

Microbicides hold particular promise in Africa, where, as UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said in 2003, women must be placed at the center of the HIV/AIDS strategy. "If you want to save Africa, you must save the African woman first," he said. "It is they who nurture the social networks that help societies share burdens." Yet, as Lesotho's Minister of Health and Social Welfare Deborah K. Raditapole describes, many African women have little ability to protect themselves or their children: Having sex with her husband is considered a wife's duty, even when she knows that her husband has had other partners and wishes to protect herself. If she insists that he uses a condom or refuses to have sex with him, she may be beaten or abandoned. Even if a woman suspects that her spouse may have been exposed to HIV, she has nowhere to turn for support, and there are no laws to protect her.

That is why Ilene Wong, a Stanford Hospital physician, calls microbicide development a "lifesaving safety net." In *The Washington Post* last summer, she wrote: In my nightmares, I see the women we have failed to protect from AIDS. . . . I despair for my sisters in Africa, who know that abstinence is rarely an option for the powerless and poor. Rather, it's a luxury for those confident that they will eat tomorrow. A truly comprehensive and far-sighted global AIDS program would recognize that women need their own weapons against HIV. They need microbicides.

In the Gleneagles statement issued last July, the G8 recognized the need for a greater commitment to global health and joined the chorus of respected health organizations calling for expedited microbicide development. Other organizations that have recognized the potential of microbicides include the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the National Institutes of Health, the National Women's Health Network and the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

Microbicide development is not just a life-and-death matter for women in other countries, it is equally crucial for women in the United States. In Illinois, over 30,000 AIDS cases have been reported and we have suffered 16,400 deaths since 1981. As in other parts of the world, women and especially women of color represent a growing proportion of new infections in Illinois. The AIDS Foundation of Chicago has been a leader in calling for expanded microbicide R&D as part of their comprehensive efforts to address the AIDS epidemic. David Munar, Jim Pickett and others at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago have been instrumental in helping to design this bill and in bringing attention to the need to put prevention tools against HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases directly into women's and men's hands.

I also want to thank the many women who, infected themselves, have come forward to push for microbicide development in order to protect other women. Women like Chicagoan Debra Fleming, an African American woman who has lived with HIV for 20 years and says, "I know plenty of women who really don't have a choice when it comes to using protection with their partners. Condoms are just an option for them because a lot of these women are battered. With a microbicide, a woman can protect herself from both HIV and a black eye."

And I want to thank my constituent, Patrice Dean, who has been HIV+ for 15 years, who

is also part of the fight for prevention. "If microbicides would have been available to me, I may never have become infected," she says. "They are important for all women, especially women of childbearing age who want to have a child but not risk infection. They are also important for married couples, where it may be difficult for a woman to negotiate condoms. Men don't like condoms, never have, never will. That is always an issue."

Women will soon comprise over half of the world's HIV/AIDS-infected people. They need HIV-prevention tools that they can use themselves, without having to rely on reluctant and sometimes even abusive partners. The Microbicide Development Act will spur development of those tools. I hope that my colleagues will join us in cosponsoring this bill and in pushing for its enactment.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF SIMON WIESENTHAL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues in mourning the loss and honoring the life of Simon Wiesenthal.

Simon Wiesenthal died this week in Vienna at the age of 96. He was a survivor of the resistance movement and lived through internment in Nazi concentration camps. He became the most famous Nazi hunter when he returned to Vienna after World War II. Mr. Wiesenthal devoted his career to exposing and documenting Nazi atrocities and bringing perpetrators to justice.

After World War II and the Holocaust, Mr. Wiesenthal became the permanent representative of Holocaust victims, determined to bring the perpetrators of one of history's greatest crimes to justice and punishment. He took the job no one else wanted, and he charged himself with the task that few sought.

He was a voice of conscience for all humanity and he inspired world leaders and individuals to fight anti-Semitism and intolerance. Mr. Wiesenthal is best known for his instrumental investigative research that contributed to the capture and conviction of more than 1,100 Nazi war criminals, including Adolf Eichmann, the architect of the "Final Solution." Through the Simon Wiesenthal Center, he also promoted Holocaust remembrance, the fight against racism and anti-Semitism, and the monitoring of neo-Nazi and other extremist groups worldwide.

Simon Wiesenthal's message, mission and courage will not die with him. He has shown us all what it means to fight the fight, whether unpopular or difficult, whether lonely or tedious. Because of Mr. Wiesenthal's courageous, gutsy and earnest work, we have learned as a country what it means to stand up for what is right. As a Member of Congress, I will always follow Mr. Wiesenthal's precedent, and will continue to lead my colleagues in Congress to fight anti-Semitism and intolerance wherever it may be.

CONGRATULATING THE O'LEARY COMPANY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the O'Leary Company, an engineering, planning and construction company from western Massachusetts that is celebrating its 50th Anniversary of building excellence this month. Simply put, the company is the one of the most experienced design-build commercial contractors in the northeast region.

From humble beginnings, Edward J. O'Leary started his own construction business in Holyoke, Massachusetts in 1955. With an emphasis on quality workmanship and customer service, the company quickly began to grow. A relationship with the Kansas City based Butler Manufacturing Company was a defining point for the company. Working with Butler, a leader in the marketing, design and production of systems for commercial and industrial buildings, enabled Ed O'Leary to take on larger construction projects. That partnership has created hundreds of jobs, successfully completed 1,200 projects and sold more than \$40 million dollars in Butler steel.

But the O'Leary Company's history is more than just sales and completed projects. Strong corporate values have long been the key to their success. They have a reputation in the community for integrity, reliability and quality. And their contribution to the local economy cannot be minimized.

Whether it is aircraft hangers at Westover Air Reserve Base, the Quill Corporation Building in Agawam, MA, the Ludlow Technical Products property, or the state-of-the-art WWLP TV-22 studio in Chicopee, MA, the O'Leary Company has helped make our region a better place to work and do business. They truly have made a difference in the quality of life in western Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join with me in wishing Randy Conklin, Brian Hill and the employees of the O'Leary Company another 50 years of success. I am confident that they will remain an invaluable builder, employer and corporate partner in western Massachusetts for many years to come.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES JUNIOR GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor the United States Junior Girls' Soccer Team, winners of the Gold Medal at the World Maccabi Games held in Israel this summer. The World Maccabi games are an Olympic-style competition that is among the top sporting events in the world. Participants in the games are Jewish athletes from countries all over the world. The National team was chosen from a group of 65 girls nationwide who were selected to try out

last December. The ladies created a bond of true camaraderie and won several intense games. They out hustled, outmaneuvered and outplayed their toughest competition. The only thing that outshined their play was their sportsmanship and respect for the game. They are a true inspiration to soccer players nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Jason Neidell, Wendi Whitman, and Mara Schanfield for their work in coaching the team to the Gold Medal. They provided leadership and guidance and an invaluable service to these ladies and the youth soccer movement. I would also like to honor Jamie Hacker, Allyson Gordon, and Genna Brand, who were selected as Captains of the team. May all of the ladies success in this program help them fully realize their potential for productive, successful lives, and I wish these girls all the best in their future endeavors.

The following are the members of the United States Junior Girls' Gold Medal winners at the 2005 Maccabi World Games:

Sarah Berger, Genna Brand, Allyson Gordon, Amanda Gurin, Jamie Hacker, Lizzie Haldane, Kasey Hirsty, Kayli Hirsty, Lindsay Jaffe, Carly Knue, Allison Kurtz, Samantha Kurtz, Rebecca Rostowsky, Zoe Sarnak, Alexandra Schwach, Dena Shleifer, Morani Stelmach, Rachael Sushner, Julie Kaufman, Sofia Vallone.

Head Coach—Jason Neidell, Assistant Coaches—Wendi Whitman and Mara Schanfield.

RECOGNIZING SPACE SHUTTLE
COMMANDER EILEEN COLLINS,
MISSION SPECIALIST WENDY
LAWRENCE, AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF ALL OTHER WOMEN
WHO HAVE WORKED WITH NASA

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 450 which recognizes Space Shuttle Commander Eileen Collins, Mission Specialist Wendy Lawrence, and the contributions of all other women who have worked with NASA following the successful mission of Space Shuttle *Discovery* on STS-114. Let me offer my own personal congratulations to these women who have not only advanced the cause of aeronautics through their work, but also they have advanced the cause of women through their determination.

Let me take a moment to recognize Commander Eileen Collins who successfully returned NASA to flight. LTC Eileen Marie Collins was born in Elmira, New York on November 19, 1956. As a child, Eileen dreamed about space and of becoming a pilot. Her parents often took her to the airport to watch the planes take off and land. The Collins family wanted Eileen to attend college, but did not have the money to send her. After high school, she attended Corning Community College. While there, she studied hard to earn a two-year scholarship to Syracuse University. In 1978 Eileen Collins graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics and eco-

nomics from Syracuse University. Later, she went on to earn a master of science degree in operations research from Stanford University and a master of arts degree in space systems management from Webster University.

In 1979, LTC Collins graduated from Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training at Vance Air Force Base. In 1990, while attending the Air Force Test Pilot School, she was selected for the astronaut program. Eileen Collins became an astronaut in July 1991 and the first woman to pilot the Space Shuttle on February 2, 1995. She made history once again in 1999. On July 23 LTC Collins became the first woman to command a Space Shuttle mission. Eileen Collins is also a wife and mother, but on top of all these titles and distinctions, she is an inspiration for many women throughout the world.

I also want to take a moment to recognize CAPT Wendy B. Lawrence who served as a mission specialist on the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. CAPT Lawrence is a native of Jacksonville and has flown on four missions to space. Lawrence graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1981 with a degree in Ocean Engineering. She went on to earn a master of science degree in Ocean Engineering from M.I.T. in 1988. Her mission aboard *Discovery* was to transfer payloads back and forth from the International Space Station using the robotic arm. She's made history, too. She was one of the first two female helicopter pilots to make a long deployment to the Indian Ocean as part of a carrier battle group while stationed at Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Six. Clearly, she made history again when the Shuttle *Discovery* returned NASA to flight.

Both these women deserve great recognition for their work aboard the Shuttle *Discovery* and their lifetime of service to our Nation. Truly, many women from Sally Ride to Mae Jemison have made great strides to get to this day when a woman can command a space shuttle. To paraphrase a historic statement once made from the moon: 'This is one small step for women and one giant leap for womenkind.'

HONORING WILLIAM F.
RICHARDSON

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William F. Richardson on the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service as the Executive Director of the Berks County Action Program in Pennsylvania.

As Executive Director of the Economic Opportunity Council and the Berks County Action Program (BCAP), Mr. Richardson has actively fought to mobilize the human and financial resources to combat poverty in the City of Reading and the County of Berks. Under Mr. Richardson's leadership, BCAP has initiated, coordinated, and implemented numerous social programs to fight against poverty. This organization is well known for its ability to stimulate activities within their local communities and for the services it continually provides for the low-income, financially distressed, and disadvan-

tagged citizens in the area. These invaluable services include job training, counseling, vocational rehabilitation, housing, parenting classes, home management, child care classes, and substance abuse prevention.

In attempt to make a difference in the lives of the poor in his community, Mr. Richardson entered into community service as the assistant to former Mayor Victor Yarnell from 1968 to 1969. He then made the decision to leave City Hall and take a position as the assistant director for community liaison for the Reading Redevelopment Authority in 1969. In 1979, Mr. Richardson resigned from the Authority and came to his current position as the Executive Director of the Economic Opportunity Council.

Throughout the past 35 years, Mr. Richardson further proved his commitment to helping the less fortunate by participating as an active member of his community, serving on numerous boards, including those of the Reading Parking Authority and the Reading-Berks Human Relations Council. Mr. Richardson is also the president of the Greater Berks Food Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this extraordinary gentleman and his selfless mission to help those in need and for the invaluable service he has so diligently provided. I wish him the very best of luck in his retirement.

HONORING BARBARA JEAN BROWN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an extraordinary woman who dedicated her life to the service of San Francisco's most needy individuals. Barbara Jean Brown, known to those who loved her as "Mother Brown," passed away on August 9 after a year-long struggle with leukemia.

Mother Brown distinguished herself through her generous and untiring efforts feeding the poor and homeless of our city through Mother Brown's Dining Room. By offering a haven to countless individuals for more than 20 years, her spirit and kindness touched all those to whom she tended. I offer my deepest sympathy to her sons, Frederick and Jaamel; her brother, Arthur; and her sisters, Alice, Fanny, and Dennie Marie.

Mother Brown served San Francisco with dignity and love. The beginning of her public ministry consisted of parking an old, oversized Cadillac and serving hot meals out of her trunk that she had cooked in her own kitchen. Sharon Williams, the operations manager of Mother Brown's Dining Hall, said of her colleague, "She knew there was a need. She believed no one should ever go to bed hungry." Mother Brown never turned anyone away.

Her work did not go unnoticed. Government agencies, community organizations, and private corporations donated funds to allow Mother Brown to set up the Bayview Hope Homeless Resource Center and Mother Brown's Dining Room in a converted warehouse. With this new facility, Mother Brown was able to serve more people with additional resources and services. Beyond her work with the Center and Dining Room, she threw an annual Christmas party at the Bayview Opera