

HONORING ARABELLA MARTINEZ

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Arabella Martinez, a legendary figure in Oakland and throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. For almost four decades, Arabella has been a tireless advocate for community and economic development within Oakland and beyond, and the scope of her exemplary work on behalf of her community is truly unparalleled. I take pride in adding my voice to those of my constituents in honoring Arabella today on the occasion of her retirement.

A student of social welfare, Arabella received both her BA and MA from the University of California at Berkeley. After receiving her degrees she became involved with the Community Service Organization, a Latino civil rights group.

In 1967, Arabella became the first executive director to the Spanish Speaking Unity Council. She is best known for her position as CEO of this council and for developing programs to build responsibility and economic preparedness in the Latino community. During this time, she helped build this organization into a strong economic development and community organization with considerable assets.

In 1974, Arabella took an absence from her work at the Unity Council and joined the Carter administration as assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. After her term in 1980, she returned to Oakland and worked for almost a decade as the President of the Center for Policy Development.

In 1992, Arabella returned to the Spanish Speaking Unity Council and helped the organization through complex financial problems. During her second term she spearheaded the Fruitvale BART project and sponsored the Fruitvale Community Collaborative. Both of these projects were formed to bring together residents, community groups, churches, schools, merchants, and agencies to improve the quality of life for children and families in the Oakland area.

Arabella is also involved with many organizations such as the National Council of La Raza, the Drug Abuse Council, The Women's Initiative for Self-Employment, the Oakland Business Development Corporation, the Bank of America's Police Advisory Committee, the Oakland Housing Authority, the Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission and the University/Oakland Metropolitan Forum. She has received numerous awards for her work, such as the Hank Rosso Outstanding Fundraising Professional Award, the 1993 MTC Award, the David C. Lizarraga Community Development Award, and the Oakland Citizen of the Year Award.

It is clearly evident through Arabella's activism that she is an extraordinary leader, friend and advocate for her community. Her exemplary humanism is an inspiration to us all, and it with great pride that I join the Oakland community in celebrating her accomplishments. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District, I salute and thank Arabella Martinez for the truly invaluable contributions and she has made to our community, and for the example she leaves for future generations to follow.

REINTRODUCTION OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the bipartisan Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005, along with Representatives FRANK, ROSEHTINEN and SHAYS. In past Congresses, this legislation has been cosponsored by almost 200 members and we expect similar support this session.

Bias crimes are disturbingly prevalent and pose a significant threat to the full participation of all Americans in our democratic society. For the year 2003, the most recently available data, the FBI compiled reports from law enforcement agencies across the country identifying 7,489 criminal incidents that were motivated by an offender's irrational antagonism toward some personal attribute associated with the victim. Law enforcement agencies have identified 9,100 victims arising from 8,715 separate criminal offenses. Racially motivated bias again accounted for more than half (51.4 percent) of all incidents. Religious bias accounted for 1,343 incidents (17.9 percent) and sexual orientation bias each accounted for 1,239 (16.6 percent) of all reported hate crimes, followed by ethnicity/national origin bias with 13.7 percent and disability bias with 0.4 percent of all incidents. While every state reported at least a small number of incidents, it is important to note that reporting by law enforcement is voluntary and it is widely believed that hate crimes are seriously under-reported.

Despite the pervasiveness of the problem, current law limits federal jurisdiction over hate crimes to incidents against protected classes that occur only during the exercise of federally protected activities, such as voting. Further, the statutes do not permit federal involvement in a range of cases where crimes are motivated by bias against the victim's perceived sexual orientation, gender, disability or gender identity. This loophole is particularly significant given the fact that four States have no hate crime laws on the books, and another 21 States have extremely weak hate crimes laws.

This legislation will make it easier for federal authorities to prosecute bias crimes, in the same way that the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 helped federal prosecutors combat church arson: by loosening the unduly rigid jurisdictional requirements under federal law. While ostensibly identical to past versions, this Congress the bill is more explicitly inclusive of the transgender community. In addition, we have included a provision mirroring the Washington State hate crimes statute that is designed to protect the 1st Amendment rights of the accused, without burdening the prosecution of those alleged offenses.

State and local authorities currently prosecute the overwhelming majority of hate crimes and will continue to do so under this legislation, with the enhanced support of the federal government. Through an Intergovernmental Assistance Program created by this legislation, the Justice Department will provide technical, forensic or prosecutorial assistance to State and local law enforcement officials in

cases of bias crime. The legislation also authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to State and local law enforcement agencies that have incurred extraordinary expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. Finally, under our bill, the Attorney General or other high ranking Justice Department officials must approve all prosecutions undertaken pursuant to this law, ensuring federal restraint, and further ensuring that the States will continue to take the lead.

Behind each of the crimes statistics cited above lies an individual or community targeted for violence for no other reason than race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, disability or gender identity. People like Waqar Hasan of Dallas, who lost his life in a post-911 backlash hate crime. His murderer admitted that he wanted to send a message to the local Arab population and beyond. These discrete communities have learned the hard way that a failure to address the problem of bias crime can cause a seemingly isolated incident to fester into wide spread tension that can damage the social fabric of the wider community.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 is a constructive and measured response to a problem that continues to plague our Nation. These are crimes that shock and shame our national conscience and they should be subject to comprehensive federal law enforcement assistance and prosecution.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORMA AND BERNIE KOSTER

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor Norma and Bernie Koster, who will be jointly honored with the Torch of Liberty Award by the New Jersey Region of the Anti-Defamation League at the League's Bergen County Awards Reception on June 1, 2005. They are being recognized for their distinguished service on behalf of the ADL's vital mission of combating bigotry and anti-Semitism, their support for humanitarian values, dedication to nurturing their community, and working to secure its future.

Norma Wellington Koster began a career of activism as a B'Nai B'rith girl and a leader in her synagogue youth group. She subsequently became a staff producer for a local television station in the greater New York metropolitan region, where she volunteered for 19 hours on the "Rheumatism and Arthritis Association Telethon." Because of her success on that production, she was named the producer of "The World of Heart" for the American Heart Association and of two telethons for "The City of Hope", where she instituted and volunteered for their newly formed Young Leadership Division.

Norma Koster has also been deeply involved in numerous Jewish causes and charitable organizations. She founded the Single Parent Seminar at the Jewish Community Center on the Palisades, where she is now an active member of the Cultural Arts, Art, Senior, and Alzheimer's Committees and currently serves as the Tree of Life Chairperson. A Member of the Board of Trustees of the United Jewish Appeal, she is a former co-chair

of the Business and Professional Women's Division of UJA of Northern New Jersey, and was instrumental in increasing its membership. Norma Koster also has devoted herself to committees for the Jewish Home and Rehabilitation Center, Jewish Family Services, and given programs for the National Council of Jewish Women. In addition to her professional work as a successful fine jewelry designer and goldsmith, Norma is above all devoted to her children and grandchildren, her husband, and her entire family.

Like Norma, his wife of seventeen years, Bernie Koster is well-known for his leadership and unwavering commitment to the people of New Jersey, the Jewish community, and the State of Israel. He is a leading philanthropist and is active on behalf of many charitable causes and organizations. He is also a Member of the Board of Trustees of twelve separate organizations, including the UJA Federation of North Jersey, the Jewish Home at Rockleigh, Temple Emanu-El of Closter, Jewish Family Service, Gilda's Club of Northern New Jersey, the JCC of the Palisades, Englewood Hospital and Medical Center Foundation, the Bergen PAC, Israel Bonds, the Jewish Community Relations Council, the Jewish Theological Seminary, and the Anti-Defamation League itself.

Bernie Koster is also a past President of the Solomon Schechter Day School of Nassau County, New York, and co-chaired the capital campaign for his synagogue, Temple Emanu-El of Closter, where he was honored with the prestigious Shem Tov Award in 1995 for his dedicated service to the community.

Bernie Koster is also unwavering in his dedication to the State of Israel. A strong supporter of Israel Bonds, he has been appointed to the New Jersey-Israel Commission for nine years. He has visited Israel seven times, and has demonstrated through his committed and passionate work on behalf of Israel Bonds his belief that the State of Israel is the lifeblood for the survival of the Jewish people.

A highly successful attorney and real estate consultant, Bernie shares his wife Norma's dedication to faith and family. He is devoted to his children and grandchildren, and both Bernie and Norma are true exemplars of family values.

Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, I ask that you join me in recognizing Norma and Bernie Koster for their civic activism and leadership in the fight against discrimination, hatred, and anti-Semitism.

THE AMERASIAN
NATURALIZATION ACT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, our immigration law has long recognized that children born outside our country to an American father and a foreign national mother are U.S. citizens as long as their fathers take necessary steps to achieve their child's citizenship.

Unfortunately, there remains a group of forgotten sons and daughters who, despite being born to American fathers, cannot take advantage of this existing provision of the law to be-

come U.S. citizens. These are the offspring of American servicemen and Asian women during the Vietnam and Korean Wars whose fathers did not take the steps of acknowledging paternity necessary to make their offspring citizens. However, the American government did that for them by acknowledging that their fathers were American citizens.

Many of these individuals have lived through devastation during war, have been mistreated by their governments because of their mixed race, and many now live in the United States, but only as legal permanent residents.

There is no doubt that Amerasians are the sons and daughters of American fathers. Our American government already made that determination when we admitted them to the United States as legal permanent residents.

To correct this unfair inequality in our law, I am introducing the Amerasian Naturalization Act, along with bipartisan cosponsors, to ensure that Amerasians are accorded U.S. citizenship just like the offspring of other American fathers are.

I hope this Congress will act swiftly and pass the Amerasian Naturalization Act. It is time for us to finally close a chapter in our history that has too long denied Amerasians the opportunity to become citizens and be recognized as the Americans that they are.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALEXANDER
BAILEY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Superintendent of Oak Park Public Schools, Dr. Alexander Bailey, who will retire June 30, 2005.

Dr. Alexander Bailey's career in education dates back to 1969 when he was a high-school teacher in Philadelphia, PA at Paul Washington High School. In subsequent years, Dr. Bailey continued his education, assumed building level responsibility as a principal, and ultimately was appointed Superintendent of Oak Park Public Schools in 1991.

Under his leadership, Oak Park Public Schools has successfully designed programs and intervention methods to meet the needs of their school population. Programs and interventions such as extended day, the Oak Park Academy, and the Literacy Academy have been critical to advancing the academic achievement of students throughout the District.

Dr. Bailey has been a very active participant in the community served by the School District. For example, Dr. Bailey was instrumental in developing the Oak Park Business Education Alliance. The Oak Park Business Education Alliance is a non-profit organization designed to build a relationship between the business community and the school district. To date, the Oak Park Business Education Alliance has provided countless volunteers for the district, over \$100,000 in scholarship monies to Oak Park students, and has provided many career development opportunities in collaboration with local businesses.

In his 36 years of service, he has been a truly committed and effective educator. Dr. Bailey dedicated his life to ensuring that stu-

dents receive a fair and equitable education. He is indeed an outstanding public servant. I have enjoyed the opportunity to work on issues of common interest with Dr. Bailey and have always appreciated his frank and forthcoming advice based on his active experiences in the school and community. One could always count on Dr. Bailey to clearly articulate the challenges faced by our school system as well as the real impact of public policy decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Alexander Bailey on his years of service and in wishing him good health and happiness in the next phase of his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESSNER
MANUFACTURING

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Essner Manufacturing and its achievement of being registered as an AS 9100 Quality Management Standard (QMS)—a designation specific to aerospace component manufacturers. This project took nearly 200 hours to complete and was a complex undertaking.

Working alongside Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) to earn the registration, Essner is a model for other manufacturing centers. Their commitment to making quality products like precision sheet metal fabrications and machined parts is evident. I extend my congratulations to Dale R. Westerfeld, President of Essner and Dave Johnson, the TMAC Project Manager.

I am proud to represent a company that is so strongly committed to quality products and a positive work environment. I congratulate Essner Manufacturing and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF DR. STANLEY CAINE PRESI-
DENT OF ADRIAN COLLEGE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Dr. Stanley Caine, president of my alma mater, Adrian College. During his tenure at Adrian College, Dr. Caine has been, first and foremost, an advocate for his students. His open door policy has always provided an avenue for the students at Adrian College to seek his wisdom and advice. Outside of the classroom, Dr. Caine can be seen at many athletic and other campus events, a testament to his interest and dedication to the students at Adrian.

Providing a world class education requires the resources to recruit the finest faculty and provide the best facilities. During Dr. Caine's tenure, the Adrian College endowment has increased significantly and two major capitol campaigns have been completed. Several new construction projects have provided students