

THE INTRODUCTION OF A PRIVATE
BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF MALIK
JARNO

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a private bill to make Malik Jarno a permanent resident of the United States and to end the protracted ordeal of immigration removal proceedings that has spanned almost one-quarter of this young man's life.

Malik is a mentally disabled teenage orphan from Guinea whose compelling plight has attracted the concern and involvement of more than 70 members of Congress, countless citizens, the international media and dozens of national, state and local organizations working with the mentally disabled, children and immigrants and refugees.

Deporting Malik to Guinea to face life-threatening circumstances would run contrary to the standard of human rights and decency this country maintains. Members of Malik's family were killed and his home was destroyed in the midst of ethnically and politically motivated violence in Guinea. Immigration authorities have received overwhelming evidence of Malik's shattered life and the serious risk of harm he faces, given his father's status as a prominent political dissident, at the hands of Guinean authorities. The heightened threat associated with Malik's deportation places a special responsibility on this country to consider the well-being and livelihood of this young man.

In addition, as a mentally disabled, homeless orphan, the potential risks of a life in Guinea are aggravated. With no known family or friends to care for Malik, he faces the reality of being relegated to the fringes of a society that has no infrastructure or services to support this young man's special needs. According to information from USAID, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO and other agencies, there are no government or non-profit programs or legal protections for mentally disabled individuals in Guinea. Given his disability, he will face ostracism and severe discrimination and be extremely vulnerable to physical abuse, oppressive conditions and hostile treatment.

In an act of desperation, family friends that were looking after Malik put him on a plane bound for the United States. Upon his arrival at Dulles International Airport in 2001, Malik was detained by immigration officials and held in adult jails, where his special needs as a mentally disabled child were neglected in the company of adult convicts, for eight months, before he was allowed to appear before a judge to apply for asylum. Only after another two years of detention was Malik transferred from a maximum security prison to a refugee shelter in York, Pennsylvania. His case is now pending before the Board of Immigration Appeals.

This ordeal has dragged on for too many years and the perpetual uncertainty has left Malik anxious and unsettled. He continues to study, make friends, and go to school in York, Pennsylvania, but with the constant threat of being torn away from his life in the United States. Malik has a promising future in the United States and this bill will provide Malik with a permanent immigration status and the path to becoming a productive and contributing citizen.

In these troubled times, where our reputation as a beacon for human rights has been challenged by the situation in Iraq, the United States has a heightened responsibility to guarantee justice and humane treatment to the most vulnerable in society instead of relegating a mentally disabled orphan to such a horrific fate.

CONCERNING THE IMPORTANCE OF
THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD IN
SCHOOLS TO HUNGRY OR MAL-
NOURISHED CHILDREN AROUND
THE WORLD

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of House Resolution 422. Recognizing that more than 300 million children suffer from chronic hunger worldwide, we need to restore funding for this program at levels similar to those of the original pilot program.

Providing nutritious food at schools worldwide is a simple, but effective way to improve literacy rates and help poor children break out of poverty.

I strongly believe this funding is key to combating several root causes of international terrorism. It increases the school attendance of children who may otherwise be susceptible to recruitment by terrorist groups who offer meals.

As a co-sponsor of this legislation, I also believe that by providing financial and technical assistance for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition programs, we help fight HIV/AIDS. Schools provide one of the most effective means to teach children about disease prevention.

These are specific examples of how school feeding operations benefit low-income countries.

The fact that both the initial pilot program and the current McGovern-Dole Program have a proven track record at reducing the incidence of hunger among school-age children, increasing attendance, particularly for girls, and improving literacy and primary education, clearly indicates that we should work with the United Nations and its member states to expand international contributions for the distribution of food in schools around the world.

Mr. Speaker, let us not forget how global school feeding operations benefit low-income countries—education is a path to upward mobility that can help poor children improve their standard of living, and, most importantly, help poor nations develop more productive, self-reliant economies.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HERB AND
ARA WEIMER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise and pay tribute to Herb and Ara

Weimer of Westcliffe, Colorado. Herb and Ara are valuable members of their community, and volunteer their time and efforts towards bettering their community. In recognition of their service, the Custer County Chamber of Commerce recently recognized them by naming them the 2004 Citizens of the Year for their efforts in the community and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize their efforts before this body of Congress and this nation today.

As members of the Custer County community, the Weimers feel a responsibility to actively volunteer in their community. They have a passion for history and desire to contribute to the preservation of the rich history of their community and gather information to educate future generations about their predecessors. With this interest in history, Herb is the president and Ara is a board member of the Custer County Historical and Genealogical Society. Their positions enable them to coordinate the programs the society puts on each month. They also pursue their interest in history by helping with the annual History and Horses Tour for the Friends of the Library. They are active in volunteering to help those in need, aiding senior citizens, bringing meals on wheels and providing transportation. They have worked with a group to restore the Willow's School and Beckwith Ranch, and remain active members in Valley Bible Church.

Mr. Speaker, Herb and Ara Weimer have shown outstanding dedication to their community, and I am honored to recognize their service before this body of Congress and this nation. The Weimers' humble nature in their pursuits to volunteer and help fellow citizens contributes in the building of a strong community. I congratulate them on receiving the Citizen of the Year Award and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. On Monday, July 19th, I was unavoidably detained at Newark International Airport, due to both mechanical problems and bad weather, while traveling back for votes on Rollcall Votes 391–393. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall Votes 391–393.

DEPLORING MISUSE OF INTER-
NATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE
BY UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY FOR POLITICAL PUR-
POSE

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H. Res. 713 because I believe the intent of this resolution had nothing to do with Israel's best interests, nor with promoting peace in the Middle East. The text was written by the Republican majority with the explicit intent of trying to be as politically divisive as possible.

I strongly believe that Israel has the right to defend itself against terrorism. However, while the resolution expresses support for Israel's right to construct a security barrier, it is clear to me that this measure was a cynical attempt to divide people for political gain here in the United States.

There are legitimate questions as to the propriety and wisdom of the action taken by the International Court of Justice, ICJ, in this matter, and in fact I personally disagree with their decision. However, this resolution goes too far and condemns the ICJ for politicizing an issue, when the very reason the Republican majority brought this issue to the floor is for political purposes.

Over the past four years, the House of Representatives has passed, with my support, at least nine non-binding Resolutions in regards to Israel. I entreat the leadership to now expend the same effort and energy to craft meaningful legislation that actually takes substantive action to further the Middle East peace process rather than paying so much lip service, as we too often do on issues of importance.

Over the years, the United States has been a vital player in facilitating peace negotiations in the Middle East. I have long said that the U.S. should be the first to support Israel's right to protect its citizens. I have also taken the position that Congress should not formally endorse the security fence, nor should we oppose it. To do so, I believe, meddles in internal Israeli affairs and compromises the U.S.'s ability to be a player in future peace negotiations.

The future security of the Middle East depends on negotiating a just, permanent, and peaceful settlement between Israelis and Palestinians that both guarantees Israel's security and establishes a Palestinian state. I cannot support resolutions, such as H. Res. 713, that are detrimental to this process.

I believe that it is the responsibility of those who are pro-Israel, like myself, to support measures that advance the security of Israel. This legislation does not do that. My efforts and advocacy over the years on behalf of Israel speaks for itself, and my support for Israel will continue throughout my tenure as a Member. I urge the Republican majority to get serious about promoting peace in the Middle East and the security of Israel rather than wasting Congress' time with non-binding resolutions intended to make political points in an election year.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSHUA PHILIPS OF COCONUT CREEK, FL, WINNER OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ART CONTEST

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Joshua Phillips of Coconut Creek,

Florida, the 22nd Congressional District's winner of the 2004 annual Congressional Art Competition. When I was first confronted with the complex montage of images that is Joshua's piece, American Aesthetic, I was immediately struck with its creativity and uniqueness. American Aesthetic now adorns the Cannon Capitol tunnel, and I have taken special care to instruct my staff to point it out to tour groups that they lead. Despite being among what is a group of some of the finest pieces of art done by young people in this nation, I am constantly told, and I agree, that Josh's artwork stands alone.

Of course, Joshua's achievement should not come as a surprise since he is a young man who has already made a name for himself through his accomplishments as his school's starting defensive end, and in the highly competitive academic program at his high school, Westminster Academy. It is worth noting that Joshua is Westminster Academy's second winner in this competition, proving that its high-quality academic program works to engender the kind of excellence in youth that our nation values.

Mr. Speaker, again I would like to extend my congratulations to this extraordinary young man.

COMMENDING JACK YANOSOV FOR HELPING DESIGN THE TRANSMITTERS USED 35 YEARS AGO TODAY BY THE APOLLO SPACE MISSION THAT LANDED ON THE MOON

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Jack Yanosov who helped design the transmitters that were used 35 years ago today in the Apollo mission that landed on the Moon.

It was a humble rise for Jack Yanosov, who began his career on the RCA assembly line, and would eventually become the lead engineer on the Apollo communications project. It was on a transmitter built by Jack Yanosov that the first words were ever spoken on a planetary body other than Earth. It was 35 years ago today, on July 20, 1969 that Neil Armstrong uttered his famous words that would inspire a generation, "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." The good news for Neil Armstrong and the rest of the world, Jack Yanosov's transmitter worked just like it was designed to do.

Today is a special day for our Nation. Thirty-five years ago, our country was locked in an arms race during a cold war that threatened to turn hot at any moment. The race for the Moon was more than just a prize in the darkest reaches of space, it symbolized our Nation's commitment to American ingenuity. We

met our goal and made it to the Moon, and we did it first. I am proud that a resident of New Jersey played such an important role in this groundbreaking human achievement. I would like to congratulate Jack Yanosov, and thank him on behalf of the people of New Jersey's Second Congressional District and America for a job well done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CLIFTON LIONS CLUB

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Lions Club Chapter of Clifton, Colorado on their sixty-fifth anniversary. Over the years, this organization has provided an invaluable service to the community, both socially and philanthropically. It is my privilege to acknowledge their service and achievements before this body of Congress and this nation today.

The Lions Club is an international organization that has existed since 1917. The Clifton chapter was chartered in 1939 with the purpose of creating a social group to serve the community. The primary function of the Lions Club is to focus on preventing and fighting blindness and helping people with visual impairments improve their quality of life. They also work more generally to improve the community in any way they can. The chapter is active in the community by holding events that attempt to raise the morale in the community by bringing people together at carnivals or pancake breakfasts, while at the same time raising money for their causes.

Mr. Speaker, the Clifton Lions Club has dutifully served the Clifton community for sixty-five years. Their hard work and dedication makes the community stronger. I congratulate the Clifton Lions Club on their anniversary and wish them all the best in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Nos. 391, 392, and 393.