

resources has truly made a difference to the great state of Maine and to the entire nation.

TITLE IX

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I stand today on behalf of a great majority of Americans who support Title IX.

Thirty years ago, my friend, The Late Rep. Patsy Mink of Hawaii, the first woman of color to be elected in Congress, unremittently and dauntlessly challenged old stereotypes like a "woman's place being in the home."

Representative Mink was nationally recognized as a crusader for the rights of women, minorities and the poor. She co-authored the Women's Educational Equity Act, now known as Title IX, which prohibits gender discrimination by institutions receiving federal funding. Title IX is credited for helping push schools and universities to invest equally in women's athletics and educational programming. She envisioned the law to serve as a means to reduce and eventually eliminate gender discrimination.

USA Today, CNN and the Gallup Poll published on January 8, 2003, their survey results showing that 7 out of 10 adults familiar with Title IX think that the law should be strengthened or left alone.

Statistics will prove why our people support Title IX:

Women student athletes graduate at a significantly higher rate of 68% than women students in general who graduate at a rate of 59%.

80% of women identified as key leaders in Fortune 500 companies participated in sports as students.

82% of women business executives who played sports said that the lessons they learned on the playing field contributed to their success in business.

A Women's Sports Foundation study showed that teenage athletes are less likely to use marijuana, cocaine or other illicit drugs, less likely to be suicidal, less likely to smoke and are more likely to have a positive body image than female non-athletes.

Through the years, Title IX has diminished the inequity against women without depriving men of the same funds and opportunities.

In 2000, Division I educational institutions spent one dollar on women's sports for every two dollars spent on men's sports, and yet women increasingly continued to participate in sports activities.

From 1971–2001, women's college athletic participation increased by 403% and high school girls' athletic participation increased by a whopping 847%.

This proves that women's interest in sports follows opportunity.

Let us remember that the women of America comprise half of the population of this great country. We share the future with the men of America.

The landmark Title IX legislation is the last memory of how tenaciously Congresswoman Patsy Mink fought to improve the lives of girls for generations to come.

On behalf of many women and Asian American organizations, I submit my position on Title IX to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I support Title IX and all of its' opportunities for women and girls.

Protect Title IX and let it fulfill its mission.

HONORING BLACK WOMEN UNITED FOR ACTION (BWUFA)

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of BWUFA, Black Women United For Action. Over the course of their 17 year history, BWUFA has been an outspoken voice for the concerns of women, the impoverished, and vulnerable families throughout the world.

As a volunteer, non-profit community service organization based in Springfield, Virginia, BWUFA has continued to successfully provide a variety of community programs that offer support services with a social, cultural and educational focus. As BWUFA volunteers will attest, there is no price that can be placed on the gifts of love, compassion and caring from one person to another. This is the guiding philosophy that drives BWUFA to help make the world a better place for tomorrow's leaders. They consider it both a distinct pleasure and an obligation to touch the lives of others for the improvement of our community.

One of BWUFA's major efforts is to readily disseminate pertinent information to the public through forums such as their Roundtable Discussions. From talking about healthy living initiatives to the need for solid investment strategies, BWUFA provides these mediated conversations to encourage critical thinking on complex issues that affect us all. It is through this exchange of ideas in a relaxed setting that many can develop plans to radically alter their lives for the better.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have had the opportunity of working closely with this valuable organization in the past and look forward to continued interaction in the future. BWUFA sets the example as a model organization striving to improve the lives of others everyday. I salute their stewardship and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO JOHN ZIMMERMAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE LEGAL PROFESSION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding gentleman, and good friend, from Ohio. John Zimmerman has always admired the practice of law and has always enjoyed doing it. After 52 years in the practice, he is as upbeat about his work today as the day he began. He opened his first office on April 15, 1951, on the second floor of the old Masterson's building. Mr. Zimmerman was elected shortly thereafter as Defiance City Attorney and served in that capacity from 1952–1955. Subsequent to his service as City Attor-

ney, John served as County Prosecutor, holding that position for 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, in all his years of practice, John never tried a single murder case until the last two years as Prosecutor, and then there were four. Mr. Zimmerman got a conviction on each one, he would tell you proudly.

Prior to doing battle in the local tribunal, John served in the 91st Infantry and received a battlefield commission and Bronze Star in Italy during WW II. While serving overseas, his father, Elmer, who worked as an agent for the IRS, received a transfer and moved the family from its home in Old Fort, Ohio to Defiance, Ohio. His mother, Effa, a music teacher, taught around the various schools in Defiance County.

Upon returning to the states in 1946, John came to Defiance in the spring of that year, enrolled in classes at Defiance College going straight through his undergraduate years without a break. It was about this same time that he helped to reorganize the local National Guard Company in Defiance. He finished his studies at the University of Toledo and earned his Juris Doctorate in 1951 from The Ohio State University School of Law.

John entered into a partnership with Defiance native, attorney, and artist, Ed Hummer in 1957. That same year they established a satellite office in Hicksville, Ohio. In 1963, John formed a law firm with Karl Weaner and Reeder Hutchinson. That office was located in the offices above the State Bank and Trust Co. until 1991, when the firm purchased the modern-looking, stone and cedar-sided building on the corner of Wayne and Third Streets. Mr. Zimmerman is one of the last remaining from the original firm that still exists today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Mr. John E. Zimmerman. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like John, who care about their well being and stability. We wish John, his wife, Loisann, and their family all the best as we pay tribute to one of our state's finest citizens.

CONDEMNING THE ARRESTS OF OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS IN NORTHERN CYPRUS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker. I rise before you today to condemn the recent acts of the Turkish-Cypriot leadership. Only two weeks after denying their citizens the right to conduct a referendum vote on acceptance of the UN plan for reunification of the island, the illegitimate Turkish-Cypriot government has once again denied the will of its constituency.

In response to Rauf Denkash's refusal to allow a referendum vote, an opposition party in Northern Cyprus, the United Cyprus Party, planned to hold its own vote to explicitly demonstrate the desire of Turkish-Cypriots for a resolution to the Cyprus Question. Under the direction of Mr. Denkash, the Turkish-Cypriot police surrounded the village of Elia, and forcefully ensured that the vote could not take place. The General Secretary of the United Cyprus Party, Izzet Izcan, was arrested in the incident along with five trade unionists.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Members of the House of Representatives join me in condemning these acts which took place at the hands of the illegal Turkish-Cypriot regime. Mr. Denktash has already harmed the people he is supposed to represent by denying them the opportunity to unite with their Greek-Cypriot neighbors and join the European Union in April, and it is absolutely detestable to see him silencing the will of his citizens once again. I urge my fellow colleagues to continue offering their support to the people of Cyprus, and request that the United Nations persevere in their efforts to bring about a fair and agreeable resolution to the longstanding division of the Republic of Cyprus.

THE REFERENDUM IN CHECHNYA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, while the world's eyes were focused on the momentous events taking place in Iraq, a constitutional referendum was held in the war-torn region of Chechnya. The referendum was held as part of the Russian Government's attempt to "normalize" the situation in that tortured part of Russia's North Caucasus.

For the last ten years, Chechnya has been the scene of a bloody war between armed Chechen rebels and Russian military forces. Hostilities were precipitated in late 1994 when, in the wake of Chechnya's attempt to secede from the Russian Federation, Russian military forces launched a fullscale assault on the Chechen capital of Grozny. There was a respite peace from 1996 until the summer of 1999, when the armed clashes erupted anew. The roots of this conflict go back to Tsarist conquests in the 19th century and Stalin's brutal deportation of the Chechen people to Central Asia during World War II. Unfortunately, certain radical Islamic militant elements linked to international terrorism have become involved on the Chechen side, though the State Department has stressed that not all Chechens are terrorists.

Despite Moscow's repeated claims that heavy-handed Russian tactics in Chechnya are part of the war against global terrorism, the situation is far more complex. Many Chechens have taken up arms against what they believe is a repressive colonial power and wish to see Chechnya as an independent state that will be able to make the critical choice regarding the future of its people. As is so frequently the case, the civilian population has suffered terribly from the war. While both sides are guilty of violations of international humanitarian law, the Russian military and special operations units have been responsible for numerous and well-documented instances of gratuitous, brutal and mass violence against the civilian population.

During my years in the leadership of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Commission has conducted eight hearings and briefings on Chechnya. Witnesses, including a nurse who was present in a Chechen town where some of the worst atrocities by Russian forces took place, have described the appalling fate of the civilian population.

According to the U.S. State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2001, "The indiscriminate use of force by government troops in the Chechen conflict resulted in widespread civilian casualties and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of persons, the majority of whom sought refuge in the neighbouring republic of Ingushetia. Attempts by government forces to regain control over Chechnya were accompanied by the indiscriminate use of air power and artillery. There were numerous reports of attacks by government forces on civilian targets, including the bombing of schools and residential areas." The report continues: "Command and control among military and special police units often appeared to be weak, and a climate of lawlessness, corruption, and impunity flourished, which fostered individual acts by government forces of violence and looting against civilians." Among the examples of such lawlessness and impunity in the Country Reports were "... reports of mass graves and 'dumping grounds' for victims allegedly executed by Russian forces in Chechnya" and "cleansing" operations directed against guerrillas but resulting in deaths and the disappearance of non-combatants.

The State Department points out that Chechen forces also committed serious abuses: "According to unconfirmed reports, rebels killed civilians who would not assist them, used civilians as human shields, forced civilians to build fortifications, and prevented refugees from fleeing Chechnya. In several cases, elderly Russian civilians were killed for no apparent reason other than their ethnicity."

Against this unsettling backdrop, with an estimated 100,000 internally displaced persons living in refugee camps in neighbouring Ingushetia, and under the guns of approximately 80,000 Russian soldiers in Chechnya, the Chechen people have reportedly voted overwhelmingly for the proposed new constitution. Nevertheless, it is difficult to believe that a genuine assessment of the public will would have been determined under such circumstances. I would ask the same question I asked in a Helsinki Commission press release over a month ago: "Are we supposed to believe that this referendum will stabilize Chechnya while armed conflict between the Russian military and Chechen fighters continue to produce death and destruction?"

The well-respected Russian human rights group, Memorial, has charged that Chechens were pressured to vote with the threat of losing their pensions or humanitarian aid. A joint assessment mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe stated that "no group has been able to campaign officially against the referendum in the mass media or distribute literature arguing against the referendum," although some opposition opinions were voiced in the media. Incidentally, in the concluding communique of the 1999 Istanbul OSCE Summit, the Russian Government agreed that all sides should seek a political solution to the conflict, and avail themselves of the assistance of the OSCE. This commitment was seriously undermined when the Russian government evicted the OSCE Assistance Mission to Chechnya at the end of last year.

Mr. Speaker, the Bush Administration has stated that "... we hope [the referendum] can be the basis for a political solution to that tragic conflict." I find that rather optimistic. The

Russian Government might better instruct its military to stop terrorizing the civilian population, prosecute human rights violators and rebuild Chechnya. Then perhaps it would not have to hold referenda in Chechnya under armed guard.

TRIBUTE TO VICKI DOUGLAS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of both a friend and constituent of mine, the Honorable Vicki Douglas. Tonight, Vicki Douglas is receiving the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Shenandoah Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, in Martinsburg, West Virginia for her years of continuous service to her community and state government.

Serving as my first committee chair in the West Virginia House of Delegates, Vicki was a colleague and a mentor. To this day, I value her leadership and tenacity and applaud her dedication. Throughout her career, Ms. Douglas has worked tirelessly to bring women's issues to the forefront and promote the well being of all West Virginians.

It is a great honor to commend Ms. Douglas on her service to the great state of West Virginia and recognize this extraordinary achievement.

TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS OF OUR ARMED FORCES SERVING OVERSEAS

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the members of our armed forces serving overseas, but I do not wish to use words of my own. I want to use those of my constituent, Miss Lisa Seviars. Miss Seviars is only ten years old, but her words are of an understanding far greater than her age. Miss Seviars wrote a poem which I would like to share with you now:

"THESE TROUBLED TIMES"

In this time of 2003, a troubled year ahead we see,

But lose no confidence for we are strong,
bounded by our
Nation's thoughts of liberty, justice and
freedom for all.

We are the ones who will stand tall,
When and if the economy falls.
We will not lose hope—we will hope even
more.

Stand at the thought we are free,
No matter what happens in other countries.
We will stand strong, we will not give in.
For the people of our land, we sent soldiers
out to fight.

So fearless, bold and courageous.
They are being sent to a new land,
Yet they show not signs of being afraid.
We will pray to God to keep them safe.
If he will, we will praise the Lord.
If they don't come back safe, most will say
"Why did you take my loved one away?"
The answer hides on a coin: "In God We
Trust"