

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PORTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

 NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to recognize October 2003 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Fortunately, in recent years we have made great strides in bringing attention to domestic violence and in providing assistance to its victims. It is critical that we raise awareness of the problem because domestic violence has historically been considered a private matter.

During 2001, there were almost 700,000 incidents of domestic violence. As we concentrate on national security and the economic state of our country, we cannot forget the crimes that disrupt homes and families in each and all of our communities. The fact is that domestic violence is occurring at an alarming rate. Recent statistics show that domestic violence makes up 20 percent of all violent crimes against women, and accounts for 33 percent of female murder victims. During 2001 in Kansas alone, one domestic violence incident occurred every 26 minutes.

Throughout this past year, I have spent time visiting with the domestic violence program directors in my district, and they have shared with me their concerns that domestic violence shelters and support agencies are now seeing victims with even more complicated needs. During these tough economic times, it is more difficult to find jobs and affordable housing to make women more self-sufficient and to give them the independence to escape their abusive environments.

With almost 20,000 incidents of domestic violence occurring in Kansas in 2001, the nine domestic violence service centers in the rural, 69-county district I represent are striving to serve all those in the community who may be affected by abuse. Our experience in Kansas has shown that proximity and access to safe facilities is crucial to helping women and children escape abusive environments.

Education and comprehensive community involvement are also essential to providing services and holding batterers accountable. Directors, employees, and volunteers work very hard to help domestic violence victims, but they cannot do it alone. In my district, domestic violence centers strengthen ties to the community by including law enforcement officers, county attorneys, social workers, and business leaders on their governing boards. In addition,

agencies in Kansas are able to draw upon the resources of a statewide network through the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence.

Congress also plays a role in preventing domestic violence and helping victims. Most domestic violence shelters are dependent primarily upon grants and local donations. Federal grants, made possible under the Violence Against Women Act, provide essential funds for prevention, enforcement, response, prosecution and victim services. We must continue to ensure that our shelters and crisis centers receive adequate funding.

Although we are generating increased awareness of domestic violence during the month of October, this is a crime that demands attention all year long. I appreciate the commitment of those who work every day to help victims of domestic violence, and I applaud the efforts of those nine service centers in my district, including Dodge City, Emporia, Garden City, Hays, Hutchinson, Liberal, Salina, and Ulysses, Kansas. Through education, funding, and support, we must continue to work together to provide safe environments for victims and end the tragic cycle of domestic violence.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2443, COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-331) on the resolution (H. Res. 416) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2443) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2004, to amend various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. Res. 75, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-332) on the resolution (H. Res. 417) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 75) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2691, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a

privileged report (Rept. No. 108-333) on the resolution (H. Res. 418) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2691) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

 HONORING MARTHA GIBBONS, LATE WIFE OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN SAM GIBBONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PORTER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise in honor of Martha Gibbons, who hand in hand with her husband, former Congressman Sam Gibbons, faithfully and selflessly served the Tampa Bay area.

Sam and Martha were partners in all that they did. During Sam's 34 years in Congress, Martha was Sam's right hand. From her desk in his office, Martha helped Sam respond to letters from constituents, and she gave countless tours of the Capitol to visitors from Tampa. Martha served as Sam's campaign manager and joined him on all his travels, both in his congressional district and around the world. Sam served as chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade and, by his side, Martha played an important role in representing the United States during international trips and meetings.

While in Washington, Martha also served as president of the Congressional Club, the International Friends Club, and the Florida House Foundation; and throughout her life she was active in a host of civic and charitable organizations. Tampa Bay residents will always see Martha's legacy at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Martha worked with her husband to provide the legislative authority for the creation of the University of South Florida. The Sam and Martha Gibbons Alumni Center located on the USF campus in Tampa stands in honor of their efforts.

Those who had the pleasure of getting to know Martha will remember her warmth and graciousness, her boundless energy, and the strength with which she supported all of her husband's endeavors in our community. Martha was and always will be a near-perfect model of grace and the best of Southern charm and hospitality. She represented our community in a manner that made us very proud. Tampa, Florida, and the entire Nation is a better place in countless ways thanks to Martha's work.

Martha's recent passing, I know, is an enormous loss for Sam, their three very talented sons and seven grandchildren. On behalf of the Tampa Bay community and all of us here in Congress, I extend my deepest sympathies.