

1858 in Jonesboro at the Union County Fairgrounds, Abraham Lincoln stayed in a house on Main Street in Anna, Illinois.

In 1873, the Anna Mental Health Center opened providing employment for many residents throughout the region. The business section of Anna, which had been building up for two decades since the city's founding, suffered two major fires, one in 1876 and the other in 1879.

The Anna Fair was organized in December of 1879 and has come to be known as one of the top county fairs in Illinois. Held in August, the fair features horse racing, produce exhibits, livestock shows and other events.

Walter Willard and Rev. William Faris were responsible for opening the Union Academy, a private school, in 1883. For nearly 35 years the Union Academy served as an educational institution for many leaders in the area. In 1916, the Academy closed and the property came into the ownership of the high school.

Early Anna industries include Anna Pottery, known for its high quality work and the Flora Temple Mills, where flour was produced. Anna Pottery started operations in 1859 by C & W. W. Kirkpatrick, two Ohio brothers who migrated to the area. Clay found in area soils, together with the skill of the potters, brought fame and prestige to Anna Pottery. The brothers produced crocks, jugs and sewer tiles.

While the pottery facility closed in 1900, the one-of-a-kind items that were produced are considered folk art and fetch very high prices at auctions. Anna or Kirkpatrick Brothers pottery is one of the most sought after ceramics today.

Tobacco was processed in Anna from 1862 to 1870. Fruit and vegetables have also been important to the Anna economy since 1860. Apples and peaches are the chief commodities of the region and these fruits are marketed and sold to major metropolitan area markets. Anna was also home to a large Farmer's Market, built in 1934 to accommodate these products, the Anna City Hall now sits where the market once stood.

Anna is only a mile away from its sister city, Jonesboro, the seat of Union County, Illinois. Anna is a community rich in tradition and continues to serve as a major agricultural center for southern Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the founding of the community and the people of Anna, Illinois on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENISE L. MAJETTE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Ms. MAJETTE. Mr. Speaker, on June 21, 2004 I was not able to be here for three roll-call votes.

On rollcall No. 276 regarding H. Res. 591 expressing the gratitude of the House of Representatives for the contributions made by America's community banks to the Nation's economic well-being and prosperity and the sense of the House of Representatives that a month should be designated as "Community Banking Month," I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 277 regarding H.R. 4363, to facilitate self-help housing homeownership opportunities, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 278, regarding H. Res. 660, congratulating Randy Johnson of the Arizona Diamondbacks on pitching a perfect game on May 18, 2004, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House on Friday, June 18th, and Monday, June 21st, due to an unavoidable commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

On rollcall vote 267, the Jackson-Lee amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 268, the DeLauro amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 269, the Roybal-Allard amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 270, the Tancredo amendment to H.R. 4567, "no";

On rollcall vote 271, the Maloney amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 272, the Sabo amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 274, the Velázquez amendment to H.R. 4567, "aye";

On rollcall vote 275, H.R. 4567, the FY05 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, "aye";

On rollcall vote 276, H. Res. 591, expressing the gratitude of the House for the contributions made by America's community banks, "aye";

On rollcall vote 277, H.R. 4363, the Helping Hands for Homeownership Act, "aye"; and

On rollcall vote 278, H. Res. 660, congratulating Randy Johnson, "aye."

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL GIFFREY L. COOPER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey L. Cooper, the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines, for his extraordinary leadership and bravery in action against enemy forces. He has shown strength and courage throughout his many years of heroic service with the United States Marine Corps.

A native of Aurora, Illinois, Lt. Col. Geoffrey L. Cooper is married to June Madsen, and is the father of three daughters, Jennifer, Jessica and Jacalyn. He graduated from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego in November, 1973 and has since had a long and successful military career. In 1980, Lt. Col. Cooper was commissioned as Second Lieutenant upon his graduation from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. In 1980, he was also assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment and served as an infantry platoon commander. He was appointed to Infantry Training School at Camp Pendleton, and served as Assistant Officer in Charge from 1983-1986. In 1986, he was assigned as Commanding Officer of Company B, 3rd Light Armored Vehicle Battalion.

Lt. Col. Cooper proved to be a strong leader as the Operations Officer for Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, and as Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, 4th Marine Regiment, Okinawa, Japan. After leaving active duty in 1992, he joined the Individual Mobilization Detachment, Tactical Training Evaluation Control Group (IMADET). He served as the head IMADET representative for more than 75 combined arms exercises. In 2003, he was again activated and assumed command of 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines Regiment in support of Operation Noble Eagle at Camp Pendleton.

Lt. Col. Cooper, along with the entire 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines, was activated on February 23, 2002 and was deployed in February 2003. Nine hundred members of this Marine Forces Reserve Unit, combined with the I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), conducted the longest series of synchronized combined arms and overland attacks in the history of the Marine Corps. The 800 kilometer advance, which began at the border between Kuwait and Iraq, experienced heavy combat with continued hostilities to the North of Baghdad. The combined combat force successfully destroyed nine Iraqi Divisions.

The battlefield swiftness of the I MEF during its campaign was unmatched by any force to date. The success of the operation was due to valiant efforts of men and women such as Lt. Col. Cooper. Lt. Col. Cooper's many accomplishments are indicated by his many decorations, which include: Navy Marine Corps Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Achievement Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, Combat Action Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in saluting Lt. Col. Cooper's exceptional leadership in the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment. Also, I ask you to join me in wishing future success to Lt. Col. Geoffrey L. Cooper at his new Command, the 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2004 AS NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that will designate September 2004 as "National Life Insurance Awareness Month." I want to thank my friend PAUL KANJORSKI, the Ranking Member of the Financial Service Committee, for introducing this resolution with me and for his support on this important issue.

Today only four in ten adult Americans own an individual life insurance policy. And among those who do have life insurance, the amount often is too small to safeguard the financial future of their loved ones. As a result of insufficient coverage, family members often are forced to work extra jobs or longer hours, borrow money, or move to less desirable housing. These outcomes attest to the "crisis of underinsurance" that exists in our nation today.

Losing a family member is painful enough without it being compounded by financial difficulties. The goal of "Life Insurance Awareness Month" is to educate Americans about

will be spared the economic hardships that often accompany tragedy.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of designating September 2004 as "Life Insurance Awareness Month," and I yield back the balance of my time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, due to a family commitment, I was not present in the chamber on Friday, June 18 to cast my votes on rollcalls 267 through 275. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 267; "nay" on rollcall 268; "yea" on rollcall 269; "nay" on rollcall 270; "yea" on rollcall 271; "yea" on rollcall 272; "yea" on rollcall 273; "yea" on rollcall 274; and "yea" on rollcall 275.

Due to unavoidable travel delays, I was not present in the chamber earlier today to cast my votes on rollcalls 276 through 278. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each measure.

AMERICANS HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE THEIR LIVES AND MAKE DECISIONS BEST FOR THEM

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome all of my sharp, diverse female colleagues who are here tonight to speak on issues that affect women.

Right now, there are a myriad of anti choice legal efforts designed to undermine the basic tenets of *Roe v. Wade*. Never in my time in Congress have I seen so much misleading legislation geared towards women, court cases that refuse to vindicate our right to privacy, and so many blatant anti choice judicial nominees.

Americans have the right to live their lives and make decisions that are the best for them and their children. We are falling down a slippery slope of having the government dictate our moral, ethical, and private decisions. There is a small, fundamentalist, religious group which is overexerting their influence on the way our government is being run, and we must immediately put a stop to it.

Marian Wright Edelman, the President and Founder of the Children's Defense Fund, said "Justice is not cheap. Justice is not quick. It is not ever finally achieved." Looking out at this room of hopeful faces, I know that Justice can be achieved in our "battle for reproductive freedom" within our lifetime.

I am proud to be at the forefront of this battle, and I want to share some of my insight and strategy aimed at protecting a woman's right to choose.

I joined over a million people who believe that it is time to stand up for women's rights and demand a change in our administration on April 25, 2004 at the March for Women's Lives.

We marched because there is an attempt by our administration to undermine our fundamental rights. Women's health care includes reproductive services, access to contraception, and informed decisions made by individuals about their body, not their government.

My predecessor and longtime role model, Barbara Jordan, once said, "We want to be in control of our lives. Whether we are jungle fighters, craftsmen, company men, gamesmen, we want to be in control. And when the government erodes that control, we are not comfortable." The government is trying to erode that control, and this is something we must come together to prevent.

Right now we have an Administration that actively seeks to undermine a woman's right to choose. They falsely claim to be doing this in the interest of women and children, citing both the mother and child's well being as justifications for their actions. This same Administration has frozen the Title X family-planning program in each budget for the last three years. They have also cut domestic-violence prevention programs and frozen important programs for women and children, including the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, Head Start, and child-nutrition services.

By contrast, they have proposed more than doubling funding for unproven, dangerous "abstinence-only" programs that censor health information from young people—and instead of supporting programs that help women who face violence, they have resorted instead to exploiting the issue for an anti-abortion political base. President Bush signed the so-called "Unborn Victims of Violence Act" with a false claim of being in a woman's best interest. This legislation would, for the first time in federal law, recognize an embryo or fetus as a separate "person" with rights separate from, and equal to, a pregnant woman.

Raising awareness must be a high priority, younger and older generations in America must begin to take this threat very seriously. Our right to chose is at its most precarious point since over 31 years ago, when *Roe vs. Wade* was decided. Our message will be clear: we will not tolerate the persistent government attacks on women's health and reproductive rights.

I am pleased that for the first time in its 95-year history, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) board of directors unanimously endorsed a pro choice march. The Black Women's Health Imperative has also signed on. These organizations are part of a growing majority that be-

lieve contraceptive education and abortion rights for black and minority women must be a priority. Unintended pregnancy rates for African-American women is almost three times the rate of Caucasian women, maternal mortality is 4 times higher for African-American women than Caucasians. One out of 4 African-American women had less involvement than they would like in decisions effecting their health care, with only 73 percent of African-American women receiving first trimester prenatal care.

By making abortion illegal, we are going to harm those who turn to back alleys and home remedies to "fix" their situation, a scenario faced disproportionately by minorities and the underprivileged. We cannot make abortion inaccessible, illegal, or shameful. We must stand up for women's rights and let them make informed choices.

After the March for Women's Lives, I thought we had begun to get our message across. It seems to have fallen on deaf ears. Last month, the Food and Drug Administration denied the application to make Plan B (emergency contraception) available for sale over-the-counter. This is an unprecedented intrusion of politics into science. Never has an administration so politicized an over the counter application, nor set aside the overwhelming recommendation of its panel of experts. Our administration would rather appeal to the far right than work to reduce the number of abortions. If over-the-counter availability of EC could prevent even ten percent of unintended pregnancies annually, it would result in 150,000 fewer abortions per year.

This decision stands in direct opposition to the administration's stated goal of reducing the number of abortions. Emergency Contraception is not an abortion. It is simply concentrated doses of the regular birth-control pill, taken soon after sex in order to prevent pregnancy. Emergency Contraception is not the same as RU 486, which terminates an already-established pregnancy. EC is safe and effective, and is not harmful if taken after a pregnancy has been established.

Over-the-counter sales would be particularly beneficial for sexual assault victims. According to scientific studies, approximately 25,000 women per year in the United States become pregnant as a result of rape. An estimated 22,00 of these pregnancies—or 88 percent—could be prevented if sexual assault victims had timely access to emergency contraception.

I hope that all of you are willing to take the step and be the voice to fight against this slippery slope. The battle for reproductive freedom is far from over. I want to close with a quote from one of our truly great female leaders, Susan B. Anthony, "Men, their rights, and nothing more; women, their rights, and nothing less."