

vote No. 506, final passage of the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNTING KIWANIS CLUB DAY CARE CENTER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor a historic anniversary as the Kiwanis Day Care Center in Huntington celebrates its 75th anniversary. This is without a doubt a one of a kind day care center with a unique history. The center is the oldest day care facility in West Virginia and is also the oldest continuous Kiwanis service project in the world. The Huntington chapter of the Kiwanis embodies their international motto "We Build" with the chapter's dedication to building brotherhood, camaraderie and community as displayed through building and maintaining a 75-year-old service project. The center is operated and sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Huntington, and President Bob Mauk has been doing a fantastic job for the organization. The center started from a donated residence in 1930 and has since grown to a modern building with seven classrooms, a kitchen, offices and a large, well equipped playground.

Recently a formal ceremony was held where several Kiwanian and government officials were on hand to offer congratulatory remarks and give praise to the center's 23 workers and volunteers. The 72 children served daily by the Kiwanis Day Care Center were on hand to sing Happy Birthday to the center during the ceremony. I take great pride in knowing that a wonderful organization such as the Kiwanis has been working so hard for nearly a century in Huntington to maintain a safe, fun and educational environment for the youth of the Mountain State.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to rise and join my colleague, Congresswoman HILDA SOLIS, the chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Health Braintrust, in recognizing the third annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, which will take place on Saturday, October 15, 2005.

In my State of New Jersey, over 32,000 people are living with HIV or AIDS, and almost 7,000 of them are Latinos. Unfortunately, Latinos are suffering disproportionately from this disease. Latinos in New Jersey, like Latinos in the rest of the Nation, make up about 13 percent of the population, but 20 percent of the AIDS cases. Many are uninsured and unable to access adequate care due to lack of transportation, language and cultural barriers, or the fear of being stigmatized, among other reasons. Even more disturbing is the fact that 4 out of every 5 females living with HIV/AIDS are minorities.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is about educating our communities and increasing awareness. Too many Latinas in my State are not getting diagnosed until it is too late. With increased awareness and action, we can save lives.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is a chance to salute the AIDS survivors, and make sure they have the services they need. I urge my colleagues to reauthorize a stronger and fully funded Ryan White CARE Act, which provides critical support for those affected by HIV/AIDS, and is often what keeps those with HIV/AIDS from falling through the cracks. Through the help of the CARE Act, the incidence of mothers transmitting HIV to their babies has decreased ten-fold. Almost half of all CARE Act beneficiaries are minorities. Without a stronger commitment and increased funding, Latinos will be left behind and lives will be lost.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day also gives us a chance to thank those dedicated to ending HIV/AIDS: the victims, the volunteers, the professionals, and the advocates. It is their tireless efforts and dedication that force our country to be honest with itself. The progress we have made so far would not have been possible without them, or the commitment of national and community organizations, that provide culturally sensitive information and services that are essential to helping Latinos who suffer from the disease.

But the battle against AIDS has not yet been won. Approximately 40,000 new cases of HIV are reported each year. Alarming, Congress has slashed critical funding for programs that provide a comprehensive response to the spread of the disease, and for years, our communities have been asked to do more with less. This must stop.

A renewed investment in the fight against HIV and AIDS is critical to the future of this country. Hispanic men, women, children, and families deserve better. On this National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, let us renew our commitment to the Latino community and to ending HIV/AIDS. Let us reauthorize and fully fund the CARE Act, and let us give our communities the resources they need to fight this disease.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 29, 2005, I was unable to vote on passage of H.J. Res. 68, making continuing appropriations for Fiscal year 2006 (rollcall No. 507); and the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 178, recognizing the need to pursue research into the causes, treatment and an eventual cure for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (rollcall No. 508). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

FREEDOM FOR RAÚL ARENCIBIA FAJARDO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Raúl Arencibia Fajardo, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Arencibia Fajardo is a member of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights, the Human Rights Friends Club, and a delegate of the 24th of February Movement. He is a peaceful pro-democracy activist who has worked for basic human rights for the people of Cuba. As an opponent of the tyrannical regime in Havana, he has faced constant harassment and repression.

According to Amnesty International, he was arrested on December 6, 2002, along with fellow opposition activists Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet and Mr. Virgilio Marante Guelmes. He was summarily incarcerated in the grotesque totalitarian gulag for 3 months without trial. During his unjust imprisonment, and after being released, Mr. Arencibia Fajardo never wavered in his commitment to bring freedom, democracy and human rights to the Cuban people.

Unfortunately, according to Amnesty International, on May 18, 2004, Mr. Arencibia Fajardo was, in a sham trial, sentenced to 3 years in the totalitarian gulag for the "crimes" of "disrespect" and "resistance."

According to CubaNetcom, Mr. Arencibia Fajardo has a chronic cough, high fever, throat infection, and has been confined in a cell without food and water. He is suffering in abhorrent conditions because he refuses to accept the reality inflicted on the Cuban people by the tyrant. Let us be very clear, the repression and tyranny practiced by the regime in Havana are incompatible with the democratic values of the western hemisphere.

Mr. Arencibia Fajardo is one of the many heroes of the peaceful Cuban democratic movement who are locked in the dungeons of the dictatorship for their beliefs. They are symbols of freedom and democracy who will always be remembered when freedom reigns again in Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Arencibia Fajardo is suffering in a grotesque gulag because he believes in freedom, democracy and human rights. My Colleagues, it is absolutely unacceptable that peaceful pro-democracy activists are languishing in the depraved prisons of tyrants. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Raúl Arencibia Fajardo and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE NEW SAN MATEO HIGH SCHOOL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the new San Mateo High School and the dedication of the Thomas C. Mohr Clock Tower, in my Congressional

district. San Mateo High School has been on the same property since 1927, but is being rebuilt so that once again the splendor of the school and the extraordinary students who attend will be paired with the elegant architecture they so richly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, the people of San Mateo County agreed in the year 2000 that the six high schools in the San Mateo Union High School District were in need of repairs. Unfortunately shortly after the renovation of San Mateo High School was initiated it became clear that the existing structure was seismically unsafe. As a result of this discovery, the students and staff suddenly found themselves facing a complete reconstruction of their school and were moved into modular classrooms, which have been used for the past four years.

The principal architect of the reconstruction bonds for the San Mateo Union High School District and San Mateo High School is the former superintendent Thomas C. Mohr. Now hopefully enjoying a peaceful retirement, Superintendent Mohr spent a distinguished 43-year career in public education, working as a teacher, counselor, principal, district level administrator and Superintendent. His strong leadership and devotion to the school district led to the clock tower being named after him.

Like any construction project, there were certainly bumps in the road during the past four years but I was delighted to witness how the whole community has come together around the school not only through voting for a bond to revitalize the school but through groups such as the San Mateo High School Foundation, Parent Teacher Organization, Booster Groups and Alumni, which raised funds for an open air amphitheatre and new all-weather track, among other improved amenities.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the community for undertaking the renovation and necessary seismic updates. The extraordinarily beautiful building incorporates many parts of the historic structure, down to murals and the "haphazardly placed bricks," as the architect Paul Bunton appropriately describes them. The new modern structure has expanded the size of the school by 46,000 square feet, yet kept the historic facade. After a somewhat arduous four year project the 1425 students along with the faculty, staff and community as a whole should be commended for their patience in seeing this important project through. On October 15, 2005, the school will officially be dedicated and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the opening of new San Mateo High School and the Dedication of the Thomas C. Mohr Clock Tower.

CELEBRATING ROSH HASHANA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Jewish New Year or Rosh Hashana. This is the 5766th year on the Jewish calendar. Rosh Hashana is the Hebrew phrase which literally translates to "the head of the year."

As the Jewish people of our great country and around the world celebrate this new year,

let us join them in their prayers for peace, justice and equality. Let us not forget those of us, of all faiths, who are struggling, especially in the wake of the devastating Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf.

A new year is a symbol of hope and this year is no different. Today, we need to have hope more than ever. Hope for less wars and more diplomacy, hope for breaking racial barriers and coming together, and hope for restraint and modesty in the face of great challenges.

Jewish people throughout the world join their loved ones and friends to take part in a traditional dinner where they enjoy sweet foods such as apples and honey. These foods symbolize the notion of starting a new and sweet year.

Even many of the 10,000 Jewish Katrina evacuees got to celebrate this new year. In Houston, Rabbi Robert Loewy of Congregation Gates of Prayer led a service for 120 of these evacuees. Many of them had not seen each other since the hurricane hit their communities over a month ago. Such coming together after a tremendously painful experience only serves to show the resilience of America's communities and the necessity of maintaining them.

I know my colleagues from both sides of the aisle will join me in wishing a happy new year to all Jews in my district, in our country and around the world—both in the Diaspora and in Israel. May God continue to bless all of us as we face some of the most difficult tests we have ever been faced as a nation.

Shana Tova Umetuka—Have a good and sweet year!

RECOGNIZING JUDGE PETER J. O'BRIEN AS HE IS HONORED UPON HIS RETIREMENT BY THE MONROE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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 in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the Honorable Peter J. O'Brien, from the Court of Common Pleas, 43rd Judicial District, Monroe County, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of his retirement. He is being honored by his peers at a special celebration on Sunday, Oct. 16.

A native of Pennsylvania, Judge O'Brien has been recognized by his peers as a man who has accomplished much in his career. Mark S. Love, president of the Monroe County Bar Association, has stated that the association is honored to be able to recognize Judge O'Brien for his work and his service to the community.

A graduate of Villanova University, Judge O'Brien was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in December, 1962. He attended Judge Advocate General's School in 1963 and received his Military Justice Certification. He also attended several courses at the National Judicial College.

Judge O'Brien served as a captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps (U.S. Army) from 1963 to 1966. He was Chief of Military Justice, Sixth Army Headquarters in San Fran-

cisco, California. He received the Sixth Army Commanding General's Commendation, the Army Commendation Medal and the First Oak Leaf Cluster.

Judge O'Brien practiced law at the O'Brien and Miller law firm in Mount Pocono for 18 years. His former partner, the Honorable Linda Wallace Miller, is also a Common Pleas Judge in Monroe County.

As a practicing attorney, he conducted extensive litigation throughout 12 northeastern counties in Pennsylvania for many years. He also had an extensive appellate practice in the Supreme, Superior and Commonwealth Courts.

He was a member and chairman of a hearing committee for the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court from 1972 to 1980.

In 1986, Judge O'Brien was elected to the Monroe County Court of Common Pleas. He was re-elected in 1996 and has presided over hundreds of civil and criminal jury trials.

A member of the American Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association and Monroe County Bar Association, he remains active in numerous education and youth related organizations in the community.

Married for 43 years to his wife, Karin, the couple has seven children.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in acknowledging a remarkable career of public service. Judge O'Brien's example of devotion to justice, faithfulness to family and community service among our youth provides a wonderful role model for others to emulate. Judge O'Brien can take justifiable pride in a job well done.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEDUCTION FOR CERTAIN ATTORNEY FEES SHALL BE FULLY ALLOWABLE IN COMPUTING BOTH TAXABLE INCOME AND ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAXABLE INCOME

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, after 19 years of legal challenges, the courts found the State of California responsible in an inverse condemnation for the failure of the Linda levee on the Yuba River, and ordered it to pay damages to victims of the 1986 Yuba County flood. Now, constituents in my northern California congressional district are receiving their long awaited just compensation. Unfortunately, an unforeseen consequence has arisen. Depending on the amount of an individual's award, he or she may be subject to the alternative minimum tax (AMT), due in part to the portion of the individual's judgment award paid to attorneys in the form of fees.

Attorneys in the suit received their cut of the judgment right off the top, payment for services rendered, as ordered by the court's decision. The attorneys will owe regular tax on this payment. Unfortunately, the actual award recipients may also incur tax liability for this amount, effectively resulting in double taxation—once when the attorneys pay taxes and once if recipients incur AMT liability. Even