

President Viktor Yushchenko's priorities is to improve the healthcare system in Ukraine, and that she had established a foundation, known as Ukraine 3000, for the purpose of aiding hospitals in Ukraine by securing much needed medical equipment and medicines.

The delegation I led to Kiev in early December included Dr. Stephen Lipshultz, professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Miami School of Medicine, Dianne M. Kube, Chief Administrative Officer of the Community Oncology Alliance, Sylvia Iriondo, a respected Cuban-American leader and President of Mothers and Women Against Repression, and Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, President and Chairman of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund and Nadia Matkiwsky, a member of the Board of Directors. These two Ukrainian-Americans have spent the last 13 years tirelessly dedicated to helping the people of Ukraine.

As a result of our visits to various pediatric hospitals in Kiev and meetings with Ukrainian government officials, including President Viktor Yushchenko, and also Mrs. Yushchenko, we identified three initiatives that would be the focus of our work during the course of 2006, the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Tragedy. First, establishing a physician exchange program with the University of Miami's School of Medicine so that physicians in Ukraine could come to the United States to meet with their counterparts and establish links of communication on the latest medical techniques, procedures and medicines. This past January the first step was taken toward creating this exchange program; six of Ukraine's leading pediatric physicians attend a national pediatric conference in Miami hosted by the University of Miami's School of Medicine. Second, helping the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, a highly respected humanitarian organization led by Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky and Nadia Matkiwsky, to secure medical equipment and medicines for the 20th Anniversary Airlift that the U.S. State Department is coordinating. Children of Chernobyl have an impressive reputation in working to obtain medical equipment and medicines for the neediest hospitals in Ukraine. And another initiative identified by the group, is to bring children from Ukraine who are ill to vacation at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. The first Ukrainian child, thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Sylvia Iriondo, already spent five days visiting the "Magic Kingdom".

I commend the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund for their dedication over the years on behalf of the people of Ukraine, especially Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky who are the heart and soul of the organization. I am also truly optimistic regarding the relationship that has been forged between physicians at the University of Miami's School of Medicine and physicians from Ukraine, and I commend Dr. Stephen Lipshultz for spearheading this worthy endeavor. I also thank Dianne Kube for her sound guidance and the countless hours she has dedicated to work on these initiatives, and Sylvia Iriondo for her generosity and constant leadership.

Mr. Speaker, as we pass this resolution commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy, I am honored to say that the community I represent is committed to doing all it can to help the noble people of Ukraine as they move forward on their new democratic course.

TO NAME THE MANASSAS POST OFFICE IN HONOR OF THE LATE HONORABLE HARRY J. PARRISH

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor the legacy of the Honorable Harry J. Parrish by introducing legislation which would name the Manassas Post Office at 8801 Sudley Road, Manassas, VA 20110 the "Harry J. Parrish Post Office Building." Mr. Parrish was a member of the Virginia General Assembly and decorated World War II pilot from Manassas, Virginia, who passed away on March 28 at the age of 84.

Harry Parrish served over 50 years in elected office, including 13 terms in the Virginia House of Delegates and chairman of the Finance Committee since 2000, Manassas council member and mayor. At the time of his passing, he was the oldest serving member of the House of Delegates. During his 12 years as town councilman and 18 years as mayor, Harry helped guide the transformation of Manassas from a small Virginia town to a thriving, lively suburb. As a member of the House of Delegates, he was known for conducting himself in a bipartisan manner, putting Virginia first. I was proud to call Harry my friend. He was a true Virginia gentleman.

As a decorated World War II pilot, Harry was part of the British Royal Air Force. He flew C-47s over the Himalayas delivering supplies, weapons and other cargo, from India to China. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for his valiant efforts. He served as a reservist in the Korean and Vietnam wars before retiring as a colonel.

Naming the post office on Sudley Road in Manassas in his honor is an appropriate reminder to the people of Manassas of Harry's dedication to public service.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. CARL W. RAFOTH

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rafoth of Augusta, GA on the occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary, which they celebrated on April 21, 2006. Carl and Hylda Rafoth were married on April 21, 1936, in Youngstown, OH. Carl supported his family of four children by working at the Islay Dairy Company in Youngstown. Since then, their family has grown significantly in size, as they now have 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Their family resides throughout the country in Georgia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, where their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren hold fast to the work ethic and patriotism instilled in them by these two fine Americans.

Carl's and Hylda's many decades together exemplify our American values concerning the institution of marriage. They are committed citizens, and even in their golden years, they

have never waned in actively serving their family, their country and their community in Augusta. Their service and dedication are a model for all Americans, and I come before the House with the hopes that they had a most memorable 70th anniversary.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Yom Hashoa is a day set aside on the Jewish calendar to recall with great reverence and respect the lives of the millions of victims of the Holocaust.

More than 60 years ago, a maniacal dictator rose to power in Europe, and darkness fell upon the earth. Through a doctrine of hatred and destruction, he slew blameless, pure and innocent, men, women and children. The Nazis were intent on performing a systematic annihilation of the Jewish people. Their brutal endeavor to commit genocide was no more evident than in their zeal for murdering children.

It is a heinous crime to destroy a people's past and to annihilate their future. One can only imagine the contributions to the world lost by this act of genocide, not only for our generation but for the future generations that will now never exist.

For the survivors, the Holocaust did not end with liberation. Like the marks on their arms, their lives were forever marked by this atrocity. Those who survived faced the enormous challenge of rebuilding their lives. Many succeeded, others did not, but all would remember the horror of the crimes that were perpetrated against them. Survivors who suffered this hell are a living testament to the depths of evil to which man can fall. We must never again allow such a monstrous crime by man to be committed again.

We read in Sefer Yeshayahu, the book of Isaiah:

In my house and within my walls, I shall give them a Yad Vashem—a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; an eternal, imperishable name will I give them.

On Thursday, in the United States Capitol Rotunda, we will observe Yom Hashoa. Through our observance, we create a human monument assuring that these innocent victims will not be forgotten. We here in the United States, the birthplace of Thomas Jefferson and Martin Luther King, are privileged to enjoy the greatest freedom known to man. We must never allow ourselves to take these freedoms for granted. We must never forget the genocide and human rights abuses that have occurred and, sadly, continue to occur around the world. We must not remain silent. We must dedicate ourselves to continuing to educate people around the globe about the horrors of the Holocaust. We must be eternally vigilant that such intolerance never happens again.

God full of mercy who dwells on high
Grant perfect rest on the wings of Your Divine Presence

In the lofty heights of the holy and pure who
shine as the brightness of the heavens

to the souls of the men, women and children who were slaughtered, burned and murdered during the Holocaust for the sanctification of your name, who have gone to their eternal rest let us pray for the elevation of their souls. May their resting place be in the Garden of Eden.

Therefore, the Master of mercy will care for them under the protection of His wings for all time

And bind their souls in the bond of everlasting life.

God is their inheritance and may they rest in peace and let us say Amen.

HONORING ROBERT SILLEN FOR HIS OUTSTANDING WORK IN HEALTHCARE FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my Santa Clara County colleagues Representatives MIKE HONDA and ANNA ESHOO to acknowledge and honor Robert Sillen who is retiring after a noteworthy and successful career in public health serving the residents of Santa Clara County.

In June, 1993, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, on which Congress Members LOFGREN and HONDA served, created a full-service, integrated County health care system consisting of the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Department of Public Health, Department of Mental Health, Department of Custody Health Services and the Department of Alcohol & Drug Services. The Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System is responsible for a full continuum of preventive intervention and treatment services throughout the County, both directly under County auspices and through contracts with the private sector. The system is comprised of over 6,200 employees and has an annual operating budget of nearly \$1.4 billion.

Until very recently, Robert Sillen served as Executive Director and was responsible for all aspects of the system's operations, long range planning, private and public partnerships, community relations, and capital development and information systems. Mr. Sillen was fully accountable for the development of a cost effective, fully integrated system that is essential for the successful conversion to a full-service managed care delivery system in a highly competitive environment. In addition, he was responsible for designing and implementing a County-wide Medi-Cal Managed Care program in June 1996 as well as the Children's Health Initiative and Healthy Kids program in January, 2000.

Prior to his position with the Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System, Mr. Sillen was Executive Director of the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, a 500-bed regional medical center with an operating budget of over \$800 million and 4,500 full-time equivalent employees. Services range from community based primary care satellite clinics to regional services for treatment of burns, spinal cord injuries, head trauma, neonatal intensive care, poison control and trauma, the life flight helicopter and health services for those in jail custody.

Prior to his executive director positions with the Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System and the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Mr. Sillen worked at the University Hospital at the UC Medical Center in San Diego, the City Hospital Center at Elmhurst, New York and the U.S. Public Health Service in New York, New York. He earned his Bachelor's degree from the University of Denver, Colorado and his Master's degree in Public Health from Yale University.

Robert Sillen has acted as a guardian of the virtues and spirit behind the creation of the Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System. The initial challenges faced in establishing a foundation for a strong network of health providers with private, local, regional and national departments were dizzying, but achievable with Mr. Sillen at the helm. We sincerely thank him on behalf of the thousands of residents who have benefited from this system and wish him the very best upon his retirement.

EQUAL PAY DAY STATEMENT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the persistent gender pay gap. More than four decades ago, President Kennedy attempted to address pay disparities between men and women. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 made it unlawful for employers to pay women lower wages than men for equivalent jobs. Unfortunately, this law has not eradicated pay inequality. On average, women still earn about 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. Though women earn about 18 cents more compared to men than they did in 1963, they still face significant and intolerable wage discrimination.

Women of color face even greater discrimination on the payroll. In 2004, African American women earned 67 cents for each dollar earned by white men, and Hispanic women earned a little over half of what white men earned. These pay differences persist even in equivalent positions for employees with the same levels of education and expertise.

Worse yet, pay equality for some positions has actually lost ground in the past few years. Female managers earned less than their male counterparts in 2000 than they did in 1995. Studies have shown that even when women's career choices match those of men and they work the same number of hours in equivalent positions, they earn less than men.

Wage inequality is a major indicator of gender discrimination in our country. As an original cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, H.R. 1687, I feel that it is the duty of Congress to address this unacceptable gender disparity. The Paycheck Fairness Act would strengthen provisions of the original Equal Pay Act and would make filing for class action status less onerous.

It is well past the time when women should be receiving fair wages for the work that they do. While the overall wage disparity between men and women has decreased since the 1960s, progress has been frustratingly slow. I believe that with appropriate congressional action we can finally reach wage equality for all Americans.

DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express pleasure with the passage of H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act.

What is happening in the Darfur region of Sudan is genocide. I have visited the region several times over the past couple of years, and have had the privilege to meet women and children who have suffered and who have survived. Their courage and determination to stay alive—to survive—is an inspiration and it humbles me. The atrocities being perpetrated against the innocent civilians of Darfur must be condemned in the strongest possible terms by this Congress, the Administration, and the international community.

H.R. 3127 attempts to address the dire situation in the Darfur region by reaffirming the sanctions already in place against Sudan, and by authorizing the President to block the assets and deny the visas of those deemed to be responsible for the genocide. It has taken several months to come to agreement on a version of the bill that could move forward with bipartisan support. This bill is a better bill as a result of the discussions that took place, and I am happy to support it.

During committee consideration, I successfully offered an amendment to H.R. 3127 that states that the genocide taking place in Darfur is the result of acts of terrorism, and calls on the Secretary of State to designate the Government of Sudan-supported janjaweed as a foreign terrorist organization. It also calls on the Secretary to maintain Sudan's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. I am grateful to my colleagues on the Subcommittee, and to Chairman Hyde and Ranking Member Lantos, for their support of my amendment.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3127 is a good bill but our effort cannot end here. By passing this legislation, we send a clear signal to the Government of Sudan, and the janjaweed, that the United States remains absolutely committed to seeing an end to the violence and genocide taking place in Darfur. However, while laws are important, they are merely words if not coupled with action—I urge the Administration to act further to stop this genocide. The people of Darfur deserve peace, and the Government of Sudan and the janjaweed militia deserve to be brought to justice and be held accountable for the crime of genocide.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN DAN SCHAEFER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of former Congressman Dan Schaefer, who succumbed to cancer on Tuesday, April 18, 2006.

Former Republican Representative Dan Schaefer served as the Congressman from