

Her dedication to education and commitment to her fellow citizens was commendable.

SALUTE TO SERGEANT TOMMASO POPOLIZIO—FALLEN HERO

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of a fallen Newark police officer whose tragic loss in the line of duty is mourned by his family, friends, fellow law enforcement officers, and our entire community. Sergeant Tommaso Popolizio died in the early morning hours of Saturday, March 3, 2007, at the age of 33, while working to keep our streets safe. He leaves behind his wife, four children, father and five siblings.

Sergeant Popolizio, born and raised in Newark, dedicated his life to the city where he and his family put down roots. His parents, Nicola and Sarah, immigrated to the United States in the late 1960s from Italy and settled in the North Ward of Newark, New Jersey, my home city. The youngest of seven children, Sergeant Popolizio attended my alma mater, Barringer High School and went on to study at Rutgers University, Newark. He joined the Newark police force in 1995, the first of three brothers to do so.

Sergeant Popolizio once said, "I try to do as much as I can every day that I go out there." Committed to bettering our city, Sergeant Popolizio, the consummate police officer, always rose to the occasion whether on or off duty. Noted for his bravery and dedication, Sergeant Popolizio protected our city streets and saved a number of lives. Upon first joining the police force, he was fired upon during a chase to apprehend dangerous suspects. In 1999, Sergeant Popolizio and another officer rushed into a burning building and rescued three children. Chalking up such instances of bravery to "all in a day's work," Popolizio never sought recognition, never shrank from duty, and always gave one-hundred percent to his job. It is therefore no surprise that someone with such heart and tenacity as Sergeant Popolizio was bestowed with honors and rose up the ranks of the Newark Police Department. As an East District supervisor, Sergeant Popolizio was known for his positive influence in leading by example.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Sergeant Tommaso Popolizio, who died as he lived his life—selflessly and with integrity. I am honored to have had him represent my home city and I know my colleagues join me in extending our deepest sympathy to the family of one of Newark's fallen heroes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT LAKES COLLABORATION IMPLEMENTATION ACT

HON. VERNON J. EHLDERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. EHLDERS. Madam Speaker, the Great Lakes provide drinking water for 40 million

people, and 56 billion gallons of water per day are used for municipal, agricultural, and industrial use. The Great Lakes contain 5,500 cubic miles of freshwater—that's 6 quadrillion gallons of water, equal to 90 percent of U.S. supply and 20 percent of world supply. In fact, if you emptied the Great Lakes onto the continental U.S., everything would be under 9½ feet of water. The Great Lakes shoreline stretches for 10,210 miles. That's a lot of sand for summer Saturdays at the beach. The Great Lakes contain over 250 species of fish, and they sustain a \$4 billion sports fishery industry and millions more in commercial fishing.

Is it any wonder that we call them great? The lakes are the foundation of our region's quality of life, and they are a national treasure.

The Great Lakes are so vast, so majestic, and so plentiful that we might think they can withstand any contamination. We take them for granted. But the Great Lakes have suffered from years of industrial pollution, stormwater and agricultural runoff, the introduction of invasive species, and wetlands and coastal habitat loss. The size and shape of the Lakes only contribute to the problem. The retention rate for Lake Superior is 191 years. Lake Michigan is 99 years. It takes the Lakes that period of time to cycle through water and get rid of pollutants. The Lakes are nearing a tipping point of environmental pollution from which they might not be able to recover. Closed beaches, fish consumption restrictions, loss of wildlife habitat, and depleted fish stocks are harbingers of problems that will only worsen over time.

Thankfully, we largely know what needs to be done to clean up and protect the Lakes. In December 2005, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, initiated through an executive order by President Bush, produced a strategic action plan for protecting and restoring the Great Lakes. The Regional Collaboration—a partnership of Federal program managers, State governors, mayors, scientists, industry leaders, anglers, hunters, environmentalists, and other interested private stakeholders—focused their attention on addressing the most critical threats to the Lakes. The diverse group of 1,500 participants developed recommendations for addressing aquatic invasive species, habitat protection, coastal health, Areas of Concern and contaminated sediment, non-point source pollution, toxic pollutants, scientific research and monitoring, and sustainable development.

Today I am introducing comprehensive legislation to address these threats. As its name implies, my bill—the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act—makes many of the necessary legislative changes to implement many of the policy recommendations contained in the Strategy. This bill prevents further biological contamination from aquatic invasive species introductions. It also helps clean up contaminated sediments in rivers and harbors and restores beneficial uses of those waters. Provisions in the legislation will restore wetlands and other fish and wildlife habitat, and help communities improve their wastewater infrastructure and prevent sewer overflows. Finally, the bill strengthens scientific research and monitoring activities in the Lakes, so that we can monitor our progress and make good decisions on what steps to take next in clean up and restoration efforts.

The solutions are practical and manageable. The sooner we pass this bill and provide the

necessary funding levels for these programs, the less costly the solutions will be in the long run. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

AN IMPORTANT HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUE FOR BERGEN COUNTY WOMEN AND CHILDREN

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to this body's attention a serious health issue affecting women and unborn children in Bergen County, New Jersey.

The Bergen Record reported last Wednesday, February 28 that the Metropolitan Medical Associates Clinic in Englewood, New Jersey had been closed down following a complaint filed by Newark Beth Israel Medical Center when it treated a woman for complications from an abortion performed at the Metropolitan Clinic. The Clinic, which performs more than 10,000 abortions a year, including about 1500 partial birth abortions, was closed for posing "immediate and serious risk of harm to patients." This very same clinic was barred from performing abortions in 1993 for its failure to protect the health and safety of its patients.

As the Record reported, "An order to halt medical services is extremely rare. This is only the second time in the last five years the [Department of Health and Senior Services] has closed one of the State's 619 ambulatory-care facilities for 'deficient care.'" Ironically, the Clinic is redirecting its patients to another local clinic owned by the same company that offers sub-par services at the Metropolitan Clinic.

Perhaps, more ironic, however, is that the State has stepped in to protect the women seeking abortions from the physical hazards posed by the Clinic's substandard care. It has not sought to address the emotional damage that these women may suffer from the trauma of an abortion. And, it certainly has not sought to address the fatal tragedy that befalls the more than 10,000 children whose mothers come to the Clinic each year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. JEFFERSON. Madam Speaker, due to a prior commitment being held in my district on Thursday, March 1, 2007, I missed the H.R. 800 "Employee Free Choice Act" vote. If I had been here, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN FANT: CONSERVATIONIST AND DEFENDER OF OUR WILD LANDS

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Karen Fant, who devoted

her life to preserving wilderness and wildlife in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. We mourn the loss of such a treasured conservationist and pioneer in the Washington state environmental movement. She spent four decades organizing for conservation, working for groups including the Alaska Coalition, Sierra Club, Olympic Park Associates, Wild Sky Working Group, Washington Wilderness Coalition, and Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition. Her activism spanned many years, crossed state lines, and extended as far as Chongqing, China, where she dedicated herself to developing a strategy to address environmental degradation in Asia as a board member of the Seattle-Chongqing Sister City Association.

Born in Altadena, California, Karen grew to cherish wilderness at an early age, spending her childhood hiking the Sierra Nevada Mountains with her family. She continued this passion, earning a degree in geology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Formally beginning her long legacy of protecting our wild forests, Karen first went to work for the Sierra Club in the 1970s, fighting for roadless forest preservation. In 1979, she cofounded the Washington Wilderness Coalition, an organization dedicated to empowering Washington state citizens to preserve and restore wilderness areas through grassroots advocacy and public education.

Karen once said, "We will continue to work on these issues as long as there is wild land left in the country." Friends have described her as selfless, caring, inspirational, effective, dedicated, wise, humble and relentless in organizing and empowering people to speak up for the wild places in America and around the world. Karen was the epitome of the dedicated and effective activist. She touched the lives of countless individuals throughout the Northwest. She had a knack for recognizing everyone's ability to make a difference, and encouraged people to stand up and speak out for what they believe in. She was never the loudest person in the room, but often the most effective voice at bringing people and ideas together to advance the protection of wilderness and the wild creatures that depend on it. She delighted in walking in wild, unspoiled places and bringing others out to experience the serenity, joy, and splendor of wilderness. Because of her work, the conservation community in Washington has been left with an immense knowledge of what is at stake as we fight to protect the wilderness areas that remain in the United States.

Karen was instrumental in passing the 1984 Washington State Wilderness Act, which sets aside over one million acres of new wilderness. She also initiated the efforts to preserve Wild Sky. She organized to protect the Owyhees Canyonlands in Idaho and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Finally, she organized in support of a bill that is close to my heart, The National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act. Passage of this bill is vital to protect areas in the national forest deemed as roadless and ensure that they remain free from development or devastation. As the original sponsor of this bill, I encourage you to support the protection of our national forests.

This spring, Karen's ashes will be spread among some of her favorite wilderness areas in the North Cascades and Sierras Nevadas, areas that continue to need protection to this day. Here in the U.S. Congress, I cannot imagine a better way to honor Karen's con-

servation legacy than for my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 866, the Wild Sky Wilderness Act of 2007, which will be marked up in the Natural Resources Committee this week. This bill would serve to protect and expand the federal wilderness of the Skykomish River Valley in Washington State and ensure that ecosystems and stunning vistas in this area are enjoyed by people and wild creatures for generations to come. Passage of this legislation would be the perfect tribute to Karen's legacy.

If Congress could merely echo the unwavering efforts of this woman, we would no doubt be doing a great service to our children and grandchildren in ensuring there are wild lands for them to enjoy far into the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "TORTURE OUTSOURCING PREVENTION ACT"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce, for the third time, legislation to prohibit the outsourcing of torture by the United States government. I am hopeful that this Congress the House will finally take up legislation on this matter.

I know that policy battles can drag on for seemingly endless lengths of time. I remember that Senator Proxmire spent nearly 20 years arguing that the United States needed to ratify the Convention Against Genocide before finally succeeding to rally the Senate to action. But I know too that we cannot delay any longer in addressing the Administration's practice of transferring detainees for interrogation or other purposes to countries where there are substantial grounds for believing that the transferred individuals could face torture. I feel a rising optimism that we can end this repugnant and counterproductive practice of so-called extraordinary rendition soon, and certainly within the timeframe of this Congress.

There is no doubt that the United States is greatly challenged by violent extremists, and the terrible attacks of September 11 were not so much attacks upon our country as upon the values of liberalism, openness and democracy that we champion throughout the world. But there is a right way and a wrong way to conduct ourselves as we defend the United States from murderous criminals and terrorists.

The wrong way is to lower our standards of conduct further and further for the sake of expediency. The wrong way is to compromise our core values of human rights and dignity for all people in the face of an enemy who disdains such ideals. The wrong way is to undermine and destroy international treaties guaranteeing all people security from cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment; especially when these treaties are the last line of defense for our soldiers and personnel overseas unfortunate enough to be captured on the battlefield.

The right way is to proudly and publicly hold the United States to the highest standards and prove again that our nation is founded upon the rule of law.

The practice of extraordinary rendition is a travesty, and it is illegal under any reasonable reading of U.S. and international law. The

Convention Against Torture, ratified by the Senate in 1986, provides that the United States may not "expel, return, or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture." And in 1998, this Congress passed the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act (FARRA), which states that "it shall be the policy of the United States not to expel, extradite, or otherwise affect the involuntary return of any person to a country in which there are substantial grounds for believing the person would be in danger of being subjected to torture, regardless of whether the person is physically present in the United States."

Both the Convention Against Torture and FARRA prohibit the transfer of an individual to a state where there are "substantial grounds for believing" that the individual will face torture. How has the Administration gotten around this prohibition when sending detainees to countries like Syria, Jordan, Uzbekistan, and Egypt; countries which our own State Department reports are habitual abusers of human rights? The Administration has received, and accepted, so-called "diplomatic assurances" from these torturing countries that they will not abuse transferred detainees. It is shocking that the Bush Administration has repeatedly and cynically accepted the word of known torturers without any mechanism to ensure that these promises were not broken.

The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act will require that the Secretary of State compile an annual list of all countries in the world known to use torture; it will be illegal to transfer individuals to the countries on this list, regardless of the citizenship or physical location of the individuals. Furthermore, the Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act will close the loophole of "diplomatic assurances" which the Administration has exploited to outsource the torture of prisoners to countries such as Syria.

The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act provides waiver authority over the prohibition to the Secretary of State when it is certified to the appropriate Congressional committees that the country in question no longer practices torture and there is a verifiable mechanism in place to assure that the person transferred will not face torture.

The Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act does not inhibit treaty-based extraditions in any way. In those cases, current law already provides that an individual facing extradition may challenge the extradition in the courts with an assertion of their rights under the Convention Against Torture.

Madam Speaker, it is past time for the Congress to end the practice of extraordinary rendition. I urge adoption of this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING DR. JAMES C. METTS, JR. UPON HIS RECEIPT OF THE AMERICAN CENTER OF POLISH CULTURE AWARD

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, the American Center of Polish Culture today presented