

Frank W. Kennedy Memorial Award. During the 1960s, Frank Kennedy served with distinction as the president of the Board of Directors of the Lansingburgh Boys & Girls Club. This award, named in his honor, is given to a member of the community that embodies the characteristics of Frank Kennedy—integrity, generosity, and loyalty to the community.

The 2002 recipient of this award, Mr. Beaudoin, is a graduate of Syracuse University with a masters in social work and, for the last 34 years, has been working for the Rensselaer County Commissioner of Social Services. With his unparalleled concern for youth and the elderly, John Beaudoin has used his role in the Department of Social Services to improve conditions within his community. He has developed various services such as homeless shelters, day care initiatives, and dealt with child protective issues, to name just a few of his accomplishments.

John Beaudoin has distinguished himself within the Department of Social Services, as well as the many affiliated organizations he has worked with. John has developed numerous programs to serve every facet of the community and is certainly deserving of this award.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to join with the Lansingburgh Boys & Girls Club in honoring John Beaudoin. I am sure that John's admirable efforts on behalf of the local community will continue well into the future.

#### CONTINUING CRISIS IN FOSTER CARE

#### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis affecting the 500,000 children in foster care in this country. Day after day, there are reported cases of sexual abuse, neglect, and even death of foster children, all while under the care of the state child welfare agencies. Social workers remove children from their homes because of abuse and/or neglect. Yet neither safety nor stability is ensured by child protective services interventions.

In the following article, The Washington Post reports that a 7-year-old boy, a ward of the District's Child and Family Services Agency, was warehoused in a group home for older foster children, where 12-year-old boys later admitted to sodomizing him. Additionally, officials confirmed that other boys were sexually abused at that facility and at a separate group home for mentally retarded foster children.

But severe problems in the foster care system exist in many states and jurisdictions beyond Washington D.C. Articles and reports that I will provide in subsequent extensions document how children in foster homes, children's shelters, and group homes are sometimes subject to even greater abuse as a result of those placements.

A strong federal law passed in 1980 establishes tough accountability standards to protect children in foster care. It is evident that there has not been sufficient oversight at the state or federal level, and that billions of dollars are being spent, often in violation of federal law, to perpetuate a system that fails to

provide children and their families with necessary services and safeguards.

The circumstances described in these reports underscore the need for lawmakers, practitioners, and advocates to work together without delay to reform the child welfare system and to review the enforcement and implementation of our foster care laws without further delay.

The article follows:

[From the Washington Post, Aug. 1, 2002]

D.C. SPEEDS GROUP HOME CHANGE; MOVE FOLLOWS NEW REPORT OF ASSAULTS ON BOYS

The director of the District's child welfare agency yesterday ordered her staff to speed up the removal of children under 12 from foster group homes, as officials learned of another unreported case of alleged sexual abuse involving youths at one of the privately run facilities.

The agency acknowledged yesterday that it did not remove an 11-year-old mentally retarded boy from one of the homes until nearly three months after he reported being sexually abused by a 15-year-old resident.

A city social worker learned of the April 9 incident shortly after it occurred but did not report it until July 2, city officials said. Police then interviewed the 11-year-old and his 12-year-old roommate, who also reported being sexually assaulted, and removed them from the home. The alleged perpetrator is still at the facility.

The case is the latest in a string of such incidents that were not promptly reported to authorities. Last week, city officials said that a 7-year-old boy was sodomized by two 12-year-olds at another group home in April and that the home's staff did not report the abuse until two days later. This week, officials said that home also failed to tell government monitors about a 1999 abuse incident.

The D.C. Child and Family Services Agency announced yesterday that it has strengthened its procedures on the reporting of abuse and that it will refer for prosecution any caregiver or employee who fails to make such a report.

More than 400 District foster children are in congregate care, as group homes and other institutions are called, and the agency's policy is to limit the facilities' use to older children and those with special medical needs.

Yesterday, Olivia A. Golden, the agency's director, ordered an inventory to determine how many group home residents are younger than 12. She ordered her staff to review those cases and prioritize the children for placement with foster families or relatives or for reunification with birth parents. A key hurdle to that effort, however, is a shortage of foster families, especially families who are trained to offer therapeutic services for children with intensive needs.

Golden's order comes one year after the agency emerged from six years of federal court control, the legacy of a 1989 lawsuit filed over poor conditions in the child welfare system. The agency is trying to improve its regulation of private foster care institutions, which have never been licensed because the city failed for 15 years to implement a 1986 licensure law.

"We knew we were coming into a situation where congregate care was substantially overused, and we knew that group home providers did not have enough resources and staff," said Golden, who took over the agency in June 2001.

Golden said she was "surprised and saddened" by the severity of unreported abuse. "The fact that we're still having tragedies is what we have to change," she said.

Marcia Robinson Lowry, the New York-based lead counsel in the class-action suit against the District, said yesterday that she has asked the agency's court-appointed monitor to investigate the recent incidents.

"We had been focusing on children 6 and under, but it is clear that the problem is well beyond that and that children under 12 should not be in group home facilities," Lowry said.

In the latest abuse case, a police report obtained by The Washington Post indicates that during an April 9 bed check at the group home, in the 800 block of Floral Place NW, staff members observed the 15-year-old running out of the two younger boys' bedroom with his pajama pants open.

The 11-year-old told the staff that the older boy had touched him on the buttocks, according to the police report.

The report states that when a detective went to investigate on July 2, the boy said he had been forced to perform oral sex on the 15-year-old. The boy's roommate corroborated the account and said his penis was grabbed by the teenager on the same night.

The 11-year-old "stated that this has occurred several times and each time he has reported it to the staff of the group home," the police report said.

Moderate mental retardation has been diagnosed in all three boys. The 11-year-old is living temporarily with his family while awaiting an alternative placement, and the 12-year-old has been placed with a foster family.

The group home is run by a nonprofit contractor, Community Multi Services Inc. It operates five homes that serve up to 18 mentally retarded foster children, as well as seven care facilities and 15 apartments for adults with developmental disabilities. It is paid nearly \$3,500 a month for each foster child.

Constance A. Reese, the contractor's program director, said her staff interviewed the three boys and had them seen by a doctor but determined that "nothing took place with these children." She said the staff notified the three boys' social workers and sent an incident report to a government monitor.

Mindy L. Good, a spokeswoman for the child welfare agency, said that the 15-year-old boy's social worker learned of the incident April 10 but "completely failed to report this until July." The social worker, Emmanuel K. Baah, called the agency's abuse and neglect hotline in July after his supervisor ordered him to do so, Good said. The hotline staff then contacted the police.

Good said Baah violated agency policy on the reporting of abuse by not immediately calling the hotline or informing his supervisor. She said that the actions of the group home, the monitor and the social workers for the two younger boys also are being reviewed.

Baah, who has worked for the city since 1992, said he received a dismissal letter from the agency yesterday. He said the group home told him about the incident April 18, right before he went on a six week vacation. He said he did not call the hotline because group home employees were reviewing the alleged abuse and "because they were not sure whether it was substantiated or not."

For years, city law has required health care providers, law enforcement officers, educators and social service and day-care workers to immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect to the police or the child welfare agency.

Group home regulations that took effect in September require any staff member who knows of possible abuse or neglect to call the hotline immediately and submit a written report within 24 hours to the child's social worker and the child welfare agency.

But in February, the agency sent a letter to foster care institutions indicating that staff should make oral reports to social workers during business hours and to the hotline during evenings and weekends. Yesterday, the agency said that the 24-hour hotline, 202-671-SAFE, should always be used.

In addition, the agency said it will refer violations of the reporting requirements for prosecution and push for an increase in the penalties for violators. Currently, failure to report abuse or neglect is punishable by a fine of up to \$100 or imprisonment for up to 30 days.

Staff researchers Bobbye Pratt and Karl Evanzz contributed to this report.

#### A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JONATHAN W. WEISS

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2002*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Jonathan Weiss has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Jonathan Weiss has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Jonathan Weiss has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Jonathan Weiss must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 401, the residents of Jefferson County, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Jonathan W. Weiss as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

#### HONORING SPECTRUM IN MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2002*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Spectrum, Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Concerns, on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. Spectrum began its work in 1982, under the leadership of Rev. Janie Spahr, and with the direction of Executive Director Paula Pilecki, Spectrum has continued to pursue its mission to "strengthen, mobilize and serve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning people, and promote acceptance, understanding and full inclusion in Marin County."

Spectrum is the only organization in Marin County that focuses exclusively on addressing the needs of LGBT people. In twenty years, over 1,000 volunteers have helped tens of thousands of people come together to speak out against fear and discrimination. Spectrum works with a national network of social justice advocates to make the world a more inclusive and safe place for all people. Spectrum recognizes that in a diverse community, it is important that people learn to respect each other and their differences.

Spectrum plays an active role in the community, providing outreach programs that edu-

cate the community on LGBT people and provide systems of support for LGBT people. Spectrum's Speakers Bureau makes presentations to elementary, middle and high schools, colleges and community groups. Volunteer speakers share their personal stories to dispel myths and stereotypes about LGBT people. Spectrum's program, Rainbow's End, provides support for LGBT and questioning youth, 14-19 years old. Community Connections focuses on LGBT seniors providing peer support, facilitating social groups and educational forums.

Mr. Speaker, Spectrum has played a pivotal role in the LGBT community. The support they provide to LGBT people and the education they provide to the public has had an everlasting effect on Marin County.

#### COMMENDING THE PUBLICATION OF "TO LIFE: STORIES OF COURAGE AND SURVIVAL TOLD BY HAMPTON ROADS HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS LIBERATORS AND RESCUERS"

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2002*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the publication of "To Life: Stories of Courage and Survival as told by Hampton Roads Holocaust Survivors, Liberators, and Rescuers."

I also wish to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives the following statement issued by Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, upon publication by the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater of the book "To Life: Stories Of Courage and Survival told by Hampton Roads Holocaust Survivors, Liberators and Rescuers." Rabbi Zoberman, son of Polish Holocaust survivors, and his daughter Rachel are among the contributing authors.

#### STATEMENT OF RABBI ZOBERMAN

Out of the depths of Jewish anguish and an aching human soul, with much trepidation to disclose accounts so personal and intimate yet with a compelling need to unburden heavy-laden hearts, reaching out to connect across a separating abyss, this—courageously, convincingly and caringly—shared tales of woes and victories is an enduring gift of Tikvah, reassuring hope for generations.

Out of the Shoah's poisonous fires still threatening to consume civilization, hope is painstakingly garnered and guarded from the midst of despair, a reminder of humanity's capacity to stand up to indefinite evil—physically, psychologically and spiritually—to ensure that infinite goodness will be the lot of all God's children.

Hope that dreams dashed by blind hatred and boundless cruelty perverting the divine image within us cannot ultimately be destroyed by demonic depravity deposited in the recesses of human depravity. While affirming the Holocaust's uniqueness we recall with horror the September 11th, 2001 terrorist strikes and the genocidal wars in Cambodia, Rwanda and Bosnia, further diminishing us. Hope that life's sacred and sweet essence of creative potential, more imperative, fulfilling relations and maturing growth will prevail over the stifling emptiness of a culture of death. Hope that the holiness in the

victims' lives, symbolized by the flickering Sabbath lights, is within reach in spite of history's harsh winds. Hope that glorious Israel reborn, the surviving remnant facing continued trials and tribulations, will ever be a fitting testimony to its martyred people's inspiring bequest of prophetic values and undying faith. Hope filled with lasting gratitude that the United States of America, home and haven to the persecuted and oppressed, a weary humanity's best and last beacon of light, will retain its great pluralistic vision. It valiantly defeated Nazism and it will win as well its war on global terrorism.

Our heroic survivors, rescuers and liberators have entered portals not one else has, a land only they traversed, leaving behind lost dear ones safe from hurt and humiliation under the Shechina's broken wings. They dared remember, recall and retell for memory empowers the living and is the dead's lasting memorial. Rebuilding and healing their lives in Hampton Roads, the survivors along with their children and grandchildren provide us with indelible past and present lessons of perseverance, purpose and promise. The treasured candles of their cherished lives will brightly shine, eternal watch and witness, kindling a path for shalom's blessing to yes highlight a global community at harmonious peace.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this important publication to all Members of the House of Representatives. The stories of Holocaust survivors must be documented and told again and again. In doing so, we will ensure that such inhumane horror will remain present forever in our collective conscience, so that we, above all else, will never let this dark chapter in our history ever repeat itself.

#### A PROCLAMATION COMMENDING MORNING JOURNAL

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2002*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, the Morning Journal published in Lisbon, Ohio will celebrate its 150th anniversary on September 15, 2002; and

Whereas, the Morning Journal started as The Buckeye State in 1852 and became the Evening Journal in 1909; and

Whereas, the Morning Journal has grown to become the largest newspaper in Columbiana County; and

Whereas, the Morning Journal serves its community with publication seven days a week;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in recognizing the Morning Journal on September 15, 2002 its 150th anniversary.

#### RECOGNIZING ROSELLE, MICHAEL HINGSON'S GUIDE DOG, FOR HER BRAVERY AT WORLD TRADE CENTER ON SEPTEMBER 11

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2002*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roselle, a yellow Labrador dog, whose