

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

the 6th District of Colorado for 14 years until he retired in 1998. Congressman Schaefer served on the House Commerce Committee, while he was Chairman of the Energy and Power Subcommittee, and was the senior member of the Colorado congressional delegation when he retired. His long and distinguished political career began when he was elected to the state House of Representatives in 1977, then the state Senate in 1979 before running for Congress in 1983.

Among the many causes he championed were mass-transit projects and the southwest light-rail line, and while in the Colorado State Legislature Schaefer sponsored several child protection laws. In Congress, he also helped found the House Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus and for his efforts the main building at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, was named in his honor. Schaefer was a major proponent of plans to deregulate the electric power, industry and to open it to competition. He fought for the cleanup of the decommissioned nuclear weapons plant at Rocky Flats, pushed for spending cuts, and worked on telecommunications issues.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of former Congressman Dan Schaefer who served in the House of Representatives with honor and integrity. His death is a profound loss to the community and to the causes he most admirably championed.

HONORING ELIZABETH QUINTERO

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable young woman and one of my constituents, Elizabeth Quintero of Redwood City.

Elizabeth was recently selected as the California's Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year. She was chosen from among three-dozen competitors for the title because of her intelligence, positive attitude and perseverance. Elizabeth is even more extraordinary because of the battles she has won in her personal life.

Mr. Speaker, in the last five years Elizabeth has experienced more tragedy and stress than most seventeen year olds. Her father has had to endure a tragic and debilitating health diagnosis, her home was robbed and then completely destroyed by an unfortunate fire. In addition to these challenges, Elizabeth also struggled with a strong case of social anxiety that prevented her from participating in school and in her community.

Mr. Speaker, we honor Elizabeth today for the courage and optimism she showed in the face of adversity. After accompanying a friend to the local Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula she began to fight her social anxiety. This once shy girl became an active member of the Keystone Club where she attended workshops on leadership skills and public speaking. She volunteered for Community Service and Academic Programs, while excelling at school and emerging as a leader among her friends and classmates.

Elizabeth received the Youth of the Year award honoring her outstanding contributions

to the community but also overcoming personal obstacles.

Elizabeth continues to challenge herself and her friends and neighbors. On the day she was named Youth of the Year she also learned she had been accepted for admission to the University of San Francisco. This summer she will advance to the Regional Youth of the Year competition, and then to Washington, D.C. to compete for the title of National Youth of the Year, an honor that includes a \$15,000 college scholarship presented by President George W. Bush.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Elizabeth on this distinguished award and her promising future.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF REV. WILLIAM SLOANE COFFIN, JR.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the life of an American patriot, the Reverend William Sloane Coffin Jr. As a prophetic mouthpiece for God, Reverend Coffin spoke truth to power. He trumpeted the call to America to live up to its moral ideals by remembering the plight of the poor and oppressed at home and abroad. Reverend Coffin was a peace maker around the world, encouraging America and nations alike to pursue peace over war; "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Reverend Coffin fought for civil rights and was a staunch opponent of the Vietnam war in the 1960's. In Montgomery he was arrested in protest of segregation in the South; he was a disciple and advocate of civil disobedience. He believed civil disobedience could bring social and political change in the world pervaded with inequality and injustice. As an ordained Presbyterian minister he adhered to a strong sense of call to social activism. He was in the early 60s the senior minister at the historic Riverside Church in my congressional district.

His ministry focused on a variety of social and moral issues facing humanity. He drew attention to the plight of the poor, political and military power, nuclear disarmament and interfaith understanding. Reverend Coffin exemplified tremendous courage in standing up for what he believed was just and fair. He would often say that "courage is the first virtue, because 'it makes all other virtues possible.'" Reverend Coffin was indeed courageous in his fight against genocide in certain parts of the world, particularly in Bosnia.

"Every minister is given two roles, the priestly and the prophetic." He would often remind his interviewers of this theological claim to help America and the world understand why a minister was concerned with social-political affairs. In the tumultuous years of the Vietnam war he was outspoken in opposition to the war along side another prominent minister, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He led major demonstrations in protest concerning the grave injustice and moral wrongness of the Vietnam war which garnered him international recognition. His prophetic role mandated Reverend Coffin to challenge the status quo on an international level.

In addition to serving as a senior minister, Reverend Coffin also assumed the chaplaincy

post at Yale University. At Yale, during the Vietnam war, he counseled and encouraged students to protest the draft by returning their draft cards to the Justice Department. He infuriated the Johnson administration but he stood courageous and firm. Students at Yale respected him for his genuine and sincere approach to ministry and were urged to become sensitive to social struggle around the world by championing the cause of justice and peace. He remained at Yale until 1976, when he began to work on world hunger programs.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the life of Rev. William Sloane Coffin, his life reminds America that the voice of dissent is patriotism at its best. When he engaged in debate about American social policies and practices he would often characterize them as a partner engaged in a lovers' quarrel.

COMMEMORATING EARTH DAY 2006

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Earth Day 2006, which was celebrated last Saturday, April 22.

Earth Day was established in 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, who firmly believed that education was the key to changing public attitudes about the environment. Since then, Earth Day celebrations have spread throughout America and to the rest of the world, with more and more people getting involved in efforts to clean and nurture the environment.

Despite Earth Day's popularity and the many programs that were created to improve the planet's health, our world is still wrought with environmental problems. We still face many pressing issues, such as protecting coastal waters from offshore drilling, preserving the Alaskan Tongass Rainforest, the Redrock lands in Utah, and resources in the Rockies.

Closer to home, we must continue to focus our efforts on restoring the Chesapeake Bay. The Bush Administration's budget proposes drastic cuts to vital initiatives, including the Chesapeake Bay Targeted Watershed Grants Program, the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office, and several Farm Bill Conservation programs that help farmers reduce nutrient runoff entering the Bay. Last year, I was pleased to participate in the Living Shoreline Grants program, which involved growing seagrasses in my office that I later planted in Annapolis' Back Creek. I am also pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Enhancement Act, which will reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program and implement new water quality standards for the Bay's tributaries.

I have long supported a comprehensive, long-term, more environment-friendly energy policy that places emphasis on increasing the availability and use of renewable energy, as well as promoting greater energy efficiency that new technologies can provide. The United States needs to utilize new technologies that focus on renewable energy sources to reduce the nation's dependency on foreign oil and high gasoline prices.