

REMEMBERING THE MASSACRE AT SREBRENICA

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr OLVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of one of the greatest tragedies of our lifetime. Today marks the 12th anniversary of the massacre in Srebrenica during the Bosnian war. On July 11, 1995 more than 7,000 Bosnian Muslims were systematically murdered by Serbian military and paramilitary forces in the largest massacre of civilians in Europe since World War II.

Beginning in April 1992, aggression and ethnic cleansing perpetrated by Bosnian Serb forces, while taking control of the surrounding territory, resulted in a massive influx of Bosnians seeking protection in Srebrenica and its environs, which the United Nations Security Council designated a “safe area” in Resolution 819 on April 16, 1993. Despite the visage of international protection, thousands of Muslim men and boys were slaughtered before the eyes of the world as part of a deliberate campaign of ethnic terror and genocide.

As we look back and remember the massacre in Srebrenica, it is not enough simply to mark its anniversary on the calendar. While we mourn the victims of these shocking events, we must also look to the present and to the future. When confronted with the horrors of the Holocaust the world proclaimed, “Never Again.” Since that time we have witnessed the genocide in Rwanda, Cambodia, and, as we are reminded on this date, Bosnia. Today we are faced with an ongoing genocide in Darfur. Once again, thousands of innocent people are being attacked, raped, and murdered. And once again, it is not enough to stand by and express regret as these events unfold before our eyes. On this somber anniversary, let us affirm our commitment, not merely with words but with deeds, to the pledge “Never Again.”

INTRODUCTION OF THE KENDELL FREDERICK CITIZENSHIP ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Kendell Frederick Citizenship Assistance Act of 2007, which will assist over 68,000 non-citizens serving in the U.S. military in their quest to become citizens of the United States. Their sacrifice on behalf of this Nation is great; therefore, those who protect our country as non-citizens should undoubtedly be able to quickly bypass unwarranted red tape when applying for citizenship.

This legislation honors the memory of 21-year-old Army Reserve Spc. Kendell K. Frederick, a resident of Baltimore County and native of Trinidad who was stationed in Iraq when he made the decision to become a U.S. citizen. On October 19, 2005, after trying for more than a year to become a citizen and having his application delayed at least five times due to miscommunication and misin-

formation in the processing of his fingerprints, Kendell had no other choice but to travel with a convoy to a base to resolve this issue. Unfortunately, he was killed on the way by a roadside bomb, never realizing his dream of becoming an American citizen.

Spc. Frederick died while trying to show his gratitude to this country, to a Nation that finally showed its appreciation far too late by awarding him citizenship posthumously. Surely, it did not have to be this way. This legislation corrects this wrong by removing unnecessary hurdles that our non-citizen armed service members have been required to undergo in applying for citizenship along with ensuring that they are provided with assistance from the military and immigration officials, especially during their deployment. Specifically, the Act would assist our non-citizen men and women in uniform on the pathway to citizenship by making the following needed adjustments:

requires the Department of Homeland Security use the fingerprints taken by the military at induction for citizenship applications;

requires non-citizen military service members to submit their citizenship applications within 24 months of enlistment;

requires the Department of Homeland Security to create a dedicated customer service 1-800 phone line for service members and their families to call with questions;

requires the Department of Homeland Security to promptly update and revise its written and electronic citizenship application, instructions and guidebook within 30 days of any material change in the law or regulation; and

ensures executive agency accountability to Congress by requiring a GAO report documenting how the Department of Homeland Security currently handles military service members’ citizenship applications as well as the training that DHS personnel receive regarding military citizenship applications.

Non-citizens are 5 percent of the total active duty U.S. military service members. According to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), between September 11, 2001 and December 2006, 84 non-citizen armed services members (including Spc. Frederick) killed in action have been awarded posthumous citizenship. For their sacrifice, these non-citizens more than deserve not to be entangled in overly burdensome bureaucratic red tape.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support our troops by supporting this bill.

SWEARING IN OF POLICE OFFICER JOANNE MCNELIS INTO THE MALVERNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero and a trailblazer from the 4th Congressional District. Joanne McNelis will make history when she is sworn into the Village of Malverne’s Police Department.

Her actions will reverberate long after her service has finished. This is a historic moment. She will become the first female police

officer in the 80-year history of the Village of Malverne. Those that follow after her will have a hole in the glass ceiling that Joanne McNelis created. Joanne’s decision could not have been easy. It is never a simple matter to do something that had long been the purview of men. She has demonstrated significant courage—physical and emotional.

The daughter of one New York City Police Officer and the wife of another, law enforcement has always been in her blood. Joanne McNelis continues a long line of devoted public servants. She will risk her life to protect and serve her fellow citizens of Malverne. Her willingness to sacrifice her comfort and safety will make her village a safer place.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the outstanding courage and the extraordinary achievement of Joanne McNelis. Together with her family and friends, I applaud Joanne for her dedication to her community and her sense of duty. I wish her continued success, and am honored to have her as a member of my district.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE JO ANN C. STEVENSON’S RETIREMENT AS CHIEF UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer recognition of the Honorable Jo Ann C. Stevenson’s retirement as Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Michigan. Judge Stevenson was the first woman in the Western District of Michigan to be appointed to the Federal bench.

Judge Stevenson graduated cum laude from the Detroit College of Law in 1979. Upon graduation, Judge Stevenson clerked for the Honorable Vincent J. Brennan in the Michigan Court of Appeals and later for the Honorable Cornelia G. Kennedy in the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. While employed in the corporate insolvency practice group at the firm of Hertzberg, Jacob, and Weingarten in Detroit, MI, she was appointed a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge on December 23, 1987. In the course of her career, Judge Stevenson has authored several hundred opinions, of which approximately 95 percent have been affirmed on appeal.

During the time Judge Stevenson was on the bench, she also taught Bankruptcy Reorganization and Debtor/Creditor Relations at her alma mater. She has given numerous presentations and speeches and participated in many panels, including conferences for the Federal Bar Association Bankruptcy Seminar, the Conference for Chief Bankruptcy Judges, the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Grand Rapids Bar Association, the University of Michigan Institute of Public Policy Studies and the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Judge Stevenson has also been an active member of the Women Lawyer’s Association of Michigan, the National Association of Women Judges, the Grand Rapids Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the American Inns of Court, the Joint Steering Committee for the Gender Fairness Task Force

and a Racial/Ethnic Task Force in the Sixth Circuit, and the Standing Local Rules Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Michigan.

Judge Stevenson's departure from the bench will certainly mark a new chapter in her life, which will surely be as successful as her legal career. Though she plans to remain active in the Grand Rapids area, she plans to enjoy spending more time with her husband, Marshall Grate, and her many grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her service and in wishing her a long, happy retirement.

HONORING SERGEANT RONALD D. SLOCKETT

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand before you today to honor the memory of an admirable man and fallen officer, Sergeant Ronald D. Slockett of the Sugar Land Police Department. His memory continues to represent the many brave Americans who put their lives in the line of fire every day to keep our cities and states safe. It is for his unwavering commitment to his duty and dedication to serving his community that the Police Department will be commemorating his sacrifice with a 21-gun salute to be held on the steps of Sugar Land City Hall on July 2nd.

Twenty years ago, while the Nation was celebrating its Independence Day, Sergeant Slockett patrolled the streets. During a routine traffic stop, suspects in the car shot and fatally wounded the veteran policeman. The perpetrators were drug traffickers who were holding hostages in the vehicle with the intent to harm them. Sergeant Slockett's courageous actions that fateful night will always be remembered with admiration, and today, he is recognized as the only Sugar Land Police Department officer to be killed in the line of duty.

Those who knew him recalled his "humor and fast wit," and his "gift to make you laugh." His daughter described him "as a perfect father," while others expressed their respect for his bravery. Simply said, Sergeant Slockett's energy and dedication continues to inspire many in the field. I am proud to honor his commendable contribution as a fallen soldier safeguarding our families and homes.

TRANSITIONAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND ABSTINENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM EXTENSION

SPEECH OF

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, providing health insurance to those working their way out of welfare is vitally important. However, pairing a program that actually helps American families with one that extends funding for abstinence-only education is truly insulting. To stay healthy, our adolescents must receive accurate information about protecting themselves from sexually transmitted infection. Federal funding should not be squandered on programs that are not medically accurate or scientifically proven to prevent disease and unintended pregnancy. This is especially true as we struggle to find funding to provide American youth with health insurance. Our children deserve better than this.

Politics often requires compromises. But make no mistake; my vote is a vote for working families, and not against proven programs to reduce unwanted teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. The Transitional Medical Assistance program will require future extensions, and I will continue to fight for programs that provide real information and protection for our children.

TRIBUTE TO ANNE THERESA HAWK

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, It is my honor to recognize and pay tribute to Anne Theresa Hawk, who celebrated her 100th birthday on June 29, 2007.

Anne was born on June 29, 1907 in Cloverdale, OH. She spent her childhood on a farm in Gainesville, TX, where she attended school in a one-room schoolhouse. The eighth of nine children, Anne is the last surviving member of her family.

Chicago has been Anne's home since she was 22 years old and it is also the place where she met her husband and where they raised their beautiful family. A loving caregiver, she has selflessly dedicated her love and energy to her three children, six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Over time, Anne has become quite a formidable scrabble player. She is also a writer, and she penned a memoir of her childhood in Texas called *Hills Are for Climbing*.

On behalf of the people of the Ninth Congressional District of Illinois, it is my privilege

to congratulate Anne Theresa Hawk on this momentous occasion. You are a true inspiration, an asset to the community, and a wonderful woman. I wish you continued good health and happiness.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH HEALTH SYSTEM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Joseph Health System, which has received a prestigious 2007 Great Workplace Award from the Gallup Organization recognizing the company as one of the twelve best places to work worldwide. St. Joseph Health System operates hospitals and clinics throughout California and is an important healthcare provider for residents of California's First District.

The First District is home to three of St. Joseph's hospitals: Redwood Regional Hospital in Fortuna, St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka, and Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa. I have had a long and productive working relationship with these hospitals—as has my wife, Jan, who fondly recalls her days working in Queen of the Valley with Sister Ann.

These hospitals have been fixtures in the North Coast health care delivery system for decades. St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka opened in 1920 in response to the influenza epidemic. It was the first full-service hospital in that area, staffed by 18 Sisters and one lay nurse. Today, St. Joseph Health System is the second largest employer in Humboldt County.

Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa is recognized as one of the region's premier treatment centers. Founded over 40 years ago, today it specializes in cardiovascular medicine and a full range of cancer prevention, diagnostic, and treatment services.

St. Joseph Health System is one of the ministries of the St. Joseph Sisters of Orange, a religious order dedicated to social justice, education, and healthcare. In addition to the order's work at St. Joseph Health System, they are a sponsoring religious order of Loyola Marymount University and provide funding for Taller San Jose, a center for the empowerment and education of Latino young adults living in poverty.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we congratulate St. Joseph Health System for receiving a 2007 Great Workplace Award, and acknowledge the contributions they have made to the health of citizens throughout California and the other states in which they serve.