

with new facilities that offer more current technologies and student-centered spaces.

Mr. Speaker, today, more than ever, students are seeking advanced degrees, and the most successful institutions have leadership that is focused on success of their students. As President of Adrian College, Dr. Caine has been committed to that goal. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Caine's commitment and wish him all the best on his retirement.

FREEDOM FOR OMAR PERNET
HERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about Omar Pernet Hernández a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Pernet Hernández is the leader of the National Movement for Human Rights. As a peaceful advocate for freedom, democracy and human rights, he has been a constant target of the totalitarian tyranny.

In March 2003, as part of Castro's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Pernet Hernández was arrested. In a sham trial, he was sentenced 25 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Despite being confined in the abhorrent, subhuman conditions of the gulag, Mr. Pernet Hernández continues to advocate for human rights for all Cubans, including participating in a hunger strike to demand the humane treatment of political prisoners. According to Amnesty International, he is suffering from lung problems, a chronic gastric ulcer, and high blood pressure. Let us be very clear, Mr. Pernet Hernández is languishing in the gulag because of his belief in human rights.

According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004:

Prison conditions continued to be harsh and life threatening, and conditions in detention facilities also were harsh . . . Police and prison officials beat, neglected, isolated, and denied medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, including those convicted of political crimes or those who persisted in expressing their views. Political prisoners in particular often were held at facilities hundreds of miles from their families, placing an undue hardship on many families' time and financial resources.

Mr. Pernet Hernández is representative of the Cuban people's desire for liberty; despite constant harassment, despite incarceration in a grotesque gulag, he continues to fight for the inalienable human rights of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian dungeons are full of men and women, like Mr. Pernet Hernández, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is totally unacceptable that brave men and women are locked in dungeons because they believe in freedom, human rights, and the rule of law. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Omar Pernet Hernández and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

COMMEMORATING MEMORIAL DAY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, this weekend should serve as a time for all Americans to reflect on the great sacrifices of those who have defended our great nation and to honor the men and women who continue to protect us.

As we celebrate this Memorial Day, the thoughts and prayers of our entire country are with our troops and the families who have lost loved ones. Throughout our history, brave men and women have answered the call to duty, and their courage and dedication to protecting our democracy is an inspiration to us all. We are the beneficiaries of their bravery, and we must also be the protectors of their legacy. That is why I am proud to join many of my colleagues in cosponsoring the comprehensive New GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century.

These benefits for active duty service members, veterans, and military retirees would ensure that we fulfill our obligation to our men and women in uniform. At a time when our nation is asking more men and women to risk their lives and security on behalf of our country, we should make every effort to fulfill our promise to them upon their return.

The strength of our nation should not be measured only by our military or diplomatic might, but also by the compassion and dedication we show to those who defend us. Freedom is not free, and we honor those who have paid a price for the liberties we enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to our nations' fallen heroes and honoring those who have made sacrifices in defense of the United States.

AMERICA'S NURSE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention "America's Nurse," an op-ed highlighting the importance of nurses in our country that was published in the New York Times written by Teri Mills, a constituent of mine.

[From the New York Times, May 20, 2005]

AMERICA'S NURSE

(By Teri Mills)

So, national nurses' week has come and gone and what happened? Nothing, despite estimates that by 2020 there will be 400,000 fewer nurses than are needed in this country. Drastic action is required. And here's the action I suggest: dethrone the surgeon general and appoint a National Nurse.

Here's why. Prevention is the best way to lower health care costs. If people take care of themselves and don't get sick . . . well, you know the rest. And who better to educate Americans on how to take better care of themselves than nurses?

After all, nurses are considered the most honest and ethical professionals, according to a recent Gallup poll. It's the nurse whom the patient trusts to explain the treatment ordered by a doctor. It is the nurse who

teaches new parents how to care for their newborn. It is the nurse who explains to the family how to comfort a dying loved one.

Meanwhile, the surgeon general, the nation's head doctor, is all but invisible. If you went to a supermarket and asked 10 people the surgeon general's name or to describe his or her role, it's unlikely that you would find anyone who could. (It's Richard H. Carmona, by the way.)

Now, I'm not saying that a National Nurse will become a household name immediately. But given all that's at stake—the health of a nation—and given the surgeon general's inability to connect with Americans, it seems to me that we should at least give nurses a try.

Here's what I'd have the National Nurse do. She or he would highlight health care education through 15-minute weekly broadcasts that would also be available on the Internet. The emphasis would be on prevention: how to have a healthy heart; how to raise your teenagers without going crazy; how to avoid being swept into the growing tide of obesity.

The Office of the National Nurse would yield benefits in a multitude of ways. The informational programs would decrease dependence on a health care system that is not only expensive but at times inaccessible, especially for those who lack insurance or live in rural areas. Through the office, nurses could sign up for a National Nurse Corps that would organize activities to enhance health in their communities. A National Nurse would give public recognition to the valuable work that nurses perform each day; if we're lucky, the National Nurse would help stem the nursing shortage by attracting people to the profession.

A National Nurse won't solve all of our country's health care problems, but one would definitely improve the situation. America has a history of honoring great nurses—from Clara Barton to Susie Walking Bear Yellowtail. Isn't it time we did so again?

WELCOMING NATIONAL RECORD-
ING ARTIST RON ELLINGTON
SHY AND HONORING HIS ACTIV-
ISM ON BEHALF OF STARS FOR
PEACE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and welcome Ron Ellington Shy, the musician and actor, back home to Cleveland. Ron will be at the Joseph Gallagher Middle School in Ohio's 10th Congressional District on May 27, 2005, to participate in the "Stars for Peace" rally for peace and violence prevention.

A musician, actor, and dynamic entertainer with incredible vocal ability, Ron Ellington Shy was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as a former member of such legendary groups as "The Coasters," "The Drifters," and "Don & Dewey."

Ron was born and raised in Cleveland. He moved to California where he attended Fullerton Junior College and continued his education at the University of Southern California, majoring in psychology and minoring in music. His early career included playing professional football and achieving many accolades for his athletic abilities. He was a Golden Gloves boxing champion and holds a black belt in Karate.

As a recording artist, Ron Ellington Shy performed such memorable hits of the 1950s and 1960s as "Leavin' It All Up To You," "Jungle Hop," "Justine," "The Letter," "Farmer John," and my late colleague Sonny Bono's "Koko Joe." A gifted vocalist, Ron is also a versatile musician who plays guitar, piano, organ, saxophone, valve trombone, and harmonica. He is known for his charismatic showmanship, involving his audience as they sing along to the many classic oldies he performs in his shows. As an actor, Ron has appeared on television in such notable programs as "Dallas," "Knots Landing," and "Falcon Crest," as well as TV commercials for Right Guard deodorant, Church's Chicken, and the California Lottery.

Currently, Ron is on a national tour acting the role, and performing the music, of the late Ray Charles. Ron graciously accepted the invitation of the Joseph Gallagher Middle School, the East Cleveland Neighborhood Center, and local Hip-Hop impresario Bill "Silver B" Richards, to participate in the "Stars for Peace" rally for peace and violence prevention. Ron and the sponsors and organizers of this event understand the importance of international peace and that peace begins with each of us as individuals and in our homes.

Mr. Speaker, and Colleagues, it is my pleasure to welcome Ron Ellington Shy to Ohio's 10th District, to congratulate him on his many accomplishments, and to commend him on taking a stand in using his fame and international recognition to promote world peace and violence prevention.

FACTS SHOW CLAIMS OF INCREASED ABORTIONS OVER LAST FOUR YEARS DON'T HOLD UP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, for about a year now a myth has been promoted that abortions have increased since President Bush was elected in 2000. This myth was launched publicly when Glen Stassen and Gary Krane published a piece in October of 2004, called "Why abortion rate is up in Bush years" that attempted to make the case that President Bush's pro-life policies have not been effective in decreasing abortion.

This mantra was picked up and repeated by many public figures and organizations who do not hold pro-life positions, but the facts simply do not support their claims. In fact, abortion has continued to decrease while President Bush has been in office, as demonstrated by an Annenberg Political Fact Check piece posted yesterday at www.factcheck.org and called "Abortions rising under Bush? Not true. How that false claim came to be and lives on."

To debunk the myth that the number of abortions have increased over the last 5 years, I am submitting the Annenberg Political Fact Check analysis to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

[From the Annenberg Political Fact Check, May 25, 2005]

THE BIOGRAPHY OF A BAD STATISTIC—ABORTIONS RISING UNDER BUSH? NOT TRUE. HOW THAT FALSE CLAIM CAME TO BE —AND LIVES ON

SUMMARY

Politicians from Hillary Clinton and John Kerry to Howard Dean have recently contended that abortions have increased since George W. Bush took office in 2001.

This claim is false. It's based on an opinion piece that used data from only 16 States. A study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute of 43 States found that abortions have actually decreased.

ANALYSIS

A number of politicians and organizations have been circulating an interesting and surprising idea: that abortions have gone up under George W. Bush's watch. The claim is repeated by supporters of abortion rights as evidence that Bush's anti-abortion policies have backfired, or at least been ineffective.

But the claim is untrue. In fact, according to the respected Alan Guttmacher Institute, a 20-year decline in abortion rates continued after Bush took office, as shown in this graph: Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute, "Trends in Abortion in the United States"

Here's the story of how a false idea took hold.

THE BIRTH OF A BAD STATISTIC

The claim that abortions are rising again can be traced back to an opinion piece by Glen Harold Stassen, an ethics professor at Fuller Theological Seminary. His article originally appeared in a web and e-mail publication of Sojourners, a Christian magazine, in October 2004. Several other outlets, including the Houston Chronicle, also ran a similar piece co-authored by Stassen and journalist Gary Krane. The articles generated a good deal of discussion on a number of both liberal and conservative blogs.

Describing himself as "consistently pro-life," Stassen reported that he "analyzed the data on abortion during the Bush presidency" and reached some "disturbing" conclusions. "Under President Bush, the decade-long trend of declining abortion rates appears to have reversed," he said. "Given the trends of the 1990s, 52,000 more abortions occurred in the United States in 2002 than would have been expected before this change of direction."

Stassen's broad conclusion wasn't justified by the sketchy information he cited, however. Furthermore, a primary organization he cited specifically as a source for historical data now contradicts him, saying abortions have continued to decline since Bush took office. More about that later.

HILLARY CLINTON USES IT

Stassen offered his article as evidence that Bush's economic policies were driving pregnant women to abortion. And although he opposes abortion, his claim was soon picked up and repeated uncritically by the other side—supporters of abortion rights. In a speech to family-planning providers in New York on January 24, 2005, Sen. Hillary Clinton recounted decreases in the abortion rate that occurred in her husband's administration, then lamented that the situation had changed. She repeated exactly some of the figures that Stassen had given in his Houston Chronicle article.

Clinton: But unfortunately, in the last few years, while we are engaged in an ideological debate instead of one that uses facts and evidence and common sense, the rate of abortion is on the rise in some states. In the three years since President Bush took office, 8 states saw an increase in abortion rates

(14.6 percent average increase), and four saw a decrease (4.3 percent average), so we have a lot of work still ahead of us.

Clinton was careful not to state flatly that abortions were increasing nationally. She spoke only of "some States" in which the rate had increased. However, she omitted any mention of other States where abortions were going down, inviting her listeners to conclude that the national trend to fewer abortions had reversed itself since Bush took office.

And in fact a few days later, in an interview on NBC's Meet the Press on January 30, 2005, Senator John Kerry claimed that abortions were up, period:

Kerry: And do you know that in fact abortion has gone up in these last few years with the draconian policies that Republicans have...

A Kerry spokesman confirmed at the time to FactCheck.org that Kerry was relying on the Stassen article for his information.

Finally, as recently as May 24, 2005, Democratic National Committee chairman Howard Dean also asserted on NBC News' Meet the Press:

Dean: You know that abortions have gone up 25 percent since George Bush was President?

Dean's "statistic" went unchallenged by moderator Tim Russert, so millions of viewers probably got the impression that Dean's very specific 25 percent figure was correct. But Dean was wrong—and by a wide margin.

We asked the Democratic National Committee repeatedly where Dean got his 25 percent figure, but we got no response. Even if Stassen's estimate of 52,000 additional abortions were correct, that would figure to an increase of less than 4 percent. And in any case the rate is going down, not up, according to the most authoritative figures available.

CHERRY-PICKING DATA

A close reading of Stassen's article makes clear that he didn't even pretend to have comprehensive national data on abortion rates. He said he looked at data from 16 States only—and didn't even name most of them.

Stassen said that in the four States that had already posted statistics for three full years of Bush's first term, he found that abortion was up. Twelve more States had posted statistics for 2 years of Bush's term—2001 and 2002—and here the picture was mixed. According to Stassen, "Eight states saw an increase in abortion rates (14.6 percent average increase), and five saw a decrease (4.3 percent average)." A version of the piece in the Houston Chronicle reported instead that four saw a decrease with a 4.3 percent average.

So Stassen was projecting findings onto the entire country from 12 States that he said had showed an increase and 5 (or maybe 4) that he said had shown a decrease. That leaves a total of 34 other States for which Stassen had no data whatsoever.

Furthermore, Stassen is contradicted by one of the very organizations whose data he cites. The only primary source of data that Stassen cites specifically in the article is the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit organization that conducts a periodic survey of all known abortion providers, which numbered nearly 2,000 at last count. Guttmacher's statistics are widely used and respected by all sides in the abortion debate. It is the only organization to compile and publish national abortion-rate data other than the federal Center for Disease Control. CDC's official statistics, however, run only through 2001, so they shed no light on what has happened since Bush took office.

And Guttmacher—as we shall see—now says abortion rates have decreased since