

efficiently. Those mechanisms include a broad-based Task Force to evaluate evidence-based treatments and services, demonstration grants to enable states to provide evidence-based treatments and services, one-time planning grants and follow-on demonstration grants for states to provide services to adults, and supplemental grants to University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Research, Education, and Services to allow the centers to train professionals who treat or serve individuals with autism, as well as the creation of four new University Centers of Excellence. To complement and further enhance the grant programs established under this Act, this legislation also provides assistance to a national nonprofit organization for establishment of a national technical assistance center and provides assistance for protection and advocacy systems.

Additionally, to fill an information gap important to almost all affected families, service providers, and government organizations, the legislation calls for the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study and release a report on the ways in which autism treatments and services are currently financed, including policies for public and private health insurance.

This is truly bipartisan, bicameral legislation, and I am gratified that Representatives ELIOT ENGEL of New York and CHIP PICKERING of Mississippi joined Representative DOYLE and myself in introducing this legislation. We are all most appreciative that critically acclaimed actor and star of the "West Wing" Bradley Whitford, co-founder of Cure Autism Now and board member of Autism Speaks Jonathan Shestack, and President of the Autism Society of America Lee Grossman joined us this week in announcing the introduction of the EPIAA. Their support, along with that of other advocates for individuals with autism, will be critical as this legislation advances in the House and Senate.

OFFERING HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES REGARDING THE HORRIFIC VIOLENCE AT VIRGINIA TECH AND TO STUDENTS, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED

SPEECH OF

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to discuss something that is neither Democrat nor Republican in nature, but simply American. That, Mr. Speaker, is the greatness of this nation and of the American community, the extraordinary ability of American men and women to overcome tragedy and to be stronger for it.

Twelve years ago today, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building was destroyed by an explosion that claimed the lives of 168 men, women and children, and that left over 800 injured. At the time, it was the deadliest terror attack ever carried out on American soil.

Like everyone else in Oklahoma, I can remember exactly where I was when I heard the

news. I remember seeing the carnage on television, and later that day, in person, and thinking "How can this have happened? What kind of person would do this?" And I saw the acts of one deranged mad man bring our city to a standstill, while the nation watched and grieved.

But even before the smoke and rubble had been cleared, I saw something wonderful. I saw complete strangers coming together, praying, and comforting each other. I saw a state and then an entire nation rally behind the families who had lost their loved ones. And rather than a group of victims, the men and women of Oklahoma became a group of heroes, facing down terrorists and rebuilding both their city and their lives.

Twelve years later, we still bare the scars of that awful day. We will never forget. And today, the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial stands as a reminder of our pain and our heartbreak in the days and months after that attack.

But the memorial stands for more than that. It reminds us of the strength of our community. It reminds us of a city and a state that came together after a devastating attack to heal itself and to rebuild. And finally, it reminds us of the greatness of this country and of the power of American hope, even in the face of the most heartbreaking of tragedies.

Our memorial is a monument to our sadness. But it is also a monument to our hope and ultimately to our strength. Today we are a thriving city. We have a new federal building which is stronger and safer than the one that was destroyed. And after facing tremendous adversity, we became a stronger people.

On Monday, the nation and the state of Virginia suffered another terrible tragedy, when a crazed gunman shot and killed 33 men and women on the Virginia Tech campus. It is yet another tragedy of almost unimaginable proportions—innocent students living in what they thought was a peaceful sanctuary, only to have their lives cut short by a mad man.

In a time of sadness, I believe that the story of the Oklahoma City Bombing can deliver a message of hope to the families and friends of the victims, and indeed to the nation.

Twelve years ago today we saw tragedy and death. But we also witnessed the healing power of prayer and the strength of friendship and community. We found God in the most trying of times and we found ourselves stronger for it.

My message to the students and faculty of Virginia Tech is this: your community and your faith are more powerful than the destructive urges of one crazed gunman. Again and again the people of this great nation are faced with adversity and tragedy, and again and again we overcome that tragedy and grow stronger. So will you.

And while you struggle to find meaning in this calamity and to deal with the pain and sadness of that terrible event, you should know that all of America stands with you, and prays with you, and will ultimately heal with you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to other Congressional business, I unfortunately missed a recorded vote on the House floor on Tuesday, April 17, 2007.

Had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 214.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF "THE NORTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO RURAL WATER PROJECTS ACT"

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce The Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act. This legislation, which was also introduced today in the Senate by my colleagues from New Mexico, Senators BINGAMAN and DOMENICI, will ratify the historic San Juan River Settlement Agreement. This agreement, signed by the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico, will provide for the development of a rural water system to address the water needs of numerous New Mexicans, many of them members of the Navajo Nation.

Once ratified, the settlement agreement will resolve the Navajo Nation's water rights. It will also provide a water supply for Gallup, New Mexico, and recognize authorized and existing uses of San Juan River basin water. In exchange for relinquishing some of their claims to water from the San Juan River basin, the Navajo Nation will benefit from water development projects which include the Navajo-Gallup project and the Navajo Nation Municipal pipeline. Incredibly, even now in 21st-century America, more than 70,000 Navajos must still haul water daily for residential use. These water projects will go a long way toward rectifying that grievous situation.

The Navajo Nation, the State of New Mexico and many other residents of northwestern New Mexico put a tremendous amount of effort into reaching an agreement that will provide a more secure future for many vulnerable communities. I am proud to be able to contribute today to their hard work and diligent commitment by introducing the legislation in the House. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation and move these important water projects forward.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. ROSS P. MARINE, HONORARY CONSUL FOR THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, the Honorary Consul for the Slovak Republic, Mr.

Ross P. Marine, for his tireless efforts to bring an important exhibition, focused on the fate of Slovak Jews during World War II, to the Kansas City area. Mr. Marine is a dynamic member of the Consular Corps of Greater Kansas City. And for this reason, the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area is very fortunate to have the vital and active Consular Corps of Greater Kansas City, which has been instrumental in fostering cultural exchanges while building economic partnerships between our area and other countries. Time and time again, Mr. Ross P. Marine has proven himself to be one of our most active and dedicated Honorary Consuls in our region.

Years ago, while working for the Truman Medical Center East, Ross became involved in a health partnership program in the Republic of Slovakia, whose mission was to work with abused women and people addicted to drugs and alcohol. In the 3 years that followed, Ross became acquainted with the people and culture. He made many friends and in February 2001, he was honored with the title of Honorary Consul, for the four-state region of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. Currently, Ross Marine continues to be one of our metropolitan area's most important links to Eastern Europe. He has brought exhibits, business opportunities and international relationships with the Embassy of the Slovak Republic to the people of Missouri's Fifth District. At Ross Marine's request, the Slovak Ambassador to the United States made an official visit to Kansas City for the re-dedication of the Liberty Memorial in 2006, the only national World War I monument in the United States.

Ross's latest endeavor was to spearhead efforts to bring the exhibition "The Tragedy of Slovak Jews" to Kansas City. This important exhibit is the first exhibition to illustrate the betrayal and atrocities committed towards Slovak Jews during World War II. Prepared and presented in cooperation with the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, this important exhibit was brought to the Kansas City area with the further assistance of the Czech and Slovak Club of Kansas City, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, and the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Ross P. Marine for his relentless efforts in extending goodwill, not only within the areas surrounding the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri, but to the global community. I urge my colleagues to please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Marine and his endless commitment to the Slovak community. He is a true role model, not just to the Slovak-American community in Missouri, but to our entire society.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOUR CHILDREN AND ITS 2007 HONOREES, ABIGAIL DISNEY, KIRK GOODRICH, AND XIOMARA GUTIERREZ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Hour Children, a not-for-profit social service agency in Long

Island City, New York dedicated to supporting mothers currently or previously incarcerated in prison and to providing a stable and nurturing environment for their children. This month, Hour Children is celebrating its 12th anniversary at its Annual Awards Benefit, where the organization is honoring 3 outstanding individuals: Abigail Disney, Kirk Goodrich and Xiomara Gutierrez.

Originally founded in 1995 by Sister Teresa Fitzgerald, CSJ, for children rendered homeless by their mothers' incarceration, Hour Children has grown into a full-service, multifaceted social service provider to countless families in need. Sister Teresa, familiarly known as "Sister Tessa," secured housing at the Roman Catholic Convent of St. Rita's in Long Island City as a home for these children, and joined with 4 other Sisters to become foster parents. They went on to establish parent support programs at New York State's Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Institutions, facilitating visit schedules so that female inmates and their children were able to reunite for a few hours on a regular basis.

Although nearly one third of prisoners in New York State are reincarcerated, Hour Children's rate of recidivism is less than 10 percent because its clients are afforded ample time to make a successful transition to assuming responsibilities for family and work. Hour Children's unique approach begins by forging relationships with its adult clients while they are still in prison, bringing their children to visit regularly, and providing advocacy and mentoring on parenting, domestic violence, and employment counseling, thus easing their transition to reunification with their children. In forging long-term relationships with its clients built on trust, Hour Children helps them to attain independence and self-sufficiency at a pace suited to their needs.

Today, Hour Children is a community of 5 multi-family residences, serving families with children from infancy to 21 years of age. More than 200 "graduates" of its housing program have successfully made the transition to independent living, returning for monthly support group meetings and special events. In addition, Hour Children was officially recognized as a work release site, opening a Community Outreach Center and 3 thrift shops.

Hour Children's success would not have been possible without the extraordinary contributions of its 3 honorees this year. As Co-Founder and President of the Daphne Foundation, Abigail E. Disney, Ph.D., has devoted herself tirelessly to confronting the causes and consequences of poverty in our Nation's greatest city. She was indispensable in securing and providing the first funding for Hour Children's Early Learning program for children ranging from infants to 3-year-olds.

Hour Children is also honoring Kirk Goodrich, Vice President of the Enterprise Social Investment Corporation, one of the Nation's leading providers of community development capital, tax credit equity investments, and development services for affordable housing, mixed-use, and commercial development. His leadership helped secure the financing to enable Hour Children to open a new residence under construction at 35-54 11th Street in Long Island City, where 8 apartment units will be available to Hour Children's client families.

In addition, Hour Children is honoring Xiomara Gutierrez with its First Annual Jean Harris Award. A mother, child care worker,

and trusted confidante to countless families, Xiomara Harris has touched and inspired the Hour Children community with her compassion and dedication.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable successes enjoyed by Hour Children in helping countless individuals transcend their circumstances and realize their full potential.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF PLAINVIEW, TEXAS

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Plainview, Texas' centennial birthday. For it was in 1907 that the city's founders took the pivotal step from frontier community to an incorporated city.

One hundred years ago, the Santa Fe Railroad decided to put down tracks through Plainview. This helped spur economic growth and attract new residents to the budding community.

Today, Plainview's location along the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor is having the same effect as its population grows and new businesses come to the area.

During the past century, Plainview's citizens have witnessed the mode of transportation change from rail to road, and local agriculture evolve from being merely a source of food and fiber to also a source of energy.

However, despite these changes, the core values present at Plainview's founding are still alive and well 100 years later. A strong sense of community and a vibrant civic pride continue to make Plainview, Texas a welcome place for businesses and families.

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to represent the great people of Plainview in the United States Congress, and I wish the city well as it embarks on its second hundred years.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PENSION BENEFITS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, this week, with the support of the American Legion and West Virginia veteran John Peters, I am again introducing two bills that will honor those who have served our country so bravely in times of conflict. Both pieces of legislation will achieve this by extending benefits to veterans who have served in harms way, though not in a time of declared war.

Throughout the history of the United States, our country has seen the personal courage and sacrifice by millions of Americans who have served in various wars and conflicts protecting our freedoms and our way of life. Madam Speaker, we have honored many of these fine men and women, but not all. Our