

in the House to support the Global Warming Education Act.

TRIBUTE TO MAN MINH PHAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man whose life has touched many people in San Rafael, California. Man Minh Phan, known as Mr. Man, is receiving the 2007 Citizen of the Year award from the city for his outstanding community activism in the Canal neighborhood. This area has a large immigrant population, including 500 Vietnamese-Americans, endeavoring to assimilate into our country's culture.

Now 73-years-old, Mr. Man is a former South Vietnamese army officer who immigrated with his wife to the United States in 1990 after 6 years of imprisonment in a communist re-education camp and another 8 years waiting for relocation. They joined his son, a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, who had arrived in San Rafael a year earlier after escaping Vietnam by boat. Mr. Man also has two daughters who live in Vietnam.

During his 16 years in the Canal area, Mr. Man has been active in organizing and teaching classes in citizenship as well as Vietnamese (for the children) and English as a Second Language (to help adults). He founded the Vietnamese-American Friendship Group, serves on the Advisory Board of the local Pickleweed Park Community Center, leads the Canal Beautification Project, served on the Marin County Sheriff Advisory Board, and helps organize the annual Tet New Year festival.

But these descriptors do not do justice to the man who is the very heart of his neighborhood, a man who works tirelessly and enthusiastically for his community. Often referred to as the "Angel of the Canal," Mr. Man is everywhere, offering a helping hand to anyone who needs it. His neighbors in the Canal understand that his classes are a place to bring people together, not just to learn languages. He is not paid for his teaching and lives simply, relishing the opportunity to give back for the freedom he enjoys here.

Mr. Man also gives to his homeland. He is known for his habit of picking up recycling on the streets, with the proceeds sent to the needy in Vietnam, from wartime amputees to orphans—"whoever wrote me a letter," he says. Others have been inspired to join him in the collection to add to the amounts he can provide.

Madam Speaker, Man Minh Phan's activism and spirit inspire all of us. His own words sum up what our country is about: "I was asked what we need, and I said the most important need is freedom. Freedom is the top of my life."

REMEMBERING SERGEANT
NICHOLAS J. LIGHTNER

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask this chamber to pause today and reflect upon the life of Sergeant Nicholas J. Lightner, United States Army.

Nicholas served proudly with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the famed 1st Cavalry Division.

Sergeant Lightner was known by his peers as a tough soldier; to his men he was known as the kind of leader that people followed. He set an example of courage and valor that will stand the strains of memory and time.

For much of his twenty-nine years, Nicholas Lightner wore the uniform of our country because he believed there was no higher calling.

He took his profession seriously, and Sergeant Lightner reflected great credit upon himself, the Army, and the State of Oregon.

Sadly, Sergeant Lightner died just a few days ago, just a few miles from the Capitol at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Most of his patrol perished in the attack on March 15, 2007. Nicholas Lightner survived Baghdad, and fought for his life with the same bravery he showed in the field. But the wounds were too severe; his devotion to duty ultimately was paid in full with his last measure.

I am here today to ask us all to remember. Remember the sacrifice of those we send onto foreign soil for our benefit; to pledge to ourselves and to the families forever altered by this sacrifice that they will not have perished in vain.

America is a great nation: great, because it is defended by volunteers that answer the call of service and stand in our stead; great, because our values are important enough to the men and women of our Armed Forces that they willingly sacrifice their sweat, their labor, and sometimes their lives.

Nicholas Lightner died because he took upon himself the burden of protecting the Nation, State, and community he loved. Newport, Toledo, in fact all of Oregon, are now forever less than we would have been had Nicholas survived.

Let us begin anew to dedicate ourselves to a cause that Nicholas Lightner believed in; let us begin today.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH AND WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleague Congressman CIRO RODRIGUEZ for arranging this time on the floor for us to celebrate World Social Work Day and to acknowledge the contributions of social workers to the well-being of our society.

I'm proud to say that I'm a social worker and that my predecessor, former Congress-

man and now mayor of Oakland, Ron Delums, was also a social worker. I believe our records, interests and efforts here in Congress and outside reflect the influence of our social work background. This education has helped me to form my principles and has helped me to fight injustice and inequality, not just here in the U.S. but also abroad.

Social workers make a difference in people's lives everyday and at all levels. They're in the streets working one-on-one with the homeless. They're in the hospitals and clinics helping people through their health crises. They're in the schools making our kids safe, adjusted, and prepared to take on the world. They're advocating for the rights of our country's most vulnerable citizens—our children, the elderly, the mentally ill, the poor, and others in our society that may not have a strong voice. They're fighting for social justice and human rights internationally and they're creating policies and programs here in the halls of both the Congress and the Senate that address the needs of our society.

The hallmark trait of a social worker is their ability to empathize—their ability and willingness to put themselves in someone else's place. This is not always an easy thing to do. Many times social workers encounter people who are in extreme states of crisis. Times when their lives are feeling out of control. It's no easy feat to step into someone else's nightmare and help them find the strength to cope, to problem-solve, and to move forward. But this is what social workers do on a daily basis.

Nonetheless, there are also times that are incredibly heartening and rewarding—times that renew your faith in humanity. They are the times when you see the first trusting smile on the face of a child that came from the chaos of an abusive home and you feel that connection. They are the times when you're able to help a family—homeless and devastated by the ravages of a massive natural disaster. They are times when the grassroots movement you've been working with is able to achieve its goal. They're the times when you're able to help a young man who seemed like he was starting down the path to a life of crime to find a better road and to make better decisions.

One of the ways that I think I've best used my social work education has been in the work I have done here in Congress. As a social worker, I am concerned about the many things that ail our community as a whole. That is why I have made the fight against AIDS a priority—not just domestically, but also abroad. We need to stop crimes against humanity, like the genocide that continues to ravage the Darfur region. I also believe we need to fully fund No Child Left Behind. Our education system is failing—No Child Left Behind is failing our children, our teachers, our parents, and our community as a whole.

Recognizing the importance that social workers bring to our schools, I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues who have cosponsored H.R. 171, the Student Support Act. I hope more of my colleagues will consider supporting this legislation, which helps ensure that our schools have the necessary amount of mental health professionals at their schools, including school social workers, school psychologists, counselors and psychiatrists. Almost all States fall below the recommended guidelines by the American Counseling Association of 1 counselor for every

250 students. My own State of California has 966 students for every one counselor. So I hope my colleagues can cosponsor this important act, and maybe we can see this legislation make some progress here in the House.

Social workers don't just make an impact on our students—social workers give back to our society by helping to make better citizens of us all. They strive to help their clients become the best that they can be, to improve their communities and to confront the injustices that they see. They foster a new way of looking at the world around you—one where you see promise and possibility. Social workers help us to realize a world where mediation, coalition building and effective communication are used to find peaceful solutions instead of military posturing.

I'd like to close by saying, I'm grateful to be part of a profession that is devoted to service to our people and that is so necessary to our society's well-being. I know that many of my dedicated colleagues work quietly in the field and that their contributions are not always given the attention they deserve, so I'm very pleased to be able to celebrate this day and to publicly acknowledge their contributions.

Thank you again, Congressman CIRO RODRIGUEZ for organizing this special order, and also thank you to all of my colleagues who were able to participate tonight.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO DESIGNATE THE "DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. POST OFFICE" IN PORTLAND, OREGON

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 630 Northeast Killingsworth Avenue in Portland, Oregon as the "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Post Office." This post office, located near Martin Luther King Boulevard, shall serve to remind us of the civil rights leader who inspired a nation and served as a catalyst for change. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of equality and brotherhood between people of all creeds and colors remains a vital and relevant vision. While our nation has come a long way since the days of the civil rights movement, it will always benefit us to be reminded of the ideals and inspiration of Dr. King. I am honored to introduce this bill as another tribute to and reminder of this remarkable leader.

ANIMAL FIGHTING PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on February 7, 2007, the House Committee of the Judiciary passed by voice vote H.R. 137, the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007. This is a bad piece of legislation that will

greatly devalue human life in the eyes of the law.

H.R. 137 would make it a federal felony to transport a chicken across state lines for the purpose of exhibiting it in a fight. Currently, 49 states have laws on the books to address this issue. To add a federal law would add another layer of bureaucracy to an already complicated legal code.

I believe that human life is diminished by our making it a felony to transport animals for fighting, without first making it a felony to take a minor girl across a state line for an abortion. It is a strong conviction of mine to fight for the sanctity of life.

While I believe that it is important that we act humanely in our treatment of animals, I do not believe that we should put their welfare ahead of unborn babies or minor girls. I call upon the Humane Society to work for humanity to humanity first.

Until we provide a higher standard of protection for human life, I will oppose making interstate transportation of animals for purposes of animal fighting a felony. In the U.S., we are faced with the alarming practice of people taking a minor girl across state lines for an abortion to avoid their own state's laws that require the minor's parents to be notified. Federal legislation, CIANA, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, would only make this abhorrent activity, which exploits a young woman and kills her child, a misdemeanor. Though this legislation has not yet become law, it is a step forward in the right direction. Many who I know opposed CIANA in the past will vote today for the misdemeanor in current law, transporting a chicken, to become a felony, thereby placing animal welfare over that of a young girl and her unborn baby.

I believe that we should not place more value on animal life than we do on human life. It makes no sense that killing a person is a misdemeanor offense while transporting animals to a fight is a felony, punishable by three years in a federal penitentiary.

Mr. Speaker, while on the topic of valuing human life, I would like to talk briefly about bio-medical research, which is opposed by animal rights activists. I would like to mention that there is bio-medical research being done demonstrating, through transgenics, that the immune system from a baboon, or a human for that matter, can be spliced into the DNA of a hog to grow a heart a baboon can use.

The heart was then harvested from the hog and transplanted to a baboon. The baboon lived another 6 months with a heart that was grown in a pig. This is longer than the first human heart transplant patient.

But what has been proven now is that humans can transplant through transgenics the human immune system into a hog. In doing so, and we are only 3 years, maybe 4 years away from being able to custom build the human organ. rejection genetics into a pig.

We will be able to very soon custom raise human organs in hogs. Today we are already transplanting out of hogs and into humans anterior cruciate ligaments and heart valves.

We can raise in hogs 28 different organs. Not just hearts, but lungs, esophagus, stomach, bladder, but other important organs as well, kidneys, pancreas, liver, even skin for burn patients; name your organ. Except for the brain.

The reason for bringing up these pigs is that it further illustrates how the animal rights com-

munity, through legislation such as H.R. 137, seeks to pass their agenda for animals on the rest of America. They oppose using animals for lifesaving research like I just mentioned.

My home state of Iowa is an agricultural state. We understand the importance of animal husbandry and good stewardship of our animals. However, we also understand that animals are less important than humans. Animal rights activists seek to place heifers and hogs on the same level as people. I disagree.

I strongly oppose this legislation because animals should not be elevated above humans. Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

HONORING CESAR CHAVEZ ON THE OCCASION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor the legacy of one of our nation's most important advocates of civil rights and labor organization. Cesar Chavez answered one of the highest callings of human life—to lead others in the struggle for social justice. It is for this reason that we proudly observe the 80th anniversary of his birth by voicing our support for House Resolution 76, to establish a national Cesar Chavez Holiday.

Born near Yuma, Arizona, on March 31, 1927, Cesar Estrada Chavez endured a difficult adolescence as a migrant farm worker when his formal education ended after the 7th grade. Migrant workers of this era suffered very harsh working conditions, and were routinely refused pay by farm owners. Chavez was able to escape this life by joining the United States Navy in 1944, at the age of 17.

In 1946, after 2 years of service, Chavez returned to California where he married Helen Fabela and resumed life as a farm worker. Before long, he joined the Community Services Organization, CSO, as a community organizer. Chavez traveled up and down the coast of his State urging Mexican-Americans to register to vote and become legal U.S. citizens, and frequently speaking on the topic of workers' rights.

By the late 1950s, Chavez was convinced that farm workers would be treated fairly only if they were able to form unions to represent their rights. After leaving his post as CSO president in 1962, he used his meager life savings to co-found the National Farm Workers Association, NFWA, the precursor to the United Farm Workers. Though past attempts to organize migrant workers had failed, Chavez traveled to dozens of camps in California and Arizona, teaching workers the fundamentals of union organization and inspiring many to become organizers themselves.

In 1965, Chavez and the NFWA led a strike on behalf of California grape-pickers that culminated in a 250-mile march from Delano, California, to the state capital in Sacramento. Senator Robert F. Kennedy, investigating the strike with the Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture, fully endorsed Chavez and his organization, and pronounced Chavez, "one of the heroic figures of our time." The Delano strike