

The ADA has opened amazing doors for all people. Buildings, sidewalks and public transportation have become more accessible, allowing for ease in conducting everyday business. The use of screen-readers and voice-recognition software has brought the once unknown world of the Internet to all computer users. No longer will people with impaired vision or dexterity be limited to the available resources. The ADA has given employees with disabilities access to the tools they need to perform their job. Technological advances have been fully integrated into the workplace and I believe society is ready for the work-at-home employee.

As a member of the Bicameral Disabilities Caucus, I am a strong proponent for continued efforts to break down further barriers preventing our disabled community from living healthy, productive lives. With one in five Americans suffering from a debilitating ailment, we have a better understanding for the need to continue supporting both legislation and technology for tomorrow's generation.

Mr. Speaker, the Americans with Disabilities Act had the same impact on disabled Americans in the 1990s as did the Civil Rights Act had on African Americans back in the 1960s. I believe that the will of the people have spoken declaring not to discriminate against any person. With these pieces of legislation side-by-side on the same pedestal, we can observe our constantly changing, and more accepting, country and truly say that we are proud to be Americans.

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ON THE PASSING OF NOLAN  
HANCOCK

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**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, sadly I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues the passing of Nolan Hancock. Many of us have known Mr. Hancock as the former Legislative Director of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers International Union. Mr. Hancock died this week of a heart attack in West Valley City, Utah. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, four children, fourteen grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Nolan Hancock was an electrician by trade and an OCAW member for 48 years. For twenty-one years he worked in various local and international positions for the union. He retired five years ago after serving as Legislative Director for the union for 18 years.

Nolan Hancock worked with tremendous ability and integrity on behalf of the members of OCAW and all working Americans. Among the greatest privileges of being a Member of Congress is to work with people of the caliber of Mr. Hancock. I am proud to have known and worked with him.

ONE MORE REASON WHY RELIGIOUS IDEOLOGY SHOULD NOT DRIVE PUBLIC POLICY

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, As critics predicted, Bush's goal to make faith-based institutions the primary deliverers of social services has led to them promoting their religious beliefs with government money. Today, the Washington Post reported that a Louisiana federal judge ruled that the state illegally used federal money to promote religion in its abstinence-only sex education programs.

How many more examples do we need before Bush abandons this failed social policy?

JUDGE ORDERS CHANGES IN ABSTINENCE PROGRAM

(By Ceci Connolly)

A federal judge in Louisiana ruled yesterday that the state illegally used federal money to promote religion in its abstinence-only sex education programs, a decision that could jeopardize President Bush's ambitions for expanding the effort nationwide.

U.S. District Judge G. Thomas Porteous Jr. ordered the state to stop giving money to individuals or organizations that "convey religious messages or otherwise advance, religion" with tax dollars. He said there was ample evidence that many of the groups participating in the Governor's Program on Abstinence were "furthering religious objectives."

Using government money to distribute Bibles, stage prayer rallies outside clinics that provide abortions and perform skits with characters that preach Christianity violate the Constitution's separation of church and state, he ruled.

One group in its monthly report talked about using the Christmas message of Mary as a prime example of the virtue of abstinence.

"December was an excellent month for our program," the Rapides Station Community Ministries said in a report quoted by the court. "We were able to focus on the virgin birth and make it apparent that God's desire [sic] sexual purity as a way of life."

Gov. Mike Foster (R) expressed dismay over the decision and said he would review the state's legal options.

"It's a sad day when such a worthwhile program is attacked by the very people who are supposed to protect the interests of the citizens of Louisiana," he said.

The suit, filed in May by the American Civil Liberties Union, was the first legal challenge to abstinence-only programs created under the 1996 welfare reform legislation. Bush has asked Congress to extend the \$50 million-a-year program and increase other federal abstinence grants from \$40 million this year to \$73 million next year.

Cities, states or organizations that receive the federal grants must use the money to teach abstinence as the only reliable way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Supporters say abstinence education helps youngsters build character and develop the skills to "say no to sex." Grant recipients may not discuss contraception, except in the context of failure rates of condoms.

"Today's decision should stand as a wake-up call that this practice is unacceptable," said Catherine Weiss, director of the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project.

The ruling was also a victory for liberals and public health advocates who argue that

abstinence-until-marriage programs are unrealistic and put young people in danger of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Abstinence-only "is not a public health program," said James Wagoner, president of Advocates for Youth, which lobbies for broad-based sex education. "This is either ideology or religious instruction trying to pass itself off as public health."

The most recent, detailed analyses have concluded "the jury is still out" when it comes to teaching abstinence, said health researcher Douglas Kirby.

Wagoner called on policymakers to conduct audits of the abstinence programs similar to the current federal investigation of other types of sex education and HIV prevention programs.

Bill Pierce, spokesman for the Department of Health and Human Services, said the administration "remains deeply committed" to both abstinence-only programs and faith-based initiatives.

Weiss and Wagoner said that the misuse of abstinence money went beyond Louisiana and that they had begun to collect evidence of other instances of proselytizing. Many have close ties to the anti-abortion movement, they said.

Three weeks ago, HHS awarded \$27 million in new abstinence grants to numerous organizations with religious affiliations. Weiss acknowledged that it is constitutional to funnel tax money to religious groups as long as the money is used for secular purposes.

During a court hearing last month, Dan Richey, head of the Louisiana program, testified that the state had stopped subsidizing religious activities or overwhelmingly religious groups.

Porteous acknowledged the changes but added, "The Court does, however, feel the need to install legal safeguards to ensure the GPA [Governor's Program on Abstinence] does not fund 'pervasively sectarian' institutions in the future."

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TRIBUTE TO NELLIE M. MCKAY

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**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful community activist and dedicated humanitarian. Mrs. Nellie M. McKay will turn 73 years old on July 27th and her birthday is cause for great celebration.

Nellie was born in 1929 to two hard-working parents, Polly and Alex Brown. She grew up with ten brothers and sisters and learned the importance of sharing and support at a young age. Nellie has applied these values throughout her life as a community activist. New York was fortunate enough to become home to Nellie in 1950, when she immediately became a volunteer with the Baby Tracks program at the old Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx. She also lent her time and energy to the Prosthesis Clinic at St. Luke's Hospital, easing the spirits of patients there. Nellie was a key player in the immunization program at local public schools, which is a crucial initiative for under resourced schools, especially during those times.

Mr. Speaker, Nellie has always been committed to helping those around her and she has also been committed to educating and fostering awareness in those around her. Having earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from

Norwich University, she champions the importance of education. She has facilitated countless workshops on Black History to empower members of the Black community with knowledge of their history and culture as well as to inform members of other ethnic communities. Her main goal was to bring people together through learning.

Many young people and adults throughout the South Bronx consider Nellie a second mother. She has cared for hundreds of children in her home and coordinated numerous events with young people in the community. The fashion shows she organized with Mott Haven HeadStart children created wonderful memories for many. While Nellie may have a special place in her heart for children, she is also very concerned with general community development and giving everyone, children and adults alike, a sense of pride in their neighborhood. She has spearheaded the reparation of abandoned buildings and vacant lots and the repaving of roads and sidewalks. Knowing that she and her neighbors deserved quality public transportation service, she called for and received improvement of the local bus line. Nellie has also helped empower fellow Bronx residents by participating in a number of voter registration drives, encouraging her neighbors to make their voices heard.

Mr. Speaker, at 73 years of age, Nellie continues to work hard and is currently the Chairperson of the Housing Committee of Planning Board 1, Assistant Chairperson of the Patterson Volunteer Committee, a lifetime member of the National Council of Negro Women, and a member of the New York NAACP, as well as many other prestigious organizations.

This exceptional human being is the mother of three, grandmother of six, great-grandmother of seven, and mother-figure of hundreds. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Nellie McKay on her 73d birthday and to thank her for sharing so much of her heart, time and energy.

HONORING DR. JOHN E. SIRMALIS

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. John E. Sirmalis. Dr. Sirmalis recently retired from the position of Technical Director of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) after 45 years of outstanding service. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1956, and a Master of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1958, both from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1975, he received a Doctorate Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Rhode Island. He has a widely heralded reputation as a true leader and an exceptional visionary for submarine and undersea warfare systems. He has also been considered the nation's foremost authority on undersea weapons. As the "hands-on" leader of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Dr. Sirmalis stressed the importance of leading the Navy into the future through innovation, transformation and visionary concepts. Under his leadership and guidance, an incredible and significant series of accomplishments were

produced in many fields, including Sonar Technology, Combat Control Systems, Periscopes, and Launchers.

As a recognized expert in management and technology, Dr. Sirmalis has served as a member of a number of high-level Navy panels and served as the Navy's undersea weapons expert for cooperative international data exchange programs. He played a vital role in the fielding and improving of the Mark 48 and the Mark 48 Advanced Capability (ADCAF) torpedoes and other undersea vehicles. Dr. Sirmalis also implemented productivity enhancements, instituted an aggressive energy conservation program, and prioritized overhead functions to selectively reduce the cost of service. As a direct result of his initiatives, the Naval Undersea Warfare Center reduced overhead and costs while improving efficiency.

Throughout his distinguished career Dr. Sirmalis has received numerous awards. In 1997, Dr. Sirmalis received the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest award that can be received by a member of the Federal Government's Senior Executive Service. He has also been the recipient of the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award, both in 1984 and 1994. He received the 1995 VADM Charles B. Martell Award presented for his outstanding record achievement and reputation as the world's foremost authority on undersea weaponry. Most recently he was selected to receive the 2000 Distinguished Civilian Award from the Naval Submarine League.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Sirmalis has been a long serving and dedicated public servant and a true patriot. I am proud to recognize his long and distinguished career and accomplishments as Technical Director of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center. true naval tradition, I wish Dr. John E. Sirmalis "Fair Winds and Following Seas" as he enters into retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMAICA'S  
40TH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 26, 2002*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound pleasure that I speak today in honor of the 164th year of Emancipation and the 40th anniversary marking Jamaica's independence from Great Britain. On August 6, 1962, Jamaica won its political independence from the colonial rule of Great Britain. This year, Ambassador Seymour Mullings will be leading the Jamaican and Jamaican-American communities in the United States in their yearly tradition of celebrating freedom from colonialism and slavery.

To give a brief history, Jamaica's first inhabitants were the South American Arawak Indians. In 1494, Columbus arrived on the island and claimed the land for Spain. Suffering a similar fate of the nearby Caribbean islands, the Arawak Indians were enslaved or died from diseases carried over by the Spanish settlers during their 160 year reign.

In 1655, the island was captured by the British and immediately started the large-scale importation of Africans for slave labor in the sugar plantations. The inhumane nature of slavery made slave revolts a common phe-

nomenon in Jamaica. Both freed and escaped slaves (Maroons) continually fought their British captors for their right to live free. The most famous of these rebellions happened in 1831 by Reverend Sam Sharpe. Known as the "Christmas Rebellion", this insurrection lasted for four months and is credited for bringing about the end of slavery. Today, Sam Sharpe is recognized as a national hero in Jamaica.

It was not until after the American Colonies declared themselves independent from England in 1776 that the abolition movement began to flourish throughout Jamaica. March 1, 1808 marked the year when slave trade between Africa and Jamaica was abolished by the British Parliament.

In 1834, the Emancipation Act officially ended slavery; however, the slaves did not gain complete freedom until four years later on August 1, 1838. Many ex-slaves settled down as small farmers in the Blue Mountains, far away from the plantations they used to cultivate. Those who stayed on the plantations now received compensation for their labor. Struggles over land culminated in the Morant Bay rebellion, leading to the deaths of two Jamaican national heroes: George William Gordon and Paul Bogle, and forcing Great Britain to proclaim Jamaica as a crown colony in 1865.

Inspired by the political ideas of Marcus Garvey, a national movement for independence began in the late 1930s. Political parties started forming and years later in 1944, Jamaica was proud to hold its first democratic elections. Over a decade later on August 6, 1962, full political independence was granted, allowing Jamaica, a new member to the British Commonwealth, to draft its own constitution and create a bicameral Parliament with elected representatives and a Prime Minister.

Jamaican-born Marcus Garvey was ultimately recognized as one of America's greatest Black leaders. He challenged the myths of racial inferiority and inspired hundreds of thousands of Black American supporters with hope for a better future. It is my hope that this Congress will support my bill, H.Res. 50, to exonerate this internationally renowned leader in the struggle for human rights. I ask my colleagues to join me today in clearing Marcus Garvey's name in honor of Jamaica's Emancipation from slavery and Independence from colonialism.

With 4,411 square miles of beautiful beaches, mountains and farms, Jamaica overcame centuries of economic and social struggles to become internationally acclaimed in all aspects of human culture, including tourism, music, and sports. Millions of tourists from all around the world vacation in Jamaica and experience for themselves the beauty that the inhabitants of this great nation get to see year round.

Although it is a small island nation of only two million people, Jamaica has had a remarkable impact upon the world of music. With its reggae beat played throughout the world, Jamaica has produced the musical stylings of Harry Belafonte, Jimmy Cliff, Peter Tosh and Bob Marley. The country is involved in all sports competitions, including cricket, soccer, basketball, boxing, and even more remote sports like baseball, hockey, and bobsledding. Great Jamaican athletes such as Heavyweight Champion Lennox Lewis and Patrick Ewing of the New York Knicks have contributed extensively to the American sports culture.