

We call on the Senate to defeat this amendment and we are grateful to President Bush for his commitment to veto the bill should the amendment prevail after conference.

Lastly, I want to share with you a short documentary that our organization produced after Castro's latest crackdown on Cuba's peaceful democratic opposition movement, entitled "Repression".

It is but just one more reason on why sanctions and restrictions on Castro's regime should not be lifted—until all political prisoners are freed; there is freedom of the press and assembly, and internationally supervised free elections are scheduled.

The Cuban people deserve no less.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. JUDITH ROLLE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise this evening to pay tribute to the late Judith James Rolle, the wife of Miami-Dade County Commissioner Dorrin Rolle. Mrs. Rolle passed away September 29, 2003 of breast cancer.

It has been my experience that people who become nurses are very special people—people who are somehow able to combine competence with caring, who have the gift of healing people and making them feel better not only with science and medicine, but with their very presence. That was certainly the case with Judith Rolle.

She had a nursing career that spanned 33 years at both Mt. Sinai Hospital and the Miami Heart Institute. As a nurse she had a knack for caring for patients, for managing other nurses, for problem solving and for acting as a diplomatic go-between for nurses and doctors and administrators—all essential skills in caring for patients in a hospital setting.

Her multiple roles and abilities, her efficiency and success endeared her to many and earned her the affectionate nickname "Judge Judy." But Judith Rolle was no TV character; she was the real thing.

She held positions as Floor Nurse and Head Nurse in the Medical and Surgical Departments, Public Health Nurse in-charge of home visits to patients, and Supervisory Nurse of the Intensive Care Unit.

While at the Miami Heart Institute, she was also a Nurse in the Anesthesiology Department, a Coordinator in the hospital's Education Department, and a Case Manager in the Case Management Department.

This remarkable lady was my friend and a confidante of countless people throughout our community. When "Judge Judy" retired from nursing in 1998, she simply moved to another form of public service—assisting her husband in his successful campaigns for the Miami Dade County Commission and expanding her participation as an active member of her church community and service organizations.

It is for these reasons that our community was so deeply saddened by her passing. Everyone who met "Judge Judy" was struck by her strong spirit and sunny disposition. You knew you were in the presence of a caring and compassionate person.

Last Saturday at 11:00 a.m., October 4, 2003, at her Homegoing Services celebrated

at New Jerusalem Primitive Baptist Church in Miami, her family and many friends and supporters gathered together to celebrate her life and the impact she had on the lives of all who knew her.

My heart goes out to her family. I know I speak for our entire community in saying how fortunate we were to have known her.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY VANMATRE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to stand here before you today and pay tribute to a remarkable citizen from my district. Nancy VanMatre of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, has defied the odds and overcome cancer three times over the past eight years. It is my privilege to recount her story before this body of Congress and this Nation, for her determination and loving spirit are truly an inspiration to us all.

Nancy and her husband Harry relocated to the Pagosa Springs area nine years ago upon retirement from their careers in New York. After a few years of enjoying their retirement, Nancy was diagnosed with breast cancer. Over the course of the next six years, Nancy would undergo three major operations targeting cancer in her breast and her two lungs. Suffering from acute care myopathy and neuropathy, Nancy eventually returned home too weak to move her body.

As she began to regain consciousness, she set out a list of goals; the final one was summiting V-Rock Mountain. A year and a half later, she had accomplished everything on her list, including hiking the mountain, and began to set her sights on new goals. Nancy has come so far on her road to recovery that her new focus is now set on helping other cancer victims to see that there is hope; that they too can overcome the disease and continue on with their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Nancy for her courage to battle the cancer that threatened her life; she never gave up and her success should serve as an example to others faced with difficult odds. It is truly an honor to pay tribute to this remarkable woman before you today. Nancy, you are an inspiration to us all.

CONGRATULATING GAIL WARDEN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my dear friend Gail Warden on his retirement as President of Henry Ford Health System. He has lead Henry Ford into the twenty-first century, leaving it in good stead. He has worked hard to ensure that residents in Southeast Michigan receive access to good quality hospital care. For that, I would like to say on behalf of the people of Michigan's 15th Congressional District, thank you.

Gail Warden has dedicated his career to advancing the health safety net in Southeast Michigan. His commitment to quality health

care has helped my constituents lead healthier lives. He has been a leader among the hospital presidents in Southeast Michigan. Above all I want to thank him for his friendship.

Mr. Speaker, soon after Gail retired, a long-term problem came to a head in Southeast Michigan. That problem: the rising tide of uninsured hobbled one hospital and threatened other hospitals in the area. When Governor Granholm called on Gail to take on this task, he did not back down. Rather, he immersed himself in this problem and began tackling this tough issue head on. Since then, the development committee that he has led has come up with innovative new solutions for Southeastern Michigan's problems. I look forward toward helping in tackling these tough problems and working with Gail to ensure that Michigan's health safety net is strengthened.

Mr. Speaker, Gail Warden is an honorable man who has done many great things for the citizens of Southeastern Michigan. I am honored to have him as friend. I ask that you and all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Gail Warden for his, inexhaustible support, generosity and leadership to his community and to give him our best wishes for the future.

EDITORIALS COMMENT ON "BUY AMERICA" PROVISIONS, ISRAELI ATTACKS ON SYRIA

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues two editorials.

First, this Member hopes his colleagues will consider the October 8, 2003, editorial from the Omaha World Herald, which describes the drawbacks of "Buy America" provisions with respect to peacekeeping and reconstruction projects in Iraq. Obviously, given the size of the supplemental request for these activities, "Buy America" provisions have strong appeal on the surface. As a representative who has specific responsibilities for trans-Atlantic relations, this Member urges his colleagues to think twice before supporting "Buy America" provisions and consider the contents of this brief editorial.

Second, this Member commends the October 8, 2003, Omaha World-Herald editorial entitled "An ill-advised raid." Indeed, this editorial discusses the short-term and long-term consequences of the recent Israeli attack upon camps that may well have been used for training and harboring terrorists. Israel's grief over its continued casualties from suicide bombings is absolutely understandable, and the U.S. shares its disgust of these tactics. Nevertheless, recent Israeli military air attack in Syria even without prior notice to the U.S. Government may create even further difficulties for the U.S. in Iraq and the Middle East. That is the view of the Omaha World-Herald—a view which should be taken quite seriously by all of us in Congress.

Furthermore . . . British soldiers showed admirable determination last spring in carrying some of the harshest fighting, in Iraq. But some in Congress are now trying to kick the British (and other U.S. allies) in the teeth by insisting on a rigid "buy American" requirement for U.S. military purchases. That is a recipe for tripping up efforts at

international contributions to the rebuilding in Iraq. Such a step would also disrupt long-standing and constructive trading relationships. Dump this loser of an idea.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Oct. 8, 2003]

AN ILL-ADVISED RAID

Hours after Israel conducted a Sunday bombing raid deep inside neighboring Syria, President Bush defended the action by saying Israel "has got a right to defend herself." True. But a picture is beginning to emerge that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was doing something else—something quite possibly dangerous to his own nation, to the region and ultimately to the United States.

Israel, of course, was acting in the wake of an especially horrible suicide bombing in Haifa that took 19 innocent lives. In what has become a grim standard operating procedure in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israel could be counted on to retaliate.

But retaliate against what? Israel first said it had gone after a terrorist training camp. Soon, though, credible reports began to come in that if the locale had ever been a terrorist camp, that was years in the past. Then Israeli officials confirmed that the raid's actual goal had been to "send a message" to Syria:

Wrong message.

Yes, Syria harbors terrorists. Yes, Islamic Jihad had claimed responsibility for the deadly restaurant bombing. But there is scant evidence that Islamic Jihad ever had any connection to the site that Israel attacked.

For three decades, Israel and Syria have had the mutual good sense to keep their border peaceful, even while each had plenty of reason to mistrust the other. Now Israel has breached that uneasy calm. If sustained fighting were to erupt between the two nations, Lebanon and even Iran could be drawn in.

That would be an unwelcome eventuality in the calmest of times. But incurring such risks while the United States and its handful of allies are struggling to stabilize Iraq raises the ante in ways that cannot benefit anyone. Moreover, Syria, while too militarily frail to respond directly in a meaningful way, probably has some ability to nudge Iran into exporting yet more terrorists into Iraq—where, of course, they would target U.S. and allied military personnel.

Israel and America both have ample reason to be upset over Syria's continued harboring of terrorist groups, and Israel in particular has a right to be outraged over the Haifa explosion. Both nations should press Syria in every possible way diplomatically to end its role as a safe haven for evil. But Israel's precipitous attack—Jerusalem didn't even notify Washington in advance—boosts collective tension levels at a terrible time.

Just as Israel, and the Palestinians as well, need America's help in the elusive quest for lasting peace, Washington needs Israel's assistance in keeping the region stable while Iraq is being pieced back together.

Sharon should be taking a wider and longer view. By all available evidence, this past weekend he was doing anything but.

IF I COULD CHANGE THE WORLD—
A ESSAY WRITTEN BY A DALLAS
THIRD GRADER, MARIA
BELTRAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on September 6, I hosted my

11th Annual Community Appreciation Day in Dallas, Texas.

A To highlight the talent of the youth in my district, Frederick Douglass Elementary School of Pleasant Grove held a student essay contest. The top 10 essays were selected from over 137 essays submitted. Each winner was awarded a Congressional Certificate of Appreciation and an Autographed Bicycle Helmet.

The Grand Prize winner of the student essay contest, Maria Beltran (3rd grade), was awarded a Congressional Certificate of Appreciation, an Autographed Bicycle Helmet and a New Red Unisex Bicycle. The grand prize winner read the following beautiful essay to the audience.

Maria provided us with words that should be shared with all. I extend her remarks for fellow Members of Congress. I know that we can benefit from her words as we face international challenges.

If I could change the world, I would change it by doing something to stop the violence, because the violence is destroying the world. I would like to have a better place to live. I wish everybody would help each other and no fighting and no pushing and no killing people. I wish I could change the drugs for food, because a lot of children are hungry, I will help the homeless because they don't have any food, water or homes to live. If the people stop smoking they could have a better life for themselves. Because smoking can make you sick, I wish the children would listen to their parents and their teachers and respect them so they can have the best information of what is the best for everybody. I wish I could stop the wars. I wish a peaceful place to live, with no wars, with out drugs, only peace and love for everybody in the whole world. I am glad when the people are nice to each other.

If I could change the world, these are the things I would do.

TAIWAN'S 92ND NATIONAL DAY

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, during a time of global conflict, it is especially important moment to recognize and thank our true friends and allies around the world. Joining us in our commitment to freedom, democracy, human rights and economic opportunity, Taiwan has been a steadfast friend to the United States for over 50 years.

This is a difficult and threatening time among the world of nations. Taiwan is an important cornerstone in securing a free, stable and prosperous Asia.

Immediately after September 11, 2001, Taiwan became one of the first countries to come to our aid in the campaign against terrorism. President Chen, Shui-bian lost no time in condemning this brutal act and its perpetrators. Since then, Taiwan has reaffirmed its commitment to us in many forms, including intelligence gathering, increased airport security, and laws that keep laundered money out of the hands of terrorists. Taiwan has also provided generous assistance for the rebuilding of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Recently, both Houses of Congress have passed by large margins, legislation that supports our friendship and commitments to Tai-

wan and endorses its desire for a wider international role, specifically in the World Health Organization and the United Nations.

Let us continue, through words and deeds, our heartfelt support for this special friend on its 92nd National Day celebration.

I offer our friends in Taiwan my own personal best wishes, and I offer good wishes to Taiwan on behalf of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO CASEY MUDROCH

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this Nation to pay tribute to the amazing courage displayed by a young boy from my district. Casey Mudroch of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, nearly lost his life this past summer when his tent was washed into a lake during a flash flood. After five grueling weeks of recuperation in the Children's Hospital of Denver, Casey finally returned home with hope for a full recovery. I am honored to stand and recognize Casey's harrowing battle for life and his remarkable recovery here today.

Casey was left critically injured this summer when a tent he and his friends were sleeping in was swept into Navajo Lake. Witnesses were able to pull him out of the water, but unfortunately by the time they got to him he was unconscious and had stopped breathing. Following CPR Casey was flown to Denver and taken to Children's Hospital, where he was treated for over a month. I can assure you that his stay in the hospital was not an easy one. After being downgraded from critical condition, Casey developed an ulcer, which ruptured, returning him to critical condition. Fortunately, Casey is expected to make a full recovery and is glad to be home among his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, surviving such a traumatic experience is never easy, especially for someone as young as Casey Mudroch. Casey has displayed a tremendous amount of bravery throughout this ordeal, and it is my privilege to honor his recovery efforts before this body of Congress and this Nation today. I would like to wish Casey a continued recovery and all the best in the future.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' BENEFITS EQUITY ACT OF 2003

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring the "Federal Employees' Benefits Equity Act of 2003." I reintroduced this very important legislation that works to eliminate a number of inequities found in the computation of benefits for law enforcement officers, firefighters, nuclear material couriers and members of the Supreme Court police under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) and the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS).