

An example of their work can be seen in the "Gift of Life Program." This initiative helps children around the world by providing doctor and hospital services to less fortunate kids in need of heart operations.

A major supporter of the Rotary International's PolioPlus program, the Rotary Club of Belleville has also helped to eradicate polio in developing countries worldwide.

Put simply, the Belleville Rotary Club has made its mission the advocacy for those in need. Its members have made a difference in countless lives, with their work serving as a beacon of caring and compassion for eight decades.

On Wednesday, May 22, 2002, the Club celebrated its 80th anniversary with a wonderful concert at the Belleville Public Library and Information Center. Club members, guests, and dignitaries from the Rotary, the Township of Belleville and the State of New Jersey joined in the celebration.

The job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of organizations like the Rotary Club of Belleville.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Township of Belleville, the members of the Rotary, and me in recognizing the eighty years of outstanding and invaluable service of the Rotary Club of Belleville, New Jersey.

COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING TEAM OF THE QUEST PROGRAM

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Community Problem Solving Team of the Quest Program at the Dr. John Howard, Jr. School in East Orange, New Jersey. The September 11th tragedy has made them aware of the tremendous needs that follow a tragedy as well as the vast patriotic spirit that we possess as a country thus they decided to assist people who have experienced a personal tragedy in their lives so that their situation will be improved for a period of time.

This group of 12 fourth and fifth graders has become increasingly concerned about people who are experiencing difficulties in their own lives due to personal loss or economic strain. Thus they have striven to assist these members of the community through various means including: volunteering in an after school program for homeless children, visiting hospital patients, collecting for a toy drive for needy children, collecting canned goods and non-perishable foods for needy families and a food pantry. In addition, this group has received numerous grants and donations from organizations that have recognized the great potential that this group possesses.

These outstanding students will represent New Jersey at the International Competition in Storrs, Connecticut, June 5–11, 2002, having placed first in the New Jersey junior division of the Problem Solving Component of the International Future Problem Solving Program. It is with great pride that I recognize the Community Problem Solving Team of the Quest Program in East Orange, New Jersey. These

young people have taken great strides to assist the members of their community and to see that they have a part in securing a healthy future for our country. Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in wishing the Quest Program continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TUNICA- BILOXI TRIBE OF LOUISIANA

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD my congratulations and praise for the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana and its leaders, including Chairman Earl J. Barbry, Sr. From the time of their first contact with European explorers along the banks of the Mississippi River in the 1500s, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe has played an important role in the larger community—both as a partner and a friend.

Under Chairman Barbry, Sr.'s leadership, the Tribe has continued to be an integral part of the community of Central Louisiana. The Tunica are doing great things with their recent financial success in both the tribal community and the larger community.

The Tribe has come to this great moment in their history because they have worked well together and will continue in that great tradition of cooperation. The Tribe and its leaders should be commended for their vision and spirit of cooperation among tribal members, civic and governmental leaders and the community at large. I applaud their successful efforts at being good neighbors and economic partners and I wish them continued success.

OFFICERS OF THE UNIFORMED DI- VISION AND U.S. PARK POLICE EQUITY PAY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today Representative TOM DAVIS and I have introduced a bill to provide the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division and the United States Park Police with the same locality pay adjustments as other Federal employees.

In the FY 2001 Omnibus Appropriations Act, Congress included a bill called the Law Enforcement Pay Equity Act. The purpose of the Act was to improve officer retention within the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division and U.S. Park Police. The Act's aim was to improve officer retention by raising the Uniformed Division and Park Police pay scales so that they were equivalent or similar to other pay scales in the Metropolitan area.

However, Section 903 of the Act froze the rate of locality pay the employees of the Uniformed Division and U.S. Park Police receive at the level in effect in the year 2000. This freeze in locality pay has caused the Uniformed Division and Park Police pay scales to lag behind the compensation scales of other agencies competing for the same workforce.

In the Washington, DC Metropolitan area, Officers of the Uniformed Division and the U.S. Park Police are currently locked into a locality rate of 9.05%, but the standard locality rate for U.S. Government employees in the Washington area is 11.48%, a difference of 2.43%.

By fixing this problem, the median salary of an Officer with thirteen years of service would increase by \$1,375 per year.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, in essence, unlocks the freezer door, opens it up, and allows the locality pay to thaw to normal levels. At a time when the Uniformed Division and Park Police are trying to increase morale and maintain top rate officers, this bill is a small but significant signal that Congress cares about their welfare. This bill fixes what I consider an unfair technicality and provides them with equitable locality pay.

HONORING VETERANS PARK CONSERVANCY

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make my colleagues aware of Veterans Park Conservancy, a community group founded in 1986 to help manage Veterans Park, which covers 700 acres of land in West Los Angeles, California. Originally gifted to the Federal Government, Veterans Park is home to a number of historically and culturally significant sites, including the Los Angeles National Cemetery, the Wadsworth Theatre, and several memorials honoring our veterans. It is also one of the last remaining open spaces in West Los Angeles.

The mission of Veterans Park Conservancy is simple: "Honoring our Veterans, Cherishing the Land." The Veterans Park Conservancy was organized to develop and implement a long-term plan to protect the park. Soon after its inception, the group developed a 25-year Master Plan that identifies key restoration projects. In 1998, the Department of Veterans Affairs officially granted Veterans Park Conservancy the authority to carry out these projects. The group's partners include veterans, the Federal Government, local and state agencies, community organizations, and private philanthropists.

Throughout its 16-year history, Veterans Park Conservancy has spearheaded several projects in West Los Angeles and their fine work is a testament to their dedication to America's veterans. Beginning in 1994, the group led the charge to improve a one-mile section of Wilshire Boulevard as "Veterans Parkway," and collaborated with Los Angeles County to improve the parkway with cobblestones, lighting, and 600 new trees. After the September 11th attacks, Veterans Park Conservancy worked with the Federal and local governments to install a permanent memorial of 100 American Flags, which fly proudly on both sides of the boulevard.

In 1998, Veterans Park Conservancy restored the Spanish-American War Memorial, which sits at the entrance of the Los Angeles National Cemetery. In 2000, the group gave the cemetery a stately new entrance, new trees an 7,800 feet of wrought iron perimeter

fencing—all of which elevate this beautiful memorial to its rightful status as a “The Arlington of the West.” Every Memorial Day, the Veterans Park Conservancy works with scout troops to place American flags on each of the 85,000 veterans’ graves, creating fields of inspirational red, white and blue.

I also want to commend Veterans Park Conservancy for their effort to pass legislation to name the chapel at the National Cemetery the “Bob Hope Veterans Chapel.” I am also pleased to have had the opportunity to work with the group along with the gentleman from California, Mr. Waxman, in creating a lasting honor to our country’s most beloved honorary “veteran.”

For all these reasons, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to the many good works of the Veterans Park Conservancy and to wish them many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, due to prior commitments in my home state of Michigan, I was unable to cast votes yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted:

“Yes” on rollcall No. 174, H.R. 3833;

“Yes” on rollcall No. 175, H.R. 1877;

“Yes” on rollcall No. 176, H.R. 3375;

“Yes” on rollcall No. 177, H.R. 4626;

“Yes” on rollcall No. 178, H. Con. Res. 405;

“Yes” on rollcall No. 179, Lantos amendment to H.R. 3994;

“Yes” on rollcall No. 180, Jackson-Lee amendment to H.R. 3994;

“Yes” on rollcall No. 181, Waters amendment to H.R. 3994;

“Yes” on rollcall No. 182, H.R. 3994;

“Yes” on rollcall No. 183, H.R. 4514;

“Yes” on rollcall No. 184, H.R. 4015; and

“Yes” on rollcall No. 185, H.R. 4085.

A TRIBUTE TO THE NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, it is a testament to the courage, strength, and honor of Americans that of the many reactions to the events of September 11, only few were expressions of suspicion and hostility against innocent residents of our nation. However, any reaction reflecting suspicion and hostility, any violence against those targeted because of their religion, country of origin, skin color, language, or dress is shameful, and we all must work diligently to prevent them.

I am proud to recognize the Neighbor to Neighbor program in my district. Volunteers organized this program to protect the safety and dignity of all who live in the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural area of the Central Coast of California.

Neighbor to Neighbor acts as a clearinghouse to pair community members who need help with those who need to help. Volunteers

assist neighbors with shopping, running errands, short and long distance travel; they provide shelter, translation, safe companionship, vandalism cleanup, and other needed services. Assistance is free, confidential, and available all hours of the day and night. Collect calls are accepted. All nationalities are welcomed; those who request help need not speak English.

Neighbor to Neighbor also recruits speakers for local schools and community groups to foster discussion, provide education, and attempt to dispel ignorance and fear.

Neighbor to Neighbor asks that we prove to the world, to our children, and to ourselves that we refuse to succumb to hate, ignorance, and that we do not ignore the needs of our neighbors. The ultimate goal of the Neighbor to Neighbor program is the discovery that its existence is no longer needed, that our neighbors are living peacefully with each other. I look forward to this day.

HOLD FEDERAL CONTRACTORS ACCOUNTABLE TO WORKPLACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues an article by Ken Silverstein appearing in the May/June issue of Mother Jones magazine. The article reports that the Federal Government continues to let billions of dollars worth of contracts to dozens of companies that have been repeatedly cited for serious violations of workplace safety and environmental laws.

Over a six months investigation, Mother Jones identified the 200 corporations that did the most business with government between 1995 and 2000. The magazine then matched that list against two other federal databases identifying companies prosecuted by the Justice Department for environmental violations and companies cited by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for conditions posing a serious risk of injury or death to workers.

Among the article’s findings: forty-six of the 200 largest government contractors were prosecuted by the Justice Department and ordered to pay cleanup costs for dumping hazardous waste and for other environmental violations; fifty-five of the 200 largest contractors were cited for 1,375 violations of workplace safety laws; and thirty-four contractors were penalized for violating both environmental and workplace safety laws. Those thirty-four firms faced total EPA penalties of \$12.6 million and OSHA fines of \$5.9 million, but received \$229 billion in federal contracts over the same period.

Mr. Silverstein documents the following cases in his compelling article: “In 1997, TRW settles criminal charges growing out of violations of workplace safety laws. The same company is later found to have intentionally dumped chemical waste from the same plant in three states. As a consequence, the company pays a record \$24 million in civil and criminal penalties. However, even that penalty is pittance compared to the more than \$10 billion in taxpayer money that the company received between 1995 and 2000.”

“In 2000, Northrup Grumman pays nearly \$6.7 million to settle two separate cases involving allegations that the company cheated the government by inflating the costs of parts and materials for warplanes. In 1995, General Dynamics pays nearly \$2 million to resolve allegations that it falsified employee time cards. Yet between 1995 and 2000 those two companies received a total \$38 billion worth of federal contracts.”

“Between 1990 and 1996, nine workers died at the Avondale shipyard, a death rate of three times that of other Navy shipyards. In 1999, OSHA documents hundreds of health and safety violations and fines the company \$717,000. One month after the fines are levied, the government awards Avondale another \$22 million contract to work on amphibious assault ships. The following year, three more workers are killed at Avondale, one of whom dies as a result of a repeat scaffolding violation.”

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that many of my colleagues would agree with me that federal procurement policy should not reward companies that flagrantly disregard tax law, environmental laws, labor laws, antitrust law, or civil rights laws. Federal procurement law already requires government contractors to have a “satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics.” Unfortunately, when President Bush revoked the contractor responsibility rule, he rendered that requirement virtually unenforceable.

As this article shows, by repealing regulations intended to give meaning to the requirement that government contractors demonstrate integrity and business ethics, President Bush has implemented a policy that does not punish big corporations for disregarding the law, but effectively rewards them instead.

I commend the article below to the attention of my colleagues. I also would like to point out that the magazine compiled an extensive database of the violations which can be found on its web site. The article printed below is the version that appears on the magazine’s web site. There is a longer version of the story that appears in the actual May-June version of the magazine and I would be happy to provide copies of the complete article to any of my colleagues who may wish to see it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

UNJUST REWARDS

(By Ken Silverstein)

In 1994, an explosion claimed the life of a worker at an Arizona air bag factory run by TRW, the huge Ohio-based manufacturing conglomerate. The company, which had a record of violating federal workplace safety laws at the plant, paid a \$1.7 million penalty in order to settle criminal charges brought against it. Later, federal environmental officials discovered that TRW, following a policy described as “clearly approved by management,” was illegally dumping chemical waste at landfills in three states. Last year, the company paid a record \$24 million in civil and criminal penalties related to the dumping case.

But even as TRW was repeatedly violating workplace and environmental laws, it was still earning billions under contracts awarded by the federal government. Between 1995 and 2000, the company received a total of \$10.3 billion in federal business, placing TRW among the nation’s 10 largest government contractors despite its record of jeopardizing the safety of its employees and polluting the nation’s air and water.