

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MARINA MARTINEZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marina Martinez. She was a true leader and an inspirational woman who passed away on March 15, 2004.

A community activist in El Sereno, California, Marina Martinez promoted parental involvement and advocated for parental rights to ensure that every child receives a quality education. She began her lifelong commitment to children by volunteering both as a Girl Scout leader and Boy Scout den mother in 1959. Since that time, Marina chaired numerous organizations and provided leadership to many local, State, and Federal organizations. These organizations and positions included the Compensatory Education Advisory in 1972 and the Bilingual Teacher Training Center in 1976. Most notably, she was appointed by the dean of the School of Education to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Bilingual Teacher Training Center.

Marina Martinez also served as the council appointee to the Citizens Unit for Participation in Housing and Community Development in 1978 and was a proud member of other long-standing community-based organizations in El Sereno. These organizations included the Mexican-American Education Commission, National Clients Council for the Legal Aid Foundation, the Community Alliance for Education, and the El Sereno Community Coordinating Council.

Even with the tragic death of her son Ismael Martinez on December 7, 1980, Marina and her husband, Joe, did not move away from their El Sereno community. On the contrary, they turned their pain into strength and vowed to help other families with similar tragedies by establishing the Victims of Crime in El Sereno (VOCES). Several years ago, Marina's beloved husband, Joe, passed away.

Marina was a loving and caring community leader. Every Christmas, she made sure that victims of senseless violence would not be forgotten. Her message was shared throughout the community every December by organizing tree lighting ceremonies in Huntington Drive, with each tree decorated with red ribbons honoring the deceased victims.

I have known and supported Marina since my years as a California State Assembly member. She leaves behind three grown children and a beautiful community she helped build. She will always be remembered for her stewardship and hard work to improve her community and the citizens who lived in it. We will miss her greatly, and may she rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2004

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably absent on March 10 and 11, 2004. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 45, 46, 47, 54, 56, and 57. I would have voted "nay" on roll call votes 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, and 53.

DARLENE MONTGOMERY RYAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Darlene Montgomery Ryan for being recognized as a 2004 honoree of the Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World. Darlene Montgomery Ryan is the co-founder, principal owner, president and chief executive officer of PharmaFab, a contract pharmaceuticals formulator and manufacturer located in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

In February, the Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World announced the names of the 2004 honorees who will be distinguished at an international awards ceremony and gala in Sydney, Australia, May 9–13, 2004. Chosen by an international selection committee from hundreds of nominees worldwide, these outstanding businesswomen represent nine countries and over \$600 million in annual sales.

PharmaFab, started by Darlene, her brother, and their father in late 1994, has been recognized as one of the 500 fastest-growing private companies in the United States for the past 3 years in a row. Prior to starting PharmaFab, Darlene was a partner in a worldwide accounting firm recognized as an expert in international taxation. She is a certified public accountant, with a BA in math and German from DePauw University and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

In addition to her leading role at PharmaFab, Darlene Montgomery Ryan is an officer in the Generic Pharmaceutical Association, which is dedicated to reducing health care costs for all of us. In her spare time, Darlene teaches Junior Achievement classes to low-income elementary school students, acts as a board member for several local charities, and is highly involved in her community.

I congratulate Darlene Montgomery Ryan for her contribution not only to my local community but also to our country for being only one out of the nine honorees to be recognized from the United States. I applaud her efforts and support her desire to improve health care in the United States.

RELATING TO THE LIBERATION OF THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND THE VALIANT SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND COALITION FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by the degree to which the Republican Leadership has turned this resolution into a partisan political defense of President Bush's view of the war in Iraq. Instead of commending and thanking the men and women in our Armed Forces who are serving so bravely in Iraq, a resolution that would have probably been passed unanimously, this resolution rewrites history and justifies a war that need not have been fought. Yes, Saddam was a terrible dictator, but getting rid of him was not the reason why President Bush told us we had to go to war. The American people were told that we had to invade Iraq because Saddam had weapons of mass destruction that could be used against us, something which turned out not to be true. It is particularly outrageous that, in order to spin the war in as positive light as possible, this resolution does not say one word about our gratitude to the over 560 families who have lost a loved one in Iraq—including six Vermont families—or the over 2,800 soldiers who have been injured. What must these families be thinking when the sacrifice of their loved ones are not even acknowledged in this resolution? If Congressional Republicans really want to say thanks to the troops they should adequately fund veterans' benefits, increase military pay and provide the money to buy the body armor and other equipment our troops need. But using the sacrifice of our troops for partisan political advantage is something that I cannot support.

RELATING TO THE LIBERATION OF THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND THE VALIANT SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND COALITION FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, all of us in this chamber are united in our commitment to support our troops in Iraq. It is that commitment that creates a strong presumption in my own mind on any resolution that recognizes their honorable goals, their services to country and their need for best support possible.

Along with my Democratic colleagues, we would also rush to sponsor and support a resolution that highlighted the crimes of Saddam

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Hussein. There was never any disagreement in this Chamber on the evil he represented and we all applaud our troops for bringing him to justice. They did the job they were asked to do and more.

But I pause on supporting this resolution on two counts. This war has not brought greater stability to the area. It has not enhanced America's leadership position or created stronger alliances. While our soldiers have fought with honor—even as we speak here—the administration failed to support their efforts with a plan to win the peace, bring stability or share the burden and risk. We still wait for the President to speak honestly with the American people about the failed intelligence estimates and the reasons for the rush to war. America remains isolated, which is itself a risk to our security and our troops.

This resolution is silent on these questions and the leadership will not allow them to be addressed.

There is no commitment to ensuring that our troops have the best protection equipment available, no commitment to getting wounded troops the best health care as quickly as possible. There is no mention of the heroic contributions our reserve troops have provided or the very serious challenges that lie ahead in Iraq. Any resolution honoring and supporting our troops would express these sentiments.

What I find most egregious is that at the very moment we debate this resolution, the Budget Committee is considering a budget that omits funding for many of our most pressing priorities in Iraq. During consideration of this budget, the majority has turned aside efforts to increase our commitment to health care for reservists, for military housing programs and to educate military schoolchildren. At a time when we have families of troops searching the Internet to buy body armor for their loved ones in Iraq because this Congress has failed to provide it for them, that is the very least we should be doing for these brave men and women. Had Democrats been allowed the elemental rights of a minority, we would have incorporated language that made clear Congress's first obligation was to provide our troops in Iraq with the security and the best equipment available.

To be frank, the hypocrisy of this Congress in offering this resolution but not the actual support, tempts me to fight back and protest on behalf of our men and women in Iraq and in the reserves.

But stronger in my heart is an appreciation for our troops that keep us free. I cast my vote for those words in the resolution and express my personal exception to the majority's maneuvering that has diminished their resolution and our work.

Fortunately, we will have more opportunities to express our views about our postwar policy in Iraq and failure to genuinely support our military and veterans.

"A RUN FOR THEIR SON"

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 22, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, we talk here often about family values, with good reason, because defending the family is

one of the most important parts of our job. One way to do that is to give truly inspirational examples of how families have pulled together, especially in those very difficult, tragic times when awful events befall good people.

One such inspirational example was recently chronicled in the New Bedford Standard Times, describing the determination of Elsie and Tony Souza, of New Bedford to compete in a marathon to honor the memory of their son Christopher, who was tragically taken from them ten years ago at the age of twenty-six. I had the privilege of knowing Christopher, as I have the privilege of knowing and working with Tony and Elsie Souza. Tony is the Executive Director of the Waterfront Historic Area League, an extremely important, innovative and effective organization working to advance the cultural and—therefore—economic—fortunes of New Bedford. Elsie has been since 1993 the Deputy Director of my Massachusetts operation, based in my New Bedford office.

This excellent article by Don Cuddy in the New Bedford Standard Times gives a sense of these wonderful people and of the extent to which they truly exemplify family values, and I ask that the article be printed here.

[From the New Bedford Standard Times,
Mar. 19, 2004]

A RUN FOR THEIR SON (By Don Cuddy)

NEW BEDFORD.—“Tony! It’s a quarter to five.” Tony took an eight count.

It was another black, freezing, January morning and the mercury was not moving. Neither was the city. There were no cars on Route 18, the waterfront was deserted and the shops on Union Street had been locked down and abandoned.

The cobbled streets of the historic district were deathly still until the door on Center Street creaked open. Just as they had for months, two shadowy figures emerged from within and began to run silently through the darkness.

Up the hill to frigid Buttonwood Park they labored side by side, then around to Hawthorne Street onto Slocum Road and back downtown as the first streaks of light became visible in the eastern sky.

Beginning with a promise in the fall and undeterred by the worst winter in years, Tony and Elsie Souza have held faithfully to their training program as they move ever closer to their goal of completing this year’s New Bedford Half-Marathon.

There will be some mixed emotions when they step to the starting line Sunday and take their places with the other runners. This year marks the 10th anniversary of their only son’s passing. The need arose to find something to mark the occasion and it was Elsie’s idea that they should run the race.

Christopher Jon Souza had a bright future until he was fatally stricken with cancer at the age of 26.

After obtaining a degree in Russian language and literature from Syracuse University, he worked for Sen. Ted Kennedy in Washington before moving to Boston in 1994 to complete his master’s degree. Always athletic, he was training for the Boston Marathon in March of that year when he began to experience breathing difficulties. He saw a doctor and was told he had a sinus infection.

In fact, he had a tumor in his chest, an offshoot of testicular cancer. When he came home to New Bedford in July at his mother’s urging, he was finally given a chest x-ray. Three weeks later he was in a coma. The end came in November.

“There was no warning at all,” Tony said. “After they took the chest x-ray I went to the doctor’s office on a Saturday morning and, I’ll never forget, he said ‘I think you better sit down.’” Within five days their son was on life-support. Christopher underwent chemotherapy while in a coma. When he came out of it, for a very short time it appeared that he might have beaten the odds. But it was not to be.

In tribute to his memory the New Bedford couple have committed to running the race and, because of their enduring love for their child and of New Bedford, they have also offered trophy and a cash prize in Christopher’s name. The first city residents, male and female, to cross the finish line this year will receive the Christopher Jon Souza Award and \$250.

“Chris loved sports and he was a great runner, so last fall I just decided that I was going to run it,” Elsie said. “To convince Tony. I said, ‘We’re going to do this for Chris.’ So every day I get up at 4 a.m. and read the paper before we go. He hopes there’s a snowstorm outside and prays that I’ll go back to bed.”

Tony laughed. “She has all her clothes laid out the night before, too,” he said.

“I used to run. I ran the Ocean State Marathon, and in ‘91 I did the Marine Corps Marathon in D.C. with Chris. I was 48 and he was 24. He was very competitive, just like Elsie. She won’t let me pass her.”

“But after he died I just quit. Before he passed I promised Chris I’d get back and it’s been 10 years, so I was saying to myself: ‘I guess you broke your promise.’ I’d put on so much weight but I went on a diet and now I’ve lost 27 pounds. It wasn’t easy. I got frostbite on my legs and hands in January and it’s just healing up now. We’ve been through everything but last Saturday we did 10 miles. We’re ready.”

For Elsie it was even tougher. She had never been a runner and suffered bouts of asthma as a child that confined her to bed much of the winter, but they never contemplated quitting. Their loss has strengthened them. They have stayed together through the training and intend to do the same on Sunday.

Once they had committed to entering the race, the idea of adding the award came naturally.

“As parents, losing an only child has been very difficult,” Tony said. “We’ve forged on, I think bravely, but they are always with you and you don’t want them to go away, so anything we can do to memorialize him we do.”

The Souzas have also established a scholarship fund in their son’s memory.

“We love New Bedford and we believe that this race exemplifies all the good things about this community,” Elsie said. “The people who put it together are doing it against all odds.”

In recognition of that the Souzas decided to make their own contribution.

“People here work so hard to try to make things better and we suffer so needlessly from a bad reputation,” Tony said. “When you see all these runners coming down here it shows we are doing something right.”

Tony and Elsie Souza have already endured the greatest loss a parent can. Nevertheless the race poses a challenge in and of itself.

“We’re not fast but we’ll do it” Tony said, looking at his wife for confirmation. Elsie had her own concerns.

“My biggest challenge right now is deciding what I am going to wear! Only a woman would understand that.”