

October 2, 2003

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — *Extensions of Remarks*

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can enjoy her cherished pastimes of wine tasting and traveling. However, if I know Joan, I am sure we have not witnessed the last of her talents. She will always be a powerful and unyielding voice for children.

Mr. Speaker, as family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate Joan's many accomplishments, it is with great admiration and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this exceptional woman. May we all be fortunate to wake up for many days to come and appreciate the simplicity of a better life that Dr. Joan Paton Acosta has secured for our children.

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NEW FREEDOM COMMISSION ON  
MENTAL HEALTH RESOLUTION

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 2003*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my resolution regarding the report by the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and adopt the goals and recommendations of the Commission's report. As we commemorate Mental Illness Awareness Week, we must take steps to implement these goals and ensure affordable, accessible, and high quality mental health care for all Americans.

I commend the Commission for their insightful and informative report. Almost one quarter of all Americans currently suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder, but a only small fraction of them actually receive the treatment they need. This is unacceptable. The Commission's report provides us with six key goals and corresponding recommendations that will help ensure that all Americans who need mental health services receive them in an effective manner.

The goals of the Commission are as follows:

- (1) To help all Americans understand that mental health is essential to overall health;
- (2) To make mental health care consumer and family driven;
- (3) To eliminate disparities in mental health services;
- (4) To make early mental illness screening, assessment, and referral to services common practice;
- (5) To ensure delivery of excellent mental health care and acceleration of mental illness research; and
- (6) To use technology to access mental health care and information.

It would be a tragedy to ignore the Commission's report and its sensible recommendations. Every year we lose approximately 30,000 lives in the U.S. to suicide. Every year we lose millions of dollars in lost productivity due to mental illness. Many of these lives and dollars could be saved if high quality mental health services were accessible to all.

I call upon all of my colleagues in Congress and my friends in the Administration and in the mental health advocacy community to work together and take the necessary steps to implement the Commission's goals and dramatically improve mental health care in this Nation.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO TAIWAN  
ON FORTHCOMING NATIONAL DAY

**HON. MELVIN L. WATT**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 2003*

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Taiwan on its forthcoming National Day. In recent years, Taiwan has impressed the world with its spectacular economic and political accomplishments. Even though Taiwan has many challenges ahead, I am confident Taiwan will continue to prosper both economically and politically now and in the future.

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HONORING WAYNE AND JO  
HITCHCOCK

**HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 2003*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two wonderful individuals who dedicated their lives to defending America and helping those who fought for our freedom.

Wayne and Jo Hitchcock were long-time constituents and close friends of mine. Wayne was an Army Air Corps tail gunner who flew missions over Hungary during World War II. He was shot down during his 14th mission and subsequently spent 13 months as a prisoner-of-war in Stalag 17B, which was liberated by Patton's Third Army in May of 1945. Wayne received the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf, the European Campaign Medal with four stars, and the Prisoner of War Medal for his heroism.

Wayne returned to his native Indiana after the war and became a homebuilder, land developer, and real estate broker. He also returned to government service and retired after serving as a postmaster for 23 years. He then moved to Florida where he and Jo devoted themselves to helping ex-prisoners of war.

I met Wayne and Jo before I was first elected to Congress. I am glad I did. They helped educate me about the many issues important to those who served our country in uniform, especially ex-prisoners of war. They brought to my attention an inequity which penalized the survivors of veterans who were completely disabled at the time of their deaths but whose deaths were not the result of their service-connected disability. To receive the benefits to which they were entitled, these widows had to meet requirements far above those of their counterparts whose husbands died as a result of their service-connected disability. I introduced legislation, which eventually became law, to fix this problem after Wayne and Jo brought it to my attention.

Wayne and Jo were actively involved with the American Ex-Prisoners of War, serving on various committees and posts at the department. Wayne eventually served as the Senior Vice Commander and as the National Legislative Chairman and Legislative Reporter. He became National Commander in 1997. He also was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and the Disabled American Veterans.

In addition to their work for ex-prisoners of war, Wayne and Jo also were very active in

many volunteer and charitable organizations in the community. Wayne was a forty-year member of Lions International and was Boy Scout Master for more than 20 years. Jo spent her time running from meeting to meeting of the many charitable organizations to which she belonged. After Wayne's death in 1999, she also served as president of a local Ex-POW chapter until her death earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, Wayne and Jo Hitchcock were two outstanding individuals who loved their country and those who fought for it. They made this country better for ex-prisoners of war and for the many people with whom they came into contact. I miss them both, as do the many people who are forever indebted to them.

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SUPPORTING THE IMMIGRANT  
WORKERS FREEDOM RIDE

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 2003*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give tribute to the Immigrant Freedom Ride. These immigrants have crossed the country to ask Congress to allow them a process for naturalization, increase the number of visas for family reunification, and to protect the civil and labor rights of immigrants.

Immigrants need a process to earn legal status. These immigrants work hard, pay taxes, and want to be productive legal members of our society.

Many immigrants live in solitude. Work and send their money home so that their children and families can survive. That is why immigrants need more visas so we can reunite families. No parent should be forced out of necessity to miss out on the life of his or her child.

And, we must protect the civil rights of all immigrants—including the undocumented. Too many immigrant workers are fired if they speak up about labor violations. Labor protections should apply to all workers, not just citizens. These demands are just.

Immigrants break their backs picking our fruits and vegetables, building our homes, and making our clothes. But, they will no longer be silent. They demand fair treatment.

This is a wakeup call. Immigrants are angry and will not be silent anymore.

I support the ideals of the Immigrant Freedom Ride and aim to help immigrants achieve these goals.

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HONORING DOCTOR DAWOOD  
FARAH

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 2003*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Dawood Farahi on his inauguration as the seventeenth president of Kean University. Dr. Farahi was inaugurated on Tuesday, September 30, 2003, at the Wilkins Theatre on the campus of Kean University.

On February 24, 2003, the Kean University Board of Trustees unanimously elected Dr.

Dawood Farahi to be the seventeenth president of Kean University. Dr. Farahi has been described as the embodiment of Kean University for his commitment to educational quality and affordability for its students. His leadership will undoubtedly bring Kean University to an even higher level of academic excellence.

Dr. Farahi was recently special assistant to the president of Kean University for both operations and technology. During this time, Dr. Farahi was responsible for the supervision of budget management, position control, enrollment services, and the office of computers and information systems. He created and implemented the Technology Institute, which provides training for faculty and staff in order to integrate computers into the curriculum and begin developing distance-learning courses.

Dr. Dawood Farahi has worked closely with state, county, and municipal officials in problem solving and technical capacities. Dr. Farahi developed and implemented a strategic information plan for the City of Elizabeth, New Jersey. As a result, the Elizabeth Police Department has been lauded as one of the 10 best in the nation. Working with the Elizabeth public school system, Dr. Farahi created the Vision 2000 Strategic Plan, which is now used as a model for many urban schools in New Jersey and throughout the nation.

Dr. Farahi was a Fulbright Scholar, and received a Ph.D with honors from the University of Kansas. He has been a full-time professor at Kean University since 1989, teaching Quantitative Methods, Management Information Systems, and Strategic Management, and was honored in 1993 as the Graduate Teacher of the Year, and was named Teacher of the Year in 1996.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Dawood Farahi on his appointment as the seventeenth president of Kean University.

#### H. RES. 384, A BILL HONORING THE IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM RIDE

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 2003*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 384 that celebrates the successful journey of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride.

Inspired by the Freedom Riders of the 1960's Civil Rights Movement, a broad coalition of individuals including immigrants, union officials, religious leaders, and civil rights activists set out on September 20, 2003 from ten major U.S. cities to educate the public and elected officials about immigrant rights and the injustices of our country's current immigration policies. Over the last 12 days, 900 freedom riders in 18 buses have visited more than 100 cities, towns, and work places.

The freedom riders have educated communities across America about the hardships faced day after day by immigrant workers and their families. Immigrants work in every industry in America. They are construction workers, doctors, nurses, janitors, meat packers, farmworkers, engineers, and soldiers. They care for our children, tend to our elderly, pick and serve our food, build and clean our houses,

and what they ask for in return is a fair and equal opportunity to achieve the American dream. Yet, our broken immigration system impedes many because they are unable to live and work freely. Far too many immigrants are exploited by their employers, separated from family, and unprotected by our laws. The Immigrant Workers Freedom Riders have renewed the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement in order to draw attention to the needs of this marginalized community.

But that is not where their effort ends. They have a plan of action—a solution to many of the hardships encountered by so many immigrants in this country. Their plan has four key proposals: a new legalization program for undocumented immigrants; the right of immigrants to reunite with their families; the protection of immigrants in the workplace; and civil rights and civil liberties for all.

To bring their plan to the attention of our national leaders, the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride arrived in Washington, D.C. on October 1, 2003. I welcome, and congratulate them for embarking on this historic journey.

I particularly want to acknowledge the two buses of freedom riders from Los Angeles. Several of the participants are my constituents who have taken time from their jobs and left their families and children behind in order to make the long journey to Washington, D.C.

I met with a group of them on Thursday, October 2. What they told me was truly inspiring. Some have been in this country for several years while others have only recently arrived, but they all have a love and appreciation for America. They don't want or expect handouts. They believe in hard work and doing their part for our country. What they do want, Mr. Speaker, is what we all want—the opportunity to prosper and to obtain a good life for themselves and their families. They want to be full participants in every aspect of our society.

I applaud the Immigrant Workers Freedom Riders and commend the organizers for helping to ensure that immigrant voices are heard. I am encouraged by the support they have garnered across the country, and I hope that their tour will serve as a catalyst for fair and meaningful reform of our nation's immigration laws. Our immigrant community deserves greater protections under the law, and Congress has an obligation to provide it.

In the words of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.: "Let us therefore continue our triumphal march to the realization of the American dream . . ."

In keeping with Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, we are reminded today that the struggle for civil rights continues for many. The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride is a renewal of a struggle for fairness and equality for all. I am hopeful that my colleagues and all of America will embrace it.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 2003*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on September 30, 2003, I was absent attending a meeting in my Congressional District in Ohio and missed the votes on Roll Call Number 524, the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1, the Medicare

Prescription Drug and Modernization Act; Roll Call Number 525, the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1308, the Tax Relief, Simplification and Equity Act; and Roll Call Number 526, on H. Res. 357, Honoring the Life and Legacy of Bob Hope.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay" on Roll Call Number 524, "Nay" on Roll Call Number 525, and "Yea" on Roll Call Number 526.

#### CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM EXTENSIONS

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 2003*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues, Representatives JOHN A. BOEHNER, GEORGE MILLER, and LYNN WOOLSEY, I am introducing legislation to extend for one year provisions in the Child Nutrition Act, the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, and the Commodity Distribution Reform Act that are vital to our Nation's effort to ensure that low income children have access to safe and nutritious food in school, after school, and during the summer months.

Members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce are busy preparing legislation to reauthorize and improve all the child nutrition programs included in the Child Nutrition Act and the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, including the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, known as WIC, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the After School Snack Program, and the Summer Food Service Program. I have been pleased with this effort and the progress made in preparing a bill for introduction.

Despite our progress, Committee Members do not want to draft such important legislation in haste and so need additional time to ensure that any changes to the current law best serve the interests of the children whom these programs are intended to reach. Without the extensions included in this legislation, millions of needy children could lose access to healthy meals and snacks that are critical for their healthy growth and development and academic success in school.

This legislation includes a very important provision that allows children of our Armed Forces to continue receiving free- or reduced-price meals at school if they meet eligibility requirements. Without this legislation, families living in privatized military housing could not exempt their housing allowance from the income amount used to determine their children's eligibility for free- or reduced-price meals, like those living in military-owned housing currently can. Taking school meal subsidies from children when many of their mothers and fathers are fighting for our nation's security at home and abroad would have a devastating effect on these families.

Also included in this legislation is a provision that would continue the ability of for-profit child care centers to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. This program provides meals and snacks to children in for-profit centers when at least 25 percent of the children meet the income eligibility criteria for free- and reduced-price meals.