

and to his comrades still serving and yet to serve, he ensured the safety and effectiveness of their aviation equipment from his new place in the private sector. Tom later worked as the contracting administrator for the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO) and then in a number of capacities for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in Washington State, protecting the natural resources of those lush lands.

Tom also found time to pursue personal interests, like scuba diving, travel, and softball—both as player and as coach. He spent a wonderful life with his wife of 28 years, Lohna; his son Kevin Thomas O'Rourke and his wife Casey; and his beautiful granddaughter, Mallie. Tom's son not only carries on his father's name, but also the proud family tradition of service as a pilot in the United States Marine Corps.

Tom O'Rourke's place in this world is not easily filled; he touched so many lives with such sincerity of spirit. But his courage and determination and sense of fellowship live on with his family and friends. And, I join them in celebrating this heroic life.

A TRIBUTE TO LISA SHOMAN ON
HER APPOINTMENT TO FOREIGN
MINISTER OF BELIZE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an opinion editorial published in the New York CaribNews newspaper the week ending July 17, 2007 titled "Ambassador Lisa Shoman: Belize's First Female Foreign Minister," and honor the contributions of Ambassador Shoman to Belize and the rest of Central America and the Caribbean.

Ambassador Shoman has been a trailblazer and a pioneer in many different areas. She has often taken the path less traveled, excelled in her chosen field and created opportunities and hope for women in her country. Known to be a vocal advocate of women's issues, she used to conduct free legal clinics for women and has helped draft domestic violence, sexual offenses and sexual harassment legislation for Belize.

In 2000, Ambassador Shoman was selected as the first woman to serve as Belize's ambassador to the United States, permanent representative to the OAS and high commissioner to Canada. She proudly represents a country that is a model of racial tolerance and cultural harmony and a beacon of multicultural plurality and while ambassador worked tirelessly to train the people of her nation and educate policy makers about its many virtues.

In June 2007, she led the Caribbean ambassadors in a working group with congressional staff to identify and prepare a substantive agenda for the CARICOM Presidents and Prime Minister Summit in Washington, DC, that addressed the core issues in the U.S. and CARICOM bilateral relations. Ambassador Shoman was instrumental in putting this summit together. She clearly articulated the goals of these meetings and insisted that tangible results should be accomplished. She deserves a great share of the credit for a summit re-

garded by everyone as a great success in achieving a new enhanced framework for consultation and cooperation between the governments of the United States and the CARICOM nations.

Since the Summit, the U.S. Secretary of Education is scheduled to travel to the region to provide assistance in expanding tertiary education programs in the CARICOM nations. The Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in response to the concerns expressed by the leaders of CARICOM, held a hearing on that examined the effects criminal deportees are having on Caribbean nations. The administration and senior members of the Committee on Ways and Means have committed to a renewal of the Caribbean Basin Initiative to guarantee special access to the U.S. market for exports from the Caribbean.

Ambassador Shoman has been a powerful and effective advocate for the interests of the people in the Caribbean and Latin America. I look forward to continue to work with her in her new capacity as foreign minister of the great country of Belize.

[From the CaribNews, July 17, 2007]

AMBASSADOR LISA SHOMAN BELIZE'S FIRST
FEMALE FOREIGN MINISTER

(By Tony Best)

BELMOPAN.—Lisa Shoman was sworn in as Belize's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, recently at a quiet ceremony at the residence of Governor General Sir Colville Young.

The first female Foreign Minister, in her characteristic style, insisted on having her grandmother at her side to hold the bible while she took her oath of office.

According to her father, Yasin Shoman, her mother, Hilda Hoy Shoman could not stop the young Lisa from heading out on to the then rough campaign trail in the Cayo district. From the outset, Lisa proved to a shrewd observer with a knack for dealing with difficult people and talking to even the most hostile with a natural ease. She also proved to be one of the best polling agents and counters that an unbiased campaign manager could want. She has never missed a campaign since, serving in Cayo, Freetown, Caribbean Shores, San Pedro and Port Loyola, and on the PUP's National Campaign Committee.

According to Lisa Shoman's family, they always knew she would study law, a natural for this feisty advocate, and she remained fiercely focused on her path, winning scholarship after scholarship; from high school to sixth form to university and doing exceptionally well at CXCs, O and A levels.

At 24, Shoman returned to her beloved Belize fresh from law school and went to work at the DPP's office. After her return from doing a Masters Program in Barbados at UWI, Shoman returned to private practice at Young's Law Firm and during the five years she was there, also devoted time to community service, giving talks and lectures to a variety of groups, and serving as the first female president of the Belize Bar Association.

She is perhaps best known as a vocal advocate of women's issues, appearing on radio and television programs, conducting free legal clinics for women, working with Women Against Violence (WAV), and helping to draft Domestic Violence, Sexual Offences and Sexual Harassment Legislation. During those years, Shoman worked on children's issues, and served as legal advisor to the Toledo Maya Cultural Council on land rights issues. She also lectured Constitutional and

Administrative Law for UWI's Challenge program and the UB Paralegal program.

After the 1998 election, Shoman was chosen by the PUP Administration to be the Government of Belize's representative to the Board of Directors of Belize Telecommunications Limited, and was duly elected as Chairman, serving for an eventful two year term, while on her own in private practice, and then going into partnership with Michel Chebat.

In July 2000, Prime Minister Musa tapped Shoman to serve as Belize's Ambassador to the United States, as well as Permanent Representative to the OAS, and High Commissioner to Canada, the first woman to be so honored. She has now served for almost seven years, under four Belizean Foreign Ministers and is currently the deputy dean of Ambassadors at the OAS.

Shoman has been a member of the Belize-Guatemala negotiating team since her arrival in DC and has been a part of virtually all negotiating meetings under the auspices of the OAS. In a difficult and delicate phase in 2004, she was sent by PM Musa as his Special Envoy to Guatemala for two months, just prior to the publication of the historic Facilitators Report.

She has served with three OAS Secretaries General and was able to attain Belize's membership in the Grupo Centro Americano (GRUCA) caucus of ambassadors, thereby gaining for her country the singular honor of being the only country at the OAS to belong to two regional groups, CARICOM and GRUCA. Shoman has served twice as regional coordinator and chair of both groups for the customary six month term.

Shoman was given Mexico's highest honor to a foreign Diplomat, in the highest grade—the Order of the Aztec Eagle. Lisa Shoman also earned the Order of Jose De Marcoleta in the Grade of Grand Cross later that same year from the Republic of Nicaragua. At the OAS, Ambassador Shoman served two 18 month terms as Chair of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development, and also Vice Chair of the Permanent Council and has chaired several key meetings of the Permanent Council.

Ambassador Shoman has been a powerful and effective advocate for the interest of the people of Belize.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND CHIEF
MASTER SERGEANT VICKIE
ORCUTT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that Command CMSgt Vicki Orcutt of Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, MO, has retired after 29 years of service.

Command Chief Master Sergeant Orcutt joined the Air Force in the mid-1970s. In her current role, she advises the Wing Commander on matters related to the health, morale, and welfare of the enlisted force and on matters related to the proper training, equipment, and utilization of enlisted personnel. Throughout the entire Air Force there are 138 Command Chief Master Sergeant positions. Only nine are women.

In her early years, Command Chief Master Sergeant Orcutt obtained a degree in Human Resources. She is now considering a teaching

job and hopes to stay in Lafayette County, MO, her current home.

Madam Speaker, Command Chief Master Sergeant Orcutt has been a valuable asset to Whiteman Air Force Base and the entire Nation. She has helped to shape the future of the Air Force through her dedicated service of 29 years. I know that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Chief Master Sergeant Orcutt.

BROKEN PROMISES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last night, Republicans offered a motion to recommit the Agriculture Appropriations bill that would have sent the bill back to the Appropriations Committee “promptly” for them to amend. But that didn’t happen.

Instead, Democrats shut down the vote when it looked like the outcome wasn’t going to come out in their favor.

Last night’s Democratic tactics amount to the disenfranchisement of American voters.

Four Republicans were not able to cast their vote for their constituents—representing over 2.4 million Americans who were not allowed to have their voice heard.

This is the biggest broken promise to the American people—tax increases, hidden earmarks, budget deficits—none of these broken promises match up to the unfair acts of the Democrat majority last night.

This is not what the American people expect of their elected representatives.

They deserve better and the Republicans in Congress will stand united to ensure they get what they paid for.

In conclusion God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

STAY THE COURSE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, many of my colleagues here today would have you believe that the war in Iraq, our foremost front in the fight against radical Islam, is lost. They will tell you, Madam Speaker, that the causes for which we fight, causes upon which our own Nation was founded, like the freedom, the worth of the individual and human rights, are not worth fighting for in Iraq. They will tell you that game is over and that the best that the American people can do is turn around and walk away in defeat.

This defeat by retreat lacks wisdom of what war is about. America does not fight wars, so we can lose them by quitting.

This is the time for the United States to stand firm in its commitment to freedom abroad. Now is the time for the United States to build up this sprouting democracy, rather than let it be torn down by those who would seek to destroy all of us who believe in liberty.

Surrender has never been the American way, Madam Speaker. Since our Nation’s in-

ception, we have stood for what is right, even when all odds were against us. Let us follow in the footsteps of those who came before us, those who risked everything in order to preserve freedom for all.

And that’s just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO CITY OF SCHERTZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Schertz for being named one of the Top 100 Best Places to Live by Money Magazine.

The City of Schertz was founded in 1843, and is the largest city in Guadalupe County, which encompasses a part of the 28th Congressional District. Schertz is located between the large metropolitan areas of San Antonio and Austin, but has retained its small-town, community feel which was noted by Money Magazine. Schertz is home to over 34,000 Texans that enjoy all the city has to offer such as its Fourth of July Jubilee which draws visitors from all over Texas.

Schertz has witnessed unprecedented growth since the late 1980s. From 2000–2005, the city’s population went from 18,694 to 26,463. In the past year, that population rose by over 7,000 to 34,000. The growth is attributed to the city’s vibrant economy, its schools, and the quality of life enjoyed by its residents. It is clear why Schertz is No. 40 on the Top 100 Best Places To Live by Money Magazine. In the State of Texas alone, it is ranked as the No. 1 place to live.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the City of Schertz for their being named one of the Top 100 Best Places To Live by Money Magazine.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO COMBAT HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representatives DEBORAH PRYCE and LYNN WOOLSEY, I am reintroducing legislation that would combat human sex trafficking by using the Tax Code to put traffickers in prison. Approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Instead of dreams of better jobs and better lives, they are trapped into a nightmare of coercion, violence, and disease. However, trafficking is not just a problem in other countries. In addition to the men, women, and children from around the world who are brought into the United States for the sole purpose of being bought and sold by American citizens for commercial sex, in many communities, the victims themselves are Americans.

The legislation would authorize \$4 million toward the establishment of an office within the IRS Criminal Investigation Division to prosecute sex traffickers for violations of tax laws.

This office would coordinate closely with the existing task forces in the Department of Justice that are focused on sex trafficking offenders. The IRS would be directed to focus on the willful failure of traffickers to file returns, supply information, or pay taxes where the taxpayer is an “aggravated” non-filer. Additionally, the provision establishes a new felony offense for an aggravated failure to file, to include failure to file with respect to income or payments derived from activity which is criminal under Federal or State law. The aggravated failure shall carry a maximum sentence of 10 years per failure and shall increase the penalty from \$25,000 under current law to \$50,000. The legislation also increases other penalties for underpayment or overpayment of tax due to fraud.

The bill works to the benefit of the women and girls that are victimized by the traffickers not only by removing the traffickers from the streets but also by revising the IRS Whistleblower provisions that are currently in place so that the women and girls who choose to participate in the investigation of the trafficker will be eligible to participate in the whistleblower program and may ultimately receive some payment for their participation.

This bill will provide the IRS with the necessary resources to prosecute traffickers, pimps, and sex tour operators and recover their illicit profits. It is important that we protect the victims of the sex trade industry and punish the predators who exploit them.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VIDA LIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vida Chan Lin for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Las Vegas community.

Vida Chan Lin has been an outstanding member of the Asian Community in Nevada for more than ten years. She currently serves as the vice-president for both the Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce and the Las Vegas Organization of Chinese Americans. In addition to these prestigious roles Vida also has the honor of being a founding member of the Nevada Asian American/Pacific Islander Leadership Council, and in 2002 she worked on the fundraising committee of the Japanese American Citizens League national convention. She has also served on the Clark County Business Development Advisory Council, and was a member of the Clark County Library District Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Advisory Committee.

Vida’s positive attitude and passion for service in the Asian community has made her a well respected leader and role model for younger generations. Members of her chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans have characterized her as the “Queen Bee” of their growing family and state that without her, they would not be where they are today. Vida’s efforts and accomplishments provide an atmosphere for others to learn and benefit from her exceptional leadership.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Vida Chan Lin. I would like to personally thank her for her dedicated service to our community, as well as for her support of the Asian Pacific Islander community in Las Vegas.