

BEERRA, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SUSAN DAVIS, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. Harman, Mr. HONDA, Ms. BARBARA LEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. MATSUI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Ms. LORETTA SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. STARK, Ms. TAUSCHER, Mr. MIKE THOMPSON, Ms. MAXINE WATERS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. HENRY WAXMAN, Ms. LYNN WOOLSEY, and Speaker NANCY PELOSI, to honor our long-time friend and colleague, the Honorable Lou Papan, who passed away at his home on Saturday, April 28, 2007, in Millbrae, California, at the age of 78. He was a distinguished American, a dedicated public servant, a forceful legislator, and a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Lou Papan was born Elias Papandricoupolos in Springfield, Massachusetts, the son of Greek immigrants, John and Flora Papandricoupolos. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Syracuse University and studied at Georgetown Law School. He served as a Sergeant in the Army during World War II and as a Lieutenant in the Air Force during the Korean War.

After Korea, he joined the F.B.I. and was transferred to San Francisco, where he met the love of his life the late Irene Damis, his wife of 42 years. Irene hailed from Portland, Oregon and studied at Mills College in Oakland. They had three children: John, Gina, and Diane. Gina is a member of the Millbrae City Council, and Diane is a practicing attorney in San Francisco. John passed away from a rare congenital illness at age 21, and in the wake of their profound loss, Lou and Irene founded an extraordinary scholarship and not-for-profit clothing bank to honor John's memory known as John's Closet, which has helped hundreds of low-income late-blooming students.

Lou began his political career in 1970 when he was elected to the Daly City Council. He was elected to serve the people of California's 19th Assembly District in 1972. He was appointed Speaker Pro Tempore in 1974, and became Chair of the powerful Rules Committee in 1976. He also chaired the Public Investment and Finance Committee.

In his many years in the Assembly, Lou Papan worked on behalf of California's working class, and was a tireless advocate for disabled children. He authored legislation that strengthened child and elder abuse reporting requirements and improved Worker's Compensation benefits. He promoted independent banking institutions and was an early supporter of e-commerce, an environmental champion who helped to purchase land in Pacifica for the State Park System, and protected endangered species on San Bruno Mountain. He improved government accountability by placing legislative records under the State's Open Records Act.

Lou retired from the Assembly in 1986 to run for the State Senate. He lost that race but was elected again in 1996 to his former Assembly seat where he served until 2002. In 1997, he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, given by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations in recognition of significant contributions made by immigrants to our country.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest sympathy to Mr. Papan's daughters, Diane and Gina, his son-in-law, Dan Latini, and his beautiful grand-

daughter, Alexa Papan Latini, as we honor the life of this proud American. We take comfort in knowing that he is now reunited with his angels, Irene and John. Lou gave our nation many years of devoted public service and we are better for them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, on the evening of May 2, 2007 I missed nine Rollcall votes. I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on these Rollcall votes.

It was my intention to vote:

No on recorded vote 287 Sullivan Amendment to the Honda Amendment.

Yes on recorded vote 288 Honda Amendment.

No on recorded vote 289 Campbell Amendment number 5.

No on recorded vote 290 Campbell Amendment number 4.

No on recorded vote 291 Garrett Amendment number 11.

No on recorded vote 292 Flake Amendment.

Yes on recorded vote 293 Matsui Amendment.

No on recorded vote 294 Price Amendment.

Yes on recorded vote 295 Final Passage of H.R. 1867.

INTRODUCTION STATEMENT FOR HIV/AIDS DENTAL SERVICE BILL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I introduce the Dedicated Dental Service for HIV/AIDS (DDS for HIV/AIDS) Act of 2007, to establish a loan repayment program for dental school graduates in exchange for their agreement to remedy a critical shortage of dentists for the poor, particularly in areas with a high incidence of HIV and AIDS, by agreeing to serve such patients. This bill is similar to legislation Congress has previously enacted to encourage other health professionals, such as physicians, nurses, optometrists and pharmacists to provide vital services in underserved areas. This bill is being introduced in conjunction with a series of HIV/AIDS town hall meetings that I am hosting in the District of Columbia.

I am introducing the bill on the same day when I am hosting a Men's Town Meeting on HIV/AIDS. This public meeting is one of a series of town meetings I am holding to increase awareness and individual responsibility at a time when 50 percent of AIDS cases today are African American. Howard University professors of dentistry inform us that the first indicators of HIV/AIDS infection are often oral health problems. Oral health problems often not only constitute an important early signal of HIV/AIDS symptoms; they also serve as benchmarks for disease progression. One of the most serious problems with the spread of HIV/AIDS is the reluctance of people to be tested for such a disease, especially in the Af-

rican-American community and other big city and rural areas. Access to dental care, therefore, is critically important from the earliest onset, especially in high impact areas. Access, of course, minimizes long-term oral health complications for patients, but it also provides important linkages to good overall medical care to combat the disease in the community.

A recent RAND health study on HIV costs and services found that the vast majority of patients received care at their local AIDS clinic, not a primary dentist. Moreover, these disfavored patients must look for service within the context of a nationwide drop in dental school applicants and graduates, and a projected 60 percent loss of active dentists due to retirement. As a result, the average American, especially those with HIV/AIDS, will, or already are, having difficulty in obtaining dental care.

The crisis is palpable for HIV/AIDS patients. They have even more difficulty than other Americans finding dentists who will accept Medicaid or treat patients at reduced cost.

Some dentists are reluctant to provide care. Although only one case of transmission between dentist and patient has been documented, problems of access are acute. Many patients must travel long distances to find care. Many states do not include dental care as part of their Medicaid coverage. Patients often must search for providers such as schools of dentistry or local community clinics which receive some funds from the Dental Reimbursement Program (DRP), administered through the Ryan White CARE Act.

My bill would create a loan forgiveness program for dental school graduates who agree to serve HIV/AIDS populations in areas where there is a high incidence of such cases, as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services. This program is drawn from the nurse loan forgiveness program passed by Congress in 1998. The crisis for the dental profession, especially in the distribution of dentists in underserved areas, is even greater than for physicians. Dental school graduates incur an average loan debt of \$100,000. Under the guidelines of the program, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to pay 60 percent of the principal and interest on the loans in exchange for service for a period of no less than two years. If a dentist agrees to participate in a third year of service, another 25 percent of the principal and interest on his loans will be paid. Loan forgiveness programs bring important added value because many recipients remain in practice in the area to which they are assigned. The Secretary of HHS is to submit to the Congress a report on the program, with information including the number of dentists enrolled, the number and amount of loan repayments, the placement location of loan repayment recipients, and the evaluation of the overall costs and benefits of the program.

With more than one million Americans with HIV/AIDS, and over 16,000 in the District of Columbia, and its impact among people of color, these health providers need greater attention. We are proud of the overworked and under-funded services that are available in the District of Columbia. The Howard School of Dentistry has a long history of providing dental services to the poor here, and the HU CARES program provides care for nearly 1,200 patients a year. The vital Whitman-Walker Clinic, the largest provider of comprehensive HIV/AIDS services in the District and the region serves over 1,500 dental patients a year.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in establishing this dental loan repayment program that will meet an immediate and pressing need in communities across the country, as we have for other professions.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FREE
ABSENTEE ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to provide free postage for absentee or mail-in ballots in federal elections.

Since voter participation rates are shockingly low in this nation where we pride ourselves on our democracy, our leaders must do all we can to encourage voter turnout and remove obstacles.

We know that not everyone can make it to the polls on Election Day and we know that some voters prefer to vote from home because they have more time to review their options and do not want to wait in line to vote.

While only 6 percent of voters used the vote by mail option in 1979, that number has risen to around 40 percent in areas where voters can vote by mail for any reason such as in my district in San Diego.

In our fast-paced hectic society, voting by mail is an option that works for many people. We need to make voting by mail as convenient as possible. Making ballots postage free is a step in that direction.

The price of a stamp is not a burden for many people though it certainly is for some. For these people, adding a stamp to a ballot is a sort of poll tax and that is wrong.

For those for whom a stamp is affordable, it is not always easy to acquire a stamp or to know how much postage to put on an odd-sized ballot envelope. In fact, a postal employee even told me she drives around with her own mail in her truck for days because she can't find the time to weigh it and buy stamps.

With election deadlines, voters do not have time to wait until they can stop to pick up stamps. They should be able to vote and put their ballots in any mailbox without worrying about finding the right amount of postage.

We must also realize that providing postage for mail-in ballots does not come at tremendous cost to the federal government. Postage for ballots is managed in bulk making them eligible business reply rates which cost less than individual first class pieces. But more importantly, each voter need not figure out how much postage to put on.

It is hard to give an exact cost estimate of this bill since the number of mail-in voters varies election to election. However, if the federal government paid for the mail-in ballots in the 2004 election, the cost would have been around \$23 million. That is a small price to pay when you compare it with the billions we are spending on election machines and other costs.

In Congress, we have become accustomed to sending mail out with just the frank. We don't worry about having the proper postage. Shouldn't we share that privilege with the voters?

Creating postage-paid mail-in ballots is just one of the three major improvements we can make to mail-in voting. The others are allowing no-excuse absentee voting and implementing a ballot tracking system similar to that which we use for overnight packages. I have introduced legislation addressing these other areas as well.

If voters could vote by mail for any reason and know that they could just toss their ballots in any mailbox without having to worry about postage and if they knew they could track the progress of their ballot, more voters would vote by mail, the strain at the polls would be less and I suspect voter turnout would increase dramatically.

COMMENDING THE MAINEIACS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Lewiston Maineiacs for their 4–3 victory over their Rouyn-Noranda Huskies, completing a 4 game winning streak and advancing the team to the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League President Cup Finals. Since 2003, the Maineiacs have brought crowds to the Androscoggin Bank Colisée, and they have enjoyed spectacular success this season.

Off the ice, the team's players and their mascot, Lewy, are fixtures throughout the greater Lewiston-Auburn community, visiting local businesses, promoting reading and academic achievement in the schools, and supporting youth sports for the area children and young adults.

The Maineiacs have had an excellent season and much credit is due to the hardworking players and their coach, Clem Jodoin. With a 50–14 record regular season record—the best in the league—the Maineiacs moved quickly through the playoffs and will play in the 2007 President Cup Finals this Friday.

I would like to commend the team for their tremendous performance this season and their continued involvement in their local community.

Go Maineiacs!

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LINDA F.
BRANCH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda F. Branch, managing owner of Customer Service Management Consultants, LLC for her being honored by the Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration as the Microenterprise Initiative Business Person of the Year.

Through CSMC, LLC, Linda has been dedicated to providing a wide selection of training and workforce development solutions since 2003 throughout Southern Nevada. As CEO, Linda has committed CSMC to bringing quality and excellence in training and staff development solutions to their clients' missions and

goals as a service provider. CSMC, LLC is a leading provider of continuing education training for healthcare and human service providers and they provide training solutions that are customized face-to-face and online for front line staff, middle management and upper management.

Linda has 30 years experience as a human resource provider, including facilitation and training in both public and private organizations. Linda is a well-known speaker and facilitator and has written a number of training workbooks that are certified through the Clark County Commission on Post Secondary Education. She has also received continuing education unit certification from the Nevada State Board of Examiners for Social Work on two of her training workbooks. Linda earned her bachelor's degree in Social Work and a master's degree in Organizational Management.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Linda F. Branch. Her dedication to providing continuing education training and commitment to excellence are truly commendable. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, I was unable to be present for votes. Had I been present: For rollcall No. 270—H. Res. 334, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Community College Month, I would have voted "yea"; for rollcall No. 271—H. Con. Res. 112, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of a National Child Care Worthy Wage Day, I would have voted "no"; and for rollcall No. 239—H. Res. 272, to commend the University of Florida Gators for their historic win in the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Tournament, I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO
SHORTEN DEPRECIABLE LIVES
OF ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION AS-
SETS

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today I introduced legislation that would shorten the depreciable lives of electric distribution assets from 20 to 15 years. I feel this legislation, is necessary to spur investment in a time where the demand for electricity is at an all-time high. Despite continued energy efficiency improvements, electricity consumption is expected to increase 41 percent by 2030, according to the Energy Information Administration.

To meet this growing demand, electric companies must expand and upgrade the nation's electricity infrastructure. The need to expand the nation's distribution infrastructure will require significant investment. According to a recent study by the Brattle Group ("Why Are