

Founded in 1931, the AANA is the professional organization that represents more than 30,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). CRNAs administer more than 65 percent of the anesthetics given to patients each year in the United States. They provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and are the sole anesthesia provider in two-thirds of all rural hospitals, providing these medical facilities with obstetrical, surgical, and trauma stabilization capabilities. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered including hospital surgical suites, obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and plastic surgeons.

Dr. Lester received his PhD in health education from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas; his master's of science in nursing from the University of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee; and his master's in business administration from Drury College Breech School of Business, Springfield, Missouri. He is currently the Nurse Anesthesia Division director and associate professor of clinical nursing at the University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston, School of Nursing. He also serves as a member on the Admissions, Progression and Graduation Committee at the school. Previously, he was the director for the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Lester has served terms as president and vice president for the Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Adding to his professional accomplishments, Dr. Lester has become nationally recognized in both publishing and speaking on anesthesia-related topics over the years.

In addition to his service to the AANA, Dr. Lester served his country in the United States Army as an officer and certified registered nurse anesthetist. He recently retired from the Army after 5 years active duty and 24 years as a reservist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Dr. Rodney Lester, PhD, CRNA, for his notable career and outstanding achievements.

H. CON. RES. 210 HONORING SPECIALIST SHOSHANA JOHNSON FORMER IRAQ POW

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am announcing the introduction of H. Con. Res. 210 honoring Army Spc. Shoshana Nyree Johnson, former POW in Iraq, and the first African-American woman POW.

Specialist Johnson was deployed to the Persian Gulf region as a member of the Army's 507th Maintenance Company. On March 23, 2003, Iraqi Troops ambushed her unit in Nsiriyah, Iraq, and Specialist Johnson and five other members of her unit were captured and held as prisoners of war. Specialist Johnson, four other members of her unit, and two helicopter pilots were rescued by United States Marines on April 13, 2003.

Specialist Johnson, who suffered gunshot wounds in both ankles, displayed extraor-

dinary courage and valor during her 21-day ordeal, and outstanding dignity since her release.

She was honored on Capitol Hill on June 12, 2003, at an event hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus. Specialist Johnson described her experience as "just doing her job," and asked for prayers for those still fighting in Iraq. She also remembered fellow POW Private First Class Jessica Lynch, a member of her unit who was also captured and released. The humility of her remarks reflected the hero that she is.

H. Con. Res. 210 honors Specialist Shoshana Johnson for her sacrifice and for representing the highest ideals of service in the United States Armed Forces. To cosponsor this Resolution, please call Jean Mathis of my staff on extension 54365.

NORTON FILES BILL TO AUTHORIZE ANNUAL FUNDING FOR TRANSFORMATION SCHOOLS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD:

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) today introduced the Model Alternative Publicly Accountable Schools Act of 2003 to allow the District to use its unique experience in establishing an unusual number and variety of successful publicly accountable alternatives to its traditional public schools in an effort to encourage other school districts to do the same and to provide additional funding to allow the city to continue these efforts, which are now threatened by cuts and a shortage of funds. Norton said that nationally, the Congress has been unwilling to fund private school vouchers and has had very limited success in getting school districts to establish public alternatives such as charter schools. (For example, Virginia has eight charters and Maryland has one, while the District has 42). Locally, she said that H.R. 2556—the D.C. Parental Choice Incentive Act of 2003—would authorize private school vouchers but without her bill there would be no bill authorizing funds for the city's transformation and charter schools that would treat these parents and children equally, as even voucher advocates say is necessary. In addition, Norton said, in a year when both D.C. and the federal government have cut school funding, her bill providing funds for publicly accountable schools would free up scarce D.C. funds for use in traditional public schools. The D.C. Public Schools last week cut 422 positions to help meet a \$40.4 million shortfall, including \$6.5 million in funds for textbooks. However, the voucher bill will result in a minimum loss of \$25,114,000 if 2,000 students exit the public schools altogether next year because D.C. and federal law require that schools be funded on a per pupil basis.

The Norton bill would authorize a total of \$15 million for the first of five years of funding. In the FY 04 budget, \$12 million would fund and expand transformation schools based on a congressional finding that the District has significantly improved the performance of its poorest and lowest performing children in transformation schools. She said that the improvements in test scores and parental involvement were directly related to extra services provided only

to transformation school children and parents. These improvements for they city's low-income children cannot be expected to continue if these services are withdrawn, as cuts now are forcing, she said.

A total of \$3 million in FY '04 would fund public charter schools in recognition of heightened demand, long waiting lists, and unavailability of funds for facilities to meet a demand the city has shown it cannot meet. Norton said that a particularly large number of schools had applied for charter school status for the coming school year and that the \$3 million was important to expand the direct loan fund to assure that start-up charter schools would have the necessary head start to lease facilities in D.C.'s costly rental market. In the remaining four years of the Norton bill, allocation of funds between charter and transformation schools would be done by the City Council after hearings based on the demonstrated needs and gaps in both.

The Congresswoman said that sporadic and ad hoc funding for charter schools from Congress demonstrate the necessity for a specific authorization. Last year, the House did not fund charter schools at all, but working with the Senate, Norton got \$17 million for charters to help ease facilities pressures. "This was done without slogans about funding multiple sectors," she said, "and funds may come on an episodic basis again. However, no one should mistake any funds we may get without an authorization this year or in the future, for the authorized amount for vouchers that is designed to guarantee an annual appropriation. Only a comparable authorization can do for charter schools and transformation schools what H.R. 2556 does in authorizing a specific amount for private school vouchers."

Norton said that the voucher intervention by federal authorities "has been a distraction from the expressed desires and needs of the majority of the city's parents and children and has done a disservice to the District's leadership role in carrying out two congressional statutes"—the charter school provision of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, which Funded charter schools nationally, and Section 1115 of the No Child Left Behind Act, which encourages schools such as D.C.'s transformation schools. Norton is also one of the authors of the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995, written on a home rule basis with D.C. officials and residents.

Norton said that her bill is also necessary because the President's visit last week shows that his administration intends no extra funds for charter schools, because he spoke only of funds that are available to all charter schools nationally, despite demand here that far outstrips the available funds and despite D.C.'s record of establishing charter schools in particularly significant numbers, as Congress intended. She said without explicit authorization, charter and transformation schools would be left to the mercy of appropriation committees, which are free to fund whatever programs they desire while vouchers would be authorized for finds on an annual basis.

AFRICA

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank ELIJAH CUMMINGS, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, for once again holding this very timely and important discussion on Africa.

For the next week Africa will be page one news due to the President's trip to the continent. Then, once again, news on Africa will most likely recede to the back pages of our major newspapers and disappear. However, what many Americans don't realize is the increasing importance of Africa to the world and the United States.

Americans now import more than one quarter of their oil from the African continent. In the coming years, due to new major oil discoveries in the Gulf of Guinea off the west coast of Africa the percentage of African oil Americans consume will most likely rise. It will rise because there are quantities of untapped oil reserves on the continent, and it will rise because the U.S. realizes that oil from the Middle East can easily fall prey to the vagaries of war and politics.

Africa is so important to us, in part, because it is a continent rich in natural resources. Copper, diamonds, gold, and wood are all in abundance throughout the continent. The Congo River itself has enough potential hydroelectric power to supply the electrical needs of the whole continent. And the continent still has abundant rain forests, which have been described as the lungs of the world.

We as legislators can no longer afford to ignore Africa or view it solely through the lens of disaster and peril. Yes, we cannot deny that there are serious health problems in Africa with HIV/AIDS and malaria leading the list. There is crushing poverty throughout the continent. Africans living on less than a dollar a day now number over 315 million, according to a recent World Bank survey. Serious conflicts in the Congo—where not thousands but millions have perished—and West Africa still plague the continent and put a serious drag on the development of human resources and capital.

We cannot afford to ignore Africa because people are beginning to realize that failed states and crushing poverty are fertile breeding grounds for terrorist and criminal groups. We cannot afford to ignore Africa because the world is smaller and more interconnected. From the war on terrorism to the supply of crucial resources, from the campaign against threatening diseases to the opportunities for economic trade and investment, Africa is a key global player. We cannot afford to ignore Africa because we now ignore it at our own peril.

Africa matters in many ways. Not all the news coming out of Africa is gloomy. Trade and investments with Africa are growing. U.S. exports totaled over \$5.8 billion last year, while U.S. imports were \$18 billion. Nigeria

alone is the fifth largest supplier of oil to the U.S. Despite appearances, Africa is more peaceful today than in the 1980s and 1990s. Democracy is also taking root in many parts of Africa.

But Africa needs increased resources to deal with the multitude of problems. U.S. assistance to Africa has been stagnant for many years, and real development assistance to the continent is less than \$500 million. Although total U.S. assistance to Africa may total about \$2 billion, a large chunk of this is for humanitarian and health related programs. Many programs—including in the areas of agriculture, democracy, conflict resolution, trade and investment—have suffered from significant cutbacks. In short, Africa needs increased assistance if it is truly to be brought into the mainstream world economy.

The Congressional Black Caucus has been a staunch advocate and played a pivotal role in strengthening the cultural, political and economic ties between Africa and the United States. I am therefore concerned, but not surprised, that President Bush did not seek out the guidance and assistance of the CBC before making his sojourn to Africa. This is not surprising because, as our chairman recently noted, "The President has declined all of our offers to meet with him since our last discussion of January 31, 2001."

In closing, I want to make a few remarks on the President's proposal to send in U.S. peacekeepers to Liberia. First, I recognize the longstanding historical ties between the U.S. and Liberia. I don't believe it will be as difficult to win the hearts and minds of Liberians who are predisposed to look upon the U.S. with favor. I generally support the concept of a peacekeeping mission to Liberia. However, I believe that a U.S.—led peacekeeping mission should be placed under the auspices of the United Nations. The United States by itself cannot be the policeman of the world, and our forces are already spread thin by our other significant commitments around the world. Any U.S. actions in Liberia will have greater credibility if they have the seal of approval of an international body.

We must also think through very carefully our commitment to place U.S. forces in Liberia. We must have a mission that is clearly defined, and we must have an exit plan that is articulated and understood by the American public. I also believe that any plan to introduce U.S. forces in Liberia should be subjected to serious congressional oversight and approval.

The Devil is in the details. The administration must first clearly articulate its methods

and goals before any U.S. troops are put on the ground.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES REESE,
DISTRICT GOVERNOR OF DISTRICT
5670 OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Kansan devoted to his community and to the State of Kansas. Mr. Charles Reese, a Rotarian since 1975, will be installed as the District Governor of District 5670 of Rotary International on Friday, July 11.

I am personally proud of Mr. Reese, who resides in my hometown of Hays, Kansas. District 5670 encompasses Hays and all of northwest Kansas. As District Governor, Mr. Reese will lead 31 Rotary clubs with 1200 members in a 38-county region.

Reese's dedication to his community is well known. Mr. Reese served the Hays community as a board member of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry and as chairman of the board of the Kansas PRIDE program. Last year, Charles retired as Vice President of Corporate Relations for Midwest Energy, an electric and natural gas utility based in Hays.

Mr. Reese's commitment to community service is an example of tremendous leadership. He served as President of the Heartland of Development Corporation and is currently serving as interim director of the Ellis County Coalition for Economic Development. Mr. Reese and his wife, Louise, have also traveled to Panama with the Rotary District HungerPlus service teams. For his volunteer work in economic development, Charles received the 2002 Volunteer of the Year award from the Kansas Economic Development Association.

Not least of all, Charles and Louise are the proud parents of three grown daughters and grandparents of three grandsons. The family will celebrate Charles' formal installation as District Governor at a banquet Friday evening, July 11, in Hays.

Charles Reese is a role model for service to others. His devotion to his community, and to Rotary International, reflects his strong character and sense of duty to community, state, and nation.