

ACKNOWLEDGE AND HONOR THE
DOCTORS, NURSES AND STAFF
OF ST. MARY MERCY HOSPITAL

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the doctors, nurses and staff of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, as they celebrate in receiving the 2005 HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence.

In receiving the award, St. Mary Mercy Hospital was ranked in the top 5 percent in the Nation for overall clinical excellence. The hospital also received the Health Grades Distinguished Hospital Award for Patient Safety, ranking them in the top 2 percent in the Nation for patient safety outcomes.

I am proud to report that the awards place St. Mary Mercy Hospital as 1 of 30 hospitals in the Nation to receive both designations within the same year. It is a testament to the dedication, devotion, and determination of the men and women who daily provide a high quality of care to patients.

Mr. Speaker, the heritage of the Felician Sisters is the foundation for St. Mary Mercy Hospital, which for the past 45 years, has been a premier provider of healthcare in our community. Founded by Blessed Mary Angela, whose care for the poor and homeless in Warsaw, Poland gave birth to the Felician congregation, the Felician Sisters were dedicated to a ministry of healing and service, based on Mary Angela's mission of "responding to the needs of the times."

In the spirit of Mary Angela and the Felician Sisters I stand today to commend and applaud the great doctors, nurses and staff of St. Mary Mercy Hospital for their national recognition and accomplishments. More importantly I praise these angels of medicine for upholding the oath of Hippocrates by "maintaining the utmost respect for every human life."

REPEAL DON'T ASK DON'T TELL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to call attention to important legislation that has been introduced today, The Military Readiness Enhancement Act. I am an original co-sponsor of this legislation which would replace "Don't Ask Don't Tell," with a non-discrimination policy for all military personnel.

A decade ago, "Don't Ask Don't Tell" was enacted as a compromise to allow lesbian, gay and bisexual military personnel to serve honorably in the military as long as they didn't disclose their sexual orientation. It was a bad policy then and it's a bad policy now. It has resulted in the discharge of more than 10,000 dedicated and trained military personnel merely on the basis of their sexual orientation.

There are two issues this bill is addressing—military readiness and civil justice.

Military readiness is being compromised by discharging critically needed military linguists to fight the Global War on Terrorism. Shortly

after September 11, 2001, we can vividly remember the frantic search for linguists, particularly Arabic and Farsi speakers. But because of "Don't Ask Don't Tell," the Department of Defense has discharged 20 Arabic linguists and 6 Farsi linguists for no other reason than their sexual orientation. No one can dispute that these linguists, who attended the Defense Language Institute located in my congressional district, are mission essential to the Global War on Terrorism. If we didn't think so before, surely we can agree now that language capability and proficiency is just as much of a weapon system as guns and bullets.

Repealing "Don't Ask Don't Tell" is just as much a civil justice issue. It has created a separate class of people who are discriminated against based solely on their sexual orientation. Sixty years ago our military was at the forefront of the civil rights struggle by accepting African Americans as soldiers, sailors and airmen. The Military Readiness Enhancement Act will extend a non-discrimination policy for sexual orientation much as it did in adopting a color-blind non-discrimination policy. Ending racism in the military, which produced military leaders like Colin Powell, the former Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State, was an advancement of civil rights for all Americans.

The Constitution guarantees equal protection under the law for all citizens. Just because you decide to honorably serve your country by joining the military, doesn't mean you should have to forfeit the right to equal protection under the law.

THE 1995 BEIJING PLATFORM OF
ACTION CONTAINS NO RIGHT TO
ABORTION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely clear that the "Programme of Action" produced by both the 1994 Cairo Population Conference and the 1995 Beijing Women's Conference did not create, adopt, endorse, or promote a right to abortion.

I know. I was there in an official capacity at both conferences. The outcomes of both were a remarkable victory for the pro-life movement—those of us who recognize that all human life is sacred and that both legal and illegal abortion is violence against children and the exploitation of women. It was a victory for vulnerable unborn children who would be killed by dismemberment and chemical poisoning and for women who deserve better than the cruelty of abortion.

The outcome was a stunning defeat for the Clinton Administration, which sought to impose an international right to abortion on the entire world.

So why is the Bush Administration seeking to reaffirm that the Beijing consensus did not include a right to abortion? Because clarity, transparency and truthfulness is needed at this time to dispel a pernicious myth—the big lie—promoted by some that these U.N. documents now endorse abortion. Nothing, Mr. Speaker, could be further from the truth.

Over the past 10 years, pro-abortionists have sought to convey the impression that

both Cairo and Beijing—by supporting reproductive health, for example—includes the slaughter of unborn children by abortion.

Instead of focusing on women's economic and political empowerment, an end to all forms and manifestations of discrimination, and an end to violence against women, some have sought to distort the Cairo and Beijing consensus to include the killing of girls and boys by abortion.

Yesterday I chaired a hearing on the horrific behavior of U.N. Peacekeepers in the Congo who have raped and sexually exploited girls and young women. As the prime sponsor of the "Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000" I take a backseat to no one in promoting women's human rights. Recent scandals, like the Congo or the oil for food scandal, begs the question of honesty and transparency at the U.N.

Despite having no mandate to promote abortion, the U.N. Compliance Committee for the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has recently scolded Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Zimbabwe, Myanmar, Luxembourg, Ireland, Italy, Croatia, Uruguay, Portugal, Nepal, Northern Ireland, Lichtenstein, Paraguay, and Samoa for their laws and policies on abortion.

In addition, at the end of 2004, the U.N. Human Rights Committee issued a report that absolutely overstepped its bounds and told Poland to repeal their pro-life laws. The report stated, "The State party should liberalize its legislation and practice on abortion." For a U.N. committee that purported to respect fundamental human rights to condemn Poland—and others—for protecting their unborn babies is scandalous. Unborn children deserve respect in law and in practice—these littlest of humans deserve to have their basic human rights protected.

A Center for Reproductive Rights internal document talks about reinterpreting terms and phrases in international declarations, like the Cairo and Beijing documents, to promote abortion and limit parental rights throughout the world. I posted in the December 8, 2003 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the Center for Reproductive Rights internal documents where one of their trustees said, "We have to fight harder, be a little dirtier." These papers reveal a Trojan Horse of deceit. In their own words, these documents demonstrate how abortion promotion groups are pushing abortion here and abroad, not by direct argument, but by twisting words and definitions. In discussing legal strategies to legalize abortion internationally they go as far as to say, ". . . there is a stealth quality to the work: we are achieving incremental recognition of values without a huge amount of scrutiny from the opposition. These lower profile victories will gradually put us in a strong position to assert a broad consensus around our assertions." The abortion lobby admits they are using deceptive tactics to push abortion on countries that have laws protecting unborn boys and girls.

All the United States wants to do at this conference is to be truthful, nonambiguous and accurate about what the Beijing Programme of Action actually says about abortion and get on with the real work of helping women throughout the world.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO
CHARLEVOIX HIGH SCHOOL
RAYDERS GIRLS BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the players, coaches, and manager of the 2004 Charlevoix High School Rayders Girls Basketball team in recognition of their outstanding season. After an undefeated regular season, the Rayders continued their success in the playoffs, making it to the Class C state finals, and winning district and regional titles along the way.

While their 20–0 regular season, and seven post season wins, are impressive in their own right, the spirit of teamwork and unselfish play that the Rayders brought to the court this year was a shining example of what athletics should be about. All year, these young women, including the team's best players, were willing to play their role and do whatever it took to win.

One of the best examples of this was the team's performance in the state semi-finals and finals. After a year in which every game was a double-digit victory, the Charlevoix Rayders traveled to the Breslin Center in East Lansing, Michigan for the final two rounds of the playoffs where they would face their first stiff competition.

Charlevoix led Flint Hamady for almost all of the semi-final game on December 2, going into the 4th quarter up by ten points. Their opponent was not about to lose without a fight though, and with just under four minutes to go, Flint took a three-point lead. After two free throws by guard Laura Nitchman, All-State center Grace Farrell made a lay up to put the Rayders ahead for the win. The final score was 70–67 sending Charlevoix on to the state finals.

Though they lost to Detroit St. Martin dePorres two days later in the finals, the Rayders knew they had an incredible season. They appreciated the experience of playing in the Breslin Center and competing for the state championship. Just like they had all season, they showed character, class, and heart.

The commitment to success displayed by this team is no surprise to anyone familiar with the city of Charlevoix, which is a warm, close-knit community on Lake Michigan. As always, the "Rayder Nation" was right behind these young women who gave them a season to remember.

Mr. Speaker, each member of this team deserves to be recognized and I want to take a moment to share their names with my colleagues.

Team Members: Madison McKenzie, Madison Ramsey, Jaime Pettis, Laura Nitchman, Liz Jadwin, Stevie Murray, Shannon Dibble, Kari Way, Sara Cross, Genevieve Kochanny, Grace Farrell, Betsy Dennis, Caitlyn Cole, Sally Haselschwardt, and Bethany Pearson.

Head Coach Keith Haske; Assistant Coaches Bret Erskine, Jim Gels, and Liz Grunch; Trainer Joelle Beaudoin; and Manager Chelsey Haske.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Charlevoix Rayders girls basketball team, their

classmates, parents, and community on their success in the 2004 season and in wishing them well when they hit the court again in the fall.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
DOLLY SEELMEYER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dolly Seelmeyer on the occasion of her recent retirement from the United States House of Representatives after 34 years of distinguished Service.

Shortly after she began to work for this august institution, Dolly became the first female photographer in the Office of Photography. To understand the length and breadth of the times she witnessed, one only has to know that when she began her tenure, Richard Nixon was President of the United States and Carl Albert was Speaker of the House. My friend, colleague and fellow Michigander Gerald Ford was Minority Leader of this body. She not only observed, but was able to record for posterity many significant events in the history of this body.

In addition to her expertise as a photographer, Dolly was of tremendous assistance to our offices as she helped us to obtain and preserve visual records of bygone times. Her professionalism and courtesy were always present as she helped us to document the history of the Congress. In addition to her official photos, her office was decorated with wonderful photographs of plants and flowers that she took in her own time.

We thank Dolly for her ongoing assistance in helping us to keep a record of the last quarter of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Dolly Seelmeyer for her 34 years of commitment and devotion to the House of Representatives and also to join me in wishing her the very best that life has to offer in the future.

COMMENDING AMERICORPS AND
THE WEST SENECA YOUTH
BUREAU FOR OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Americorps program in the town of West Seneca, New York, for its outstanding contributions to our Western New York and to recognize the West Seneca Youth Bureau for its exemplary service to the residents of Erie County and Western New York.

Through its network of more than 2,100 service programs, AmeriCorps has assisted millions of Americans through tutoring, running after school programs, building affordable housing, cleaning parks, and assisting with disaster relief.

A shining example of the significance of AmeriCorps' service to our Nation's commu-

nities is the West Seneca Youth Bureau of the town of West Seneca, in Erie County, New York. The West Seneca Youth Bureau hosts seven different AmeriCorps programs, and through these programs, volunteers have provided a broad range of needed services to Western New Yorkers.

West Seneca's Service Action Corps is one of the major donors of food in Western New York, delivering 15,000 pounds of food to local pantries every day. Through Standard Bearer's of America's Promise, AmeriCorps tutors provide young students in Buffalo and Erie County with the tools needed to help them become independent readers. Their Erie County Youth Conservation Corps program teaches marketable skills to at-risk youth so they can use these skills in the professional world. Through YouthBuild, at-risk youth learn basic construction and carpentry skills and gain college credits while building low cost housing for Western New Yorkers in need.

Since its inception, West Seneca AmeriCorps volunteers have shoveled more than one-half million pounds of snow for local residents and businesses, provided area food banks with over 6 million pounds of food, tutored more than 18,000 students, cleaned 150 nature trails, countless parks and playgrounds and cleared hundreds of vacant lots.

AmeriCorps' commitment to education, public safety, the environment and health has made it an incredibly successful organization that I am proud to recognize today. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers of AmeriCorps and the West Seneca Youth Bureau, thousands of my constituents have received much needed education and support. I congratulate the organization for 10 years of service, and look forward to working with them for years to come, and I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to recognize their achievements here today.

HONORING BG WILLIAM
TERPELUK, DEPUTY COM-
MANDER, 77TH REGIONAL READI-
NESS COMMAND, FORT TOTTEN,
NEW YORK

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor BG William Terpeluk. BG William Terpeluk will complete his term as Deputy Commander for the 77th Regional Readiness Command this month. He served from 31 March 2001–30 March 2005, which included valuable service during the events of September 11, 2001, and throughout the War on Terror.

The 77th Regional Readiness Command is the Army Reserve headquarters for over 11,000 Army Reserve soldiers. Approximately 6,500 Army Reserve soldiers have been mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Their service to our Nation is to be commended.

Throughout his career Brigadier General Terpeluk has served with honor and distinction. His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement