

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN J. SOLARZ

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, next week, one of our most respected former colleagues, Stephen J. Solarz, will receive the President's Award from the International Crisis Group for his role in the creation of that highly respected organization and his other vital contributions to international public policy. This award is richly deserved, and calls to attention the accomplishments of this remarkable public servant.

His career in public office—which included 6 years of service in the New York State Assembly and 18 years representing Brooklyn's 13th district in this chamber—was characterized by tireless advocacy, unyielding resolve, historic vision, and a deep sense of civic duty.

His career was marked by exceptionally strong service in the international arena. Mr. Solarz served for 18 years on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, including service as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, and the Subcommittee on Africa. His record of achievement mirrors the historic and positive changes that occurred in the world during that period. A champion of human rights and democracy, his name figures prominently in the history of South Africa for his efforts to help end apartheid and build a non-racial democracy; in the Philippines for his tireless work in supporting democratic transformation and good governance; and in Cambodia for his public and private initiatives to help build a sustainable peace and national reconciliation in the wake of tragic mass killings. His vision in promoting democratization and European integration of the nations of Central and Eastern Europe following the fall of the Berlin Wall was essential in promoting peace and stability throughout the European continent.

His deep-seated resolve to contribute to international peace and justice did not cease after he retired from Congress in 1993. Mr. Solarz then served President Clinton as special envoy to Cambodia and as Chair to the Board of the Central Asian-American Enterprise Fund. He has stayed active since then, contributing frequently to the public discourse on international events through his writings and teachings.

Mr. Solarz also played a vital role in the creation and early leadership of the International Crisis Group, which has emerged as a respected conflict prevention and resolution organization. As part of a group of prominent international citizens and foreign policy specialists who were appalled by the international community's failure to respond to crises of the mid-1990s in Somalia, Bosnia, and Rwanda, Mr. Solarz recognized the need for an organization, wholly independent of any government that would help governments, international organizations, and the world community to prevent, contain, and resolve deadly conflict. In

the early stages of its formation, Mr. Solarz traveled to two dozen countries to discuss the proposed organization, garner support, and raise funds. The vision of that group was realized, and Mr. Solarz went on to serve first as the organization's first vice chairman and now serves on its board of trustees.

It is with great pride and admiration that I join the International Crisis Group in celebrating this great American and distinguished veteran of the House of Representatives. I thank his wife of 38 years, Nina Koldin, and his two children for sharing their husband and father with us. I am proud to pay tribute to Stephen Solarz for his contributions to the people of New York, the United States, and the entire world.

SUPPORT FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the upcoming 2007 fiscal year supplemental appropriations bill.

Much of the debate on this bill has focused, quite rightly, on the provisions that codify President Bush's benchmarks for Iraq into law. That is an important subject that I plan to discuss in depth later this week.

But today I wish to focus on another element of this bill, one that is of vital importance to the farmers and ranchers of the Second District of Kansas.

America's agricultural industry is in the midst of a calamity. Fully 70 percent of U.S. counties were declared disaster areas by the Department of Agriculture in 2006. Believe it or not, this was an improvement from 2005, when 80 percent of all counties were declared disasters. In my home state of Kansas, every single county is suffering from disaster conditions.

It is hard to express the frustration of the farmers I speak to in my district. Many have worked the same acreage for decades, and they feel a profound connection to their land. They trust that, if they treat their land right, if they plow its soil and plant it carefully and tend it for the many months before harvest, it will reward them with enough crops to earn a living.

But lately, as disaster conditions have stretched out into every corner of Kansas, the land has betrayed our farmers and ranchers. William Norman, Jr., a farmer from Leavenworth County, is fighting to make ends meet now that his corn production has plummeted by two-thirds. Frances Ford, a rancher in Coffey County, is struggling to feed her cattle off of only half of her ordinary hay yield.

These are good, hardworking people who put food on America's plates every single day. But their land has betrayed them—and sadly, Congress has betrayed them, too.

Despite the magnitude of the current agricultural catastrophe, Congress has failed to provide sufficient agricultural assistance. We have abandoned our farmers and ranchers to a massive and ongoing natural disaster.

The 2007 supplemental bill rights this wrong. It provides \$3.7 billion in agriculture disaster relief, which will help Kansans continue to farm and ranch in spite of the ever-present threats of drought, fire, and other catastrophes.

Our farming and ranching communities need a government that supports them during their most difficult hours. Now Congress has an opportunity to meet their needs, to serve as a steward of the agricultural industry.

A vote for the supplemental bill is a vote for our farmers and ranchers.

IN PRAISE OF "PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARD" WINNER, MELISSA MORGAN

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a special young lady, a constituent of mine, Ms. Melissa Morgan of Hillsdale, Michigan. Ms. Morgan is a recipient of the highest level of the "Presidential Service Award," the Gold Level, honoring her dedication to Hillsdale community through her volunteer efforts.

Ms. Morgan is a student at Hillsdale High School where she has been involved with several extracurricular activities which include: soccer, basketball and volleyball, as well as cross country. Melissa was the Vice President of the Hillsdale High School National Honor Society, senior class representative for student council and also a participant in the Student Statesmanship Institute. This is just a short list of the activities Melissa has participated in at Hillsdale High School.

Madam Speaker, those activities which I have just named are impressive, however, Ms. Morgan's volunteer efforts are the heart of the "Presidential Service Award." In his 2002 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush called on all Americans to increase volunteerism within their communities. From this call to action came the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation in 2003 which sought out ways to recognize outstanding volunteers, such as Melissa Morgan. The Council created President's Service Award Program and the Presidential Service Award.

The Gold Level of the "Presidential Service Award," requires young adults, such as Ms. Morgan, to volunteer two hundred fifty hours or more of their time. Ms. Morgan has eclipsed this threshold almost five times, netting just below 1200 volunteer hours. I will highlight just a few of Melissa's volunteer activities; Spanish assistant and tutor—180

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

hours, Key Club volunteer—200 hours, 40 hours dedicated to organizing and running a children's sports camp raising money for Hurricane Katrina victims and 10 hours volunteered with Habitat for Humanity.

Melissa Morgan is a great example of everything right with America and is a reflection of the spirit of a true Michigander, selfless and fighting for a cause greater than themselves. I am pleased to congratulate Melissa Morgan on her achievement of the "Presidential Service Award," and I commend her for her work.

CALLING FOR RELEASE OF
ISRAELI SOLDIERS HELD CAP-
TIVE BY HAMAS AND
HEZBOLLAH

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 107, a resolution calling for the immediate release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit by Hamas, as well as urging Hezbollah to accept the mandate of the U.N. Security Council Resolution by immediately releasing Israeli soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev.

Israel has taken dramatic steps in recent years to bring about peace in the Middle East, including removing all forces from Lebanon and in 2005 unilaterally withdrawing from Gaza. In return, Israel continues to be threatened by Hezbollah, which is backed and encouraged by Iran and Syria, and Hamas, which controls the Palestinian Authority. Neither group recognizes Israel's right to exist and refuses to seek democracy and peace.

Mr. Speaker, by passing H. Res. 107, we have made a clear statement that these soldiers should be released, and that the United States will stand with Israel while continuing to work with the international community to bring peace to the region. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 107.

RECOGNIZING THE YOUNG MEN'S
LEAGUE OF GUAM FOR SERVICE
TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the members of the Young Men's League of Guam, the YMLG, for their service to our community for over 90 years. YMLG is perhaps the oldest, active non-profit organizations in my home district, continuing to provide dedicated and honorable volunteer service to this day. The YMLG contributes immensely to help the homeless, the medically indigent, and less fortunate in Guam, as well as the elderly at St. Dominic's Geriatric Care Facility. They also support and assist other charity organizations.

Since its founding in 1917, the Young Men's League of Guam has remained true to its mission to uphold and defend the principles of good government by instilling among its mem-

bers a sense of individual obligation to our community, as well as fostering and promoting friendship, camaraderie, closer understanding and respect among themselves as unique equals. Also known proudly as "I Inethon Laláhen Guáhan," the Young Men's League of Guam continues to be a strong proponent for the preservation and advancement of the indigenous culture, language, heritage and traditions of the Chamorros of Guam and the Marianas. YMLG annually sponsors the "Silabrasion Chamorro" Student Oratorical, Essay, and Writing Competitions.

As its name proclaims, the Young Men's League of Guam has always sought to harness the talents and instill a sense of community obligation among up-and-coming young men as they take their places in our society. Educational and Recreational promotion of youth continues through scholarships, financial contributions, and sponsorships. Today, many members continue active membership, even though they are well into their senior years.

Madam Speaker, YMLG's membership roster is a "Who's Who" of 20th Century Guam history. Indeed, the legacies of its charter officers—Mr. Leon Flores, president; Mr. Jose Duenas, vice president; Mr. Manuel Ulloa, secretary; Mr. Adriano Cristobal; and Mr. Vicente Arriola, librarian/historian—live on through their offspring and beyond. President Flores was the father of Guam's first Roman Catholic bishop and archbishop, the late Felixberto C. Flores. Vice President Duenas was the father of retired U.S. District Court Judge Cristobal C. Duenas and the brother of Father Jesus Baza Duenas, who was executed during the occupation of Guam in World War II. Secretary Ulloa was a prominent and a long-time island educator. Treasurer Cristobal was the grandfather of Superior Court Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena; and YMLG Historian Arriola was the father of former Speaker Joaquin C. Arriola. Indeed, all the Chamorro Governors of Guam, appointed and elected, were members of the Young Men's League of Guam at some point in their public careers. They include the late Joseph Flores, the late Manuel F.L. Guerrero, and the late Carlos G. Camacho, father of our current governor, Felix P. Camacho, who is a YMLG member himself. Former governors Paul M. Calvo, Joseph F. Ada, and Carl T.C. Gutierrez were YMLG members as well. My late husband, Ricardo J. Bordallo, who served two terms as governor of Guam, and my late father-in-law, Balthazar J. Bordallo, who served in both the pre-war bicameral Guam Congress, as Chairman of the upper House of Council, and the postwar Guam Legislature, were lifelong members, as was Governor Calvo's father, Eduardo T. Calvo, and Francisco B. Leon Guerrero, who, with my father-in-law, was known as the fathers of the Organic Act of Guam.

HONORING THE STAFF OF FAIRVIEW SOUTHDALDE HOSPITAL AND FRIENDS OF THE ORPHANS MINNESOTA REGION MARCH 13, 2007

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a group of Minnesotans who exemplify the great spirit of American compassion, generosity and human ingenuity by making a difference in the lives of a group of orphans living in El Salvador. I especially want to thank the staff and volunteers of both Friends of the Orphans Minnesota Region who helped facilitate arrangements for five Salvadoran orphans to have eye surgery in Minnesota earlier this year.

Claudia Vanessa Vasquez Ramos, age 18; Estela Martinez Perdomo, age 18; Hector Lopez Jovel, age 10; Jonas Perez, age 6 and Brian Stanley Lemus, age 5 were born with strabismus, commonly known as cross or unaligned eyes. When Minnesota residents learned about these orphans, and that corrective surgery for strabismus is not available in El Salvador, they worked with Friends of the Orphans to bring them to Minnesota for surgery. Mr. Nestor Jaramillo arranged surgeons and nurses at Fairview Southdale Hospital to perform the surgery, while Friends of the Orphans made flight arrangements and helped to coordinate host families.

On January 18th, the children arrived in Minnesota, and their successful surgeries were performed the following day. The day after their surgeries, I had the opportunity to meet these young people at Our Lady of Grace Church in Edina, Minnesota, and experienced firsthand their excitement with their new, corrected vision. By January 22nd, they returned to El Salvador with a much brighter outlook for the future in their home country.

I am pleased to honor the generosity of doctors, pediatricians, and nurses at Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina, Minnesota, who through the donation of their skills and time to perform the surgeries, gave a life-long gift to these orphans.

Fairview Southdale Hospital surgeons and nurses: Marshall Everson, M.D.; S. Jafar Hassan, M.D.; Mathew Jones, pediatrician; Thomas LeFebvre, pediatrician; Linda Rosengren, R.N.; Barbara Resendez, R.N.; George Markuson, surgical tech; Christine Volp, C.R.N.A.; Dennis Bless, C.R.N.A.; Dr. Suzanne Shearen, M.D.A.; Becky Hagemann, R.N.; Jan Johnson, R.N.; Sharon Cegla, R.N.; Shirley Holton, R.N.; Kristi Bahnemann, R.N.; Susan Hahn, health unit coordinator; Brad Beard, President of Fairview Southdale Hospital; Nestor Jaramillo, Jr., Vice-President of Sales and Marketing; Bonnie Herda, director of perip services; Julie Hennen, communications and marketing staff.

In addition I want to recognize the extraordinary individuals, families, groups and organizations that have offered their hearts to make a difference in the lives of these orphans:

Friends of the Orphans Minnesota Region and its entire staff: Judy Hawkinson, Charlene Dick, Gail Duer, Erin Dirksen and Mackenzie Wheeler.