

URGING PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION ADDRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN NORTH KOREA AT 59TH SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 109.

North Korea has been in the news lately for a number of reasons. In recent months, it has expelled U.N. monitors, withdrawn from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and restarted a nuclear reactor.

In addition, North Korea may have the worst human-rights record in Asia. The regime prohibits freedom of speech, religion, the press, assembly, association, citizens' movements and workers' rights. There are an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 political prisoners in work camps. Accounts by refugees and defectors indicate that inmates are subject to forced labor, beatings, torture and executions.

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights convened in Geneva this week and is scheduled to be in session until April 25th. This year one of its most challenging issues will be to determine whether to hold North Korea accountable for its poor human rights records.

I strongly support H. Res. 109, which urges the Commission to pass a resolution addressing human rights abuses in North Korea, and calls on the government of North Korea to respect and protect the human rights of its citizens. If passed by the Commission, it would be a critical first step by member states of the United Nations in demonstrating a multi-national commitment to human rights.

In 1981, North Korea ratified two treaties, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. By ratifying these treaties, North Korea officially affirmed its commitment to internationally recognized human rights and standards. Although no single diplomatic initiative can begin to resolve North Korea's human rights abuses, this Resolution would be an important first step in bringing this issue to the world's attention.

In closing, I would like to remind my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, that on February 11, 2002, we passed, by an overwhelming vote of 402 to 6, a Resolution condemning the selection of Libya to chair the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Libya has failed to demonstrate that it does not support international terrorism. It has also failed to demonstrate that it has abandoned its quest for weapons of mass destruction. To reward these failures with an important and prestigious appointment makes a mockery of what this Commission stands for.

That being said, if the Commission manages to persuade North Korea to open itself up to visits by U.N. human rights experts and other international observers, this would be a significant accomplishment. I urge all members of the United Nations to work towards this goal and urge my colleagues to support this Resolution.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
ACADIANA VETERAN LESTER J.
GUIDRY

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, our community lost a dedicated servant on February 20, 2003. Lester J. Guidry, Commander of American Legion Post 69, lost his battle with cancer. Mr. Guidry was a tireless advocate for Acadiana's Veterans, often serving as their voice in the community.

Mr. Guidry was a veteran of the Korean War, serving with the 25th Infantry Division, 35th Regiment, 1st Battalion, Able Company. He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he sustained in battle in 1951. Back on the home front, Mr. Guidry became a mountaineering instructor with the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. For 25 years, he taught our young cadets the specifics of winter survival, mountaineering safety and awareness.

Upon his return home to Acadiana, Mr. Guidry became a project coordinator working on behalf of Korean War Veterans. He was tireless in his efforts to help these veterans secure the service medals and accolades they were due.

I knew Lester Guidry well. He constantly interacted with my office on behalf of our local veterans, insuring that cases were tended to and information was located. In 2002, he visited with me in Washington, DC during his trip to retrieve pieces of the damaged Pentagon for display at memorials across Acadiana.

Mr. Guidry's passion for life and service was both inspirational and contagious. He was persistent in his task, making service to our local veterans and their memory his mission in life. I believe he accomplished his mission.

He fought for the ideals he believed in until his final days. He labored to remind of us that "freedom is never free," and that service to country should be recognized and never forgotten. He was an example of patriotism for our community, he touched countless lives in our area and across the country, and he will be sorely missed.

IN HONOR OF NORA RAZON

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Californian, Nora Razon, as she is named a San Mateo County Young Woman of Excellence.

Nora Razon is a young woman of tremendous insight and dedication. She took initiative in conceiving of and founding her own organization at Carlmont High School, Chicanas Healing Injustice, Sexism, Prejudice and Animosity (C.H.I.S.P.A.). This organization empowers Latino youth through participation in school and extracurricular activities dealing with the healing of injustice and animosity within and towards the Latino community. Under her direction, C.H.I.S.P.A. has evolved into one of the most successful and well-attended clubs at Carlmont High School.

Nora Razon's leadership has been likewise valuable in East Palo Alto's College Track, a non-profit organization which assists motivated young people from socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods to recognize their full potential and to attend a four-year university of their choosing. She has been credited with helping turn College Track "from a good idea into a successful entity."

Nora Razon is a senior leader in the East Palo Alto chapter of Youth United for Community Action and an active four-year participant in Youth Community Service. She is the Youth Representative on the San Mateo County Commission on Aging, a member of the Student Council, and a mentor to her peers through Carlmont's SOS Program designed to mediate conflicts that arise within the student body.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Nora Razon as she is named a San Mateo County Young Woman of Excellence.

THE CHILD HEALTHCARE CRISIS
RELIEF ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, our Nation has been blessed for more than two centuries. At no time in the history of mankind has a society prospered like ours has. Through an industrious spirit, a deep sense of entrepreneurship, and a land teeming with natural resources and human talent, we have created a nation that is the dream of those in the world who lack our good fortune. We have led the world in the area of biotechnology and medical research for almost an entire century. There is no place else on Earth where people flock by the thousands to obtain the best that the arts and sciences of medicine have to offer.

With that said, there has been, however, a well kept secret regarding our nation's healthcare system, which was only recently brought to light by former United States Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher. In his landmark 1999 report, Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General, Dr. Satcher describes the crisis faced by our Nation's children who suffer from mental illness. According to this report, one out of every five children in America suffers from a diagnosable mental disorder, yet only one-third of them receive mental healthcare treatment.

Part of the reason for this alarming statistic is that mental health services specific to children are in very short supply. I hear time and time again the frustrations of pediatricians who cannot find available mental healthcare professionals for their patients who require psychological evaluations. There are many parents in our nation who are forced to relinquish custody of their disturbed children because outpatient psychiatric services are either not available or the wait for an appointment is weeks to months away. In my own state of Rhode Island, a physician affiliated with a leading psychiatric children's hospital told me recently that on any given day, up to one-third of the hospitalized youth could be home if only outpatient services were available.

That is why today Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and I are introducing the Child Healthcare Crisis Relief Act. This is a bill designed to help alleviate the paucity of mental health services for our nation's youth by providing incentives for mental healthcare workers to specialize in the treatment of children and adolescents.

The statistics are quite startling:

13,700,000 of America's children and adolescents have a diagnosable mental disorder.

There are 6,000,000 to 9,000,000 children and adolescents in the United States who meet the definition of having a serious emotional disturbance.

Approximately 5 to 9 percent of children and adolescents in the United States meet the definition of extreme functional impairment.

The demand for the services of child and adolescent psychiatry is projected to increase by 100 percent between 1995 and 2020.

There are approximately 513 students for each school counselor in United States schools. This ratio is more than double the recommended ratio of 250 students for each school counselor.

The Child Healthcare Crisis Relief Act creates incentives to help recruit and retain child mental health professionals providing direct clinical care, and to improve, expand, or help create programs to train child mental health professionals through the following mechanism:

Loan repayment and scholarships for child mental health and school-based service professionals to help pay back educational loans.

Grants to graduate schools to provide for internships and field placements in child mental health services.

Grants to help with pre-service and in-service training of paraprofessionals who work in clinical mental health settings for children.

Grants to graduate schools to help develop and expand child and adolescent mental health programs.

This bill also allows for an increase in the number of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists under the Medicare Graduate Medical Education Program and extends the board eligibility period for residents and fellows from four years to six years.

The Child Healthcare Crisis Relief Act is not only about providing incentives for health care workers, it is also a bill about expanding treatment options for children in need. Expanding treatment options expands the opportunities that children with mental health concerns have to grow and become happy and productive members of our society.

Children who do not receive adequate treatment for mental health problems start out in life with an albatross around their necks with significantly reduced opportunities. These children have a high probability of becoming involved with illicit substances, dropping out of school, and committing felonies including homicide. Just as tragic, many of these children will never make it into adulthood because of suicide.

The hope and the potential for endless possibilities that we, as a people, attribute to children are diminished with each child struggling with mental illness who does not receive adequate treatment. We may choose not to see their struggle out of ignorance or fear, but as an old English proverb says: "We never know the worth of water 'til the well is dry".

Mr. Speaker, we cannot in good conscience sit back and allow the well to dry up when we

know how to find a spring that can feed it. I, therefore, ask my colleagues to lend their support for my Child Healthcare Crisis Relief Act.

ROBERT KELLY, SR., HONORED BY
SCRANTON HEBREW DAY SCHOOL

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the honoring of Robert T. Kelly, Sr., by the Scranton Hebrew Day School at the school's 55th anniversary dinner on March 23, 2003. Because he has been both a community leader and a very generous benefactor as a trustee of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the school will present him with its Special Recognition Award.

Mr. Kelly is a graduate of the University of Scranton, where he was also awarded a Master of Business Administration degree. The university has also presented him with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

A member of the advisory board of directors of the First Liberty Bank and Trust Company, Mr. Kelly is a former member of the board of trustees of the University of Scranton and served in a similar capacity with Mercy Health Systems, Northeast Region. He is currently a member of the American and Pennsylvania Institutes of Certified Public Accountants, the Country Club of Scranton and the Johns Hopkins Club of Baltimore.

Mr. Kelly has been one of the Weinberg Foundation's trustees since 1990 and currently serves as a trustee emeritus, having been succeeded as a trustee by his son Timothy P. Kelly.

An intimate of philanthropist Harry Weinberg since the 1950s when Mr. Weinberg operated the Scranton Transit Company, Mr. Kelly was designated a trustee by Mr. Weinberg to assist in the running of the foundation after his death. Mr. Weinberg passed away in 1990 at the age of 82. At that time, the foundation possessed assets worth nearly \$1 billion. It currently distributes more than \$95 million annually to the needy around the world and is considered to be one of the top 25 philanthropic trusts in the United States.

Mr. Kelly and his wife, the former Rose Marie Simoncelli, reside in Jessup and are the proud parents of four children, Timothy and Mary Louise, both of Waverly; Attorney Robert Jr. of Clarks Green; and Dr. Patricia Kelly-Holmes of South Bend, Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the honor being accorded to Mr. Robert T. Kelly, Sr., by the Scranton Hebrew Day School, and I wish him and his family all the best.

HONORING ELIZABETH McKENNA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Californian, Elizabeth McKenna, as she is named a San Mateo County Young Woman of Excellence.

As President of Best Buddies, an international organization that provides students with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to develop one-on-one friendships with other students at their high school, Elizabeth McKenna devotes extraordinary time and energy to improving her school and community. She organizes and publicizes meetings, pairs up mentors and mentees, and ensures all aspects of the program run smoothly. Her chapter was the proud recipient of the "Chapter of the Month" award at a recent Bay Area chapter meeting. In addition to her involvement in Best Buddies, she also finds time to volunteer weekly with Service Commission and the Interact Club and to be a member of the Dance Team and Dance Ensemble at Hillsdale High School.

Elizabeth McKenna excels in her academic pursuits as well. She is a lead trial attorney with Hillsdale High School's Mock Trial team and played an instrumental role in bringing her team to the 2002 California State Finals, where they placed second. She is a staff writer for her high school newspaper and has been playing the piano since the fifth grade and she maintains an excellent grade point average while juggling multiple Advanced Placement and Honors courses.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring, Elizabeth McKenna as she is named a San Mateo County Young Woman of Excellence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON AN OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the United States Commission on an Open Society and Security Act, expressing an idea I have been working on since well before 9-11. For years now before our eyes, parts of our open society have gradually been closed down because of fear of terrorism. Such actions have accelerated and with war coming now, even more so. For example, Pennsylvania Avenue has just been closed to pedestrians, isolating the country's most visible landmark from the American people and connection to the President. The bill I introduce today would begin a systematic investigation that takes full account of the importance of maintaining our democratic traditions while responding adequately to the real and substantial threats terrorism poses.

These years in our history will be remembered by the rise of terrorism in the world and in this country. As a result, American society faces new and unprecedented challenges. We must provide ever-higher levels of security for our people and public spaces while maintaining a free and open democratic society. As yet, our country has no systematic process or strategy for meeting these challenges.

When we have been faced with unprecedented and perplexing issues in the past, we have had the good sense to investigate them deeply and to move to resolve them. Examples include the Warren Commission following