

about the truly frightening problems at the FDA including: 1. a culture of suppression and intimidation, 2. a lack of transparency into the review process, 3. the inaction of FDA management in response to serious drug risks, 4. a lack of scientific freedom and the inability of FDA reviewers to have their concerns heard by senior management, FDA advisory committees, and the public.

Their powerful testimonies add to the concerns raised in the Institute of Medicine report, the GAO Report, and the Inspector General of HHS report that the FDA's system to ensure that postmarketing studies are conducted and completed is broken and the FDA has not made reform a priority.

It is clear from the whistleblowers' testimonies and these three major reports that the FDA is a deeply troubled agency that has failed time and time again to act in the best interest of the public. The failures of the FDA to protect the public have been widely reported by the media and the public is losing confidence in the FDA's ability to keep us safe.

According to a recent Wall Street Journal Online/Harris Interactive poll, 80 percent of adults say they are concerned about the FDA's ability to make independent decisions that will ensure that patients have access to safe and effective medicines.

We need the FDA to be a watchdog for public health, not a lapdog for the industry. We need to bring back transparency, accountability and scientific integrity to the FDA.

That is why today I am reintroducing the Swift Approval, Full Evaluation, SAFE, Drug Act to provide greater transparency into the approval process and a stronger postmarket safety system.

The SAFE Drug Act will:

1. Increase FDA authority with respect to postmarket safety, including giving the FDA the ability to mandate labeling and require postmarket studies.

2. Provide FDA greater authority with respect to the Accelerated Approval process, by ensuring postmarket study plans are reviewed prior to approval; requiring proper labeling until drugs are fully approved; and restricting advertising for accelerated approved drugs or biologics until full approval.

3. Provide enhanced whistleblower protections to FDA employees.

4. Preserve scientific integrity at FDA by prohibiting FDA employees from directing other FDA employees to censor or suppress scientific research, analysis, opinions or recommendations or directing employees to disseminate scientific information that is known to be false or misleading.

5. Require the FDA to provide Advisory Committees with complete information.

6. Ensure scientific freedom at FDA, by guaranteeing FDA and FDA-sponsored authors the right to publish or present their work.

7. Increase FDA transparency, by requiring a biennial report to Congress on noninferiority studies and a biannual report to Congress on postmarket studies system.

The time to act is now. I look forward to working with my colleagues to stop the erosion of public confidence in the FDA, provide greater transparency into the approval process, reform the system of postmarketing studies, and ensure that FDA balances the desire to speed drugs to market with its critical role as the watchdog of public health.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES AND JEANETTE HENDERSON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the community contributions of Charles and Jeannette Henderson to Northwest Florida.

Nearly 20 years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson began researching their family genealogy, and published two books, "The Track of the Jackson" and "The Trail of the Griffith." Their passion for collecting and preserving their own history later prompted the founding of the North Okaloosa Historical Association in 1992. With grants and fundraising, this body purchased the old General Store in Baker, Florida, and transformed the 1908 landmark into the Baker Block Museum.

Mr. and Mrs. Henderson have been the devoted caretakers of this museum since its inception. They have been instrumental in creating one of the largest genealogical libraries in Okaloosa County and continue to oversee the restoration and preservation of historical artifacts.

To honor the Henderson's inspiration and dedication to their community, the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution to proclaim a local park to be named "The Jeanette and Charles Henderson Heritage Park." The Henderson's dedication and vision will forever be appreciated and treasured for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Charles and Jeanette Henderson for their contributions to the preservation of their community heritage.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HATE CRIMES STATISTICS IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representatives BARBARA LEE, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, ZOE LOFGREN, LYNN WOOLSEY, and GEORGE MILLER, I am reintroducing the "Hate Crimes Statistics Improvement Act" which will ensure that hate crimes motivated by gender are accounted for by the FBI and local law enforcement agencies. With accurate data, local communities can identify gender-based hate crimes in their areas and chart their progress toward eliminating them. Moreover, the inclusion of gender will send a strong message that gender-based hate crimes will not be tolerated.

In States with gender-based hate crimes laws, prosecutors typically must present concrete evidence that the criminal act was committed due to gender bias. Obviously, not all crimes against women are gender-based crimes, and prosecutors should have discretion in identifying what constitutes a gender-

based hate crime. The process of discussing these differences will improve the understanding of *all* hate crimes by law enforcement personnel and will improve reporting of these tragic crimes.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE CURRENT AND FORMER AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, I rise today to pay tribute to the current and former African-American Members of Congress with Chairwoman KILPATRICK and my distinguished colleague, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Our Nation can feel proud today that a record number of 43 black or African-American Members serve in the 110th Congress; 42 in the House of Representatives and one in the Senate. In total, there have been 119 black Members of Congress: 114 elected to the House and five to the Senate. Of those, 110 have been members with full voting rights in the House, a number that corresponds with the number of Congresses convened since our Nation's independence.

Voters sent the first black member to Congress during reconstruction. His name was Hiram Rhodes Revels (R-MS) and he served in the Senate in the 41st Congress (1870). His first black counterpart in the House, Joseph H. Rainey (R-SC), came during that same session.

Since then, African Americans have extended the honor roll of "firsts" and "greatests," "largests" and "most actives" in both chambers. The 103rd Congress saw the largest class of black freshmen ever elected. Today, in the 110th Congress, we have five African-American full committee chairmen and 17 subcommittee chairs. Such a concentration of leadership is unprecedented. In addition to our constituents, we have our predecessors to thank.

Each current and former member of this august body owes a debt of gratitude to the members emeritus who came before them. Each African-American child who dreams of ascending to elected office has more than 100 trailblazers to light his or her way. It is this progress toward equal opportunity and representation that we celebrate today, during this month when we draw inspiration from an illustrious past to create a brighter future. On behalf of each current African-American member of the 110th Congress, I extend the deepest respect and gratitude to all those who preceded us.

TRIBUTE TO LIVING WATER

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Malcolm S. Morris, a constituent from Houston, who is dedicating his

life to the cause of clean, safe water for the needy of the world. Mr. Morris is the immediate past chairman of Living Water International, a 15-year-old faith-based NGO. Living Water has provided water to over 5 million world-wide on three continents.

Of particular note, Living Water has completed nearly 400 water projects providing clean water to over one million people of Kenya. At the urging of Malcolm Morris, Kenyan President Kibaki made a public commitment to provide water for the 20 million people of Kenya in need of water. In addition, Morris organized the completion of two Peace Wells, dedicated by President Kibaki, to end violence between two tribes that resulted in 20 deaths on Valentines Day, 2005. In fact, Madam Speaker, Mr. Morris and members of the Living Well Board, at the direction of President Kibaki and his cabinet, are dedicating a third Peace Well next week in Kenya.

Malcolm Morris practices what he preaches. His actions are an expression of his faith—to provide clean water and basic sanitation to one child, one family, one village at a time. Through Malcolm Morris' leadership and vision, the men and women of Living Water have become vessels of healing.

Now operating in 22 countries, Living Water has trained over 1,200 volunteers in drilling, pumping repair, and health and hygiene training. The number of persons being served is doubling nearly every 18 months. I should note that Mr. Morris is not just an observer of the international water crisis. He is a drill instructor, conducting drill training camps and has led water teams to schools in both Africa and Central America.

In addition to his ongoing involvement with Living Water, Malcolm Morris founded and serves as Chairman of the Millennium Water Alliance—a group of water related NGO's that includes Living Water International, Africare, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Emmanuel International, Food for the Hungry, Lifewater International, Water for People, Water Missions International, WaterPartners International and World Vision. UNICEF acts in an advisory capacity to the MWA. The mission of the MWA is to initiate needed water and sanitation projects in an efficient and transparent manner.

Recently, as a result of Mr. Morris' strong and consistent advocacy, Congress passed a bill known as the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act. The legislation makes access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a specific policy objective of U.S. foreign assistance programs. The legislation will improve the quality of lives for millions of people around the world. Malcolm's insightfulness and persuasiveness made a legislative dream a reality.

One final mention, Madam Speaker. I should note that Malcolm Morris is Chairman and Co-Chief Executive Officer of a Fortune 1000 company—Stewart Title Guaranty Company, headquartered in Houston.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in tribute to Malcolm S. Morris. With the dedication of the water wells in Kenya, the peace spigot has been turned on. Clean water is a source of life and sustainable development. Simply put, Mr. Morris has demonstrated that we should view water as a currency for Peace.

ADVANCED FUELS INFRASTRUCTURE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in fundamental support of H.R. 547, The Advanced Fuels Infrastructure Research and Development Act, which provides important direction for further development of the infrastructure needed to bring various biofuels, like ethanol, to the entire U.S. market.

Currently the biofuel infrastructure in our country is not ready for an influx of biofuels and the impending transition from petroleum fuels to alternative fuels. Appropriately, the corrosive nature of ethanol is addressed in H.R. 547. The bill directs federal agencies to look at new infrastructure components, along with potential additives to alleviate the harm ethanol and other biofuels can have on our Nation's current energy infrastructure.

But H.R. 547 needs to do more. My home State of New York is currently dependent on ethanol produced in the Midwest. Regions outside the cornbelt, such as New York, are subjected to additional costs associated with the transportation of ethanol across the country. Such costs can easily be alleviated by regional biofuel markets. While H.R. 547 addresses some of the issues surrounding biofuel infrastructure, it does not address the idea of regional biofuel markets. The concept of regional markets has the potential to supplement and augment the existing ethanol infrastructure while easing transportation risk and costs.

Further, regionalized biofuel markets have many economic implications. Local and regional markets bring jobs to rural areas throughout our country by putting farmers back to work. Regional markets create new opportunities for hard working Americans at refineries and jobs through the local transportation networks needed for ethanol distribution. Such economic activities add to the tax base in our small towns and immediately promote environmental consciousness.

Such environmental consciousness and the promise of a regional ethanol market are most notably being felt in Upstate NY. Stemming from research and development done at SUNY-ESF, shrub willow trees are now being used to produce cellulosic ethanol. This technological advancement was funded by the Federal government and the State of New York over the last decade. Through the financial backing and support of Catalyst Renewables, the ESF technology has been integrated with a biomass electric facility to create a CO₂ neutral to negative cellulosic ethanol refinery. This energy independent facility creates transportation fuel, electric energy and provides residual steam to other industries, which further reduces fossil fuel use. The result will be one of the first commercial cellulosic ethanol plants in North America which will create a regional market that will be felt throughout New York and surrounding states.

Such encouraging developments in New York State will greatly benefit from the ethanol technologies supported in H.R. 547. However, the cellulosic ethanol industry, which is still in

its infancy, faces numerous challenges. These include competition with established fossil fuels, corn based ethanol production, and tax inequality with wind and solar energy. As a Nation, we must promote the regionalization of biorefineries beyond the cornbelt. Currently, such markets do not receive equal funding opportunities, hindering biomass refinery commercialization.

If our Nation is serious about lessening our dependence on foreign oil and promoting alternative energies like that developed at ESF, we must embrace and encourage the economic benefits of regional biofuel markets.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF TONY CORTESE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize the life of Tony Cortese, United States Postal Service Employee and President of the National Association of Letter Carriers Local 193.

In his forty-two years as a proud and honorable employee of the United States Postal Service and twenty-seven years as the president of the National Association of Letter Carriers Local 193, NALC, Tony Cortese made a significant impact on the rights of Letter Carriers and on the well-being of his community.

Mr. Cortese was a fifty-five-year resident of San Jose, California and was a tireless advocate for Letter Carriers. As President of the NALC Local 193 for nearly thirty years, Mr. Cortese procured a union owned building for the members, secured expanded health benefits, and provided an open forum for discussion for union members and Federal, State, and local politicians.

Mr. Cortese's service was not just limited to advocacy for the rights of the union members, but extended into the San Jose community and beyond. Under Mr. Cortese's leadership, San Jose served as a pilot for what would become a national food drive sponsored by the NALC the first Saturday before Mother's Day. In fact, this national program, which began in 1991 and continues today, is the result of Mr. Cortese's own food drive initiative in 1990. This is but one example by which Mr. Cortese's unassuming, generous, and selfless manner made significant and positive changes in the lives of a countless number of people.

Along with my Santa Clara County colleagues, Congressman HONDA and Congresswoman ESHOO, and my constituents in San Jose, I am honored to pay tribute to Tony Cortese.

We thank his family for supporting his work over many years and for being the source of tremendous pride for him, his wife Barbara, his daughter Caroline and son-in-law Don Bauldry, his sister Mary and brother-in-law Vince Catalano, and his grandchildren Austin and Ashley. Our thoughts are with you during your grief, and we are honored with the years of service Mr. Cortese gave to both the NALC and the United States Postal Service as well as the residents of San Jose, California and the State of California. He will be dearly missed.