

daughter, Marda and a son, Norik. Gevork is thankful that after all that happened to the Armenians at the turn of the 20th century, Armenia is now an independent country.

I am proud to honor Gevork Arzoumanian of California's 29th Congressional District and I ask all Members of Congress to join me in paying tribute to this inspiring individual and honor all victims of the Armenian Genocide.

TRIBUTE TO PEPE DELAPPE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of one of our notable activists and a conscience for social justice, the artist Pepe deLappe. Pepe died of a stroke last month, at the age of 91, leaving an enduring legacy to the people of the San Francisco Bay Area, across North America, and throughout the world.

Admired by artists, art students, collectors and museums; loved by her family and colleagues; and appreciated by the disenfranchised, the underdog, and political progressives, Pepe devoted her life to social justice. She used her considerable talents to champion the causes of the working class and the needs of society's cast-offs.

"She was always on the side of the down-trodden," said her daughter, Nina Sheldon. "She spent her whole life dedicated to civil rights and to social movements."

That her social activism melded with her artistic conscience into an exotic bohemian life had its genesis around 1931, when she was 14. She became friends with the artist Frida Kahlo and her husband, Diego Rivera, when he was commissioned to paint murals in San Francisco. Pepe became part of Kahlo's drawing circle, where, she once said, she was treated as a total equal, despite her young age.

This experience, along with her father's permission to discontinue regular school, encouraged Pepe to travel to New York a year or so later to attend art school. She returned to San Francisco at age 18, a legal adult, and joined in the city's maritime strike, an event which had life-changing consequences to her, as well as to those involved.

If the history of a war is written by the victor, then the history of a people is written—and portrayed—by its artists. Pepe did a series of paintings of the longshoremen who participated in the strike—paintings which still hang in the San Francisco headquarters of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. From that time until only weeks before her death, she captured poignant, comic and disparate emotions and the conditions that gave rise to them. Depicting the lives of the ordinary and extraordinary people of the working class or on the fringes of society, Pepe expressed not only the history of the time, but the social mores of a culture.

But paintings, cartoons and lithographs were not Pepe's only media of expression. She also worked with words and spent many years of her life as an editor and writer for local "alternative" newspapers, including *People's World*, published by the Communist party.

Although she eventually parted ways with that dogmatic organization—by mutual agreement, she once quipped—she never lost interest in current affairs and politics, mostly recently holding up a sign as she sat in a wheelchair at a rally to protest the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

At age 74, Pepe fell in love with long-time friend and fellow painter Byron Randall. The two spent the rest of their lives in Petaluma, where Pepe remained involved in politics and the artistic life. In fact, when she died last month, some of Pepe's works—many of which are owned by major museums and institutions, including the Library of Congress and San Francisco's Palace of the Legion of Honor—were being showcased in an exhibition at the Huntington Museum in San Marino. Titled *Pressed in Time*, the exhibit features a taped interview with Pepe.

Madam Speaker, it is impossible to contain the life of such a woman in two short pages.

But for those of us who knew Pepe deLappe, these words are only shorthand to the memories of her long, successful and influential life as an artist, activist, and idealist who, in her own words, "refused to take life lying down." The world needs more people like Pepe deLappe. She will be greatly missed.

CELEBRATING GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL'S VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT PARTICIPATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate George Washington High School in the city of Philadelphia, PA, on their outstanding participation in the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Students and teachers have contributed their time and skills to preserving the remarkable experiences of our war veterans from all service branches, from World War I to the present day Iraq War, as well as the civilians who supported them. I am privileged to represent these students and teachers in Congress.

The Veterans History Project preserves the legacy of those who have served through the establishment of a permanent national collection, housed in the Library of Congress, of videotaped and recorded interviews, written memoirs, and wartime letters, diaries, and photographs. Stories and materials are available to anyone visiting the library. In addition, a web page is created for each veteran who contributes an interview.

As our Nation's World War II and Korean veterans grow older, it is critical that we record their stories. Their experiences offer a priceless window into their dedication and love of country. As the daughter of a Korean War veteran, this effort has special personal meaning for me. We have much to learn from those who have served our Nation, and I wholeheartedly support this important project.

On this Veterans Day, November 12, 2007, I am proud to recognize George Washington High School's Veterans History Project participation at a special event, Preserving Their

Stories: A Salute to Veterans History Project Volunteers, at the Hiway Theatre in Jenkintown. This special celebration will bring together Americans, both young and older, with veterans of all ages, to honor their common service to their fellow citizens and country.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate all of the Veterans History Project participants for their contributions to capturing the experiences of war veterans, thus honoring the lives and contributions of these extraordinary Americans.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the FY 2008 Labor-HHS Conference Report which—together with this year's Military Construction-Veterans Affairs spending bill—announces an important new direction regarding the Nation's priorities.

We start with our most basic investment: education. Today's conference report increases education funding by \$4.5 billion over the President's request—including an additional \$254 million for Head Start so more children can access a high quality early childhood education; \$600 million more for No Child Left Behind to improve teacher quality, enhance after school programming and deploy 21st century classroom technology; and an \$800 million boost for special education; and a new \$2 billion investment for higher education which will enable us to significantly increase the current value of the maximum Pell Grant from \$4,310 to \$4,925. Additionally, I am very pleased that the final conference report contains \$12 million for Teach for America, one of our Nation's premiere teacher training programs.

Because we are competing in a rapidly changing global economy, and because education is in truth a lifelong process, this conference report also makes responsible investments in job training and vocational education—\$609 million over the President's request for workforce development; another \$606 million for vocational education; and \$98 million on top of the President's request for Job Corps and the vital training, placement and support services it provides.

On health, today's legislation wisely rejects the President's proposed \$480 million cut at the National Institutes of Health, NIH, in favor of a \$1.4 billion increase over the President's budget so that the NIH can continue its cutting edge research into deadly scourges like cancer, Alzheimer's and heart disease. This additional funding—representing the cost of just 3 days in Iraq—will fund over 1,400 more research grants into these and other life-threatening illnesses. Furthermore, in an effort to address the plight of the Nation's 47 million uninsured, this legislation enhances health care access by investing \$1.5 billion into community health centers, state health care access initiatives and high risk insurance pools.

Together, these investments will serve over 1.5 million citizens without health care coverage in the coming year.

Finally, Madam Speaker, Sunday is Veterans Day. With our Nation at war, this conference report honors our brave men and women in uniform by proposing the largest single increase for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the institution's 77-year history. The \$43.1 billion this legislation appropriates will enable us to provide quality care to 5.8 million patients, add 1,800 processors to tackle the outstanding backlog of 400,000 claims, and invest in needed treatment for increasingly prevalent conditions like traumatic brain injury, TBI, and post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD. It is the least we can do—and now is the time for us to do it.

Madam Speaker, these two bills both passed the House with strong, bipartisan majorities. Together, they set the right priorities for America. They comply with our five-year balanced budget plan. And they deserve our support today.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for overriding the President's misguided veto of the Water Resources Development Act.

This bill is long overdue. The projects funded in this bill are critical to the health, safety and quality of life in our communities around the country. This bill is necessary to better protect Americans against severe weather and flooding—and also ensure all Americans have access to clean, safe drinking water.

The President's veto of WRDA is another example of misplaced priorities. We continue to spend \$10 billion in Iraq, but won't spend the money necessary to make sure we never have another Katrina. This bill is about saving lives. In my district we have perchlorate contamination in much of the drinking water. H.R. 1495 invests money in researching and solving this problem—because no parent should ever have to worry that their child is going to get sick from drinking tap water.

I urge my colleagues to cast a vote to keep America safe and healthy—and override this mistaken veto.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD SHEEHAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Richard Sheehan on the completion of his 50th marathon by the age of 70. Dr. Sheehan reached this goal at the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, DC. An impressive achievement for anyone but even

more so for this 70-year-old dentist from Orchard Park, NY, who didn't start competing in marathons until 1986.

A self-proclaimed "accidental runner," Dr. Sheehan began running at the age of 48 when a grieving family member needed his support. With only 8 weeks of training before reaching the starting line for his first Marine Corps marathon, Dr. Sheehan helped his brother-in-law through a difficult time while discovering his love for long-distance running. After completing more marathons, Dr. Sheehan set a long range goal of completing 50 races before turning 70.

This determined dentist has now run 12 Marine Corps races, completed marathons in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, as well as Cleveland and Chicago, and once, in Boston.

Running is a family event for the Sheehans, and 16 family members and friends joined Dr. Sheehan in DC for the occasion. This is the 10th year in a row that Dr. Sheehan has participated in the Marine Corps Marathon but none, I'm sure, as memorable as this one in which four of his children ran portions of the race with him as he completed number 50.

Congratulations and best wishes for continued success to Dr. Dick Sheehan for setting and reaching his goal. What began as a run to help a family member has become a remarkable accomplishment that should inspire us all to pursue our goals with devoted persistence.

QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the framers of our Constitution empowered the U.S. House of Representatives to impeach the President in cases of "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." They gave Congress a sacred responsibility to check the power of the President in order to preserve the liberty of the American people. With this responsibility came an equally important obligation to use congressional power only to advance the interests of the Nation. I am not convinced that an impeachment proceeding is in America's best interests at this time. That is why I recently voted to give the House Judiciary Committee time to substantively consider the articles of impeachment before bringing them before the full House for debate and a vote. At a time when Congress has so much work to do to repair the damage caused by this administration, Congress will best serve the American people by focusing our efforts on ending the war in Iraq, protecting civil liberties from executive overreaching and passing needed legislation to move America in a new direction.

With a little over a year left in office, attempting to bring impeachment charges against President Bush, or Vice-President CHENEY, at this point, would prove counterproductive to the aggressive agenda our new majority in Congress has put forth. With many issues needing attention, Congress should focus on implementing the agenda the American people elected us to pursue.

As part of the new agenda, the 110th Congress has begun to do what the previous Congressional leadership would not do, and what many in this Congress still refuse to do: Stand up to this President. Under Representative HENRY WAXMAN, CA, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has launched more than two dozen investigations of Bush administration actions. The committee's 75 investigators have probed everything from the behavior of contractors in Iraq to the politicization of the Federal Government here at home. Congress's efforts have already led to needed reforms in a variety of executive branch programs.

You may recall that in late July, it became apparent to me that Attorney General Alberto Gonzales's contradictory statements and actions raised serious concerns about his integrity and his respect for civil liberties. At the same time, Bush administration stonewalling was making it impossible for Congress to fully investigate Gonzales and restore America's respect for the Justice Department. On July 31, 2007, I joined with other former prosecutors serving in the U.S. House in calling for an investigation to determine whether Gonzales should be impeached. At the time, I believed investigation and, potentially, impeachment by the Congress provided the only way to hold Gonzales accountable.

In August, Alberto Gonzales did something he should have done long before: He resigned. His resignation provided needed change at the Justice Department, but it did not provide the answers that the American people demand and deserve. Congress still has an obligation to determine the legality of Gonzales's confusing, conflicting and misleading actions and statements. Just this week, Representative JOHN CONYERS, MI, took another step towards getting the truth about the Justice Department's actions under Gonzales. CONYERS demanded the White House release key information regarding the Justice Department's firing of Federal prosecutors or face a congressional contempt citation. I and my colleagues will do everything in our power to compel the White House to cooperate with our investigation. I will continue to work with my colleagues to uncover the truth about the Gonzales Justice Department and its treatment of Americans' civil liberties, and I will fight to hold this administration accountable.

While Congress exercises its oversight role, we must also support a framework of laws that protects Americans from violations of our liberties and our right to privacy. I have always defended civil liberties. In 2001, I joined just 65 of my colleagues in standing up to post-9/11 fearmongering and voting against the USA PATRIOT ACT. I have cosponsored legislation to restore the right of habeas corpus and undo the Military Commissions Act. And, most recently, I opposed changes to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA, that would have given this administration more power to spy on Americans.

The Bush administration has done real damage to the United States through its policies and its executive actions. Congress must respond in the manner that will most effectively protect the American people and promote the interests of our country. We have begun to rein in the president and restore integrity to the Federal Government. We will continue to do so.