As I reflect on our accomplishments here in Congress since I started to serve my constituents as a member in 1986, this is one of the pieces of legislation, I am most proud of. The Americans with Disabilities Act is a historic example of Congress being true to our centuries-old heritage of freedom and equal opportunity.

This landmark legislation took more than 2 years to pass because even in the halls of Congress, there were hurdles of ignorance to overcome. The ADA itself was born of one man's determination to break down the barriers which had diverted his career plans and caused him to reevaluate his dreams throughout his life. My former colleague in the House of Representatives and original author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Tony Coelho, didn't grow up wanting to be a Member of Congress. But he did grow up with epilepsy. As a youth Tony wanted to be a clergyman, but he was kept back because of public ignorance about his disability.

They say that God works in strange and mysterious ways. Tony Coelho's first dreams were shattered by discrimination, but this was, in fact, a blessing for the entire nation. Tony would go on to write the most comprehensive anti-discrimination bill for persons with disabilities in United States history. What more proof

do we need that someone with a disability can be one of the most able people our nation has ever seen?

When Congress passed and the President signed the Americans with Disabilities Act, we implemented what is, in effect, a 20th century Emancipation Proclamation for the estimated 43 million Americans who have some type of physical or mental disability. For the first time in history, these individuals were guaranteed their rights to explore the full range of their talents, ability, and creativity.

By outlawing discrimination against disabled persons in employment, transportation, public accommodations and telecommunications, the ADA guarantees to persons with disabilities the same rights which most of us in this chamber take for granted—the right to go to their neighborhood grocery store, attend a movie, eat in the local diner, hold a job, ride a city bus, or simply talk on the telephone.

Pre-existing laws and federal regulations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 have been effective, but only so far as the policies of the government, its contractors, and recipients of federal funds have been concerned. These laws left all other areas of American life untouched.

Many young Americans who have benefitted from the equal educational opportunity guaranteed under the 1973 law and the Education of the Handicapped Act, have found themselves on graduation day facing a closed door to the mainstream of American life. For years, generations of disabled Americans have been turned away at movie theatres, refused tables at restaurants, left stranded in wheelchairs at bus stops and denied meaningful employment opportunities.

As a cosponsor of the landmark ADA bill and as a legislator who has worked closely with the disabled since the mid-1970s, I am proud of the fact that the ADA broke down barriers and helped to correct these demeaning disadvantages.

I am also proud of my community's early acceptance of individuals with disabilities, especially the deaf. Rochester is home to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and the first city in the city to broadcast News for the Deaf each weekday.

The Declaration of Independence gave voice to the fundamental principles upon which this nation would grow to greatness—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Twelve years ago the Americans with Disabilities Act reaffirmed these sacred principles for millions and millions of United States citizens who have had to suffer unjustified segregation and exclusion.

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LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY  
WATER RESOURCES CONSERVA-  
TION AND IMPROVEMENT OF 2001

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SPEECH OF

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2990, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2001, which was introduced by my good friend Congressman RUBÉN HINOJOSA.

Among other things, this legislation amends the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 to authorize the construction of 20 additional specified projects in Texas and increases the authorization of appropriations for carrying out the these projects.

As you know Mr. Speaker, the Rio Grande and the areas along both sides of the border have been severely impacted by drought conditions during the last decade. In fact, given the recent problems with the Mexican water debt, we are hearing more about the dire conditions of farmers in the area than in years past. There are more than seven million people residing in the Lower Valley of the Rio Grande river with approximately one million of those living in the United States. The area is one of the fastest growing areas of our country with projected populations more than doubling by the year 2050.

This area encompasses 29 water districts located in the United States below the International Falcon-Amistad Reservoir System, which supplies nearly 95 percent of the water needs of this area. Mr. Speaker, we need to make significant improvements to irrigation canal delivery systems. We need to develop aggressive strategies to conserve water and we need to improve the overall management of the most precious resource in the area—water.

On December 28, 2000, the President signed into law the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-576). The legislation authorized the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to develop a program to investigate and identify opportunities to improve the water supply for selected counties along the Texas-Mexico border. The bill on the floor today amends this law by adding 14 new water conservation projects; modifying the criteria for water supply studies; and increasing the authorization for carrying out the studies. In addition, this bill increases the authorization for construction of facilities from \$10 million to \$47 million. Mr. Speaker, we need to do everything in our power to facilitate good water management and conservation strategies along the U.S.—Mexico border. I applaud the efforts of my colleague for introducing this important legislation and I ask my colleagues to support its passage.

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MUWEKMA OHLONE INDIAN TRIBE

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**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, The Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe is a sovereign Indian Nation located within several counties in the San Francisco Bay Area since time immemorial.

In 1906, the Tribe was formally identified by the Special Indian Census conducted by Indian Agent C.E. Kelsey, as a result of the Congressional Appropriation Act mandate to identify and to purchase land for the landless and homeless California Indian tribes.

At this time, the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs federally acknowledged the Verona Band as coming under the jurisdiction of the Reno and Sacramento Agencies between 1906 and 1927.

The Congress of the United States also recognized the Verona Band pursuant to Chapter 14 of Title 25 of the United States Code, which was affirmed by the United States Court of Claims in the Case of Indians of California v. United States (1942) 98 Ct. Cl. 583.

The Court of Claims case judgment instructed the identification of the Indians of California with the creation of Indian rolls. The direct ancestors of the present-day Muwekma Ohlone Tribe participated in and enrolled under the 1928 California Indian Jurisdictional Act and the ensuing Claims Settlement of 1944 with the Secretary of the Interior approving all of their enrollment applications.

Meanwhile, as a result of inconsistent federal policies of neglect toward the California Indians, the government breached the trust responsibility relationship with the Muwekma tribe and left the Tribe landless and without either services or benefits. As a result, the Tribe has suffered losses and displacement. Despite these hardships the Tribe has never relinquished their Indian tribal status and their status was never terminated.

In 1984, in an attempt to have the federal government acknowledge the status of the Tribe, the Muwekma Ohlone people formally organized a tribal council in conformance with the guidelines under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.

In 1989, the Muwekma Ohlone Tribal leadership submitted a resolution to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch of Acknowledgement and Research with the intent to petition for Federal acknowledgement. This application is known as Petition #111. This federal process is known to take many years to complete.

Simultaneously, in the 1980's and 1990's, the United States Congress recognized the federal government's neglect of the California Indians and directed a Commission to study the history and current status of the California Indians and to deliver a report with recommendations. In the late 1990's the Congressional mandated report—the California Advisory Report, recommended that the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe be reaffirmed to its status as a federally recognized tribe along with five other Tribes, the Dunlap Band of Mono Indians, the Lower Lake Koi Tribe, the Tsungwe Council, the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, and the Tolowa Nation.

On May 24, 1996, the Bureau of Indian Affairs pursuant to the regulatory process then issued a letter to the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe concluding that the Tribe was indeed a Federally Recognized Tribe.

In an effort to reaffirm their status and compel a timely decision by the Department of the Interior, the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe sued the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Court has mandated that the Department issue a decision this year. That decision is expected in early August.

Specifically, on July 28, 2000, and again on June 11, 2002, Judge Ricardo Urbina wrote in his Introduction of his Memorandum Opinion Granting the Plaintiff's Motion to Amend the Court's Order (July 28, 2002) and Memorandum Order Denying the Defendant's to Alter or Amend the Court's Orders (June 11, 2002) affirmatively stating that:

"The Muwekma Tribe is a tribe of Ohlone Indians indigenous to the present-day San Francisco Bay area. In the early part of the Twentieth Century, the Department of the Interior ("DOI") recognized the Muwekma tribe as

an Indian tribe under the jurisdiction of the United States." (Civil Case No. 99-32671 RMU D.D.C.)

I proudly support the long struggle of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe as they continue to seek justice and to finally, and without further delay, achieve their goal of their reaffirmation of their tribal status by the federal government. This process has dragged on long enough. I hope that the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of Interior will do the right thing and act positively to grant the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe their rights as a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe. The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe has waited long enough; let them get on with their lives as they seek to improve the lives of the members of this proud tribe. To do anything else is to deny this Tribe Justice. They have waited patiently and should not have to wait any longer.

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PAYING TRIBUTE TO LUCILLE GUTIERREZ

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HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lucille Gutierrez of Alamosa, Colorado, for her guidance and counseling of the youth of her community. It is a great pleasure to praise such an individual whose talents and gifts have enriched countless individuals. I applaud your efforts and congratulate you on a job very well done.

Lucille began her career as a teacher's aide in February of 1996. She excelled as a teacher and later became the educational site coordinator for the "Head Start" program, a program that offers early educational opportunities to preschoolers. Her volunteer work soon transformed into a full time position demanding long hours. Lucille's career began with 45 eager students, and she instilled in them crucial life skills and values.

This year, Lucille retires as a leader for our youth. Although she will remain active in the lives of many students, her schedule will not be as demanding as it once was. The program since her arrival has grown substantially and now 103 children at Adams State College, participating in the program, will benefit from the legacy of Lucille. Many students who will be saddened to see her retire speak her nickname 'grandma' with great affection. Lucille's colleagues in the profession are also saddened to see her go, but all understand and admire her decision to retire.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to commend Lucille Gutierrez before this body of Congress and this Nation. Her efforts and accomplishments are well respected and will be remembered by each individual she encountered. Thank you again, Lucille, for your contributions to future generations, and good luck in all your future endeavors.

FOOD CRISIS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

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HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak on this very important global issue. My thanks, too, to the gentlelady from California, Representative WATERS, for bringing this critical issue to the Floor.

There are almost 13 million people in the southern part of Africa who are in danger of dying from starvation: a great number of these people are women and children. The severity of the food shortages in the region is due large in part by the severe drought affecting the area for the past decade.

Worldwide humanitarian aid directed to the country has helped to increase the life expectancy of Africa's citizens by nearly 20 years since 1960. Each year, humanitarian aid programs help save the lives of an estimated seven million African children, delivering essential food and medicine to disaster victims and assisting regional refugees fleeing their native countries because of political or economic unrest.

However, Mr. Chairman, to my chagrin, and to what should be an embarrassment to this country, less than half of 1 percent of all of the United States' foreign aid funding is directed to food relief and hunger abatement in nations around the world.

The United States now ranks fourth—behind Japan, behind France, and behind Germany—in the level of aid that we contributed to the world's poorest countries. The United States ranks LAST among the 21 richest nations in the percentage of our Gross National Product (GNP) used to fight world hunger and poverty.

Mr. Speaker, we need to increase the level of our humanitarian aid to Africa because it is the right thing to do; it is the moral thing to do. We are morally obligated, as citizens of a country where food is plentiful, to help people who are dying because of a lack of food.

Mr. Speaker, I would be happy if this House of Representatives appropriated \$1 billion toward hunger abatement efforts in southern Africa but I know there is a slim possibility of this happening.

However, I believe that this body can appropriate \$200 dollars to provide emergency supplemental relief to respond to the food crisis in Southern Africa, and I hope that we do.

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JOHN E. MOSS FOUNDATION

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HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, the John E. Moss Foundation recently awarded its annual Public Service Award to our colleague, the Honorable DAVID OBEY of Wisconsin. The award, which is given each year to a member of the House or Senate who most exemplifies the qualities of integrity, courage and dedication to the public interest, is richly deserved by Congressman OBEY who has always fought hard for legislation benefiting the small investor, the working man, and the consumer. At