

grew as a result of the historic 1996 welfare reform act and it continues today as we fund the critical program known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Although 2002 brings an end to Ron Silver's legislative service, Mr. Speaker, I am certain Ron will continue serving his community and the great state of Florida for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of Florida's Congressional delegation, I salute Ron Silver, on his twenty-four great years of honorable service in the Florida legislature and wish him and his family the very best in the years to come. I'm proud to call Ronald Alden Silver my friend.

IN SECULAR INDIA, HINDU LIVES
WORTH TWICE AS MUCH AS MUS-
LIM LIVES

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, the government of India is compensating the families of those who lost their lives in the recent riots in Gujarat. While no amount of money makes up for the loss, this is a decent thing to do and I salute India for it.

However, Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to find out that apparently in the world's largest secular democracy, a Hindu life is worth twice as much as a Muslim life. According to News India-Times, the Indian government is paying out 200,000 Rupees each to the families of Hindus who were killed, but just 100,000 Rupees to the family of each Muslim killed.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is offensive that a country that claims it is democratic thinks that the life of one person or group is twice as valuable as that of another person or group. What if our government declared white lives twice as valuable as black ones, or vice versa? Would that be tolerated?

The article also notes that during the riots, "Muslim establishments were targeted in an organized manner—even when they masqueraded under Hindu names and were run in Hindu majority areas." This seems to indicate the government's hand in the planning of the riots, an impression that is reinforced by the fact that the police stood by and let the carnage happen.

This is simply part of an ongoing Hindu nationalist campaign to wipe out religious minorities. It is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker, and America must help to put a stop to it. We should stop all aid to India until all people enjoy equal rights and we should demand a free and fair plebiscite in Kashmir, Khalistan, Nagaland, and the other nations seeking to get out from under India's brutal occupation. These steps will help bring real freedom, stability, and prosperity to the South Asian region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the News India-Times article into the RECORD.

[From the News India-Times March 29, 2002]

MUSLIMS SUFFER BIAS EVEN AFTER THE RIOTS

AHMEDABAD—The state government has been booking those responsible for the Godhra carnage under draconian Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance (POTO), while those who targeted Muslims and their business es-

tablishments in an organized manner in the state are being booked under the milder Criminal Procedure Code. POTO allows a person to be held without bail for 30 days.

Rights activists here contended that this was yet another example of the state government's bias against the Muslim community, and called for the scrapping of POTO.

Earlier, Chief Minister Narendra Modi's government had announced compensation of Rs. 200,000 (\$4,166) for the victims of the Godhra tragedy, while the amount for those who died in the widespread retaliatory riots was fixed at half that amount, Rs. 100,000 (\$2,083).

Rights activists as well as journalists covering the riots have noted how Muslim establishments were targeted in an organized manner—even when they masqueraded under Hindu names and were run in Hindu majority areas.

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL
COURT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today a number of countries will ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, surpassing the 60 countries needed to bring the Rome Statute into force. Ratification of this treaty is a notable achievement for the new foreign policy of the European Union, which adopted a common position in support of ratification. Indeed many of our European allies and our other friends, such as Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, have all ratified this landmark international instrument.

Everyone agrees that those who perpetrate genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes must face justice, either before international tribunals or before the national courts of their own countries. And as we recently heard in the testimony before the Committee on International Relations, there may be situations, such as post-conflict societies, where it is simply impossible for national institutions to pursue prosecutions of such crimes. For example, the International Criminal Tribunals on the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda have done excellent work in those specific instances of gross violations of recognized international human rights norms.

While many Members of this House have expressed reservations regarding the exact form of this Court, we all must now recognize that it is a reality. Over 60 countries from every continent have determined that it may be appropriate at times for an international court, rather than their own national courts, to prosecute and try perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes committed on their territory. Given the concerns that have been expressed regarding the possibility of overzealous prosecutions coming from the Court, I believe that it is imperative that we now all work together to ensure that the Court is a responsible international actor that advances the cause of human rights and international accountability, and fulfills its promise as a worthy legacy of the Nuremberg Tribunal.

In order to achieve this end, I believe that the United States must remain engaged in the

creation of the Court and its institutions. In the Preparatory Commission meetings establishing the mechanics and operations of the Court, U.S. diplomats and other officials have played a key role in shaping this institution. While I have no illusions that the United States will ratify the Rome Statute anytime soon, it would be shortsighted for us to take steps to neutralize our ability to assist in this process. In particular, I call on the Administration not to "unsign" the Rome Statute. As a signatory and in our observer capacity, we can continue influencing the form of the Court over the course of the next year into an institution that can have the effect of supporting U.S. national security goals, not damaging them. That is what we should focus on, not actions that would isolate us further from our friends and allies.

Let us move forward constructively with respect to the International Criminal Court. If we do so, we may well be able to help advance the cause of human rights and international justice.

NATIONAL ORGAN AND TISSUE
DONOR AWARENESS WEEK

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week which begins April 21–27, 2002. As a nurse, I saw firsthand how transplants and the generosity of donors save lives. As a Congresswoman, I have been proud to help my constituents work through the process of transplant surgery, and bring awareness to the importance of donors.

A few years ago my office was fortunate enough to help a constituent, John Pellegrino of Floral Park, New York, navigate through the insurance maze. I'm pleased to note John celebrates his two-year liver transplant anniversary on April 13. However, John's anniversary is bittersweet, especially for his donor's parents, now also his good friends, Harold and Melinda Yarbrough of Louisiana. In the midst of facing the agony of losing their precious daughter Breann, the Yarbroughs gave life to John and six other people.

It is fitting to honor John and the Yarbroughs—as well as the thousands of transplant recipients and donors. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Congress first designated the third full week in April as National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week in 1983 (Public Law 98–99) to raise awareness of the critical need for organ and tissue donation and to encourage all Americans to share their decision concerning donation with their families. Bone grafts enable individuals to walk again while skin grafts save the lives of critically burned patients, and donated corneas prevent or correct blindness. Heart valves help repair critical cardiac defects. Today, more than 79,000 men, women and children wait for an organ transplant, without an increase in donation, that number will continue to escalate. Currently, 16 people die each day because there are not enough organs available for transplant. Every day 114 individuals are added to the national waiting list for organs.

I commend Breann's parents for making a decision that allowed John to live. I am grateful to Breann for her gift to John. We need more heroes like Breann. With awareness about organ and tissue donation, more organ transplants can save and enhance lives.

Join me in bringing awareness to National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, April 21–27, 2002.

IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CUTS BY THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION IN THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION'S (CDC) CHRONIC DISEASE PROGRAMS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the House to increase funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) chronic disease programs including the CDC's diabetes control program. The diabetes control program has been successfully implemented in 16 states and we must continue to build on this success by assuring its implementation in all 50 states. Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that by 2010, it is estimated that over 10 percent of the population will have diabetes. In addition, current data suggest that diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death for Americans living along the U.S.-Mexico border and the third leading cause of death for Mexicans living on the other side of the border. It is estimated that nearly 30 percent of residents along the U.S.-Mexico border have diabetes and that one third don't even know they have the disease. Prevention of diabetes and its deadly complications are keys to fighting this horrible disease.

Chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and arthritis are the leading cause of death in the United States, killing seven out of ten Americans. The costs of chronic diseases are staggering, with more than 70 percent of health care expenditures in the United States going to combat or treat chronic diseases. By 2020, it is estimated that \$1 trillion, or 80 percent of health expenditures, will be spent on chronic diseases.

Unfortunately, President Bush's budget calls for a \$175 million cut in the CDC's chronic disease budget. With cuts of these magnitudes, the CDC will not have the resources it needs to combat the pending diabetes epidemic. I urge my colleagues to support a \$350 million increase in the CDC's chronic disease budget and to send a clear message that combating diseases such as diabetes must remain a national priority.

HONORING JOE SESTO

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen, Mr. Joe Sesto, upon the celebration of his

90th birthday. Mr. Sesto has been an extraordinary asset to the City of Santa Maria, California, as well as to Vandenberg Air Force Base, since he arrived on the Central Coast in 1950.

Even at the age of 90, it is difficult to find anyone who is as active in the community as Mr. Sesto. He continues to serve on several community boards, and at a recent Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce annual meeting, was dubbed "Mr. Santa Maria." Mr. Sesto received the Golden Medallion Award for being the Chairman of the Local American Heart Association, and was the President of the Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce in 1954. He has also been the Chairman for the Ways and Means Committee for the Construction of the Marian Medical Center, which is the primary hospital in Santa Maria. Mr. Sesto has served on the County Grand Jury, the County Arts Commission, the County Health Commission, and the City of Santa Maria Planning Commission. He was the Chairman for the Development of the Cultural Facilities, Chairman for the Bond Drive to Build Hancock College Performing Arts Theater and past President of the Robert Goddard Chapter of the Air Force Association.

Mr. Sesto is also the Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee and has served as liaison to Vandenberg Air Force Base since its inception in 1957. He has received national, state and local awards for his Air Force Association activities, including the highest civilian award given by the Air Force, "The Exceptional Service Award." In 1990, Mr. Sesto was named the Honorary Missiler at the Missile Competition, and the base auditorium was named The Sesto Auditorium in 1986.

Joe Sesto has shared his glorious sense of humor and generous heart with his fellow central coast neighbors for many, many years. He and his wife Philomene, who have been married for 67 years, can only be described as true pillars of the Santa Maria Valley. I am blessed to know this wonderful individual, and urge my colleagues to join me in wishing him birthday greetings on this joyous occasion.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF
PHILLIP AMBRIS SUSTAITA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to the memory of Phillip Ambris Sustaita, the loving father of my friend, Luisa Sustaita. It is with much sadness that I inform my colleagues of the passing of a great individual, a man who filled our world and the lives of those around him with love, compassion and family values.

Luisa's father, Phillip, was born on May 10, 1921 in Denver, Colorado, and passed away on March 17, 2002 at the age of 80. Phillip Sustaita bravely served his country during World War II as a member of the United States Navy. Afterwards, Mr. Sustaita began a 40-year career as a Stationary Engineer with National Ice and Cold Storage. He lived in Sacramento, California for 60 years.

Phillip Ambris Sustaita was a hardworking man and pioneer who raised his family with love especially his daughter Luisa who was

very special to him. Luisa and her father shared a very close relationship. Throughout Luisa's life her father was a constant source of love and support. He was a father, mentor and best friend to her. Luisa will long remember the wonderful things he brought to her family and to the lives that he touched. Phillip was and remains a tremendous figure in the thoughts and memories of his loved ones. His loss will be felt most deeply.

They say a man is measured by the lives he touches. Through the Grace of God he Phillip Ambris Sustaita touched many lives. Phillip was widely admired by family, friends and colleagues. He was hard working, dedicated, committed, disciplined, loving and supporting. He was everything one would want in a father, husband, and grandfather. He demonstrated his commitment to marriage and his family he provided love and ongoing support to his children, grandchildren and played an active role in raising them. He was a strong person, the backbone to his family. He possessed honesty, strength, leadership and courage. He was considered a true friend in every sense of the word. Luisa's mother, brothers and sisters and numerous nieces and nephews, join her in mourning the loss of their father.

And so Mr. Speaker, I submit this loving memorial and join with all of those whom he loved in extending my prayers along with Barbara to Luisa and hope that she may find peace and comfort during this time of sorrow. Phillip Ambris Sustaita leaves his legacy in the heart of his beloved daughter, Luisa Sustaita, and all those who knew him.

IN HONOR OF MR. THOMAS A. CRAIGG, JR., SERGEANT, USMC
RETIRED

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to stand before you and my colleagues today as I talk to you about a man who, in accordance with his great service to our nation, will receive two honors that have been years in coming.

In 1940, Mr. Thomas Craigg enlisted in the Marine Corps. When War broke out in 1941, Private First Class Thomas Craigg was on the Philippine Island of Luzon and Marines were under Army command distributed along the Bataan Peninsula.

On the morning of February 24, 1942, "the Commanding Officer of Charlie Battery, mounted a patrol of 75 Marines and Sailors to investigate an enemy Japanese force. The patrol encountered an enemy, which was far superior in number and well equipped troops with heavy machine guns and supporting mortars. The Commanding Officer dispatched a runner to the nearest antiaircraft battery for reinforcements with instructions for the gun captain to report to the commanding officer's position on the bluff overlooking Lapiay Point. Private First Class Craigg arrived with his 13-man squad and engaged two enemy gun emplacements, which had the main body pinned down and were dropping mortar and howitzer rounds among the patrol. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Private First Class Craigg repeatedly exposed himself to