

floods, and earthquakes in the United States and throughout the world.

I also want to mention some of today's heroes from Maryland. Sol de Ande Mendez Eaton serves as an activist for the Maryland Hispanic/Latino community. Ms. Eaton convened the first Maryland Statewide conference on civil rights as co-chair of the Maryland Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She has worked at the local and State level as a pioneer in the areas of women's health and domestic violence. Every day, she continues to inspire us to work for the rights of others by seeking to reduce discrimination in employment, housing, education and health.

June Bacon-Bercey, another Marylander, the first African American woman to receive a PhD in Atmospheric Sciences, inspires us as well. As a television forecaster, she is also the first African American woman, and indeed the first woman to receive the American Meteorological Service Seal for television-radio weather-casting. In 1979, Ms. Bacon-Bercey became Chief Administrator of Television Activities for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency.

She is a scientist, an international expert on weather and aviation, as well as a wife and mother. Recognizing the difficulties that other women would face in pursuing her profession, she has chosen to go beyond her substantial personal achievement to help other women reach their goals in weather-related professions. In fact, she donated her winnings from a game show to create a scholarship plan for young women wanting to join meteorology. In view of this year's theme, I commend Ms. Bacon-Bercey not only for her example and inspiration to other women, but for her generosity in directly helping others reach their dreams.

Since the first woman received a medical degree from a United States medical school, in 1848, female doctors have helped shape and change the course of medicine. A model physician in the State of Maryland, Dr. Marie Amos Dobyns, has worked in Maryland for over 20 years and served over 3,000 patients. As an Eastern Cherokee Native American, she integrates her heritage into her medical practice and her vision of a partnership between patient and physician has inspired would-be physicians across the country to seek out innovative approaches to offering comprehensive patient-centered care.

I am privileged to speak in honor of the mothers, wives, daughters, friends and neighbors that have inspired and opened up possibilities for us all. We should take this month to redouble our efforts to ensure that their work has not been for naught. In that regard, I ask us all to take Women's History Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of women, but also as a time to refocus on how much needs to be accomplished to achieve full equality.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARY F. DIAZ

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, yesterday I paid tribute to Mary Diaz, who died on February 12 in New York after a long battle with cancer. Mary was executive director of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, an affiliate of the International Rescue Committee, and one of this Nation's most effective and most compassionate advocates for women and children throughout the world.

I ask to have printed in the RECORD the attached articles, including a tribute to Mary from the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, an article by the International Rescue Committee, as well as articles that appeared in the New York Times and the Boston Globe.

The articles follow.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children]

TRIBUTES TO MARY

I was most saddened to learn of the death of Ms. Mary Diaz, the Executive Director of the Women's Commission. Mary's death touches us at UNHCR profoundly as she was known and admired by many colleagues.

Her death will be a great loss to those who work for the cause of refugees. Ms. Diaz was a tireless and committed advocate for the rights of displaced women and children whose voices are so often unheard. Last year I was pleased to honour Ms. Diaz as a recipient of the UNHCR Gender Equality Award for her work in promoting the equal rights of refugee women. Under her leadership, the Women's Commission made a considerable contribution to UNHCR's policies on refugee women and children, most recently in our efforts to address sexual and gender-based violence. She will be greatly missed.

On behalf of all my colleagues at UNHCR, I offer you and the staff of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children our sincere condolences.

—Ruud Lubbers, UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

I wish to express PRM's sincerest condolences to you and the colleagues and family of Mary Diaz. Mary's dedication, commitment, passion and leadership had a tangible impact on the lives of millions of refugee women and children around the world. Mary was truly admired by many, including by those of us in the bureau that knew her well. She was a shining example of what it means to be a true humanitarian.

Mary has left behind a legacy that will continue to bear fruit for many, many years. We will miss her tireless spirit and everlasting smile. Please know that we share your grief.

—Arthur E. Dewey, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

On behalf of the staff at Human Rights Watch, we would like to express our deepest sympathy and support for you all at the loss of our wonderful colleague, Mary Diaz.

Mary was one of a kind. She was not only an outstanding champion for the rights of women and children in the most difficult circumstances, but a warm and loving person who brought great humanity and humility to her work. She touched many of us deeply—as

colleague, friend and mentor. We drew special inspiration from the courage, dedication and grace with which she faced these last difficult months. Be assured of our support at this difficult time. We will continue to work closely with you on these issues to which Mary gave her life.

—Kenneth Roth, Jo Becker, Widney Brown, Diane Goodman, LaShawn Jefferson, Iain Levine, Rory Mungoven, Alison Parker, Rachael Reilly, Joanna Weschler, Lois Whithman—Human Rights Watch.

[From the International Rescue Committee, Feb. 19, 2004]

MARY DIAZ IS MOURNED AS TIRELESS ADVOCATE FOR REFUGEE WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Mary Diaz, executive director of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children died February 12 in New York after a long illness. She was 43.

During her 10 years as leader of the Women's Commission, an affiliate of the International Rescue Committee, she earned an international reputation as an effective and knowledgeable advocate for refugee women and children.

George Rupp, president of the IRC, said, "Mary was a remarkable person. She cared deeply about the women and children whose cause she served, and on their behalf she used her exceptional advocacy and organizational skills to ensure that their needs were addressed at the highest levels. Under her creative leadership over the last 10 years, the Women's Commission continued to grow in stature and influence.

"Mary enjoyed the respect, admiration and affection of everyone who had the opportunity to work closely with her. It was a pleasure to be in her company. She will be greatly missed."

A tribute published in the New York Times on Feb. 13 by the IRC's board of directors said, "Mary was among the world's most eloquent, devoted, tireless and effective advocates for the protection and empowerment of women and children affected by war and persecution. Her courageous work and vibrant spirit touched the lives of tens of thousands of vulnerable refugee women and children."

[From the New York Times, Feb. 18, 2004]

MARY F. DIAZ, 42, HEAD OF COMMISSION FOR WAR REFUGEES, DIES
(By Wolfgang Saxon)

Mary Frances Diaz, the executive director of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, died last Thursday at Columbia Presbyterian Center of New York-Presbyterian Hospital. She was 42 and lived on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

The cause was pancreatic cancer, the commission announced.

Ms. Diaz's organization, a volunteer group that works to provide a voice for women and children in war zones, is a nongovernmental group that advocates for refugees before the United Nations and around the world.

Mary Diaz had led the group since 1994 and continued her work until late last year.

The Commission, working under the auspices of the International Rescue Committee, was founded in 1989 by the actress Liv Ullman. Ms. Diaz became its chief investigator, strategist, watchdog and lobbyist.

She deployed volunteers in Africa, the Middle East, South America and trouble spots like Kosovo and Afghanistan. She often went to the scene herself, visiting refugees in Bosnia and Burundi fleeing to the relative safety in Tanzania.

Mary Diaz was born in Newport News, Va., and grew up in suburban Pottstown, Pa.

She focused on international relations at Brown, graduating in 1982. She took a job at

a Philadelphia television station writing news late in the day, which left her time for volunteer work helping refugees to settle in the city. Her calling gradually shifted from the newsroom to the outside world. She studied administration, planning and social policy at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, receiving a master's degree in international education in 1988. She became director of refugee and immigration services for Catholic Charities in Boston before becoming head of the Women's Commission in New York.

Ms. Diaz is survived by her partner, Tom Ferguson; her mother, Bertha Diaz of Pottstown; two brothers, Dr. Philip Diaz of Columbus, Ohio, and Dr. Joseph Diaz of Barrington, R.I.; and two sisters, Teresa Diaz of Reading, Pa., and Bernadette Diaz of Oak Park, Ill.

[From the Boston Globe, Feb. 20, 2004]

MARY DIAZ, HEADED AGENCY ON WORLD'S REFUGEES

(By Gloria Negri)

For 10 years, Mary F. Diaz traveled to the world's trouble spots, dodging minefields, tsetse flies, lions, and wars on her mission to help refugee women and children reclaim their lives.

As executive director of the New York-based Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, Ms. Diaz went on fact-finding missions to places such as Serbia, Angola, Rwanda, Nepal, Pakistan, Haiti, and South America to talk to the displaced women and children firsthand.

On her return to the United States, she would plead their cases before the United Nations and lobby law makers and relief agencies to improve their conditions. When they needed asylum in this country, she fought for that, as well.

Ms. Diaz, 43, who formerly worked in Boston, died Feb. 12 of pancreatic cancer at New York's Columbia Presbyterian Hospital.

"Mary was passionate about her work and was dedicating her life to it," said the commission spokeswoman, Diana Quick.

She often got results, Quick said. After Ms. Diaz's report on her trip to Bosnia, the Clinton administration provided a fund for its women refugees. During a visit to Tanzania, she got the rules changed to allow Burundian women as well as men to distribute food to fellow refugees—and, as a result, many women got food.

After a visit to Afghanistan in 2002, Ms. Diaz initiated a fund for programs for Afghan women.

"Since Mary became executive director," Quick said, "the commission has grown from a small organization with a staff of four and a budget of \$425,000 to one with more than 20 staff and a budget of \$4 million."

Ms. Diaz's death, said Ruud Lubbers, who heads the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Geneva, "left a void in the refugee and humanitarian world, where she touched many lives."

In Boston, where Ms. Diaz worked for Catholic Charities from 1984 to 1994, the last six years as its director of refugee and immigration services, Judith Whitmarsh of Catholic Charities described her as "the kindest and most compassionate person I've known."

Whitmarsh, a former program coordinator of the state Office for Refugees and Immigrants, said Ms. Diaz was "particularly concerned with people who were disenfranchised."

"When new immigrants arrived at the airport, Mary would always make sure there was a friendly face to greet them and that there would be some cultural orientation for them. If they had experienced trauma, there would be help. If they didn't know English, she got them into classes so they could find jobs."

Ms. Diaz became executive director of the Women's Commission, a nongovernmental organization, in 1994, five years after it was founded by actress Liv Ullman.

Ms. Diaz also gave eloquent and poignant speeches about the plight of refugee women and children to potential donors. "Mary was very strong in a very quiet way," Quick said.

In an address in Minneapolis in 2002, seeking support for the reproductive health care and rights of adolescents in refugee settings and war zones, Ms. Diaz told the story of Marion, a 14-year-old girl she had met in Sierra Leone.

"Marion was living with her family near Freetown when rebels forced their way into her home and demanded her mother surrender one of the children," Ms. Diaz said in her speech. "When her mother refused, the rebels threatened to kill everyone in the house. Her mother pointed to Marion."

"Marion was gang-raped almost immediately," Ms. Diaz said, "but told she had to walk with the rebels or be shot. She lived with different commanders as a slave for more than two years, escaping one day when she was given permission to go to the market. She gave birth to a baby a year after being abducted."

Marion developed serious health problems that couldn't be addressed in Sierra Leone, Ms. Diaz said. She had a chance to go home, but her mother wouldn't take her back.

Ms. Diaz believed the international community had a responsibility to help children like Marion.

Ms. Diaz was born in Newport News, Va. Tom Ferguson of New York City, her long-time partner, said her desire to serve others came naturally. Her late father, from the Philippines, was a doctor; her mother is a nurse. Two brothers are doctors. One sister is a teacher, another a librarian.

Ms. Diaz grew up in Pottstown, Pa. After high school, she graduated from Brown University in 1982, with a major in international relations. She worked briefly for a Philadelphia television station and then came to Boston, where she studied for a master's degree in international education at Harvard University, which she earned in 1988.

Four years later, while she was at Catholic Charities, a group of 112 Haitian children got separated from their parents en route to refugee camps at Guantanamo Bay. They ended up in Boston, under Ms. Diaz's care. First, she met the children at the airport, Ferguson said, then took them all for lunch at Buzzy's Fabulous Roast Beef and a swim in a pool before reuniting them with their parents.

Ms. Diaz "left her mark wherever she went," Whitmarsh said.

In addition to Ferguson, Ms. Diaz leaves her mother, Bertha of Pottstown, Pa.; two brothers, Philip of Columbus, Ohio, and Joseph of Barrington, R.I.; and two sisters, Theresa of Reading, Pa., and Bernadette of Oak Park, Ill.

A memorial service will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. in The Church of the Ascension in New York City. •

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the University of Northern Iowa's men's basketball team on their Missouri Valley Conference Championship. The Panthers vanquished Southwest Missouri State in double overtime, clinching a berth in the NCAA Tournament. Coach Greg McDermott has proven his mettle

in his 3 years as head coach, and now UNI is heading to the Big Dance for the first time in 14 years. I wish them luck there, and will be cheering for them alongside all Iowans. •

TRIBUTE TO IRVINE LEE SHANKS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Irvine Lee Shanks, who passed away Friday, March 5, 2004, at the age of 73. Mr. Shanks broke the college basketball color barrier in Kentucky when he took the court for Berea College in 1954. On that day in February, at a small basketball stadium in Ohio, he became the first black man to play for a previously all-white college basketball team.

He enrolled at Berea College at the age of 23, likely lured by that institution's goal of educating the underprivileged at no cost. To this day, Berea is one of the few affordable options for the lower-income families of Kentucky and Appalachia.

Just as Berea is not your typical college, Mr. Shanks wasn't your typical student. He was married with two children. He was a veteran of the Korean War, choosing service to his country rather than a basketball scholarship at Tennessee A&I in Nashville.

Returning to college was difficult, but the 6-foot-5 center excelled on the basketball court. He stood out among his teammates for other reasons as well, but there were no major racially-inspired incidents during his games. His team, however, often chose to miss meals or sleep on campuses because they could not find restaurants or hotels that would serve a black man. Despite these difficulties, his team came together in 1955 and upset Georgetown College to win the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championship.

Mr. Shanks' experience in sports reminds me of my time in Major League Baseball and my good friend Jackie Robinson. Breaking barriers and achieving success seem to be a common link between these two athletes. These pioneers in sports taught our Nation quite a bit and deserve our thanks for setting America on the road to equality. What I have seen in baseball makes me admire Mr. Shanks' accomplishments that much more.

He was a role model for all throughout the State and helped change society's attitudes towards race. He will be missed. •

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGACY FOUNDATION

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today, recognizing the fifth anniversary of the American Legacy Foundation, an organization dedicated to educating Americans on the dangers of tobacco use.

In 1964, the Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service officially recognized that cigarette smoking