

efforts to overcome serious human rights violations.

Loune Viaud is well deserving of this award because she has demonstrated leadership by expanding the delivery of health and social services to indigent Haitians suffering from HIV/AIDS and other debilitating diseases. She is a champion of Haiti's poor.

We all know that Haiti is one of the most impoverished nations in the Western Hemisphere. With over 300,000 people infected with HIV/AIDS out of its small population of 8 million, Haiti is in a crisis. Haiti is also facing a devastating AIDS orphan crisis with more than 163,000 children whose parents have died from AIDS complications. It is appalling that only one in every ten thousand Haitians has access to a physician, and tuberculosis remains one of the major causes of adult mortality. In fact, cases of tuberculosis and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis in Haiti are more than ten times as high as those in other Latin American countries.

I want to praise Loune for rising to the challenge and for her significant work in Haiti. Her contributions are critical to the welfare of Haiti, as well as the welfare of our global community. Upon learning she had been selected as the Robert F. Kennedy award recipient, Loune Viaud stated, "For the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial to choose me, a humble foot soldier in the struggle for health and human rights, as the recipient of this prestigious award means more than I can say. For I am a Haitian, and the majority of Haitian people have always stood for equality. From 1791, when we fought against slavery to become the world's first independent republic born of a slave revolt, until 1990, when we again declared as a people our belief in social and economic rights as a human rights platform, the Haitians have struggled against long odds. Two hundred years of struggle, much of it in isolation even from those who profess a belief in human rights. Thank you for reminding us that we are never, in fact, really alone."

Loune maintains a clinic situated on the Central Plateau in rural Haiti. She offers free health care to the hundreds of thousands of people living in the region. Last year alone 56,000 people came to the clinic for medical help. In 2002 more than 100,000 people will be treated there.

The clinic, Zanmi Lasante, addresses the overall needs of the community surrounding it. It has special clinics for HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, a clinic for women (Proje Sante Fanm), a special center for children and an operating theatre. The complex also develops educational projects on HIV/AIDS sanitation and human rights.

Although the clinic is built in an underdeveloped region, Zanmi Lasante's treatment program is proof that diseases that are difficult to treat can be addressed in rural areas. The clinic, however, does not stop there. It's program treats the patients and empowers them to understand their rights. In 2001, Viaud was instrumental in developing a patient's Bill of Rights with a group of 60 HIV-positive patients. The patients view their health care as a basic human right, not charity.

Viaud's work attacks the symptoms of a greater and more persistent human rights violation, namely the right to healthcare. Article 19 of the Haitian Constitution states that the Government of Haiti is obliged to provide basic health care to its citizens. The Govern-

ment has stated that it would develop other health facilities, following Zanmi Lasante's model, in other parts of the country if it had the resources. I, along with other members of the CBC agree that the Haitian government should receive the funding already promised from the IDB Bank in 1996 for humanitarian assistance. In every sense, the disbursement of these loans can mean the difference between life and death.

I want to assure Loune and her partners in Haiti that their work does not go unrecognized. I stand with you in this effort. As African-Americans and as a members of the Congressional Black Caucus' Haiti Task Force, we have recognized the urgency in Haiti. Together, we have worked to introduce legislation that would decouple the humanitarian crisis in Haiti from the political impasse, which has further impeded Haiti's development since the 2000 elections. The resolutions was designed ensure that financial assistance from the international financial institutions can be disbursed to Haiti. You have my assurance that this work will continue. We must make it our mission to advance the development of a stronger and more meaningful partnership between the United States and Haiti.

In closing, I want to commend Loune Viaud for her work in Haiti. She is helping to build a strong foundation for the future development of Haiti. We must recognize the distress Haiti is in however, we must also look forward with hope. It is my honor to work with you and I look forward to our collective efforts to build a better relationship between the United States and Haiti. Loune, you are role model who is demonstrating today what can be possible tomorrow and into the future if we commit ourselves to a better brighter future for Haiti.

HONORING RYAN C. LEWIS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Ryan C. Lewis, who has demonstrated remarkable patriotism and immense love for the United States of America. Because of his desire to serve his fellow countrymen, Ryan joined the United States Army. He has composed a poem to articulate his feelings, and this written expression, which Ryan has so graciously shared, is a reflection of his heartfelt pride for our country. I feel that it is important to share this with my colleagues, as it is an inspiration to all those who hear it.

You asked me to show my patriotism
I think I already have, by flying the flag
In my room, by saying the pledge everyday
And when my eyes get watery and
The hair on my neck stands up when I hear
the
National Anthem. I've shown you by joining
The Army just to serve my country.
It runs in the family, this patriotism in my
heart,
This never ending pride, respect, honor, and
love
I have for my country, this sweet land of liberty.
You know for you are my sister and you are
my brother.

Mr. Speaker, Ryan's dedication to his country is an example for all Americans to follow,

and I thank him for his selfless contribution to this nation and its people.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMMIGRATION BOND FAIRNESS ACT OF 2002

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Immigration Bond Fairness Act of 2002, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for judicial review of detention and release determinations, and to provide a right to a bond hearing before an immigration judge to all aliens in removal and summary removal proceedings.

This bill would end the INS practice of indefinite detention of Haitians, even those seeking asylum, a racially discriminatory practice designed to send Haitian asylum seekers back home, regardless of the risk of persecution. It would ensure that every person in removal or summary removal proceedings would have a right to have custody, detention, and release determinations affecting them reviewed by an Immigration Judge.

Passing this bill would significantly improve the chance that asylum seekers will receive the legal help they need to present their best case for relief. It also would temper the problems that invariably arise when an agency is given complete, unreviewable discretion to make detention and release determinations.

Mr. Speaker, under this bill, everyone in removal or summary removal proceedings also would have the right to have an Immigration Judge, not an INS officer, decide whether it is appropriate to release them into the community on bond while their asylum claim is pending. None of us know what impact, if any, a judicial decision on bond claims will have on the frequency of release of asylum seekers into the community. Yet, surely, every person in detention deserves their day in court to make a case for release into the community on bond. That's just basic fairness.

Why should someone like Ernest Moise, who fled death threats in Haiti, and his teenage sons, remain locked up by the Miami INS office in March 2002, even though an Immigration Judge had granted him political asylum on February 22?

Mr. Speaker, historically, the INS practice was to release Haitian asylum seekers arriving in Miami into the community while their asylum claims were pending once they passed their interviews demonstrating a credible fear of persecution. Yet, in December 2001, after 187 Haitians were brought to shore in Miami for safety reasons from a Haitian boat that the Coast Guard intercepted at sea, the INS, apparently at the behest of the White House, secretly directed the Miami District INS office to detain Haitians even if they raised a credible fear of persecution if they are returned to Haiti.

It was only in March of this year when Miami immigration lawyers went to Federal court to challenge the INS's racially discriminatory policies against Haitians that the INS reluctantly acknowledged that the Miami INS office had adopted a policy of indefinite detention of all Haitians then or thereafter in INS

custody, even Haitians with credible asylum claims. According to the Miami Herald, the President's brother, Florida Governor Jeb Bush, says that he was told about this change in policy immediately after it came into effect in December 2001. Yet Governor Bush didn't tell the people that he knew of this policy change until ten days ago!

Two weeks ago, after 211 Haitians arrived at Key Biscayne by boat, I asked Governor Bush to contact the President to ensure that these Haitians receive fair treatment, including fair consideration of their claims for asylum. While the Governor refused my request to contact the President, he said that he shared my belief that Haitians should be treated the same as all other asylum seekers. Just last week at his most recent press conference, the President himself said that procedures were being developed to ensure that Haitians were treated as all others except Cubans.

Apparently, what the President was referring to was a directive from the INS Commissioner announced late last Friday mandating that all persons arriving illegally by sea will be placed in expedited removal proceedings, and during their legal process will remain in detention unless released for humanitarian reasons at the discretion of the INS. What a cruel hoax. The Administration's idea of fairness for Haitians is simply expedited removal, coupled with indefinite detention!

In short, the policy is that Haitians who come to this country seeking asylum are being indefinitely detained by the Bush Administration, even when they demonstrate a credible fear of persecution if they are returned to Haiti. This policy is unfair. It's discriminatory. It's immoral. While the Administration denies that there is any racial element to this policy, the facts are that no group of asylum seekers other than the Haitians is treated this way.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better than this. We must do better than this. Let's give every asylum seeker their day in court and allow an Immigration Judge to decide whether an asylum seeker's release into the community on bond is warranted. I urge all my colleagues to support the Immigration Bond Fairness Act of 2002.

TRIBUTE TO FORT LEWIS MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District of Marvel, Colorado for their service and dedication during one of Colorado's most formidable fire seasons. Last summer, the Fire Protection District played an integral role in containing the Missionary Ridge forest fire that burned over 70,000 acres in Southwestern Colorado. Today, I would like to pay tribute to their heroic efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

When the Missionary Ridge fire first erupted last June, the citizens of Durango, Bayfield and the surrounding communities called upon the Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District to protect their loved ones, homes, and communities from what would become the worst fire

in area history. The fire began in a ditch beside Missionary Ridge Road just 15 miles northeast of Durango and grew to consume more than 70,000 acres, 56 residences, and 27 outbuildings.

Although the Missionary Ridge fire was a devastating reminder of how destructive forest fires can be, it also served to remind us of the men and women who risk their lives to protect their fellow citizens on a daily basis. The Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District has served its citizens and community since 1982 and oversees a 250 square mile region. The district relies upon a personnel of 28 volunteer EMT's and firefighters to remain on call, prepared to fight fires or provide medical assistance on a moment's notice.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District of Marvel, Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation. I want to commend the Chief and all of the Fire District's fire fighters for their determination, courage, and resolve during last summer's efforts on Missionary Ridge. Without the help of the Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District and others, the added devastation to our community, environment, and quality of life would have been unimaginable. Their tireless commitment throughout the fire season has served as an inspiration to us all and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

THE POEM "I AM A VETERAN"

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with you the words of Rabbi Paul Swerdlow, one of my constituents. Rabbi Swerdlow's poem "I Am a Veteran" conveys his love for his country. I am most grateful for his dedicated service to securing our freedom.

I AM A VETERAN

I am a veteran.

I shivered that cold winter in Valley Forge
And rejoiced at the glorious surrender at
Yorktown.

I wept at the flames that engulfed Wash-
ington

And said "never again."

I wore blue and bled red.

I wore gray and bled red.

The blood I spilled was to reunite a nation
Of the people, by the people and for the peo-
ple

I am a veteran.

I was at Little Big Horn and I prayed;

I was at Wounded Knee and I prayed;

I prayed that one day the old Americans

And the new Americans would be one people.

I was there to charge up the hill at San
Juan;

Knowing that my country was emerging

Beyond its borders.

I was prepared to make the world safe for de-
mocracy.

Young and idealistic, I came to France

To turn back the hordes in this war to end
all wars.

I am a veteran.

It was with disbelief that I became

A part of the day which will live in infamy.

Once more I said goodbye to those I loved

To protect my country.

Across the vast desert I met the enemy.
I met him on island after island.
I kept my promise to return.
I met him on the beaches of Normandy.
I repelled him from the gates of Bastogne.
I freed thousands from the shadow of death.
I am a veteran.

A small nation cried out for help
And I came because others had been there for
me.

A nation was saved.

I felt the agony of defeat in the jungles of a
distant land.

BUT I held my head high

When another people cried out,

I again put on my uniform to save them from
tyranny.

Today I remain ready to pledge my life,

My property, my sacred honor,

Until there will be peace and freedom on
earth

For everyone, everywhere.

I am a veteran.

THANKING MR. HENRY (BUD) COL- LINS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement at the end of this year, we rise to thank Mr. Henry (Bud) Collins for his outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives over the past 27 years.

Over the years, Bud has made significant improvements to the Voice and Data Network programs of the U.S. House of Representatives. He began his career with the House on December 10, 1973, and has served this great institution in numerous capacities, most notably in House Information Resources (HIR) Communications positions within the Chief Administrative Officer. During the past three years, Bud has served as the Communications Infrastructure Team Leader. In this position, he has directed voice and data wiring installations to every entity of the House, Architect of the Capitol, and Congressional Budget Office. Bud's breadth of knowledge of the wiring standards and the House building construction has enabled rapid, effective wiring installations. These installations were fundamental in improving the information flow for Member and Committee operations.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Bud for his many years of dedication, and his outstanding contributions to the communications and wiring infrastructure installations for the House. We wish Bud and his wife Harriet many wonderful years in fulfilling their retirement dreams.

IN MEMORY OF CHANG-LIN TIEN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chang-Lin Tien for his lifetime of distinguished public service. He was a tireless community activist and educational leader for more than 40 years. As Chancellor of the University of