

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JEAN PICKER
FIRSTENBERG, AMERICAN FILM
INSTITUTE

HON. NANCY PELOSI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a great American pioneer, Jean Picker Firstenberg, the outgoing President and CEO of the American Film Institute. Her 27-year tenure has marked AFI as one of America's greatest national cultural and educational resources. Under Jean Picker Firstenberg's visionary leadership, AFI has fulfilled its mission of excellence in screen education and the recognition and celebration of excellence in the art of film, television and digital media.

From the moment she joined AFI in 1980, Firstenberg was effective from the start, acquiring an 8-acre campus in Los Angeles, and accrediting the AFI Conservatory through the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

In the 1980s, Firstenberg incorporated television and video into AFI's work, and established the AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival, AFI FEST, which has become a world-renowned annual event.

In the 1990s, she embraced the digital revolution, starting with the AFI-Apple Computer Center for Film and Videomakers, and adding the AFI Media and Technology division, the AFI Digital Content Lab, and Virtual AFI Web sites (AFI.com, AFIFEST.com, and SILVERDOCS.com).

Firstenberg has brought the art and science of storytelling to children through the AFI K-12 Screen Education Center that utilizes the advantages of digital and Internet technology to teach core subjects in America's schools, and to the general public through the AFI Showcase at the Disney-MGM Studios Theme Park in Orlando, Florida that depicts AFI programs and projects to millions of guests each year.

Firstenberg has celebrated the diverse talents and creativity of American filmmakers in the innovative AFI's 100 Years . . . 100 Movies series she began in 1998. Millions of Americans have revisited old favorites and discovered new classics with the AFI series, which includes 100 Years . . . 100 Stars (1999), 100 Years . . . 100 Laughs (2000), 100 Years . . . 100 Thrills (2001), 100 Years . . . 100 Passions (2002), Years . . . 100 Heroes & Villains (2003), 100 Years . . . 100 Songs, (2004), 100 Years . . . 100 Quotes (2005), and 100 Years . . . 100 Cheers (2006).

Another milestone, reached in 2003, was the opening of the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, MD, a state-of-the-art center for the moving image arts. It hosts SILVERDOCS, a film festival for aspiring documentary filmmakers, and anchors a revitalized community.

Firstenberg has continually embraced new media and blazed a trail for others to follow.

She is rightfully proud of 27 years of funding the Directors Workshop for Women. Most of the women directors working in the film industry today come from this program.

As she prepares to take leave of her day-to-day responsibilities at AFI, she will continue her service in her capacity as a lifetime trustee and through her legacy as a mentor, entrepreneur and role model. She will do so with the love and support of her family, particularly her daughter, Debra and her husband Michael Kusma, and their children Rachel, Sarah, and Christopher; her son Doug, his wife Suzanne, and their children Samantha, Drew, and Lindy; and her brother David Picker, and his wife, Sandy. Firstenberg's commitment to excellence and ethics in filmmaking is best captured by her AFI Conservatory graduates who describe her this way: "She has made AFI a place committed to the notion that television and film are more than commerce or technology—they are our investment in the future; in fact, our legacy. That we are to be held responsible for the images we perpetuate in the culture. And that one institute would take on the task of encapsulating the hard truths and dreams of a nation by preparing the storytellers of its future."

Madam Speaker, I ask the Congress of the United States to recognize the vision, talent and contributions that Jean Picker Firstenberg has made to enrich our cultural heritage and to encourage future generations to capture the imagination and innovation of the American people.

IN HONOR OF THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN LAKES, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, the people of Franklin Lakes, New Jersey and their neighboring communities throughout Bergen County will celebrate the 85th anniversary of the Borough. A full day of rides, demonstrations, music, and great carnival food will mark the birthday celebration, which culminates in a fireworks display.

From as far back as the 17th Century, people have been drawn to this picturesque area. The Lenape Indians first traveled here to fish and make winter camp. Later as Dutch settlers pushed west, they, too, made what we now know as Franklin Lakes their home.

In 1876, the Walker Atlas shows that the community had grown from its first business—Daniel Youman's Grist Mill on Franklin Lake—to a thriving community of shops, schools, mills, hotels, and about 100 residences. In years to follow, rail and road expansion would bring even more people to the Franklin Lakes area. And, in 1922, Franklin Lakes officially incorporated, detaching itself from Franklin

Township and electing its first Mayor, William V. Pulis.

Between 1876 and 1980, Franklin Lakes grew to a whopping 8,500 people. And, today, nearly 10,500 people live there. Though it has grown in size and stature, it has always maintained its sense of neighborly quiet. The sense of friendship and community is evident in every nook and cranny of Franklin Lakes. It is my hope that the people of Franklin Lakes will maintain this vision for another 85 years into the future and then some, and I congratulate them all on this milestone occasion.

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE SENFRONIA THOMPSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend of mine, a maverick, a community visionary, a leader, and a true Texan who has achieved an extraordinary milestone this year.

Senfronia Thompson set history this year by becoming the first woman and the first African-American legislator in the state of Texas to serve for 34 years. This milestone is an accomplishment for all Texas women and all Texas African-Americans.

In 1973, Senfronia Thompson was elected to the Texas State House of Representatives from Houston. She has continued to serve her constituents in honor ever since. She now ranks as the longest-serving woman and the longest-serving African-American in Texas State legislature history.

I had the pleasure of serving beside Senfronia Thompson, a native Houstonian and a champion of civic participation, when we were both freshman legislators together in 1973. It was an honor to serve with her then and it is an honor for me to be able to celebrate her accomplishment today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, September 27, 2007, I missed three rollcall recorded votes due to unforeseen circumstances.

On rollcall vote No. 914, on a Motion to Adjourn, I would have voted "No." On rollcall vote No. 922, on a Motion to Recommit with

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Instructions, I would have voted “No.” On roll-call vote No. 923, on Final Passage of the Small Business Investment Expansion Act of 2007, I would have voted “Aye.”

TMA, ABSTINENCE EDUCATION, AND QI PROGRAMS EXTENSION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, this bill allows the extension of some important programs, specifically Transitional Medical Assistance and the Medicare Qualifying Individual Program.

But it unfortunately ties these necessary provisions to yet another ill-considered extension of the federal abstinence-only program.

Keeping federal abstinence-only programs in the form they've taken for the past ten years is an embarrassment to Congress, an insult to taxpayers and a disservice to the health of American young people.

We all support promoting abstinence as the healthiest choice for young people. But the abstinence-only programs we've been funding are a mistake. They contain serious misinformation and, most importantly, are not effective in improving adolescent health.

In 2004 a report I released looked at federally-funded abstinence-only programs and found that the vast majority of the most popular curricula had significant scientific and medical errors. Kids were being taught that HIV can be spread by tears and sweat, that condoms don't help protect against STDs, and that pregnancy occurs one in every seven times a couple uses condoms.

In 2006, GAO found that HHS still wasn't reviewing the medical accuracy of curricula used in the biggest federal abstinence-only programs. GAO also said there was no reliable evidence that these programs improve participants' health.

In 2007, HHS released the results of an evaluation it had commissioned itself on the effectiveness of federally-funded abstinence-only programs. In this randomized, controlled study—the gold standard of research—the abstinence-only programs had no impact on whether teens had sex. They had no impact on the age of first sex. They had no impact on the number of partners. And they had no impact on rates of pregnancy or sexually transmitted disease.

It's not surprising, in light of all this, that eleven states have decided they'd rather not receive federal abstinence-only money at all.

This program is broken. We've given abstinence-only programs one billion dollars in the past decade. \$500 million of that has been through this program. And that doesn't include the matching money states have put in. And for all that money, all we've been able to show the taxpayers are glaring medical errors and zero impact on adolescent health.

Language passed by the House in August would have required programs to contain medically accurate information; mandated that programs be based on models proven effective in improving adolescent pregnancy, HIV, or sexually transmitted disease rates; and

given states the option of offering more comprehensive health information.

I want to be clear. I do not think we should fund any abstinence-only programs. I don't think that we should be funding federal programs that are specifically premised on withholding crucial and age-appropriate health information from young people.

But I am heartened by Chairman DINGELL's statement that he will continue to fight for the House changes, because I believe they will move us closer to a responsible federal position on sex education. I offer Mr. DINGELL my full support in ensuring that federally-funded programs actually improve the health and well-being of American youth.

IN HONOR OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOUSE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 125th anniversary of The House of the Good Shepherd retirement community in Hackettstown, New Jersey. For over a century, this community has provided seniors with a place to call home.

In 1882, five Episcopal Congregations founded The House with a 20-room rental building in Orange, New Jersey, rented for the sum of \$400. Less than a decade later, they had outgrown that building and a new home was built in Orange housing three dozen women. In the 1960s, they expanded their offering to 175 residences on a wooded, 15-acre site in Hackettstown. The Musconetcong River and Stephens State Park offer a serene and quiet atmosphere. And, the excellent staff offer a loving and friendly environment for the seniors who live there.

The House of the Good Shepherd is equipped to offer its residents a variety of care options from independent apartments to assisted living suites to skilled nursing residences. It is an active community where seniors go to live their golden years to the fullest.

This year's anniversary is somewhat bittersweet for the residents of this community as their Executive Director of more than ten years has announced his retirement. Fred Heleine has ministered to and served the needs of these seniors admirably and with love and compassion since 1995, and as he said in announcing his retirement to his extended family of The House of the Good Shepherd, “I leave The House with much gratitude for the privilege of having been there.” I know that the gratitude is mutual, and I join the community in thanking Fred for his fine service.

This Sunday, at a gala celebration fitting of such a momentous milestone, the residents and staff of The House of the Good Shepherd will be joined by members of the extended community. To mark this special anniversary, they will present their first annual “Distinguished Friend of The House” award to Claudia Conway, a longtime resident of Hackettstown and supporter of The House.

Ms. Conway's service has been remarkable, particularly her participation on the Foundation Advisory Council, and she was a natural

choice for this first award. But her dedication to The House not only speaks volumes of her goodness and compassion, but also of the worthiness of her cause. The House of the Good Shepherd is a phenomenal community and I wish it the best for another century of service.

HONORING GOLDY LEVI

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Goldy Levi, on his eightieth birthday. Not only is Goldy Levi a wonderful man who is greatly liked, he is an upstanding citizen and a pillar of the Dallas community. He is a true Texan who has achieved an extraordinary milestone this year.

Longevity is a cause for celebration, especially when it has been accomplished with such great ease. Goldy Levi has been a long time Dallas resident and I am honored to be blessed with his friendship. It is a true pleasure for me to be able to celebrate this milestone with him today.

IN RECOGNITION OF MASTER WAN KO YEE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Master Artist Wan Ko Yee, a distinguished scholar who resides in the 9th District of California. His areas of expertise include literature, painting, sculpting, calligraphy, music, martial arts, and traditional medicine. As a professor at Auburn University, Master Yee is a well renowned author, researcher, and philosopher. He has created exceptional work exhibited throughout the world. His work reflects Buddhist themes and the ideas of tolerance and peace between nations. He is recognized as a pioneer in creating multi-colored sculptures.

In 2003, the United States Congress displayed selected work from Master Yee during an art exhibition held in the Gold Room in the House Office Building. He has been recognized by the Royal Academy of Arts of the United Kingdom, and the Organization of American States.

I commend Master Wan Ko Yee's artistic contributions and his efforts to promote peace through the arts and cultural exchange.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN McCUE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 1, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative MIKE THOMPSON of California in honor of John McCue, who is retiring as CEO of the non-