

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF HOSPITAL
FOR SPECIAL SURGERY IN NEW
YORK CITY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS), founded and located in New York City, for receiving the first New York State Hospital Patient Safety Award for their superior effort to reduce medical errors. At a time when more attention is being paid to this area, the New York Department of Health created the award to promote measures to increase overall patient safety, and I am pleased that HSS has been the recipient of such an esteemed award.

Founded in 1863, the Hospital for Special Surgery is a world leader in orthopedics, rheumatology and rehabilitation. While the Hospital has monitored medication variances for many years, in July 2000 it began a project that required simple changes that yielded significant results. By asking doctors to use ball-point pens, fax original requests and replace old fax machines, the program resulted in an astounding 97.6 percent decline in the number of illegible orders received in the pharmacy from November 2000 to December 2001.

These types of innovative developments of methodology and technology have resulted in the Hospital being consistently ranked among the top three orthopedic and rheumatology centers in the nation in US News & World Report's annual survey of America's best hospitals. To date, their emphasis has been on development of orthopedic devices, such as total joint replacements. For example, the first modern knee replacement was developed at HSS, a landmark innovation that has benefited the lives of millions of patients around the world. In efforts to continue to make strides in this important area of research, the Hospital for Special Surgery is establishing a National Center for Musculoskeletal Research.

HSS has also uniquely collaborated with education programs at Cornell University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, City College of New York, and others that partner scientists and clinicians with faculty and students in mechanical engineering, materials science, civil engineering, veterinary medicine, and statistics to bring its biomedical advances to the bedside.

For these reasons and many others, the Department of Health for the United Kingdom of Great Britain has called upon HSS to train and mentor their physicians in order to improve orthopedic services in their countries. Currently, patients in Great Britain must wait 18 months before they may receive hip, knee or joint replacements, of which more than 70 percent require the use of a cane for more than a year after surgery. It is truly an honor for New York to have the Hospital for Special Surgery to be identified by the British healthcare system as

a mentor and model for addressing this health challenge.

I applaud the Hospital for Special Surgery's commitment to better document, track and administer prescribed medications to patients and strongly support their efforts to identify and remedy one of the most preventable threats to patient safety. I am very supportive of the Hospital's National Center for Musculoskeletal Research, as its establishment will continue to pursue breakthroughs in researching the orthopedic and rheumatological conditions that affect millions of Americans.

TRIBUTE TO THE BELLEVILLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY AND INFORMA-
TION CENTER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the history and legacy of a groundbreaking institution, the Belleville Public Library and Information Center, in Belleville, New Jersey.

On Wednesday, April 24, 2002, friends, patrons, employees, and all those who have made the Belleville Public Library a cornerstone of its community gathered to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

It is thus only fitting that we honor the library's long history, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for it has been a beacon of learning and information for generations.

The Belleville Public Library was founded on January 4, 1902 by the Tuesday Afternoon Reading Club. It was initially located in a small store on William Street with a collection of only 432 books. After a temporary move in 1904, the library was given its permanent home in 1909. With the help of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and so many dedicated citizens, the building was erected at 221 Washington Avenue.

President John Fitzgerald Kennedy once said, "The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth." The Belleville Public Library embodies this ideal, having made an impact on so many lives throughout its history.

One of the first libraries in the state to offer internet access, it today has sixteen computers. Citizens are provided free use of the internet and word processing programs. Well renowned for its cultural programming, the library also hosts monthly concerts, art lectures, poetry classes, video viewing, and book discussion groups.

The library's defining mark in the community, however, may be its work in serving the children of Belleville. With store hours for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, as well as a major summer reading club and a myriad of activities throughout the year, the library's commitment to foster the growth of children is unwavering.

From its humble beginnings on William Street, the Belleville Public Library has grown into a public information center that had over 100,000 people pass through its doors in the year 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Township of Belleville, and me in recognizing the Belleville Public Library and Information Center.

CONGRATULATING 17 NORTHWEST
MISSOURI SCHOOL DISTRICTS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 17 Northwest Missouri school districts that have been recognized as "most-improved" by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This recognition highlights the outstanding commitment Northwest Missouri has made to ensure that no child is left behind.

Since 1998, Missouri has administered the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests yearly to measure a student's achievement. The mathematics assessment is given to fourth, seventh, and 10th graders. A communications arts assessment is given to third, seventh, and 11th graders, a science assessment is given to third, seventh, and 10th graders and a social studies assessment is given to the fourth, eighth, and 11th grades. A health/physical education assessment is given to fifth and ninth graders as well. These important tests help Missouri's schools identify both strong and weak academic areas. Most importantly, the MAP tests illustrate the progress Northwest Missouri's school districts have made in providing students with the best available education.

I would like to acknowledge the Saint Joseph school district, which appeared four times on the "most improved top ten" list. These schools are Hall Elementary, Webster Elementary (appeared twice), and Lafayette High School. Barry School, in Platte County, appeared three times on the top ten list, and Nodaway County placed four of its schools on the list.

Other Northwest Missouri schools appearing on the most improved list include Chillicothe High School, Penney High School, Pickering Elementary School, Tri-County High School, West Platte High School, Craig High School, Fairfax Elementary School, North Harrison High School, Northeast Nodaway High School, Pattonsburg High School, Savannah High School, Smithville High School, South Nodaway High School, Southwest High School, Stanberry Elementary, Tri-County Elementary, West Nodaway High School, and West Nodaway Elementary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the above schools for their ongoing efforts to strengthen education and the hard-working students who demonstrated their

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

knowledge. I am confident these schools will continue to successfully meet their educational goals.

BILL TO ELIMINATE THE DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA UNDER THE FEDERAL HATCH ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2002

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to eliminate the discriminatory treatment of the District of Columbia under the federal Hatch Act. This bill would reverse the undemocratic and discriminatory inclusion of the District of Columbia, including its teachers, in the federal Hatch Act.

The introduction of this bill today follows the recent announcement by the U.S. Office of Special Counsel that the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (Board) had granted its petition for the removal of Mr. Tom Briggs, a D.C. public school teacher at Dunbar Senior High School. Mr. Briggs lost his job after the Board found that he had violated provisions of the federal Hatch Act that apply only to the District of Columbia and no other local jurisdiction. These provisions prohibit D.C. public school teachers and other D.C. government employees from being candidates for partisan political office, despite the fact that teachers in the 50 states are exempt from the Act, and despite the fact that the District of Columbia is the only local jurisdiction in the Act treated as if it were a federal agency. In 2000, Mr. Briggs ran as the Statehood Green party candidate for Ward 2 Council Member.

My bill would remove discriminatory provisions in the federal Hatch Act that apply only to the District of Columbia and would exempt D.C. teachers, like the teachers from the 50 states, from the federal Hatch Act prohibition against seeking partisan elective office. The effective date of the bill is the year 2000, in order to remove Mr. Briggs' apparent violation of an antiquated, anti-home rule law that cannot be justified today. The Briggs case is particularly harmful because the victims of this inequity are not D.C. employees but the children in Mr. Briggs' class, who will face severe disruption to the continuity of their learning by having their popular and energetic teacher removed prior to the close of the school year.

My bill would leave the District to craft its own local laws in accordance with local needs and norms. It is certain that the D.C. City Council would enact its own local law to avoid any gap, and I have secured the commitment of the appropriate members of the Council to introduce and guide the local law to passage.

This is not the first time I have objected to discriminatory treatment of the District of Columbia under the federal Hatch Act. Nearly a decade ago, Congress passed the Hatch Act Reform Amendments of 1993, a bill which ended most of the limitations on political rights of federal employees. However, the bill contained perverse provisions that leave D.C. government employees alone among employees of the 50 states and the four territories under the federal Hatch Act. Although I was successful in keeping the District of Columbia

language out of the House version of the 1993 amendments, the Senate included the language. Opponents of Hatch Act reform blocked a conference on the House and Senate versions of the bill, where I had intended to press for the Senate to recede to the House's position. Consequently, the 1993 reform law passed ironically benefiting 62,000 federal employees who lived in the District and, if they taught at Dunbar could seek public office, yet punishing the 40,000 District employees targeted by the law. In my comments on the floor prior to passage of the 1993 bill, I said: "I serve notice now that I am not through today. I will not be through until, with the help of others in this House, I succeed in making District employees the equal of the employees of other state and local jurisdictions. Today, we must blush as we try to conceive of any justification for such disparate treatment. I pledge to work to eliminate the shameful distinction we create today."

After the 1993 fight, I subsequently introduced legislation in 1996 to free the District from discriminatory treatment under the federal Hatch Act. It has not been possible to move appropriate legislation since, largely because no overall review of the Hatch Act, where such changes are generally made, has occurred. However, in light of the Briggs termination, I am asking the House to pass a stand alone bill.

The case of Mr. Briggs simply brings home the sad fact that the District of Columbia, and particularly its school teachers, have been singled out in a manner that is a complete affront to fairness, democratic principles, and self government. I urge my colleagues to support this bill to eliminate the discriminatory treatment of the District of Columbia under the federal Hatch Act in order to remove this unjust anomaly without delay.

THE RETURN OF AN ANCIENT HATRED

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 2002

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, one collateral disturbing aspect of the current crisis in the Middle East is the rise in anti-Semitism in various parts of the world. It is particularly distressing to see the virulent outburst of this vicious prejudice in Europe, where many of us had hoped that the terrible experience of the past formed a stronger barrier against it.

Obviously people have a right to be critical of particular policies of the government of Israel in a given time. Indeed, since Israel continues to be a vibrant democracy even in the face of the violence now occurring in that part of the world, some of the most trenchant criticisms of Israeli policy come from Israelis themselves. But there is a sharp line between expressing differences with particular actions of the Israeli government and expression of anti-Semitism, and, sadly, that line has been crossed far too often in recent months in Europe.

In a very well reasoned editorial on Saturday, April 20, the New York Times speaks out cogently against this renewed anti-Semitism. Because this is such a well reasoned and powerful statement on a subject of great im-

portance to us in our deliberations, I ask that it be printed here.

THE RETURN OF AN ANCIENT HATRED

When many in the Muslim world blamed Israel and its supposed desire to discredit Islam for the Sept. 11 attacks, most Americans dismissed the report as a deformed joke. But just as the attacks forced Americans to face the fact that there are deadly serious groups seeking to destroy us, so some of the anti-Semitic actions in Europe in recent months cause us to wonder whether, six decades after the Holocaust, we are witnessing a resurgence of the virulent hatred that caused it.

Expressions of sympathy for the Palestinians or criticism of the Israeli military campaign in the West Bank are of course entirely appropriate. What is troubling are hateful statements and actions like the bombs thrown at Jewish schools, centers and groups in France, or the Orthodox Jews beaten on the streets of Belgium and Berlin or the truck bomb driven into the ancient synagogue in Tunisia. We worry that such actions, largely by Muslim extremists, touch a historic chord in Europe that is not being confronted.

Israelis have been too quick, over the years, to view criticism of their government as motivated by anti-Semitism. But it is hard to think of another word for the way some critics of Israel's policy toward the Palestinians are expressing their opposition. The dark of shadow of Europe's past seemed to be reappearing when the liberal Italian daily *La Stampa* depicted a baby Jesus looking up from the manger at an Israeli tank, saying, "Don't tell me they want to kill me again." Or when a Lutheran bishop in Denmark delivered a sermon in the Copenhagen Cathedral comparing Ariel Sharon's policies toward the Palestinians to those of King Herod, who ordered the slaughter of all male children under the age of 2 in Bethlehem.

Political opinion in Europe is certainly one-sided when it comes to the Mideast conflict. Members of the Norwegian Nobel committee have publicly called for the withdrawal of the Peace Prize from the Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres, but not from his co-winner, Yasir Arafat. The European Parliament voted to urge member governments to impose trade sanctions on Israel but urged no action against the Palestinian Authority. Historically, the far right and far left have not agreed on much. These days they seem united in their contempt for the Jewish state.

This was evident last summer at the international conference against racism in Durban, South Africa, which turned into a celebration of Israel hatred. Zionism was once again equated with racism and Israel's legitimacy came under repeated attack.

Focusing on the suffering of only one side is also not the same as anti-Semitism, although it is distressing. Just as there are American politicians who believe they have no political room to maneuver when it comes to support for Israeli policies, so there are European politicians with large Muslim constituencies whose voters do not want to see them acknowledging gray areas in this fight. There are also other explanations for the European mood. Guilt over the Holocaust may be salved with the thought that Jews, too, can act with cruelty. And given American sponsorship of Israel, being fashionably anti-American can easily mean being anti-Israel.

But much of Europe has a special responsibility to be cautious. Its cultures are drenched in a history of anti-Semitism. The mixing of historic European anti-Semitism with the more modern version in the Muslim world is a dangerous cocktail.

All this does not mean that Israel should be above criticism. Far from it. But it does