

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN CANCER FUND FOR CHILDREN AND KIDS CANCER CONNECTION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection, which are located in the 30th Congressional District, which I represent.

Los Angeles Mayor, Antonio Villaraigosa, proclaimed the week of October 2, 2005 "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week" in the City of Los Angeles. I am pleased to join Mayor Villaraigosa in thanking Steven Firestein, the founder of American Cancer Fund for Children and its sister organization, Kids Cancer Connection for his wonderful work in assisting children affected by cancer.

More than eleven years ago, Steven began the American Cancer Fund for Children to provide vital patient psychosocial services to children undergoing cancer treatment at the Skull Base Institute at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Office Towers in Los Angeles, Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles as well as participating hospitals throughout the country.

One of the wonderful services provided through American Cancer Fund for Children is the Magical Caps for Kids program. Hand-made caps and decorated baseball caps are given to children who want to protect their heads following the trauma of chemotherapy, surgery and/or radiation. The American Cancer Fund for Children also sponsors Courageous Kid award ceremonies and hospital celebrations in recognition of a child's bravery and determination to fight the battle against childhood cancer.

As we know, cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children in the United States. This tragic disease is detected in nearly 11,000 of our nation's children each year. Steven Firestein and the American Cancer Fund for Children and Kids Cancer Connection are providing critical services and comfort to young patients battling cancer and their families. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and recognizing Steven Firestein for his tremendous efforts.

CONGRATULATING TO RECIPIENTS OF DIRECTOR AWARD FROM THE PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE WATER

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Pennsylvania American Water, and the New Castle and Ellwood City Water Treatment Plants on re-

ceiving the Directors Award of recognition from the Partnership for Safe Water.

The Partnership for Safe Water was created by the Environmental Protection Agency, and is dedicated to providing communities with drinking water that exceeds the requirements set by the Federal Government. To receive the Directors Award, water systems must examine the capabilities of their plant operations and then create a plan to put into action the new improvements.

The Pennsylvania American Water has received the Directors Award for five consecutive years. Only 37 other water authorities have done the same. Among the 19 treatment facilities that were recognized in Pennsylvania, New Castle and Ellwood City were two.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Pennsylvania American Water on receiving the Directors Award. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a principled authority like Pennsylvania American Water.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF ANDREW A. MAZZARA

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay respect to and celebrate the career of Andrew A. Mazzara. He has announced his retirement from the presidency of Henry Ford Community College, HFCC, after 34 years of service.

Mr. Mazzara's leadership and experience advanced HFCC's reputation through innovation and development. A lifelong resident of Dearborn and 1963 graduate of HFCC, Mr. Mazzara's earned respect and success through his hard work and determination. He can truly be called an educational pioneer and through his devotion to students, faculty and the community he served has had a lasting positive impact on Dearborn and the State of Michigan.

In 1966 he started his career at HFCC teaching engineering, apprentice training and drafting: Taking a short respite in 1972 as a technical consultant and administrator for the Michigan Department of Education, he returned in 1977 to become Dean of Career Education. As dean, he helped his areas of oversight, Business and Economics, Health Careers, Nursing, Industrial Technology, Apprentice Training, Management Development, and Customized Training Divisions, expand and develop into educationally rich and nationally respected programs. In 1982 he took a 1 year work leave to be the Interim Director of the UAW-Ford Motor Company National Education and Development Training Center, which was the nation's first joint labor-management hourly worker training program.

In 1987, Mr. Marazza was named the vice president/dean of career education at HFCC. Following the trend and recognizing his dedication and skill, in 1990, the HFCC Board named him president. Charged with running the fifth largest community college in Michigan, Mr. Mazzara immersed himself in the community creating bonds with businesses, organized labor, and government. During his tenure as president, eleven buildings were renovated and another six were built, all a part of a \$67 million campus improvement plan he has spearheaded. Under his leadership the school balanced its finances, improved its programs, and gained national respect. The UAW and Ford Motor Company recognized his achievements and awarded him the Distinguished Service Award in 1998. His other awards include the Dearborn Chamber of Commerce President of the Year, Detroit College of Business Citizen of the Year Award, and the Italian American Cultural Society Heritage Award.

Andrew A. Mazzara's continued commitment to Henry Ford Community College and Dearborn at large has helped to create a vibrant, outreaching educational community. Long after Mr. Mazzara's departure, the gateway he created to quality higher education will continue to benefit thousands. His legacy will not be forgotten.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2005

The House in Committee of the White House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4128) to protect private property rights.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4128, The Private Property Right Protection Act of 2005. This bill is overbroad and unreasonably restricts States and municipalities from crafting practical legislation that addresses their specific needs.

H.R. 4128 is Congress' response to the Kelo v. City of New London decision. The Kelo decision allows local governments to take private property to build the tax base and promote economic development. H.R. 4128 prohibits government use of eminent domain where private property is taken for economic development purposes. It unduly restricts States and local governments from exercising their sovereign powers to eliminate abuses in eminent domain, while maintaining an ability to develop their community. As a former Mayor of Somerville, MA, I am very familiar with the issues surrounding municipalities exercising eminent domain for public use.

While I do not wish to see local government recklessly and irresponsibly take property from private owners, especially the low-income and

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

disadvantaged, I cannot support a bill that preemptively acts before a municipality has an opportunity to develop its own policies. Some 30 States have either already drafted legislation concerning this issue or are working on legislation. It is unfair to invalidate State and local attempts to adjust, legislatively, to a Supreme Court decision just issued in June of this year.

The House should have spent more time developing legislation that was less intrusive on States' and local governments' sovereignty. For example, this bill could strip Federal economic development funding for two years from a State or local government that exercised eminent domain, even if the project taken did not receive Federal funds. All economic development funds, including those not involved with the condemned project, would be lost. Projects worthy of being built might be eliminated due to the lack of economic development funds. This can be disastrous for a local government's economic growth and sustainability. Local officials would be constantly concerned that exercising eminent domain could result in lawsuits and loss of funds.

I voted for an amendment that would have added some sense of fairness to the government's use of eminent domain, but it did not pass. The amendment, offered by Congressman MICHAEL TURNER of Ohio, would permit cities to continue using eminent domain to redevelop a Brownfield site. It also enumerated several instances where, for the public's health and safety, the government could use eminent domain when necessary to rid the community of a hazardous property.

I could support a bill that strikes a balance and is fair to State and local governments. This bill does not meet that threshold.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEMETRIS KASTANAS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary achievements of an important member of the Astoria, NY community, Mr. Demetris Kastanas.

On February 18, 1968, Mr. Kastanas emigrated from his homeland Greece to the United States, looking for a better life and future in this country. Having worked a number of different jobs, including pumping gas and selling insurance, Mr. Kastanas managed to save enough money to open his first restaurant. A second restaurant soon followed.

As a successful businessman in his adopted country, Mr. Kastanas felt that he had to serve the community that had served him so well.

He was particularly interested in finding ways for Greek Americans to maintain a sense of connection to their motherland. On September 15, 1975, Mr. Kastanas launched National Greek Television, a weekly Greek television program on channel 47 WNJU. This is the longest running Greek television program outside Greece. In July 1983, Mr. Kastanas expanded to the Chicago area. It now airs in Boston, Atlanta, New Jersey, and other mar-

kets. In late 1999, NGTV bought its own Electronic News Gathering van to provide live coverage of important events.

As the expansion of cable channels created new opportunities for niche markets, Mr. Kastanas began to explore the possibility of an all-Greek cable station. His dream became a reality. In 1987, the Greek Channel began airing on the Time-Warner Cable system in Queens and Brooklyn. This channel was the first Greek cable channel in the United States.

Seeking new ways to cover issues of interest to Hellenes, Mr. Kastanas became interested in other media formats. He founded 'Eseis,' a biweekly magazine to address the interests of the Hellenic-American community. Eseis is the plural form of 'you' in Greek, reflecting the magazine's emphasis on serving the entire Hellenic community.

Through his television programs, cable channel, and magazine, Demetris Kastanas has given Greek and Hellenic-Americans a voice in the United States that might otherwise not have been heard. His tremendous leadership has been evident through his ability to organize rallies and demonstrations on the Cyprus issue that have communicated clearly the Hellenic-American community's strong feelings on this subject.

Mr. Kastanas's work has provided Hellenic-Americans with a connection to their homeland, through Hellenic news, folklore, music, and more. His programming has also helped new Hellenic immigrants assimilate into life in the United States.

He and his wife, Nomiki, continue to work and instill the best of the Hellenic American culture in their community, but especially in the youngest generation of their family: Matina and George.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my distinguished colleagues rise and pay tribute to a great New Yorker, Demetris Kastanas, for his 30 years of accomplishments. His many successes are a reflection of the vibrant and thriving community he so faithfully serves.

REFLECTING ON THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF FORMER ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reflect on the life and contributions of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was tragically assassinated 10 years ago. Yitzhak Rabin dedicated his entire life to the cause of peace and security for Israel. He fought tirelessly for the right of all Israelis to live normal lives without fear of attack, to dine with friends, to shop, and to send their children to school on buses. Yitzhak Rabin was many things, a soldier, an Ambassador, a Knesset Member, a Prime Minister, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate. He is remembered best as a peacemaker who changed the course of history.

I In addition to valiantly serving Israel's armed forces for 27 years, including during the

War of Independence, the Suez War, and the Six-Day War as Chief of Staff, Yitzhak Rabin is responsible for leading Israel through many historic times. In 1975 he signed the interim agreement with Egypt which laid the groundwork for peace between Israel and Egypt. In 1976, Yitzhak Rabin ordered the successful liberation of the hijacked Air France flight, known as Operation Entebbe. And in 1994 Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein of Jordan signed a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. Most notably, Yitzhak Rabin's legacy includes the signing of the Declaration of Principles framework agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, and the famous handshake with the late PLO Chairman Yassir Arafat on the White House lawn.

Upon the signing of the Declaration of Principles on September 13, 1993, Yitzhak Rabin said to the Palestinians, "We say to you today in a loud and clear voice: Enough of blood and tears. Enough. We harbor no hatred toward you. We have no desire for revenge. We, like you, are people who want to build a home, plant a tree, love, live side by side with you—in dignity, empathy, as human beings, as free men . . ."

Clearly, this was a man who envisioned a free, secure, and democratic Jewish state at peace with all its neighbors. Yitzhak Rabin's message resounded across Israel, and it is no wonder that on November 4, 1995, he attended and spoke at a peace rally in Tel Aviv amidst tens of thousands of enthusiastic supporters with banners proclaiming "Yes to peace—no to violence." In his final address at the peace rally Yitzhak Rabin stated, "I have always believed that the majority of the people want peace, are prepared to take risks for peace," and "Peace is what the Jewish People aspire to, a true aspiration." Yitzhak Rabin was fatally shot by a Jewish student as he left the rally.

On the 10th anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's death, I wish to express the deepest condolences of the American people to the family of Yitzhak Rabin and to all the people of Israel for the loss of this great leader. Additionally, we must honor his life and his work by continuing the pursuit of peace in the Middle East.

The United States and Israel share a special bond, one that Yitzhak Rabin helped to establish during his time as Ambassador to the U.S. This bond is steadfast and represents the abundance of shared values and common goals of our two societies. I am proud to be part of the U.S. Congress, a body which stands by Israel when Israel needs us. Just last week, the House of Representatives voted to pass the Conference Report of the Fiscal Year 2006 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act which includes \$2.3 billion in military assistance and \$240 million in economic assistance to Israel. Without a doubt, Yitzhak Rabin's legacy of bringing the U.S. and Israel closer together lives on.

Ten years after Yitzhak Rabin's tragic death, let us renew our commitment to fostering peace in the Middle East. We must encourage efforts that support the peacemakers of this world and penalize those who would murder innocents. Yitzhak Rabin has left a wonderful legacy over his long and distinguished career of service, and it is with the utmost respect and admiration that I support the people of Israel in their quest for peace.