

the memorial service following the events of September 11, 2001.

Dan has four surviving siblings who still reside in Connecticut: His brother, A. Wilson "Abe" Smith, and sisters Marion Hanson, Jenny Brown and Henrietta Reed. He has two adult children from a previous marriage. His daughter April is married to a South African, Andrew Motaung. Both are teachers with advanced degrees. They have a 3½-year-old child, Tselane, and live in Columbia, MD. His son, Daniel Robert Smith, Jr., a graduate of Syracuse University, is an actor who resides in New York City, stage name Robert Mauzell.

In 2002 Dan met Loretta Neumann, a neighbor. It should be noted that Loretta worked for me as a legislative assistant before she retired in 2001 and, during the 1970s and 1980s, she also worked for the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee when it was chaired by my father, Morris K. Udall, and for Representative John F. Seiberling of Ohio, who chaired the Committee's Public Lands and National Parks Subcommittee.

Last but not least, Dan and Loretta were married on October 28, 2006, at the Washington National Cathedral. They reside in the Takoma neighborhood of Washington, DC, and from all reports are truly living happily ever after.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RANDALL JENSEN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Randall Jensen, a recent recipient of the Boy Scouts of America's Silver Beaver Award.

Randall, an optometrist who performs Kindergarten eye screenings in the Moapa Valley school system, has been actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America since he was a child. In 1972, he earned the organization's highest Scout achievement when he was made an Eagle Scout. After enjoying the benefits of participating in the Boy Scouts, Randall returned to the organization in 1978 to work as an Assistant Scoutmaster. Today, Randall serves as chairman for the Anasazi District of the Las Vegas Area Council of Boy Scouts. Since volunteering with the Boy Scouts, his work as a Scout leader has driven him to assist youth who struggle fitting in with peer and social groups.

On February 15, 2007, Mr. Jensen was awarded with the Silver Beaver Award in recognition of his distinguished service to the organization. This award has been awarded since 1931 and represents the great work Randall has done with the Boy Scouts.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Randall Jensen. His dedication to the community through his work with the Boy Scouts is commendable and I congratulate him on being recognized with the Silver Beaver Award.

TRIBUTE TO HEDY M. RATNER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to add my voice in honoring Hedy M. Ratner, who will be recognized in Chicago as a "Women Who Dared" on March 14, 2007 by the Jewish Women's Foundation, Women's Division of the Jewish United Fund, and the Jewish Women's Archive. I congratulate those organizations for choosing to celebrate Women's History Month by hearing the stories of three fabulous local Jewish women—Judith Panko Reis, the founding Director of the Women With Disabilities Center; Amy Rubin of Jewish Women International; and Hedy Ratner.

My dear friend Hedy Ratner is a force of nature. When she swirls into a room—beautiful, feminine, and powerful—everyone knows that a woman of substance has arrived. A feminist through and through, a fighter for social justice, Hedy has worked for the advancement of women all of her adult life.

In 1986, along with her friend Carol Dougal, Hedy founded the first and now the largest Women's Business Development Center in the United States. "When we started the Center," said Hedy, "it was an extension of our frustration that women still were not reaching parity in the marketplace."

As of today, the Center has served tens of thousands of women; facilitated tens of millions of dollars in loans; impacted policies at the Federal, State and local levels; and helped certify countless companies as Women's Business Enterprises. Her straightforward philosophy is summed up when she says, "It's good business to do business with women."

Hedy Ratner was appointed by President Clinton to the National Women's Business Council. She helped found and then was appointed by two Illinois Governors to the Illinois Women's Business Ownership Council and the Governor's Commission of the Status of Women in Illinois. Chicago Mayor Richard Daley appointed Hedy as Co-Chair of the Women's Health Task Force. She is also a board member of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and The Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau, and a founding member of the Coalition for Equal Opportunity and the Alliance of Minority and Female Contractors Association.

All of the prestigious appointments and major accomplishments only hint at the dynamic and inspiring person Hedy Ratner is. Her legions of friends, co-workers and admirers love her enthusiasm, her humor and her generous spirit. She is unstinting in her efforts to encourage and help those around her to be the best that they can be and to achieve their own aspirations.

Hedy Ratner has served as a role model for untold numbers of women who seek to make their mark in business, politics, and the professions. Perhaps it is, in part, because Hedy had her own role model—her mother. About her mother she said, "She was an immigrant woman, came from poverty, didn't have an opportunity to be really well educated. [She] was a business owner, but she was informally educated. She was an entrepreneur and she was always committed to me, and women in gen-

eral, being independent." Her mother said, "That's the most important thing you can do: depend on yourself."

Hedy's Jewish upbringing and pride have contributed mightily to her strength of character, her moral center and her determination to succeed. I had the real pleasure to attend her Bat Mitzvah not too many years ago. Hedy, your mother would be very proud of you for being singled out as outstanding Jewish woman by such prestigious Jewish women's organizations, but she wouldn't have been surprised that you are officially a "Woman Who Dared."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 700, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES WATER SUPPLY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my full support for alternative water supply initiatives and my opposition to the bill before us. We have an existing program that is able to provide affordable loans to communities to fund such projects—the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF).

The bill before us is fiscally irresponsible. It takes what was a pilot program enacted several years ago and which was never funded and turns it into a new, permanent \$125 million federal grant program with a new bureaucracy to implement it.

We do not need this program. The existing SRF gives taxpayers a much bigger bang for their buck. By establishing a new, permanent grant program, today's bill will divert dollars from the SRF leaving fewer dollars for the SRF to support a broader spectrum of water projects.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SECURITY AND FAIRNESS ENHANCEMENT (SAFE) FOR AMERICA ACT"

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Security and Fairness Enhancement (SAFE) for America Act." This much-needed legislation eliminates the controversial visa lottery program, through which 50,000 aliens are chosen at random to come and live permanently in the United States based on pure luck. The visa lottery program threatens national security, results in the unfair administration of our Nation's immigration laws, and encourages a cottage industry for fraudulent opportunists.

Because winners of the visa lottery are chosen at random, the visa lottery program presents a serious national security threat. A perfect example of the system gone awry is the case of Hesham Mohamed Ali Hedayet, the Egyptian national who killed two and wounded three during a shooting spree at Los Angeles International Airport in July of 2002. He was allowed to apply for lawful permanent resident

status in 1997 because of his wife's status as a visa lottery winner.

The State Department's Inspector General has even weighed in on the national security threat posed by the visa lottery program. During testimony before the House Committee on the Judiciary in the 109th Congress, the Office of Inspector General stated that the Office "continues to believe that the diversity visa program contains significant risks to national security from hostile intelligence officers, criminals, and terrorists attempting to use the program for entry into the United States as permanent residents."

Even if improvements were made to the visa lottery program, nothing would prevent terrorist organizations or foreign intelligence agencies from planting members in the U.S. by having those members apply for the program. As long as those individuals do not have previous criminal backgrounds, these types of organized efforts would never be detected, even if significant background checks and counter-fraud measures were enacted within the program.

Usually, immigrant visas are issued to foreign nationals that have existing connections with family members lawfully residing in the United States or with U.S. employers. These types of relationships help ensure that immigrants entering our country have a stake in continuing America's success and have needed skills to contribute to our nation's economy. However, under the visa lottery program, visas are awarded to immigrants at random without meeting such criteria.

In addition, the visa lottery program is unfair to immigrants who comply with the United States' immigration laws. The visa lottery program does not expressly prohibit illegal aliens from applying to receive visas through the program. Thus, the program treats foreign nationals that comply with our laws the same as those that blatantly violate our laws. In addition, most family-sponsored immigrants currently face a wait of years to obtain visas, yet the lottery program pushes 50,000 random immigrants with no particular family ties, job skills or education ahead of these family and employer-sponsored immigrants each year with relatively no wait. This sends the wrong message to those who wish to enter our great country and to the international community as a whole.

Furthermore, the visa lottery program is wrought with fraud. A report released by the Center for Immigration Studies states that it is commonplace for foreign nationals to apply for the lottery program multiple times using many different aliases. In addition, the visa lottery program has spawned a cottage industry featuring sponsors in the U.S. who falsely promise success to applicants in exchange for large sums of money. Ill-informed foreign nationals are willing to pay top dollar for the "guarantee" of lawful permanent resident status in the U.S.

The State Department's Office of Inspector General confirms these allegations of widespread fraud in its September 2003 report. Specifically, the report states that the visa lottery program is "subject to widespread abuse" and that "identity fraud is endemic, and fraudulent documents are commonplace." Furthermore, the report also reveals that the State Department found that 364,000 duplicate applications were detected in the 2003 visa lottery alone.

In addition, the visa lottery program is by its very nature discriminatory. The complex formula for assigning visas under the program arbitrarily disqualifies natives from countries that send more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. within a 5-year period, which excludes nationals from countries such as Mexico, Canada, China and others.

The visa lottery program represents what is wrong with our country's immigration system. My legislation would eliminate the visa lottery program. The removal of this controversial program will help ensure our Nation's security, make the administration of our immigration laws more consistent and fair, and help reduce immigration fraud and opportunism.

THE INWOOD HOUSE—NYC

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, recently I had the unique opportunity to attend an event in New York City with more than 650 people honoring a life giving operation for young women. In today's cold vast world it is very easy to feel isolated, alone, and forgotten especially if you are a pregnant teen or an expectant teen father. To many, Inwood House is a safe haven in their endless storm. The Inwood House offers housing, medical treatment, resources, and hope to today's otherwise lost teenagers.

The Inwood House was established as a Residence in 1830, to help pregnant girls in New York City rebuild their lives. The young girls were immigrants, alone, and some were exploited. And in those days single pregnant females were often just put in jail. The Inwood House became their savior by giving the girls a safe home, an encouraging community, and most importantly an education. With their newly acquired education the once outcasts of society were able to rejoin the working world with their employable skills. Since the early 1800's, the founders were vocal advocates for the lost youth. When the world wanted to send young unmarried pregnant teens to the penitentiary, the Inwood House stood up and fought for their freedom. They won Court approval to have the girls referred to the Inwood House, rather than being sent away only to be once again shunned by society. The founders believed that each girl was a gift and as a gift each had their own destiny, they simply needed someone to stand strong for them.

The Inwood House has continued its innovated vision. In the early 1900's, when the medical community was desperately trying to get the public aware of sexually transmitted diseases, the Inwood House tackled the issue head on. They conducted community outreach education on how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. While providing on-going family support services to unwed mothers, the founders helped fund the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies. By accepting young women of all races and religions, the Inwood House defied the segregation of social services that was customary at the time.

Inwood House believes that the root of any solid society is a strong family. To enable young unwed mothers keep their babies, Inwood House raised private funds to create

Mother/Baby foster family homes while creating the first City-sponsored program. The program showed great success in achieving self-sufficiency for the young mothers as well as avoiding repeat out-of-wedlock births. Inwood founders also believed in holding everyone responsible for their actions, including male teens.

Teen Choice, created by Inwood House, was the first comprehensive school-based education and counseling program to include boys. By dealing with both sides of the teenage pregnancy epidemic, it allowed awareness to be brought into an educational environment. Being the first to recognize the young unwed father as a potential resource for both the unwed mother and their unborn child, Fathers Count was created. Fathers Count is an educational program aimed to teach young fathers how to manage their parental responsibilities. When children have strong male role models in their lives, the cycle of abandonment is broken, leading both the children and the parents to lead a healthier life.

It was my pleasure, along with Governor Tom Ridge and others, to honor and hear positive successes for this outstanding program, its hard working staff, and the board members of the Inwood House. By providing supportive 24-hour care, support and guidance, including pre-natal care, education, parenting and life skills training, Inwood House is able to give hope for a better life. Wonderful board members such as Barbara Abadi and Linda Lausell Bryant, to just name a few, help to ensure that even today the Residence cares for homeless, pregnant teens in foster care, and continues to ensure that the Inwood House is internationally recognized as a leader and innovator in youth development, teen pregnancy prevention, and family support. Serving over 8,000 young people, Inwood House is able to be a beacon for the lost. It is my pleasure to honor and support such a life giving operation, and wish it continued success as it reaches and addresses the desperate needs of society's forgotten children.

And that is just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING DONALD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 9, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Donald Elementary School, located in Flower Mound, Texas, for being awarded the prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award.

The National Blue Ribbon Award is presented to schools that reflect the goals of our Nation's highest education standards. The program requires schools to meet one of two assessment criteria. It recognizes schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who dramatically improve student performance in accordance with state assessment system. It also rewards schools that score in the top 10 percent on state assessments. Donald Elementary's scores on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test have consistently exceeded the national average in all subjects.