

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY RESOLUTION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today, Mr. MCGOVERN and I introduced a resolution to help draw attention to the 33 million hungry Americans. The resolution recognizes organizations such as America's Second Harvest that provide emergency food assistance to hungry people in the United States, and encourages all Americans to provide volunteer services and other support for local anti-hunger advocacy efforts and hunger relief charities, including food banks, food rescue organizations, food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters.

On National Hunger Awareness Day I have mixed emotions. I am proud of the armies of compassion that are represented by organizations such as America's Second Harvest. But I'm also sad because it's been nearly 40 years since President Johnson declared war on poverty and hunger and yet, today, 13 million kids STILL live in households that do not have an adequate supply of food. (USDA)

In 2001, there were 33.6 million Americans—20 million adults and 13 million children—who were hungry or at risk of hunger. (USDA) In Matthew 25, Jesus talks about the obligation to feed the hungry. In a world, and especially a nation, as plentiful as ours, it is tragic that even one child is hungry.

My state of Virginia is better off than many states. We are below the national average poverty rate of 11.6 percent. We have fewer people who don't have food—7.6 percent versus the national average of 10.4 percent.

Yet, hunger is still rampant here. 294,434 children, or 43.4 percent, received free or reduced-price meals.

Substantial progress has been made to feed the hungry in the United States, yet too many Americans still go to bed hungry and feel the effects of food deprivation. Federal programs like the Food Stamp Program, child nutrition programs, and food donation programs, provide essential nutritional support to millions of low-income people, but the need remains. Thankfully, community- and faith-based institutions are providing assistance to hungry people across the country.

The armies of compassion are working hard, but we each must do our part to join in and support them. Barriers need to be eliminated to allow businesses to do the morally conscionable thing and donate their surplus food. It's outrageous that it is more "cost effective" for a business to throw out or destroy surplus food rather than donate it to a local soup kitchen. A White House conference on hunger, like the one my colleague Senator DOLE called for just this morning, would be an ideal venue to discuss these important issues.

I hope that in the midst of the facts and statistics, no one misses the REAL point of Na-

tional Hunger Awareness Day—that in a land of plenty, 13 million children still go to bed hungry. A country which is as blessed as ours needs to do better.

RECOGNIZING DIARIO LAS AMERICAS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2003

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I wish to recognize the extraordinary achievements of a newspaper that will commemorate the 50th anniversary of its founding on July 4th, the day this Nation celebrates its independence.

Diario Las Americas is a nationally and internationally distributed newspaper that has always served its community, its Nation and the principles of freedom and democracy that we all embrace.

Dr. Horacio Aguirre, its founder and director, was born in New Orleans of Nicaraguan parents. He commenced his career in journalism early in life after having graduated from the University of Panama with a degree in Law and Political Sciences.

Since 1984, he has presided over the International Affairs Committee of the Inter-American Press Association, Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa, SIP, an organization that groups some 1,300 newspapers from this hemisphere. He is also a member of the World Association of Newspapers, WAN, whose headquarters is in Paris, and of the World Press Freedom Committee, of Washington, DC.

Dr. Aguirre has received, among many distinctions and honors, the Gran Cruz del Mérito Civil de España, bestowed in 1991 by His Majesty, King Juan Carlos I; the Orden de Caballero de San Gregorio bestowed by the Vatican in 1984; the Presidential Award of the Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa, SIP en 1999; and degrees honoris causa from Barry University, Miami-Dade Community College and Florida International University.

As the 50th anniversary of its founding approaches, I wish to acknowledge Diario Las Americas, Dr. Horacio Aguirre, his family and collaborators in their abiding stand in defense of moral and democratic values.

CONDEMNING THE CRACKDOWN OF THE OPPOSITION IN BURMA AND THE DETENTION OF DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to deplore in the strongest possible terms this past weekend's nationwide crackdown in

Burma. The attack by armed goons supported by Burma's military regime on 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Aung San Suu Kyi is an insult and an offense to all freedom loving peoples around the world. Even worse, it is reported that several of her supporters have been brutally killed.

When I traveled to Burma to meet with Aung San Suu Kyi, I was immediately impressed by her staunch commitment to freedom and her refusal to yield to unremitting government pressure.

I was proud to hear that Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a man I know and admire, has called for the international community to immediately impose sanctions on Burma's regime. I urge that the United States cooperate promptly in this regard; failure to act decisively would be to miss an opportunity to reaffirm our support for liberty and justice in Burma.

TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN GIOMI

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of an outstanding young woman with a desire to serve her country. Kathryn Giomi planned to spend her life in the service of her nation, but her life was tragically taken in an auto accident before she could live her dream. As her loved ones mourn her passing, I would like to pay tribute to her memory.

Kathryn, who enjoyed cooking, listening to big band music, and dancing, was born in San Jose, California where she graduated from high school three years ago. Last year, Kathryn moved to Colorado where she worked in a restaurant and theater while she waited for her chance to serve in the United States Air Force as a military police officer. Kathryn was proficient in Spanish, spoke some Italian and Farsi, and hoped for an assignment at Aviano Air Force Base in Italy, where she could improve the Italian language skills she learned from her family. Kathryn was slated to leave for basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio in June.

Kathryn is survived by her mother Marguerite Ellen Rose, her father Ron Giomi, her sister Heather Giomi-Beck, her brothers Ryan and Vincent Giomi, two nephews and a niece. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, it is people like Kathryn, who understand the price of freedom and have answered the call to service, who have helped to make America what it is today. Kathryn would have made a fantastic member of our armed forces, and our nation is appreciative of her willingness to serve. She will be missed by her family, friends, and her country.

• 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.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE COMMENDING NATION'S BUSINESSES AND BUSINESS OWNERS FOR SUPPORT OF OUR TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I rise today in support of H. Res. 201, which commends American business for its support of U.S. Reservists and National Guardsmen called to active duty.

Nationwide, Reservists are averaging far more number of days either deployed or away from home than at the height of the Gulf War in 1991. They are being called up more often, are serving for longer periods of time, and are absolutely vital to our national military strategy. The U.S. military does not undertake any sustained operations anywhere in the world without using the National Guard and Reserve.

Over 216,900 reservists have been called to active duty since 9/11, with most having to temporarily leave their civilian jobs to serve. Although their jobs are assured when they return, for their employers, war means having to continue business without key employees. Small firms in particular must make extraordinary sacrifices when they lose one of their most productive workers. Yet, despite these hardships, many companies continue to support these employees and their families while they serve their nation. H. Res. 201 expresses the sense of the House that our nation's businesses and business owners should be commended for their support of our troops and their families as they serve our country.

It is important to acknowledge the sacrifices and contributions made by American business in support of the Reservists and Guardsmen they employ. Many of these companies, without legal obligation to do so, continue to pay reservists the difference between their military pay and what they earn on their civilian jobs. Many also continue to pay health and insurance benefits for those employees and their families.

Members of the guard and reserve can't do their job without the support of their family and employers. It is fitting that we take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution that American business, both corporate and family-owned, is making to the defense of our nation and to our national military objectives.

ALL SPOUSES OF MILITARY RETIREES DESERVE OUR HELP

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2003

Mr. FILNER Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to call attention to my bill, H.R. 2393, "Continued Benefits for Injured Spouses Act".

Under current law, enacted in 1982, former spouses of military members or retirees are eligible for military medical benefits and exchange and commissary privileges if the military member had performed at least 20 years

of military service, had been married for at least 20 years to one spouse, and 20 years of marriage and service were overlapping. This is known as the 20/20/20 restriction. Further legislation was enacted two years later to include additional former spouses under a 20/20/15 restriction.

While this law recognizes the contribution and sacrifice of many military spouses who later divorced, there is a group who are completely left out through no fault of their own. Spouses who must leave a marriage through divorce due to documented abuse are often left with none of these benefits. Domestic violence and physical or sexual endangerment to the spouse or the children, proven by medical or counseling records, should be taken into account. Divorced because of this situation, the injured spouse should continue to receive all benefits.

H.R. 2393 will change the law to 20/20/10—only for these special circumstances, meaning that the military member would have been married for at least 20 years to one spouse, would have performed at least 20 years of military service, with 10 years of service and marriage overlapping. This change would allow an abused spouse to escape from a potentially dangerous marriage and still keep benefits.

Teresa, a woman in my Congressional District, has found herself in these circumstances. She told me, "I didn't begin this marriage looking for a way to divorce. I believe in commitment, and there were some good years. But had I known when I married him how he would hurt me and endanger my life, I would have backed away. I have done all I can to keep this marriage together. His response to legal separation was to come over and throw our 15 year old around until I called the police. I will never allow him to hurt our children again."

Most of our military members are honorable and good people. But, in the few cases where spousal or child abuse is involved, we must protect the families. I invite my colleagues to join with me in supporting military spouses who have found themselves in dangerous marriages. Please co-sponsor H.R. 2393.

TRIBUTE TO HILDA VAUGHAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Hilda Vaughan, an exceptional individual who has selflessly devoted her time and energy to the betterment of this nation. I applaud her outstanding character, and her desire to support and educate her community. Hilda demonstrates impressive qualities worthy of such praise, and today we honor her retirement as a salute to a job well done.

Hilda was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, and spent her adolescent years thirsting for knowledge. After graduating from Rustburg High School in Rustburg, Virginia, she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lynchburg College, and married her beloved husband, Ted Vaughan. Hilda moved to Silt, Colorado, and served her community well, by holding a number of clerical, secretarial, and accounting po-

sitions. Additionally, Hilda achieved her EMT-B certification and assisted the Grand Valley Fire Protection District. Hilda's attention to detail, together with her unwavering determination, led her to become and perform as an outstanding substitute teacher and librarian for 23 years. As a student teacher in Lynchburg, she educated herself to become a mentor as well as a teacher. Her first substitute teaching position was in the RE-2 School District, in Rifle, Colorado. Through her experiences in different geographic areas and districts, Hilda expanded her vast knowledge and wisdom, and became an excellent asset to every school district she served. Today we admire a woman who selflessly donated her time and efforts to upholding the structure of her community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride I honor such an outstanding individual before this body of Congress and this nation. Hilda contributed so much, and she was so thoughtful, words will never express our appreciation to her. Hilda, thank you for your hard work in our country, and I anticipate great achievements from you in the future.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA HARPER GARRETT

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Patricia Harper Garrett, of whom it can be said, "Teaching was in her genes." Her grandmother was the Principal at Belle Glades Jr. High School and later Principal of Roosevelt Jenkins High School in Starke, Florida, where her parents were both students. At the end of this school year, Mrs. Garrett will be retiring from the teaching profession after 35 years.

Patricia Garrett is a graduate of George Washington Carver High School and Bethune Cookman College. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and an Associate Member of Jack and Jill of America.

Throughout her teaching career, her title has changed several times, including Work Experience Coordinator at Booker T. Washington and Richmond Heights Junior High Schools and Cooperative Education Coordinator/Department Chairperson at Miami Sunset Senior High School. However, her goal has always been the same: to make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of young people.

Ms. Garrett realized at an early age, from years of watching her grandmother and mother who were both teachers, that education was crucially important. After college, she came to realize that her skills could best be utilized helping to educate young people.

Ms. Garrett has received numerous honors over the years in recognition of her skill, commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm for educating young people. In 1997, she received perhaps her greatest honor: the selection of her daughter, Jessica Garrett—a fourth-generation teacher in her family as Miami-Dade Public Schools Region Beginning Teacher of the Year. The legacy of educators continues with her youngest daughter, April Garrett, who is in her first year of teaching.