

and North America acknowledged long histories of the sterilization of people with disabilities. Additionally, there is evidence of denial of the right to vote and conscious utilization of inaccessible polling places constituting an abrogation of the democratic rights of people with disabilities in all regions of the world. As more and more countries face aging societies the public dialogue is becoming more and more critical about whether people, as they age, will be allowed to stay in their community.

Within the last thirty years the United States Congress has led the way in adopting law after law which mandate a range of choices for American citizens with disabilities equivalent to that for American citizens without disabilities: education, transportation, employment, and communication. With the passage of the proposed MICASSA legislation, this range of choices would be extended to include the right of people with disabilities to choose where they receive personal assistance services and care. The UN Convention is one way for the US to share its technical expertise and legislative achievements, provide technical assistance and the exchange of knowledge, skills, and experience to help reduce the learning curve for countries that are ready to implement new solutions. Something I've observed through my years of experience in international development is how powerful it is when the disability leadership from other countries understands how people with disabilities in the US have been able to organize themselves into an influential constituency. Disability leaders from all over the world come to this country and marvel at things we now take for granted. For example, I hosted disability leaders from Russia a few years ago. They spent a lot of time taking pictures of each other in elevators, on ramps, on bus lifts, on the accessible Metro, reading Braille menus in restaurants, and using our telephone relay services. In other words, we have a lot to share.

NCD believes the people of the United States would be well served by being involved in the historic process of drafting a Convention, and by ensuring that this Convention benefits from the American experience in implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act. U.S. disability legislation, with its core principles of choice, independence, and integration, is one of America's greatest democratic achievements. The U.S. must continue to show its leadership through its support of and involvement in the proposed Convention, in order to protect, preserve, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities everywhere. The passage of Resolution 169 will be an important step in helping to ensure that people with disabilities in other countries have the same opportunity to attain equality.

The U.S. cannot afford to ignore the burgeoning momentum for the development of an international disability Convention. The United States has plenty to gain by constructive participation in the effort to fully integrate disability fully into the international human rights agenda. United States interests abroad, such as our foreign assistance work, can only be bolstered by a UN Convention. The economic cost to society of excluding people with disabilities is enormous. No nation in the world will achieve its full potential for economic development while it leaves out people with disabilities.

US government support for a strong UN convention will be a validation of this country's commitment to include disability issues as a meaningful priority of US foreign policy.

Effective international collaboration in the drafting process will require consultation with and full participation by disability

leaders and their allies in the United States and abroad. By supporting a strong Resolution, by consulting with disability groups, and by the inclusion of people with disabilities in the drafting process, the US will establish its role as a leader in international disability rights consistent with its commitments to citizens with disabilities at home.

HONORING SENIOR CHIEF STORE-
KEEPER CORZETTA "COZY"
CALLOWAY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of myself, Congresswoman CAPITO and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 7th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of this event is to honor our nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize five outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the U.S. Coast Guard, we will honor Senior Chief Storekeeper Corzetta "Cozy" Calloway, who is currently assigned to the Coast Guard Recruiting Command (CGRC), Coast Guard Personnel Command in Arlington, Virginia. In her position as a supervisor and a Coast Guard recruiter, SCSK Calloway helps to manage the online recruiting program and provides guidance to prospective applicants via the Coast Guard website.

Senior Chief Calloway also acts as assistant to the chief of the Recruiting Command's leasing department for all Coast Guard recruiting offices. In this capacity, SCSK Calloway performs essential duties in selecting qualified individuals and subsequently in the development of Coast Guard servicemen and women. She has shown incredible commitment to enhancing the diversity of the Coast Guard workforce. SCSK Calloway distinguishes herself as a leader in both recruiting qualified individuals and applying her specialty in supply organization and logistics. Her impressive awards that she has received include the Coast Guard Achievement Medal for serving on the Women's Advisory Council, the Coast Guard Letter of Commendation for recruiting, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Senior Chief Calloway plans to retire soon from the Coast Guard with 30 years of service, and she will be remembered for her commitment to improving the Coast Guard and her dedication to service. She continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the Coast Guard, and it is an honor for each member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of SCSK Calloway and all women in the military.

IN HONOR OF DR. CAROLYN G.
BUKHAIR'S RETIREMENT FROM
THE RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Carolyn G. Bukhair, Ed.D., in honor of her retirement from the Richardson Independent School District. Dr. Bukhair is leaving her post as the Superintendent after serving 36 years as an educator and 28 years with Richardson I.S.D.

Not only admired by her own district, she commands the respect of her peers throughout the state. In 1999 she was distinguished as the Texas Association of School Librarians' Administrator of the Year. She also was the Region 10 Superintendent of the Year for 1999, and was one of five finalists for the State Superintendent of the Year award in both 1999 and 2003.

Dr. Bukhair has left her impression on the school district that she has so ably served. In recognition for her continued efforts, the RISD Board of Trustees voted to name the district's newest elementary school as 'Carolyn G. Bukhair Elementary'. Dr. Bukhair presided over many years of improvement and progress for the district. Under her leadership, the district maintained a 22:1 student/teacher ratio in grades k-4 for six consecutive years. It is so critical to provide in-depth and personal attention to our younger students, and by maintaining small class sizes; the Richardson I.S.D. has been able to better accomplish that mission. Small class sizes alone will not increase the education for students, however, when coupled with accountability in the classroom, our children greatly benefit. Dr. Bukhair instituted a strong accountability model based on continuous improvement of student performance and achievement.

I have had the honor and privilege of working with Dr. Bukhair over the last several years, and I will greatly miss her at the helm of Richardson I.S.D. I wish her, and her family, all the very best as she retires from Richardson I.S.D.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I missed three votes in the House of Representatives on May 17, 2004 due to my attendance at events marking the 50th anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education decision. Had I been in attendance I would have made the following votes:

Vote on Passage of H. Con. Res. 420—Recognizing National Transportation Week. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Vote on Passage of H. Con. Res. 423—Authorizing Capitol Grounds for the Dedication of WWII Memorial. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

Vote on Passage of H. Con. Res. 403—Condemning the Sudan for civilian attacks in

the Darfur region. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING JACQUELINE Z. DAVIS,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a champion of the arts, Jacqueline Z. Davis, who will receive the insignia of Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from Jean-René Gehan, Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy, in a ceremony this evening at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, where she has served with distinction as Executive Director for the past four years. Ms. Davis' vision for the performing arts has made a global impact. The Chevalier recognizes her outstanding career and her contribution to the culture of our two great nations.

The Chevalier is a distinguished honor reserved for a select few deemed by the French Minister of Culture and Communication to have made groundbreaking contributions to the arts in France and throughout the world. For nearly 25 years, Ms. Davis has been a devoted advocate of the performing arts and a leader in her field. As Executive Director of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, she has launched compelling exhibitions and performances representing cultures around the world and has been instrumental in the renovation of the Library's new building at Lincoln Center, a project that included the creation of a grand, light filled reading room, several loft exhibition galleries and state of the art audiovisual stations that have revolutionized the educational experience.

Ms. Davis has a profound understanding of the history, art and culture of France influenced by her numerous visits and her time spent there as a student at L'Institut Catholique in Paris, where she received a Certificats Des Etudes De La Langue Francaise. Her passion for the arts is visible in the many performances and exhibits produced under her leadership, earning her the respect of her colleagues by her unwavering dedication to preservation of the performing arts. Upon Ms. Davis' appointment to the position of Executive Director of the Performing Arts Library, Library President Paul LeClerc noted "After an exhaustive national search, I am delighted that . . . Jacqueline Davis will head one of the New York Public Library's greatest collections. She has had a brilliant career to date in performing arts administration, and she will be a superb addition to the Library's leadership." Tonight the world of arts and letters will acknowledge her contributions to the arts and to the Library as she is awarded The Chevalier.

Prior to her appointment at the Library of the Performing Arts, Jacqueline served as Executive Director of the Lied Center at the University of Kansas, one of the leading university arts presenters in the nation. In 1994, she received the Governor's Arts Award for "outstanding contribution to the excellence, growth, support and availability of the arts in

Kansas." Ms. Davis has served on the boards of Chamber Music America, Dance USA and the American Arts Alliance, as President of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters and been a frequent panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts International. She was named one of 11 Outstanding Presenters in the United States through a study commissioned by Pew Charitable Trusts. She currently serves on the American Theatre Wing's Tony Awards Nominating Committee.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Jacqueline Davis, recipient of the 2004 Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. Her lifelong passion for the arts (des arts) and letters (et des lettres) has made an impact on her family, her friends, and all those whose lives she has touched and those whose future will be enhanced by her lifelong commitment to furthering artistic excellence recognized by the Chevalier. Merci beaucoup, Jacqueline.

HONORING MASTER CHIEF KELLY
D. WILLIAMS OF THE U.S. NAVY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself, Congresswoman CAPITO and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 7th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of this event is to honor our Nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize 5 outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the U.S. Navy, we will honor Master Chief Kelly D. Williams. A native of Texas, Master Chief Williams has an Associate in Arts with Honors degree from City Colleges of Chicago. She began her career in the Navy in Meridian, Mississippi, where she attend Storekeeper Class "A" School. She successfully completed Instructor Training, Storekeeper Independent Duty Afloat and Command Career Counselor training in 1991, and also graduated from training in Shipboard Uniform Automated Data Processing Systems.

Serving the U.S. Navy at a variety of stations and duties, Master Chief Williams should be especially recognized for her commitment during her time assigned to the staff of the Commander, Naval Surface Group Mediterranean, in Naples, Italy. Her diligence and dedication as Assistant Replenishment Officer earned her the Navy Achievement Medal for her direct contribution to assuring Sixth Fleet combat effectiveness and readiness during Operations Noble Anvil/Allied Force. She is currently assigned as the Assistant Head to the Navy Uniform Board and has been a vital contributor to the Navy's first-ever Navy Uniform Task Force.

Among her many achievements, Master Chief Williams has been awarded the Meri-

torious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (4 awards), Navy Achievement Medal (3 awards) and various service and campaign awards. Master Chief Kelly D. Williams continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the Navy, and it is an honor for each member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of Master Chief Williams and all women in the military.

THEY SAVED CIVILIZATION—A
TRIBUTE TO THE VETERANS OF
WORLD WAR II

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 2004

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, today we pay tribute to the men who made up the greatest fighting force ever assembled. Their cause was just, and they carried the banner of freedom against the most fearsome and vicious enemy the world has ever seen. All the while, the courage of these American heroes never failed.

They were soldiers, sailors, marines—others served with great distinction in the Air Force, the Coast Guard and the Merchant Marine. We owe them all a great debt. Over 400,000 Americans died during the conflict. Today, roughly 4,300,000 veterans are still with us.

To understand the importance of what these men did, one must realize the magnitude of what they were up against. In the space of a few years, a great evil had swept across much of the world. It was the hand of several governments—all dictatorships—who had formed a bloodthirsty pact to swallow their neighbors whole.

The aggressors struck quickly and with ferocity impossible to resist. Many strong nations fell under their control.

The occupation was focused, deadly and vicious, and executed millions of the conquered peoples. One of the aggressor states in particular had developed an ideology so disturbed it led them to murder millions more of their own citizens, including many loyal ones. So perverse were the nature and scope of the deeds committed by Germany that, decades later, the mere name of its ruling political party is a curse word for the most vile—the Nazi party.

Meanwhile, Japan captured the Chinese city of Nanking in December, 1937, and the four months that followed have become known as the Rape of Nanking. It is estimated that the occupiers executed between 250,000 and 300,000 of the city's inhabitants, merely the most outrageous of a series of atrocities committed in the Pacific Theater.

Who could stand against these savage marauders? Who could stop them, as they savaged their way across the continents?

The answer came on December 7th, 1941. Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, killing 2,409 Americans. The devastating attack, which nearly crippled the battlefleet and destroyed equipment and facilities, shocked the nation.

Americans, still groggy from the Great Depression, were jolted awake by the empires expanding across the oceans both to our east and west, and by the grim realization that it