

are well researched and well documented. The effects of torture will cascade down through the generations and negatively affect the mental health of the children and even grandchildren of those who endure torture. The effects of torture will ripple through our cities weakening the ties that bind us together, and bolstering the barriers that keep us apart. The consequences of torture represent a public health problem which only grow without care, and prevent hardworking, talented people from being able to fully-integrated, productive, participating members of our communities.

I invite all of my colleagues and all Americans to recommit themselves today, on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, and everyday to the eradication of the use of torture throughout the world wherever it may be used. The consequences of torture for individuals, families and communities are far too heinous to not be condemned and spoken against.

Today, I am happy to be able to commend the important work and the successes of Survivors of Torture, International. This non-profit organization, made up of concerned San Diegans has provided direct medical, mental health, legal and social services to more than 500 torture survivors in the greater San Diego area. Furthermore, this organization has worked to train hundreds of doctors, nurses, attorneys, teachers, clergy, and mental health professionals to work with torture survivors as well. They have committed themselves to building a San Diego where torture survivors do not suffer in silence, but have access to the assistance the need to become healthy, productive and self-sufficient Americans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MILDRED "MILLIE" JEFFREY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mildred "Millie" Jeffrey, a pioneer who was at the forefront of our country's most powerful social and political movements. Millie passed away in March, and on Saturday she will be honored at her beloved Wayne State University in Detroit.

Millie once said, "the secret to change, that is change for the better, starts with involvement." No one lived that mantra more than Millie. She was a powerful voice for our Nation's workers, fighting for their right to organize and to ensure fair treatment in the workplace. Millie marched in the South with Dr. King, and trained other civil rights activists as they worked to break down racial barriers. As a leading feminist, Millie worked tirelessly to open the doors for equality of future women leaders. She was the guiding force in the effort to nominate Geraldine Ferraro as Walter Mondale's running mate in 1984. Four years ago, President Clinton awarded Millie the Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian honor.

The Reuther family brought Millie to Michigan, and it is the place she called home for over 5 decades. Many people don't know this, but Millie was, in fact, an elected official in our State, serving 16 years on the Wayne State

Board of Governors. She loved living on campus, showing visitors "her neighborhood" and interacting with the students. She took great pride in watching the election of the first woman Senator from Michigan, DEBBIE STABENOW, and the first woman Governor, Jennifer Granholm. Many of today's leaders count Mildred "Millie" Jeffrey as their mentor and friend. I was personally enriched by her example, her endless energy, and her friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Millie and her contributions to Michigan and our Nation.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I commend my colleague, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, for authoring H. Res. 676 and ensuring that this Congress appropriately marks the passage of the most comprehensive civil rights legislation in our Nation's history.

This year our Nation has honored and celebrated several extraordinary accomplishments that were born of the Civil Rights Movement. Last month we observed the 50th anniversary of the May 19, 1954, *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. That landmark decision not only struck down the doctrine of "separate, but equal" and desegregated public schools. It ultimately led to the passage of key federal legislation that desegregated every segment of our society—the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

In every real sense, the 1964 Act was a response to the Civil Rights Movement sweeping the country. This Act could not have been achieved without the tireless effort of the great, civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was Dr. King that motivated hundreds of thousands of activists—of all colors—to demand that this Nation realize equality for all. It was because of his leadership that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was conceptualized and implemented.

The Act, which was signed into law on July 2, 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, established safeguards and legal remedies to combat both the de jure and de facto discrimination that plagued minorities in almost every aspect of their lives.

First, and foremost, the Act moved to ensure an equal right to vote. The unequal application of voter registration requirements that effectively disenfranchised millions of African-Americans—poll taxes, literacy tests, grandfather clauses—was deemed unlawful in Title I of the Act. This provision made state and local governments accountable to their citizens and opened the path for equal political participation.

Titles II and III of the Act created a federal remedy to fight discrimination in public accommodations. Through these provisions, the Attorney General had the appropriate means to obtain injunctive relief and bring suit in in-

stances where equal access to a public facility had been denied. The lunch counter sit-ins and marches now had real effect in that the federal government could intervene to ensure equal treatment in society, regardless of race or other factors.

The language of "all deliberate speed" in the *Brown* decision was given meaning, as the federal government now had the tools in Title IV of the Act to end segregation in public schools. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 would serve as strong legislative policy against discrimination in public schools and colleges because it stood on the shoulders of the profound *Brown* decision, in which Chief Justice Warren, writing for a unanimous court, declared that "in the field of education, the doctrine of 'separate, but equal' has no place."

More broadly, under Title V of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Commission on Civil Rights, established in 1957, was provided with additional guidance in its charge to study, investigate, and report on civil rights policy.

Title VI of the Act protects persons from discrimination based on their race, color, or national origin in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. This provision has been broadly used to ensure that entities receiving federal funds cannot deny service, provide different services, or segregate or separately treat individuals.

The Title VII provision of the Act would grow to become one of its most important and extensively utilized provisions. Going beyond its impact in the racial and ethnic minority community, Title VII acknowledged that sex discrimination in the workplace was a major problem and would be widely used to ensure protections for women in the workplace.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), which was also created in the 1964 Act to serve as the premier vanguard of workplace discrimination, had its authority enhanced with amendments in 1972 and 1991.

In 1972, the EEOC was given the right to sue non-government respondents and the federal government, state and local governments, as well as educational institutions, were made subject to Title VII. The 1991 amendments allowed plaintiffs to recover fees and costs in suits in which they prevailed, as well as entitled plaintiffs to recover compensatory and punitive damages in intentional employment discrimination suits.

INJUSTICES REMAIN IN 2004

Without doubt, substantial progress toward equality has been made as a result of the passage of the 1964 Act, but there remains substantial work. I can recount a list of sobering statistics in the realm of employment, education, healthcare, and the political process:

In terms of employment, the average white woman earns only 73 cents for every dollar earned by the average white man. The average African American woman earns just 63 cents to every dollar earned by the average white man.

With regard to education, today, sadly, most schools have become resegregated. In the 2001–2002 school year, the Civil Rights Project found that the average African American attended a school where minorities formed almost 70 percent of the student body. The average Latino school child attended a school that was 71 percent minority. By contrast, the average white student attended a school where whites composed 79 percent of the student body.

In the realm of healthcare, the disparities are startling. Minority Americans are at least twice as likely as white Americans to be uninsured. More than 30 percent of Latinos and 20 percent of African Americans do not have health insurance.

Minorities remain disenfranchised from the political process. The precious right to vote was repeatedly violated in the much contested Presidential election of 2000. In the state of Florida and at polling booths across the country, a disproportionate number of people of color were excluded from the political process.

In addition to the modern day disparities that serve to undermine the Act, several Supreme Court decisions have whittled away at some of its key protections. In *Alexander v. Sandoval*, 532 U.S. 275 (2001), the Supreme Court held that there is no private right of action to enforce Title VI regulations forbidding practices that have an unjustified discriminatory effect on the basis of race, national origin, or color. Also, a dangerous precedent may have been set in *Barnes v. Gorman*, 536 U.S. 181 (2002), a case in which the Supreme Court held that punitive damages are unavailable for intentional violations of laws protecting those with disabilities. We must ensure that such punitive damages that are awarded for intentional discrimination under Title VI and Title VII are protected. We must also ensure that the true intent of the Act is adhered to.

THE FUTURE OF THE 1964 ACT

Congresswoman NORTON's resolution encourages all Americans to recognize and celebrate the important historical milestone of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. However, rather than engaging in mere self congratulation, we should recommit ourselves to continuing and building on the progress created by the 1964 Act. We must pledge to acknowledge and address the modern day disparities that prevent the country from fully realizing the potential embodied in the Civil Rights Act. I look forward to working with every Member of Congress in doing just that in the months and years ahead.

HELPING HANDS FOR HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 21, 2004

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 4363, the Helping Hands for Homeownership Act of 2004. This bill will be considered under the suspension of the rules. This legislation passed the House Financial Services Committee, by a unanimous bipartisan voice vote on June 3, 2004.

This legislation was introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN). This bill will simply make a technical correction to the "Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996" to permit families who receive homes from groups such as Habitat for Humanity (Habitat) to fulfill the "sweat equity" requirement for receiving Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) funds by helping to build other Habitat homes in the community, in addition to their own.

In 1996, Congress created the SHOP, which provides competitive grants for groups such as

Habitat to help with land and infrastructure expenses. In order to receive SHOP funds, the recipients of a home from groups such as Habitat must contribute a certain amount of physical labor to the home-building process, also known as "sweat equity." In FY 2004, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the first time interpreted the law to preclude the families who receive these homes from fulfilling their "sweat equity" requirements by working on program homes other than their own.

This new interpretation could cause problems for Habitat affiliates all over the country. Habitat allows its home recipients to obtain its "sweat equity" requirement by working on Habitat homes for others in the community, as well as their own home. H.R. 4363 makes the needed technical change to make sure that Habitat and similar programs can continue to promote homeownership.

Furthermore, H.R. 4363 also contains a provision which names the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Section 502 single-family loan guarantee program after my friend and colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER). This program, like Habitat, promotes the goal of homeownership among those who might otherwise find it out of reach. Those are precisely the people that Mr. BEREUTER has spent his career serving, and this provision represents a small thank-you for those efforts.

As many of you know, the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) is leaving the House at the end of August to become the President of the Asia Foundation. He was elected to the House in 1978 to represent the constituents of the First District of Nebraska. Mr. BEREUTER has served on the House Financial Services Committee and its predecessor, the House Banking Committee, since 1981. During his service on these committees, he has authored a number of significant bipartisan bills which were enacted into law.

One of his most successful legislative accomplishments is the USDA Section 502 single-family loan guarantee program. This initiative was enacted into law as part of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act in 1990 and authorizes the Department of Agriculture to guarantee a single-family loan made by a commercial lender to moderate-income families in small towns and rural areas where conventional mortgage financing may not always be available.

Since the program's creation in 1991, 316,625 single-family loans have been guaranteed by the USDA. The State of Ohio has been a major beneficiary with 629 single-family loans valued at over \$58 million having been guaranteed in Ohio under this program so far this year. This program, like Mr. BEREUTER's legislative career, has been a huge success.

In conclusion, I want to urge your support for H.R. 4363. This bipartisan bill contains important provisions to promote homeownership.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MATTHEW STEPANEK

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this June 22nd, a courageous young man was taken from our midst. Thirteen-year-old Matthew Stepanek was full of life, happiness, and brilliance.

Mattie, as he liked to be called, had a lifelong struggle with muscular dystrophy, but never let the disease curb his enthusiasm, nor hinder his creativity. In 2001, Mattie courageously stated, "My life mission is to spread peace to the world." Despite losing his battle with muscular dystrophy at such a young age, Mattie managed to spread happiness to the world through his poems.

Mattie began writing poetry at age three to cope with the death of a brother. In his short life, this tireless young man wrote five volumes of poetry that sold millions of copies. Three of the volumes reached the New York Times' best-seller list.

Mattie is survived by his loving mother Jeni, who first recognized Mattie's talent and wrote down his poems for him. Unfortunately, Jeni also suffers from the adult-onset form of the disease. The disease also took the lives of his two brothers and sister.

Mr. Speaker, today, I ask this House to celebrate and remember the life of Mattie Stepanek. He was a brave young man whose genius impacted everyone who encountered him. His selflessness, courage, and talent are something we can all honor and admire.

HONORING CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLYMAN MERVYN DYMALLY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 25, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the historic achievements of California Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally, on the occasion of the thirty-year anniversary of his election as the first African American Lieutenant Governor in California and the United States.

Assemblyman Dymally's distinguished political career began in 1962 when he was elected to the California State Assembly. After serving for four years, in 1966 he became the first African American to be elected to the California State Senate. Following his service as a State Legislator, Dymally again made history by becoming the first elected African American Lieutenant Governor in 1974.

In 1980 Dymally ran for Congress representing South Los Angeles County, and became the first foreign-born black to serve in the United States Congress. While serving in the 97th through 101st Congresses, he was Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and of the Subcommittee on Africa within the Committee of Foreign Affairs. After retiring from Congress in 1992, he has served in numerous academic positions and remained an active participant in international affairs. In 2002 Assemblyman Dymally returned to the California State legislature, where he currently represents the fifty-second district.