

How can we hold the number of people on earth down to approximately 8 billion? The answer to that question lies with providing access to voluntary family planning for the more than 300 million couples in the world who today want to make their own decisions about when and if they will have children—couples who in many cases did not want their last child and do not want another.

Accommodating these couples, however, is another matter that has been complicated by the anti-abortion movement. Let me say here that the Population Institute is passionately dedicated to providing access to family planning information, means and services; we do not consider abortion to be a method of family planning. As a matter of fact, abortion is a procedure to which many women resort who lack access to family planning.

However, a sizable contingent of those who have the audacity to label themselves “pro-life” because they oppose abortion have become perhaps the single greatest obstacle to those 300 million-plus women obtaining family planning.

If you want to prevent abortion, the first line of defense is preventing pregnancy. And that is what family planning is about: preventing pregnancies, not terminating them.

And if the Bush administration is serious about being “prolife,” it should be promoting family planning—not signing executive orders that cut off the congressionally approved \$34 million United States contribution to the United Nations Population Fund, the largest multilateral provider of international population assistance, as the President has.

But the obstacles to universal access to family planning are not solely within the anti-abortion movement. Population policy today is a matter of failure, ignorance, and timidity.

Last month I was in Johannesburg, South Africa, attending the World Summit on Sustainable Development—the most important global meeting on environment and development since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Oddly, population growth had no place on the official agenda. But there can be no doubt that population and sustainable development are inexorably linked.

After all, we live in a world where 70 percent of all families are dependent on firewood as their primary source of heating and cooking fuel. A world where 600,000 square miles of forest have been cut down worldwide, just over the past 10 years. A world where forestland equivalent to three times the size of Belgium is annually cut down in the Congo Basin alone.

Though there were some achievements at the Johannesburg summit, it was seriously flawed by the neglect to link human growth with environmental well being in the face of economic growth.

The Johannesburg summit succeeded in establishing clearly important time-tables for pressing matters, such as: halving the number of people living in poverty who lack access to clean water and adequate sanitation by 2015; restoring depleted fish stocks by 2015; and significantly reducing the extinction rate of the world's plant and animal life by 2010.

I seriously question, however, how any one of these obviously significant and desirable targets can be reached until we, first and foremost, establish a crystal clear accelerated target for providing voluntary family planning and reproductive health care to those more than 300 million who need and want fewer children but lack the information, education and the affordable means to control their own fertility. The Johannesburg summit was not a failure; I believe that so long as nations of the world continue to

discuss relevant issues at very least it achieves the opportunity for mutual understanding and mutual respect. But I also believe that much more could have been accomplished had the meeting not been bogged down in coddling the comfortable and ignoring the afflicted.

Considering the political climate, especially in the United States, at the time of the WSSD, many feel that population stabilization advocates should count themselves fortunate that the summit reaffirmed the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Plan of Action, as well as the results of the 1999 ICPD+5 meeting and the Millennium Development Goals—all of which had important population policy and program recommendations. In hindsight, this appears to be true enough. Yet while reaffirmations are not insignificant, in my view summit meetings should be about more than acknowledgments of what already has been approved. They should focus on progress: developing new strategies to attain established goals and objectives, where they are needed, and accelerating efforts to reach these goals and objectives, where it is applicable. It is in these areas where, as far as world population issues are concerned, the WSSD was disappointing.

In addition to squandering an opportunity to accelerate progress on universal access to family planning, the Johannesburg summit failed to establish a target for vastly reducing the carbon emissions responsible for global warming and increasing reliance on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.

We know that the planet in many respects has an impressive capacity for resilience. Some years back British scientists reported that the ozone layer—the protective shield that prevents ultra-violet B rays from devastating the earth with skin cancer—was thinning in the southern hemisphere and had virtually disappeared over Antarctica, the world. For years, industries producing chlorofluorocarbons influenced industrialized countries responsible for most of the emissions to forego becoming involved in an effort to prevent such emissions. But with new and compelling scientific evidence before the world, nations hastened to approve the Montreal Protocol, phasing out CFCs and other ozone-depleting chemicals by 1996. Within recent weeks, it has been reported that the shield is thickening at a pace that might close the 10,000 square mile hole in the layer over Antarctica within 50 years.

I am convinced we can have similar success in overall sustainable development, if we have the foresight and the courage to establish rational and effective timetables. The timetable for reducing world population growth to a figure closer to 8 billion rather than 9 billion would specifying dates for:

Widening women's educational opportunities—at all levels, primary, secondary and higher education. In country after country studies, show that the more education a woman has the more likely she is to have only the number of children she can nurture and educate;

Increasing employment opportunities for women. Studies also show that when women have income-generating employment, they are likely to have fewer children;

Reduction of infant and child mortality. A major factor contributing to larger family size in many developing countries is that infant and child survival is precarious at best. Couples frequently have six, seven or eight children in the hope that one, two, or three will survive. With adequate prenatal and postnatal care, infant and child mortality can be vastly reduced.

Universal access to family planning information, education, and the affordable means to practice it.

Some years back, World Bank President Robert McNamara said in a celebrated speech at Notre Dame University that time lost in the effort to reduce rampant population growth can never be recovered. I believe that rapid population growth is a problem the entire world must address. Failure to do so would be the ultimate global blunder, one from which there is no recovery.

IN HONOR OF GREATER ASTORIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S SELECTION OF DENIS BUTLER AS 2002 HONORARY MAYOR OF LONG ISLAND CITY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mrs. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Greater Astoria Historical Society and Denis Butler, who has been named 2003 Honorary Mayor of Long Island City.

Long Island City, just across the East River from Manhattan, is the largest community in Queens with 250,000 residents. The history of Long Island City spans more than 360 years from its humble beginning as Dutch farmland in the 1640s to its present incarnation as a residential and commercial hub.

Chartered in 1870, Long Island City was the consolidation of several villages and areas, which included Astoria, Steinway, Ravensch[hy]ph[hy]wood and Hunters Point. Long Island City existed independently from New York City for 28 years. The new city government encouraged industry, which spread northward with gas plants and chemical and glass factories lining the East River waterfront. By the end of the 19th century, the city had the highest concentration of industry in the United States. Long Island City was incorporated by the City of New York in the consolidation of 1898.

Long Island City was transformed in 1909 by the opening of Queensborough Bridge, immediately changing the community from a remote suburb to the destination minutes from Manhattan. Today Long Island City is connected with the rest of New York City by six tunnels and five bridges.

The Greater Astoria Historical Society, chartered in 1985, is a non-profit cultural and community oriented organization dedicated to preserving the past and promoting Long Island City's future. The Society hosts field trips, walking tours, slide presentations, and guest lectures to schools and the public.

The Society believes that history is the most powerful tool that a society processes. It tells us why the things we value are the things we should value, and it tells us the things that should be ignored. That is true power, a profound power—the power to define a whole society.

Denis Butler, who was an outstanding Assemblyman for Astoria and Long Island City for 24 years, is an outstanding choice for honorary Mayor. An active legislator and a caring civic leader, Assemblyman Butler exemplifies the strength and creativity of Long Island City.

Assemblyman Butler was a champion of the aging, disabled, and underprivileged, and has worked tirelessly for the working men and women of his district. With the support of the Assembly leadership, Assemblyman Butler

created SCRIE (Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption), which has helped low income seniors remain in their homes. Additionally, he was a prime sponsor of EPIC, New York's prescription drug buy plan, which has helped thousands of elderly new Yorkers pay for necessary medication.

Assemblyman Butler has been extremely active in civic affairs and has worked alongside local community activists on a wide range of issues, working to improve educational and youth programs, and increase local police presence. His caring guidance and enthusiasm have truly made this neighborhood a more pleasant place to live and work.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Greater Astoria Historical Society and saluting them for selecting Denis Butler as the 2003 Honorary Mayor of Long Island City.

TRIBUTE TO EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Epworth United Methodist Church, a treasured Bronx institution and a historic house of worship that celebrated its Centennial anniversary November 10, 2002. Appropriately, the theme of their celebration was "We've Come This Far By Faith."

Mr. Speaker, Epworth United Methodist Church was founded at the turn of the century in the heart of the South Bronx. People from all walks of life have filled its pews throughout the past century and as a result, it has become an invaluable part of the Bronx's history. Located on Concourse Village East, the church stands as a beacon of faith and rich history.

Throughout its 100 years of existence, Epworth United has been a model of excellence with its numerous and far-reaching community programs. Not only are Bronx residents able to come to Epworth United for spiritual enrichment and fellowship, they can come to the church for assistance with life's daily trials. The church is especially proud of its large and active youth congregation.

Mr. Speaker, Epworth United provides food and clothing to anyone who may need them. Its dedicated staff and clergy also run an after-school tutorial and a summer day camp for young people. The church also awards college scholarships to outstanding youth throughout the city.

For the past century, countless Bronx residents have found solace and aid within the walls of Epworth United Methodist Church. I hope that all of my esteemed colleagues will join me in honoring this sacred and historic institution on its centennial anniversary.

CONGRATULATING JACK STONE AS 2002 AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jack Stone for receiving

the 2002 Agriculturist of the Year Award at the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Luncheon in Fresno, California on November 13, 2002. This lifetime achievement award is given annually to an individual who exemplifies leadership and integrity in the Central Valley's agricultural business community.

Jack Stone graduated from the University of California, Davis. In 1940, he began farming and later sold his farm in order to serve his country for four years as a Captain in the Army Corps of Engineers. In 1946, Jack began to farm again on undeveloped Central Valley land and then organized the J.G. Stone Land Company two years later. Jack has served as President of the Westlands Water District, the National Cotton Council, the Western Cotton Growers Association, and formerly served as chairman of the Producers Steering Committee of the National Cotton Council. He currently serves as a California Farm Water Coalition Board Member.

Jack is a second-generation farmer specializing in cotton, grains, and a half dozen other field crops on 6,000 acres in the Stratford and Lemoore areas in Central California. He has always worked for the interests of young farmers by supporting the development of the agriculture program at Coalinga's West Hills College, and by being a steadfast supporter of the cotton program and judging contests at the California State University, Fresno campus. Jack has also consistently fought for development of an adequate, reliable, and affordable water supply for California. Today, much of J.G. Stone Land Company's daily activities are run by Jack's son, Bill, and his grandchildren, though Jack remains the patriarch of the four-generation farming operation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jack Stone for earning the 2002 Agriculturist of the Year Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Jack Stone many years of continued success.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING TAMMY SANDERSON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Tammy Sanderson has devoted herself to serving others through her work at the Carroll County Department of Human Services; and

Whereas, Tammy Sanderson has shared her time and talent with the community in which she resides; and

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

Whereas, Tammy Sanderson must be commended for the hard work and dedication she put forth in her 30 year career of service with the county;

Therefore, I join with the Department of job and Family Services and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Tammy Sanderson on her retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SERENA JANE SWENK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is deep sadness that I recognize the life and passing of Serena Jane Swenk of Dolores, Colorado. Mrs. Swenk passed away in October, and as her family mourns her loss, I would like to pay tribute to her life and the wonderful memories she has left behind.

Serena was born in Dolores, Colorado on October 3, 1916. The granddaughter of one of Colorado's original pioneering families, her great-grandparents were among the first that came to settle in the area known today as Montezuma County. Serena loved the land and took full advantage of her rural upbringing, spending her childhood afternoons riding and herding sheep.

Serena attended school in the lower valley of Montezuma County and in Dolores, where she graduated from high school in 1934. She was an avid reader, scholar and artist, never missing an opportunity to open a book, research historical events, or paint a majestic Colorado landscape. Serena was also a very capable homemaker and loved to arrange holiday get togethers where she would cook for the entire family.

Despite a busy life on the ranch, Serena still found the time to remain active in her community. She spent countless hours serving in many community clubs and organizations, including the Order of Eastern Star, Southwestern Colorado Cowbelles, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the 4-H. It was for these efforts that Serena received many awards throughout her life including, 4-H Leader of the Year, Southwestern Colorado Cowbelle of the Year, and Mancos Days Pioneer Queen.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize the life and passing of Serena Jane Swenk before this body of Congress and this nation. I extend my sincere condolences to her two sons David and Larry, and her many grandchildren. Serena was one of our state's true pioneers; she lived her life with great enthusiasm, courage and compassion, and was an inspiration to all who knew her.

TRIBUTE TO JOE WARNER

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of a dear, close friend of mine Joe Warner, who tragically passed away in a plane crash shortly after takeoff on July 22, 2002.

Many of our nation's greatest servants silently and humbly transform communities out of the goodness of their hearts, selfless generosity, and a dedication to improving the welfare of loved ones and those whom they have never met. Joe Warner was one of these servants, and he serves as an inspiration to us all.

Joe was born on July 3, 1942 in DeKalb, Illinois to Paul and Doris Walkey Warner. He attended Northern Illinois University and received his NMA from the University of Illinois.