

by The 2006 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Sack is being recognized for conducting personal interviews and research to create museum-like displays and a dramatic play that portray important aspects of her city's history.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Sack are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 11 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has more than 70,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Ms. Sack should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud Ms. Sack for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

HONORING DANA REEVE

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable woman, Dana Reeve, whose courage and grace in the face of life's adversities bring inspiration and hope to millions of people. Dana Reeve was the devoted caregiver and wife to her late husband, Christopher Reeve, a dedicated mother, an advocate and founding board member of the Christopher Reeve Foundation. I am honored to have known Dana and to have worked with her on many issues, and I am deeply saddened by her passing on March 6, 2006. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me today in commemorating the life of this outstanding woman.

Dana Reeve was born Dana Morosini on March 17, 1961 in New York. Dana graduated cum laude from Middlebury College in 1984 and began her career in acting and singing with graduate studies at the California Institute

of the Arts. Drawn together by their mutual love of drama, Dana married actor Christopher Reeve in 1992, and later, gave birth to their son, William.

In 1995, Dana Reeve became her husband's constant caregiver and supporter after a horseback-riding accident left him paralyzed. Dana embodied loyalty and devotion as she selflessly cared for him and her family, while being committed to helping others in need. Together with her husband, Dana faced challenges with determination and courage.

After her husband's untimely death in 2004, Dana became the chairperson of the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation, which funds research on paralysis and works to improve the lives of people living with disabilities. Dana also worked to establish the Quality-of-Life grants program and the Christopher & Dana Reeve Paralysis Resource Center. Under her outstanding leadership, the Foundation has awarded more than \$8 million in Quality-of-Life grants and more than \$55 million in research grants since its inception. Additionally, she was an activist for persons with disabilities and a champion for stem cell research.

Dana served on the boards of The Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, TechHealth, and The Reeve-Irvine Center for Spinal Cord Research and was an advisory board member to the National Family Caregivers Association.

Dana received numerous awards for her work, including the Mother of the Year Award from the American Cancer Society in 2005, an American Image Award from the AAFA in 2003, the Shining Example Award from Proctor & Gamble in 1998, and was named by CBS in 1995 as one of America's Outstanding Women. Additionally, Dana authored the book *Care Packages*, which was published in 1999.

A woman who faced some of life's greatest adversities, Dana approached each challenge with dignity and grace, remaining optimistic in even the most difficult circumstances. In August of 2005, Dana announced her battle with lung cancer, only months after her mother passed away from complications with ovarian cancer. Her positive attitude was an inspiration, and her commitment to encouraging and helping others remained strong. Referring to her late husband, Dana stated that she views him as the "ultimate example of defying the odds with strength, courage, and hope in the face of life's adversities." Truly, Dana is deserving of our deepest respect and tribute.

Dana is survived by her father, Dr. Charles Morosini, sisters Deborah Morosini and Adrienne Morosini Heilman, her son William and two stepchildren, Matthew and Alexandra. Dana will be remembered by us all for her life, her work, her passion to help others, and her courage and loyalty in facing life's challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to pay tribute to this inspirational woman. Her life was a testament of loyalty and courage, and I am honored to speak on her behalf today. I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the life of Dana Reeve.

JEROME GROSSMAN CRITIQUES THE IRAQ ELECTION

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, for many decades, Jerome Grossman has been a leader in the fight for a rational, humane foreign policy for the United States. Alongside my predecessor in this body, former Congressman Robert Drinan, Jerome Grossman was one of the effective leaders of the opposition to the war in Vietnam. He has continued over his long career with undiminished energy to fight for the principles in which he believes and in which our country ought to act. On January 5, in the Wellesley Townsman, the weekly newspaper in the town where he lives, Mr. Grossman published an article on the election in Iraq. As the newspaper noted, Jerome Grossman is the Chairman of the Council for a Livable World, and in that capacity has been an insightful critic of the President's Iraq war from the earliest days of the Administration's initiation of this policy. In this article, he notes the problem of having a fully free election in a situation of military occupation.

Mr. Speaker, although I greatly respect Mr. Grossman and I am one of many in Congress who have benefited significantly from his wisdom and advice over the years, I do not fully agree with the critique that he puts forward in this column. He is of course correct that there is not an autonomous government in Iraq, and it is also the case that the conditions in which the recent elections were held were far from ideal. But given all of those factors, I also believe that the elections were to a very significant extent an expression of the views of the Iraqi people.

Unfortunately, what we have seen since that election is that those views fall far too heavily along sectarian lines, and the prospects for a genuinely democratic, functioning government coming out of this process is much more clouded than the President would have us believe. But despite this difference in emphasis between myself and Mr. Grossman on this particular aspect of the situation, I believe his article is a very useful contribution to the debate about our policy, and it is an important counter to the unrealistic optimism expressed by the Administration. I think it would be very useful for Members to read Mr. Grossman's viewpoint, drawing as he does on his decades of experience with these issues, and I ask that the article be printed here.

A 'FREE AND FAIR' ELECTION IN IRAQ

President Bush hailed the Dec. 15 parliamentary election in Iraq as a "landmark day in the history of liberty." It was an election in which 11 million Iraqis voted—a 70 percent turnout, which is remarkably high. But was it "free and fair?"

It is impossible to have a "free and fair election" under foreign military occupation, by definition. President Bush himself pointed out this obvious fact at his March 16, 2005, press conference on the election in Lebanon. "Our policy is this. We want there to be a thriving democracy in Lebanon. We believe that there will be a thriving democracy, but only if—but only if—Syria withdraws her troops completely out of Lebanon, but also her secret service organizations . . . There

needs to be a complete withdrawal of these services in order for there to be a free election . . .” Under strong U.S. and United Nations pressure, Syria did remove its troops and a free and fair election was held.

The pressures on Iraqi voters were enormous. In the streets were 168,000 heavily armed American soldiers, 250,000 Iraqi troops and perhaps 100,000 Iraqi police. The survival value of the blue stain on the index finger was apparent to all, as was the voter's name at the polling place. They could be insurance against being picked up on suspicion of being insurgents and then languishing in Abu Graib. Or they could be protection from the armed Kurdish and Shiite militias roaming the cities in search of dissident Sunnis.

In addition, leaders of the various tribal groups urged their minions to vote their slates, in order to attain local power for the coming struggle, widely expected once the occupying Americans depart. And anyway, who will count the votes?

The United States as the occupier of Iraq has the power to make elected Iraqis carry out U.S. political decisions. We decided the time and place for elections, vetoed some candidates, approved others and guided the writing of the constitution. The U.S. Ambassador, Zalmay Khalilzad—termed “The Viceroy” around the world—virtually runs Iraq from his fortified embassy with its staff of 5,000 and room for an active CIA.

Here is the real situation: Iraq has a puppet government set up to keep order and to carry out American policies. This is the logical and inevitable result of military conquest. Any election held under such conditions—under the gun—cannot be called free and fair. The Iraqis are simply choosing which of their number will enforce U.S. will and help to crush the inevitable resistance to foreign occupation.

The Iraqis are not really governing themselves and we should not pretend that they are. Authentic Iraqi democracy with free and fair elections can develop only after complete U.S. withdrawal.

PRIORITIES FOR UPCOMING MEETING BETWEEN U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS OF CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my wishes for the upcoming meeting to be attended by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and foreign ministers of Caribbean countries in the Bahamas later on this month and to enter into the RECORD a Carib News story reiterating concerns about what priorities should be covered in the meeting to build a stronger U.S.-Caribbean alliance.

Secretary Rice is scheduled to meet with the foreign ministers of Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Antigua, Jamaica, Belize, Suriname, St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Vincent and Barbados March 21–22. This meeting is a prime opportunity for Secretary Rice to pledge U.S. support in the areas of economic and social development. Specifically, meeting participants should focus on crime, disaster preparedness, drug trafficking and immigration. The recently held democratic elections in Haiti of former Presi-

dent René Préval to once again lead the nation will also be an issue needing urgent attention.

As reporter Tony Best explains in the Carib News story, Democrats on the Hill, myself included, insist that Secretary Rice should utilize this opportunity to show Caribbean nations that their development is important and that the United States is a partner in economic and social advancement in Caribbean countries. These nations are in dire need of assistance erecting strong economic and social infrastructures that bear opportunities to their citizens. For example in Haiti, 8 out of 10 Haitians live in abject poverty. Unemployment exceeds 70 percent while the country has a 10 percent HIV infection rate in the city and 4 percent in rural areas. More must be done for these countries.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you'll join me conveying to Secretary Rice the urgency of economic and social issues in the Caribbean and that she be mindful of the plight of Caribbean citizens during her upcoming meeting.

[From the Carib News, Feb. 28, 2006]

DEMOCRATS ON CAPITOL HILL: U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD SHOW CARIBBEAN NATIONS THAT THEIR DEVELOPMENT IS IMPORTANT

(By Tony Best)

“A partner in economic and social development in Caribbean nations.” That's the message, which some Democrats on Capitol Hill in Washington are hoping U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, would convey to Caricom foreign ministers when they meet in the Bahamas later this month.

And the message shouldn't be just in word, lip service, if you will, but in concrete measures, which can help the Caribbean.

So said U.S. Congressman Eliot Engel, a New York Democrat who represents thousands of Caribbean immigrants in the Bronx and Westchester County. He is the ranking Democrat on the Western Hemisphere subcommittee of the House of Representatives.

“I think she needs to tell the Caribbean foreign ministers that the United States wants to be a partner, a close working partner and to have a close working relationships with the nations which are our close neighbors,” was the way he put it to the Nation after addressing the 27th Congressional Breakfast of the Jewish Community Relations Council, JCRC, at the 92nd Street Y in Manhattan.

“It is one thing for us as a nation to pursue goals all over the world, Iraq and wherever,” he added. “But it is quite another thing for us to say that we need to concentrate on what we do back home. I think we can do both, but I don't think we should neglect the people who are geographically closest to us,” meaning inhabitants of Caribbean nations. Rice is scheduled to meet with the foreign ministers of Barbados, the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Antigua, Jamaica, Belize, Suriname, St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Vincent and Belize on March 21–22. Economic and social question as well as security issues in the “broadest sense, and not simply matters about fighting terrorism” should top the agenda, say diplomatic and other highly placed sources in Washington. Immigration, Haiti, drug trafficking and crime, HIV/AIDS and disaster preparedness and reconstruction are expected to dominate the meeting's agenda.

Congressman Charles Rangel, who like Engel, addressed the Congressional Breakfast, had previously said in a Carib News interview that the Bush Administration should work with Caribbean nations to develop an effective strategy that would help

the various countries improve their economic performance and boost their infrastructure.

“These are sovereign states with a long tradition of respect for the rule of law and adherence to principles of parliamentary democracy,” he said. “We should treat them with the respect they deserve. They aren't colonial territories that can be pushed around or ignored to suit our every whim. Many in the Administration didn't like their position on Iraq and even went so far as to threaten them. It's time that the Bush White House recognize that the Caribbean countries, including those in Caricom, are among our closest neighbors and remain our strong allies. We must treat them as friends and not try to punish them if they disagree with us from time to time.”

In his address to the breakfast, which was attended by scores of Jewish community leaders, senior diplomatic and consular officials from the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, Asia, Israel and other nations, Rangel spoke about the need to respect the U.S. constitution and the rights to privacy “of our people.” While emphasizing America's commitment to Israel, which was “well-known,” the Representative of Harlem and surrounding communities in Manhattan said that the sons and daughters of Americans who were being killed in Iraq were not the children of members of Congress, corporate America or people in the White House.

Engel said that the upcoming meeting in the Bahamas was important for both the U.S. and the Caricom because it would give Rice a chance to convey a “sense of involvement and engagement of the United States with the Caribbean” countries.

“It's one thing to pay lip-service to it,” added the Bronx Democrat. “It's another to really act. They are many pressing issues, not only immigration, which must be considered. The economy of the Caribbean is one such issue.”

HONORING JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 357, a resolution honoring former United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. As the first female justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, this remarkable woman presided over some of the most important cases of our time, and her accomplishments became a stepping stone for all womankind.

Justice O'Connor has strong roots to the city of El Paso, Texas, which I represent. She attended Radford School, and graduated at the age of 16 from Austin High School. Her achievements in graduating with honors from Stanford University and earning a law degree from the Stanford School of Law in only two years, have encouraged numerous aspiring students to reach their greatest potential.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor once again provided a breakthrough when she became the majority leader for the Arizona State Legislature, the first woman in the Nation to do so.

Rising from the rejection of law firm employment based on her gender, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is now known as one of the most important women in U.S. legal history.