

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO JIRAIR S.
HOVNANIAN

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jirair S. Hovnanian, a successful family and businessman who started a construction company in New Jersey over 40 years ago.

Mr. Hovnanian is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 1952, after emigrating from Kirkuk, Iraq. His company, J.S. Hovnanian & Sons, built more than 6,000 homes, mainly in Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties. To his family he was known as a generous nurturer, who pursued the American dream. Mr. Hovnanian started his company in 1964 after splitting with a company he started with his three brothers. In recognition of his success, the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations presented Mr. Hovnanian with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2006 for his numerous contributions to the country.

Mr. Hovnanian's life of service is worthy of admiration, and in addition to being a constituent and colleague, I am proud to call Mr. Hovnanian a friend. Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. Hovnanian today for all that he has done for the First Congressional District of New Jersey and our country.

ON THE FAIR HOME HEALTH CARE
ACT OF 2007

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 11 of this year, the Supreme Court decided the case of Long Island Care at Home Ltd. v. Coke. It held that home health care workers employed by third-party agencies are not eligible for the overtime and minimum wage protections provided under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). At issue in the Coke case was a narrow exemption to the FLSA created in 1974 for "companionship services" for babysitters and caretakers for seniors and the disabled.

In 1974, when the exemption was enacted, homecare, like babysitting, was largely provided by family and friends. Today we live in a different world, and caregiving is one of the fastest growing industries in the United States. Today about 2.4 million workers are employed by nursing homes, home health care agencies, assisted living, and other residential facilities.

Low wages and high turnover contribute to the shortage of workers in this fast-growing field. In 2003, direct-care workers earned an average of \$9.20 per hour, significantly less

than the average U.S. wage of \$13.53 for all workers. Nearly 20 percent of all direct-care workers earn annual incomes below the poverty level, and they are twice as likely as other workers to receive food stamps and to lack health insurance. In addition, most home health care workers are minority women, likely to be single heads of households.

When Congress created this exemption, it never intended to exclude those workers who were "regular breadwinners," and there is substantial evidence that the exemption was directed to only "casual basis" workers.

The "Fair Home Health Care Act is a narrow bill clarifying that home health care workers are entitled to labor protections under the FLSA so long as they are not employed on a "casual basis."

These workers provide valuable services to our Nation's older Americans and people with disabilities and help them maintain their independence. Currently, 1.3 million Americans require long-term assistance in their home, and this need is expected to double as baby boomers age. Providing workers with FLSA wage protections will not only provide them with a living wage but will help attract workers to this rapidly growing occupation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOTER
PROTECTION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Voter Protection Act. Unlike most so-called "campaign reform" proposals, the Voter Protection Act enhances fundamental liberties and expands the exchange of political ideas. The Voter Protection Act accomplishes this goal by lowering and standardizing the requirements for, and the time required to get, signatures to qualify a Federal candidate for the ballot. Many states have unfair rules and regulations that make it virtually impossible for minor party and independent candidates to get on the ballot.

I want to make 4 points about this bill. First, it is constitutional. Article I, section 4, explicitly authorizes the U.S. Congress to, "At any time by law make or alter such regulations regarding the manner of holding elections." This is the authority that was used for the Voter Rights Act of 1965.

The second point I would like to make is an issue of fairness. Because so many states require independent candidates to collect an excessive amount of signatures in a short period of time, many individuals are excluded from the ballot. For instance, there has not been one minor party candidate in a regularly scheduled election for the U.S. House of Representatives on the Georgia ballot since 1943, because of Georgia's overly strict ballot access requirements. This is unfair. The Voter Protection Act corrects this.

My third point addresses those who worry about overcrowding on the ballot. In fact, there have been statistical studies made of states that have minimal signature requirements and generous grants of time to collect the signatures. Instead of overcrowding, these states have an average of 3.3 candidates per ballot.

The fourth point that I would like to make is that complying with ballot access rules drains resources from even those minor party candidates able to comply with these onerous rules. This obviously limits the ability of minor party candidates to communicate their message and ideas to the general public. Perhaps the ballot access laws are one reason why voter turnout has been declining over the past few decades. After all, almost 42 percent of eligible voters have either not registered to vote or registered as something other than Democrat or Republican.

The Voter Protection Act is a constitutional way to reform campaign laws to increase voter participation by making the election process fairer and open to new candidates and ideas. I hope all my colleagues will join me in supporting this true campaign reform bill.

IN HONOR OF ANGELICA BERRIE,
FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE
ADLER APHASIA CENTER

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to join the more than 20,000 families in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area that have been impacted by aphasia, an isolating loss of words, but not intelligence, that often follows stroke or brain injury, in paying tribute to their very own angel, Angelica Berrie.

Angelica is a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Adler Aphasia Center, opened in 2003 in Maywood, New Jersey to provide education, training, advocacy, and research hope to those suffering from aphasia. Since then she has been an active member of the Board. Angelica is also a driving force behind a number of other charitable organizations: the Board Chair for Gilda's Club Worldwide, a free cancer support community; Board Chair for the Center for Inter-Religious Understanding; and a Board member of American Friends of Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. She formerly was a Board member of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation for Humanism in Medicine and a former member of Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons' Diabetes Advisory Committee. Her well-rounded pursuits bring hope and help to so many people in North Jersey and, indeed, around the world.

Her late husband, Russ, founded the world renowned gift company, Russ Berrie and Company. His philanthropic gifts live on

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through the Russell Berrie Foundation, which Angelica serves as President. Amongst its many accomplishments, the Foundation has created the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center at New York Presbyterian Hospital, the Berrie Fellows Program for community leadership, the Berrie Humanistic Care Center at Englewood Hospital, and the Berrie Performing Arts Center at Ramapo College.

Angelica has been a generous benefactor, a compassionate voice, and a dedicated advocate for so many. In her lifetime, she has touched a million lives in overwhelmingly positive ways. Tonight the Adler Aphasia Center is honoring Angelica Berrie for her service to her fellow man, and I join them in commending her for giving so much of herself to make the world around her a better place.

A TRIBUTE TO JIMMY FIFIS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jimmy Fifis, a family man and successful business owner of Ponzio's Restaurant in Cherry Hill. Mr. Fifis recently passed away and his restaurant, Ponzio's, was widely regarded as a Southern New Jersey dining tradition.

Born on the Greek Island of Andros in 1939, Mr. Fifis immigrated to Southern New Jersey in 1966. He began as a dishwasher in a restaurant owned by his two brothers and rose through the ranks to become the owner and operator of Ponzio's. Mr. Fifis has three sons who currently run the family business, which serves 10 to 12 thousand loyal customers per week. Mr. Fifis was loved and respected by all of his employees for his willingness to do any task, whether it was peeling potatoes or managing the restaurant.

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. Fifis today for all he has done for The First Congressional District of New Jersey and our country. Mr. Fifis's presence will surely be missed at Ponzio's and throughout the entire Southern New Jersey community. In addition to being a constituent, I am proud to call Mr. Fifis a friend.

EXPANDING AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1852) to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to use risk-based pricing to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of this bill, which will help hundreds of thousands of families realize the American Dream of homeownership. This bill helps protect those vulnerable to unscrupulous

subprime lending, and helps those who are currently struggling to make their payments by refinancing their loans at a more affordable rate.

It is not right for anyone to be struggling to meet his or her mortgage payments due to the unfair lending practices of predatory lenders. Putting lower-income families on the path to homeownership helps them become more financially solvent, and helps them have more of a stake in the health of their community. Homeownership leads to healthy families, healthy communities, and rosier financial situations for all.

I also applaud the passage of an amendment introduced by Chairman FRANK that will help more families, in my district specifically, afford homes. This amendment raises the Federal Housing Administration's single-family loan limits so that lower-income families are not barred from buying homes in the higher-cost markets where they may work. Why should a firefighter who works in my district be forced to commute a long way to her or his home instead of buying an affordable home near the fire station? This amendment will allow potential residents of high-price home markets to afford homes.

This is a good bill that will help America's families in numerous ways. I thank my colleague MAXINE WATERS for introducing it and look forward to benefits it will bring to the hard-working families in my district.

INTRODUCING THE TELEVISION CONSUMER FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Television Consumer Freedom Act, legislation repealing regulations that interfere with a consumer's ability to obtain desired television programming. The Television Consumer Freedom Act also repeals federal regulations that would increase the cost of a television.

My office has received numerous calls from rural satellite and cable TV customers who are upset because their satellite or cable service providers have informed them that they will lose access to certain network and cable programming. The reason my constituents cannot obtain their desired satellite and cable services is that the satellite and cable "marketplace" is fraught with government interventionism at every level. Local governments have historically granted cable companies franchises of monopoly privilege. Government has previously intervened to invalidate "exclusive dealings" contracts between private parties, namely cable service providers and program creators, and has most recently imposed price controls. The Library of Congress has even been delegated the power to determine prices at which program suppliers must make their programs available to cable and satellite programming service providers.

It is, of course, within the constitutionally enumerated powers of Congress to "promote the progress of Science and Useful Arts by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the Exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." However, operating

a clearing-house for the subsequent transfer of such property rights in the name of setting a just price or "instilling competition" via "central planning" seems to be neither economically prudent nor justifiable under this enumerated power. This process is one best reserved to the competitive marketplace.

It is impossible for the government to set the just price for satellite programming. Overregulation of the cable industry has resulted in competition among service providers for government privilege rather than free market competition among providers to offer a better product at a lower price. While federal regulation does leave satellite programming service providers free to bypass the governmental royalty distribution scheme and negotiate directly with owners of programming for program rights, there is a federal prohibition on satellite service providers making local network affiliates' programs available to nearby satellite subscribers. This bill repeals that federal prohibition so satellite service providers may freely negotiate with program owners for programming desired by satellite service subscribers. Technology is now available by which viewers could view network programs via satellite as presented by their nearest network affiliate. This market-generated technology will remove a major stumbling block to negotiations that should currently be taking place between network program owners and satellite service providers.

This bill also repeals Federal laws that force cable companies to carry certain programs. These Federal "must carry" mandates deny cable companies the ability to provide the programming their customers' desire. Decisions about what programming to carry on a cable system should be made by consumers, not Federal bureaucrats.

The Television Consumer Freedom Act also repeals Federal regulations that mandate that all TVs sold in the United States contain "digital technology." In complete disregard of all free market and constitutional principles, the FCC actually plans to forbid consumers from buying TVs, after 2006, that are not equipped to carry digital broadcasts. According to economist Stephen Moore, this could raise the price of a TV by as much as \$250 dollars. While some television manufacturers and broadcasters may believe they will benefit from this government-imposed price increase, they will actually lose business as consumers refrain from purchasing new TVs because of the government-mandated price increase.

Madam Speaker, the Federal Government should not interfere with a consumer's ability to purchase services such as satellite or cable television in the free market. I therefore urge my colleagues to take a step toward restoring freedom by cosponsoring my Television Consumer Freedom Act.

HONORING ART DONOVAN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Art Donovan, a member of the National Football League Hall of Fame and American sports hero.

Art Donovan, Jr., was born in the Bronx, New York, on June 5, 1925. He first played