

these jurisdictions, and by Federal agencies and other programs providing health services raised the need to redesignate their "urban area" to enable the maximum allowable distance to be based on their geographic location. The governments of these jurisdictions specifically requested that their urban area be re-designated to the closest urban area with advanced medical facilities. Honolulu, Hawaii is the closest urban area to each of these jurisdictions with advanced medical facilities as well as an accredited medical school. However, the FCC, in its recent Report and Order, indicated that it is beyond their statutory authority under 47 U.S.C. 254(h)(1)(A) to designate an urban area outside of a state, whose definition includes the territories and possessions, as the benchmark for comparison for the insular areas.

The residents of Guam, American Samoa, and the CNMI contribute to the Universal Service Fund and represent the types of communities that were envisioned to be served by the RHCP. The health care providers in the Pacific insular areas are in need of telecommunication connections with health care providers and with health professions education programs outside of their jurisdictions in order to obtain needed specialty services and access to advanced health professions education and continuing education programs. However, the current costs of these telecommunication connections are too high to make the connections feasible. The Rural Health Care Program, the program that was designed to serve rural communities and which would make such a critical difference in these jurisdictions, currently does not benefit those most in need.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE for co-sponsoring this bill. I urge support for this legislation so that we may provide for fair treatment of the Pacific insular areas in the health care service supports under the Communications Act of 1934. Designating Honolulu, Hawaii as the "urban area" for Guam, American Samoa, and the CNMI is the most logical, sensible, and possible approach to resolve the deficiencies in the implementation of the RHCP for these jurisdictions. I look forward to working with the leadership in moving this legislation.

IN MEMORY OF SANDY ELSTER

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2004

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say goodbye to a dear friend and neighbor.

Earlier this week, I received news that local activist and businessman Sandy Elster passed away at his Venice, California home at age 86.

Sandy was a true progressive, who cared intensely about policy. He volunteered for my first congressional campaign and was generous with both his time and ideas. He was unafraid to speak out, whether he agreed or not with my positions. Indeed, I know that many of my views were shaped by the discussions we had during our bike rides and brunches along our coastal bike path.

Sandy was known, in particular, for his environmental activism. In recent years, he was a consultant to the Metropolitan Transit Authority to develop a non-polluting, mass transit system. He drove one of the first electric cars, the EV-1, made by General Motors, and later became an advocate for the hybrid Toyota Prius and persuaded his friends to buy it.

Sandy also led local efforts to protect the California least tern, a small gray and white seabird that was added to the endangered species list in the mid-1970s. After moving to Venice in the early 1970s, he helped cut through red tape to erect a fence around a plot of sand about half the size of a football field to keep dogs, cats and other predators away from tern eggs and chicks. Today, the least tern population is stable and growing because of his stewardship.

I know that one of his proudest accomplishments was seeing then-President Ronald Reagan sign the U.N. Genocide Convention—an agreement whose ratification he spent many years working to secure. But beyond making genocide a crime under international law, he believed it important that our citizens know the horror of genocide, its roots, and the need for vigilance. During the 1980s, he was instrumental in the campaign that resulted in legislation to require California's public schools to teach about genocide to students in seventh through 12th grade.

It's emblematic of Sandy's active life that the service to his memory was held at the Beverly Hills Tennis Club. He was an avid tennis player and biker, and I found it challenging to keep up with him.

My thoughts are with his spectacular wife and partner of 56 years, Ernestine, and his family. Sandy was very special.

HONORING DR. JOE SABOL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Representative DOOLEY, Representative NUNES and myself, to honor Dr. Joe Sabol on the occasion of his being distinguished as an Honorary Alumni Member of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation's California Agricultural Leadership Program. This designation will be bestowed upon Mr. Sabol at the annual conference of this organization.

Selection for this distinction is reserved for "special individuals who have, over a period of time, demonstrated consistent commitment and uncommon excellence in the furtherance of education and leadership in California agriculture." The mission of the California Agricultural Leadership Program is to enhance the long-term viability of California agriculture through leadership development, which in turn benefits the people and the communities that agriculture serves.

In 1963, Joe received his Bachelor of Arts degree in General Agriculture from California State University, Fresno. He obtained his M.Ed. in 1965 from University of California, Davis and his Ph.D. in 1976 from Colorado State University. Dr. Sabol came to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1972 to teach Agricultural Education. He later became Associate Dean

and the Dean of the College of Agriculture, as well as Project Director of the Costa Rica E.A.R.T.H. Project. He was named Director of Outreach Services in 1993 and currently teaches within the College. Among his special teaching projects Joe counts the Mexican Ag Education Program, the Pakistan Project, an Advisor's Workshop for Vocational Student Organizations, and the Victorian (Australia) College of Agriculture and Horticulture.

Joe has been involved with the Western Region American Association of Teacher Educators in Agriculture, the FFA Alumni Association, Farm Bureau, the San Jose Unified School District Agriculture Program, and the California Agriculture Teachers Association. He has been named an honorary CFFA Member, Honorary State Farmer with FFA and Grange Youth Booster of the Year for California. In 1987, Joe received the Honorary American Farmer Degree at the National FFA Convention and has been recognized as a "Teacher of Teachers" for 10 consecutive years.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative DOOLEY and Representative NUNES, to pay tribute to Dr. Joe Sabol as an Honorary Alumni Member of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation's California Agricultural Leadership Program. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Joe many years of continued success.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to show my support for House Resolution 492, honoring the contributions of the 8,000 Catholic schools in our nation.

I would also like to recognize the delegation of students, teachers, and parents who make the National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools a special day by visiting Capitol Hill offices throughout this day. Their commitment to creating exceptional education opportunities and maintaining quality Catholic schools ensures that Catholic students will continue to benefit from their schooling for years to come. When the 2.5 million students currently enrolled in Catholic schools graduate, an overwhelming percentage of them will attend college. This is a clear sign of the powerful and positive impact Catholic schools are having on millions of our nation's children.

I am a proud graduate of Catholic schools and have a first hand knowledge of the important role Catholic schools can play in the formation of hard-working, caring, and well educated Americans by teaching discipline, pride, and instilling a life-long love of learning in their students. I am so grateful to the priests, nuns and lay persons who taught me at St. Peter's Elementary, Holy Name Elementary, Parmadale, St. Aloysius Elementary, St. Colman Elementary and St. John Cantius High School. Their thirst for knowledge and desire to share it with others has played a critical role in my own life.

Providing quality educational opportunities for all children is one of the most important

goals of our country. Catholic schools, parents, and teachers across the nation play a critical role in achieving this end, and I again congratulate them for their ongoing contributions to education.

PASSIONATE COMPASSION

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am increasingly distressed by the trend of public policy at the federal level. For years people blamed federal deficits and increased federal spending on excesses in programs that seek to alleviate poverty and meet the needs of lower income people. Today, from the standpoint of those of us who care about social justice, we have the worst of both worlds—a steeply increasing deficit at the budget level while the percentage of national resources devoted to meeting the economic needs of the poorest of our citizens decreases.

I try to keep this issue constantly in focus, and I am greatly aided in doing so by one of the most dedicated fighters for social justice I have even met—Mark A. Sullivan, Jr., the Executive Director of Citizens for Citizens, an excellent community action program based in Fall River, Massachusetts, with responsibilities in much of the southeastern part of our state.

Mark Sullivan is a man of very considerable talent. His intelligence, commitment, and organizing skills could have led him to a number of lucrative careers. He has instead for the past thirty years stayed at his post in trying to fight poverty and economic deprivation.

Sadly, his job had been made much harder in recent years by the distorted budget priorities being followed by the current administration and Congressional majority. Too often people here vote for cuts as if they were dealing with abstractions without understanding the terrible human consequences of their efforts. No one I know does a better job of trying to make these impacts clear than Mark Sullivan, and in a recent excellent article in the Fall River Herald News, by Deborah Allard-Bernardi, Mr. Sullivan gives one of the expositions at which he excels about the negative effects of what we have been doing.

Because in my mind no issue is more important than reversing this trend of cutting back on the help we give to the neediest among us, I ask that this important discussion by Mark Sullivan in the Fall River Herald News be printed here.

[From the Herald News, Jan. 22, 2004]

CFC DECRIES LACK OF FUNDING
(By Deborah Allard-Bernardi)

FALL RIVER.—If society doesn't see the invisible man, it's not looking for him, according to Mark A. Sullivan Jr., executive director of Citizens for Citizens Inc.

Actually, it's not just the invisible man Sullivan is worried about, but an entire society of poor people including the elderly, single women and children as well as men. He says they . . . by the very entity that is charged with caring for them: the government.

"Low-income people are off the radar screen," said Sullivan at a press conference Wednesday. "People in this country are locked into being poor."

It's been cuts after cuts for CFC and other agencies that provide food, fuel assistance, housing, day care and other core services to the needy. CFC's most recent plight is a new unemployment formula that is threatening to close its Head Start program before its usual summer hiatus.

The increased unemployment charges that CFC must pay to stay in business as a non-profit organization rose on Jan. 1 from \$125,000 a year to \$255,000 a year. Sullivan said unemployment insurance rose from 4.9 percent for the first \$10,800 each employee makes to 8.2 percent for the first \$14,000.

Coupled with a \$63,000 deficit to the Head Start program, which Sullivan said CFC discovered about eight months into the fiscal year, it's devastating news for the anti-poverty organization.

"We'll have to shut down Head Start early," said Sullivan.

He said unless there is some other solution, Head Start will close in June, about two weeks early. The program serves 410 children in Greater Fall River and Taunton.

All 110 employees would be laid off. Sullivan said that even this solution will adversely affect CFC because it will have to pay higher rates when employees collect unemployment benefits.

"We're being squeezed by every aspect of government," said Sullivan.

But Sullivan said he isn't surprised. After being employed at CFC for 30 years, he said it gets worse every year. There's a constant increase in need and a lack of funding. The newest victims of poverty, according to Sullivan, are the elderly and children.

Currently, 62 percent of Greater Fall River CFC clients receiving fuel assistance are elderly. He said 34 percent of those eligible for the program have already exhausted their benefits, and it's only mid-January. CFC pays up to \$490 per family for heat during the winter season, which runs until April.

Feeding the hungry has also gotten more difficult. With a cupboard that is almost always bare shortly after being filled, CFC handed out more than 4,000 bags of groceries during the month of December.

"We're getting more and more people with less and less money," said Sullivan. "The tragedy of this is (most of) our new clients are elderly."

Sullivan condemned the way the government allocates funding and what it views as important. He laughed at the phrase "jobless recovery" when it is used to describe an economy that some say is getting better.

"How can you have a recovery when people have no jobs?" asked Sullivan, who is passionate about helping the, needy and angered by what he calls "double talk" and unfulfilled promises by government officials.

"A budget is the reflection of the morality of a society. It's getting kind of scary what we deem as important," said Sullivan.

With a one-third cut in discretionary spending by the federal government, Sullivan said that what is considered discretionary is what funds core services that help the poor and working poor stay warm and fed.

"Discretionary spending is what saves poor people from being destitute," said Sullivan.

The losses and cuts in core poverty programs, along with the increases in rent and prescription drugs, are just too much for many families to handle, according to Sullivan, who admits that he has no solution.

"The poor are falling in the cracks and they need a way out," said Sullivan. "I do wish people would start becoming concerned."

Sullivan has also seen a decline in charitable donations to CFC and other nonprofit organizations. He said the middle class is the societal section that has always donated the

most, but even it is feeling the pinch lately and giving less, if at all.

"Those are the people who used to take care of the poor. They're having a hard time taking care of themselves now," said Sullivan.

CONGRATULATING NORTHROP GRUMMAN'S LAKE CHARLES MANUFACTURING CENTER FOR RECEIVING THE 2003 LOUISIANA PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2004

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard working employees at Northrop Grumman's Lake Charles Manufacturing Center located in Southwest Louisiana. Recently the Louisiana Quality Foundation named the Lake Charles Manufacturing Center as the winner of its 2003 Louisiana Performance Excellence Award, the foundation's highest quality honor.

The Louisiana Performance Excellence Award is an annual recognition of Louisiana organizations that achieve high levels of performance excellence and excel in the application of outstanding quality principles. Organizations that serve as role models for quality, customers satisfaction and performance excellence are considered for this award.

This facility is a business unit of Northrop Grumman's Integrated Systems sector. This sector is a premier aerospace defense system integration enterprise. Integrated Systems designs, develops, produces, and supports network-enabled integration systems for government and civil customers worldwide. Most importantly, Integrated Systems helps fight the War on Terrorism by delivering the best value solutions, products and services that support our military missions in the areas of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, space access, battle management command and control, and integrated strike warfare.

I come to the floor of the House of Representatives today to personally commend and recognize the men and women of Lake Charles Manufacturing Center for this well-deserved award that acknowledges their level of talent and commitment to performance excellence. Louisiana has a talented workforce, and some of the most productive employees in the Nation. This Center truly exemplifies the solid work ethic for which Louisiana is known.

Again, congratulations to the employees of Northrop Grumman's Lake Charles Manufacturing Center for receiving this much deserved award.

REMEMBERING SEBASTIAN GARAFALO

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 30, 2004

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, when I first ran for Congress many people from across eastern Connecticut came forward to introduce me to their communities. One of those who was