

National Association of Water Companies, the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, the Ford Foundation and Harvard University.

Senator Musto is married to the former Frances Panzetta and they are the parents of four children and seven grandchildren.

On a personal note, it has been a pleasure to work with Ray Musto on many issues of importance to our mutual constituents. He has epitomized the true American success story by encompassing strong family values, dedication to his community, and commitment to the democratic institutions of his community, his State, and indeed, the Nation. He has been a friend for more than half my lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Senator Musto on this special occasion that recognizes the contributions he has made throughout his distinguished career in public service. Clearly, Senator Musto has made a positive difference in the quality of life for the citizens of northeastern Pennsylvania and we thank him for that.

THE LOW-INCOME GASOLINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Low-Income Gasoline Assistance Program Act of 2005. I want to thank the original House cosponsors that have joined in this effort.

Recent high gasoline prices are taking a serious toll on American's pocketbooks. The monthly budgets of hard-working, low-income families are currently dominated by the unexpected price increases at the pumps. We all must do our part to conserve fuel and reduce our national demand for petroleum and I applaud those individuals who have begun or continue to walk, bike or take public transportation on a daily basis. Unfortunately, not all people have these options. Due to lack of available public transportation, people living in rural areas are often forced to commute to everyday activities by automobile. The Low-Income Gasoline Assistance Program Act or LIGAP is designed to assist American families most affected by high fuel prices.

LIGAP is modeled after the successful LIHEAP program that helps low-income citizens pay for seasonal heating and cooling. In short, LIGAP calls for qualifying recipients to receive \$25-\$75 per month for 3 months to pay for gasoline. Additionally, another 3 months' benefit will be made available if prices do not soften. LIGAP will allow States and tribal organizations to make grants to low- and fixed-income individuals and families who have no option but to drive at least 30 miles a day, or 150 miles per week for work, school, or medical care to defray the cost of purchasing gasoline. States are also encouraged to use their welfare reform block grant to provide transportation stipends to parents who meet the same distance standards.

This measure will enable States to operate the program through their Community Action agencies or welfare departments. Additionally,

tribal organizations may directly request assistance. Thus, States will have the flexibility to set income-eligibility standards similar to the current eligibility for LIHEAP. The prices at which the program triggers on and subsequently releases will then be set for each jurisdiction through consultation between the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Energy.

LIGAP is not meant to be a substitute for the long-term energy solutions we all seek for our Nation. Each of us understands the necessity of a comprehensive and balanced approach to energy development, but we must realize that in every State there are hard-working people and elderly individuals whose monthly budgets are being overwhelmed by the cost of gasoline. While we must approach this country's energy demand with the willingness to make the tough, long-range choices demanded of us, it is equally important that we heed the immediate damage being caused by the current high prices. We must show a willingness to provide some comfort for those Americans who are most at risk.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that people are suffering and that something must be done to help with the high cost of gasoline. I urge my colleagues to join us in this forward thinking and comprehensive proposal.

MS. SOLIS'S SPECIAL ORDER ON LATINOS AND HIV/AIDS

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to join the Gentlewoman from California, my colleague Ms. Solis, to talk about the Ryan White CARE Act and the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS upon minority communities.

I want to thank my colleague for her leadership in organizing this event as we approach the third anniversary of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day on October 15th. As the leader of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus's Health taskforce, I know she is a forceful advocate for ending the racial and ethnic health disparities that continue to plague both our communities.

Mr. Speaker, 15 years ago, a young and courageous boy by the name of Ryan White inspired members of this body and people all over the country to come together out of compassion to destigmatize HIV/AIDS, and to provide medical care and support services to people living with this dreaded disease.

The passage of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act in 1990 provided hope for thousands of Americans afflicted with HIV/AIDS, and signaled the beginning of a sustained Federal response that has now grown to over \$2 billion a year.

The Ryan White CARE Act has been reauthorized twice so far, first in 1996, and then in 2000. Each time we have remembered Ryan for his courage and his compassion and we have remembered countless others who have needlessly become infected by this devastating disease and who still needed our help.

Now it is time to do it all over again.

Since the beginning of this pandemic, over 500,000 individuals have died in the United States, many of whom will be forever memorialized through the ongoing AIDS Memorial Quilt project.

The AIDS quilt stands as testament to the strength and vitality of those who were claimed by this dreaded disease, but it also charts the evolution of HIV/AIDS here in the U.S. as well.

The face of AIDS has changed dramatically since the early days of the epidemic, and now people of color are overwhelmingly represented.

Today, there are over 1 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States, 42 percent of which are African Americans, 20 percent of which are Hispanic.

Every year another 40,000 individuals get infected with HIV, over 50 percent of whom are African Americans, and 15 percent of which are Hispanic.

The fastest growing categories of new infections nationally are among African American women and the Hispanic community.

My district in Alameda County reflects the national averages, with African Americans representing over 50 percent of all new AIDS cases, and Hispanics 21 percent, and over the last 8 years the numbers for Hispanics have shot up.

Clearly we need to work harder to get the word out about HIV/AIDS, and we need to make sure that our communities have access to the resources they need.

That's why I'm a proud original co-sponsor of Ms. SOLIS's resolution supporting National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. We need to recognize the fact that AIDS affects everybody, and the more than 76,000 Latinos currently living with AIDS are testament to that.

At the same time we must also recognize the work of national and community based organizations, like the Latino Commission on AIDS, that are doing the work. In my district, organizations like La Clinica de La Raza, AIDS Project East Bay, SalvaSIDA, CALPEP, and SMAAC, deserve to be recognized for their efforts to reach out to Hispanic and African American communities alike.

It is their work that drives us here in Congress to demand more funding for communities of color dealing with HIV/AIDS. And that's why we established the Minority AIDS Initiative in 1998 with President Clinton.

As a key complement to the Ryan White CARE Act, the Minority AIDS Initiative plays a critical role in supporting outreach and capacity building in minority communities.

As we work to re-authorize the CARE Act, we must strengthen the Minority AIDS Initiative and ensure that the needs of minorities are being met.

That means we need a strong and robust primary prevention approach that differentiates messages between race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and identity, and age.

We also need to make sure to build in housing and supportive services to provide continuity of care for all individuals infected with HIV—especially in minority communities.

That means providing convenient access to case management, dental care, mental health therapy, psychosocial support, and drug and alcohol treatment while we try and address the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS.

As we move to re-authorize the CARE Act, we must also ensure full funding for the AIDS

Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS program (HOPWA), and the Minority AIDS Initiative.

Each of these programs is critical to addressing the needs of people living with AIDS and to addressing the needs of those who are most vulnerable, and they deserve our support.

I hope that with this effort today we can begin to take some concrete steps to move forward with the re-authorization of the Ryan White CARE Act.

I want to thank my colleague again for organizing this discussion.

ASA PHILIP RANDOLPH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present resolution H. Res. 179 giving homage to one of America's forgotten heroes, Asa Philip Randolph. A champion for workers' rights and civil rights for African Americans, he has achieved many gains and survived many losses in his battles to achieve racial, social and economic equality for all Americans.

Mr. Randolph was born in the post-Reconstruction South on April 15, 1889 in Crescent City, Florida. At the age of twenty-two, he moved to Harlem, New York to attend City College where he studied politics and economics, and soon joined the socialist party. During the onset of WWI, Mr. Randolph and his friend Chandler Owen established a controversial magazine called "The Messenger," which initiated his open stance against the segregation of the military and other anti-war sentiments. He believed that the statement "making the world safe for democracy" was a fallacy and a tremendous offense to the intelligence of Black Americans because at that time Blacks were being lynched and denied the right to vote, in the South especially, and were victims of segregation and discrimination all over the Nation. WWI became the catalyst for his commitment to fight for the rights of all.

Although Mr. Randolph has done a lot for the Civil Rights Movement, including initiating the famous March on Washington which led to the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, he has done much more with concern for workers' rights and the labor movement. Employment, better wages and equal access are the only ways in which he believed the fight against discrimination and racism could be won. Just before WWII, Mr. Randolph traveled throughout the Nation to unite African Americans against discrimination, which shut them out of well-paying jobs in the factories. As a result of his efforts, then President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an order ending discrimination in defense plant jobs. Once more in 1948, the power of persuasion and the justice of his complaints convinced President Truman to sign an order calling for the end to discrimination not only in the armed forces, but also in federal and civil service jobs.

His greatest accomplishment, however, has been attributed to his leadership of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Initially, Randolph was approached by a group of Black Pullman porters who wanted the right to bar-

gain for better wages and improvements in working conditions. They wanted to unionize. This was considered the first serious effort to unionize the Pullman Company. In retaliation, the company fired union members, put fear in the men by threatening them with tougher assignments, assignment cuts, or termination. However, to no avail. A. Philip Randolph and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters continued to fight for their right to unionize. In 1935, 12 years after they started their fight against the Pullman Company, the American Federation of Labor reversed its previous position and voted to make them an international charter. Two years later, the Pullman Company agreed to sit down with the Brotherhood and they signed a contract. He then became heavily involved within the ranks of the AFL-CIO, trying to build a mass movement by working with and through trade unions.

The words and deeds of A. Philip Randolph show us the unyielding strength of his lifelong struggle for full human rights for African Americans and all the disinherited of the Nation. He believed that the condition of blacks in America were a symptom of a larger social illness, an illness which is caused by an unfair distribution of power, wealth, and resources. Mr. Randolph left a legacy of activism and triumph for all Americans to cherish. He fought long and hard to secure the rights of working class Americans regardless of race, color or creed. His life and legacy was based on the principle that "Salvation for a race, nation or class must come from within. Freedom is never granted; it is won. Justice is never given; it is exacted and the struggle must be continuous for freedom is never a final fact, but a continuing evolving process to higher and higher social, economic, political and religious relationships."

A. Philip Randolph's position, whether an attitude toward the rights of workers to organize and collectively bargain for their terms and conditions of employment; or his anti-war stand, or a political position with an aim of economic change, has consistently reflected his socialist ideals. He has always believed in a movement based on the workers as the main force, and has always been committed to the idea that a democratic redistribution of wealth is the first step toward greater freedom for all people, Black as well as White. This is why I believe that Congress should support resolution H. Res. 179 expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that A. Philip Randolph should be recognized for his lifelong leadership and work to end discrimination and secure equal employment and labor opportunities for all Americans.

RECOGNIZING ATTORNEY JOHN
PENTZ AS HE IS HONORED BY
THE MONROE COUNTY BAR AS-
SOCIATION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues to pay tribute to Attorney John J. Pentz, Jr., on the occasion of being honored by the Monroe County, Pennsylvania, Bar Association for 48 years of distinguished service.

Born in Dubois, Pennsylvania, the son of the late Judge and Mrs. John J. Pentz, Mr.

Pentz graduated from Mercersburg Academy and served in the United States Navy for 2 years.

He attended and graduated from Princeton University and the University of Michigan Law School.

After practicing law in New Haven, Connecticut, for 3 years, he moved to Monroe County where he later established his own law office in Stroudsburg where he specialized in real estate law, administration, corporate and commercial law and estate planning.

A member of Grace Lutheran Church where he was a former trustee and Sunday school teacher, he was the Pocono District Representative and District Chairman for Boy Scouts of America. He is also a member of the Kiwanis Club of the Stroudsburgs, the Monroe County Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

Married to the former Connie Beers, of New Haven, Connecticut, the couple has three sons.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Pentz on this memorable occasion during which his peers are honoring him for his service to family and community for nearly a half century. The quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania is enhanced by the sacrifices and contributions of people like John Pentz.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed roll call Vote No. 508 on September 29, 2005. It was a suspension vote on H. Con. Res. 178, of which I am a cosponsor. Due to circumstances, I could not make it to the floor for this vote.

I respectfully request that it be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that if present, I would have voted rollcall vote No. 508, recognizing the need to pursue research into the causes, treatment, and an eventual cure for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, supporting the goals and ideals of National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week, "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to travel for official government business, I missed votes on the House floor from Tuesday, September 27 to Thursday, September 29, 2005.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote Wednesday, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 501, final passage of the Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act.

I also ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote Thursday, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 505, the Miller amendment to improve H.R. 3824 through bipartisan compromise, and "nay" on rollcall