EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1014 taken on Tuesday, October 30, 2007, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1001, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CRISIS IN DARFUR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of resolutions H. Res. 573, H. Res. 726, and H. Res. 740, which are all related to the situation in Darfur. The continuing genocide in Darfur is an attack on humanity and I would like to take this moment to urge my colleagues in Congress and in the International Community to support ending this genocide.

I am in support of H. Res. 573. This resolution calls for recognizing and commending the efforts of the United States public and advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening humanitarian crisis and genocide in Darfur, Sudan. If it were not for the U.S. public and advocacy groups that have brought awareness of the violence and displacement that has occurred in Darfur, this horrific conflict might have gone unnoticed. Experts estimate some 400,000 people have died and over 2.5 million people within the Darfur region have been made homeless since this conflict began in 2003. Too many people of Darfur are in extreme poverty and they rely heavily on international aid for survival. Refugee camps have experienced atrocities, rape, and physical violence, which is making these supposedly safe havens unsafe. Even humanitarian groups are suffering from deteriorating conditions and attacks, which has caused several NGOs to leave.

I agree with H. Res. 726, which calls on the President of the United States and the international community to take immediate steps to respond to and prevent acts of rape and sexual violence against women and girls in Darfur, Sudan, eastern Chad and the Central African Republic. During war women are too often the victims of rape and sexual violence, which is often used systematically as a weapon of intimidation, humiliation, terror and ethnic cleansing. Being a victim of rape or sexual violence is one of the worst human rights violations there is. Women in these areas can hopefully be protected if the President of the United States develops within the United States Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development a Women and Girls of Darfur Initiative to improve assistance to victims and potential victims of rape and sexual violence in the areas called for by the resolution.

I fully support H. Res. 740. This resolution condemns in the strongest terms the attacks on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan on September 29, 2007. This ambush by Darfur rebels killed ten peacekeepers; seven Nigerian peacekeepers and three other soldiers from Mali, Senegal and Botswana. Several other soldiers were wounded and fifty soldiers are still missing. This attack is considered the worst on AMIS peacekeepers since the deployment in July 2004. It is time to hold the perpetrators of these hateful acts accountable for their inhumane actions.

Madam Speaker, I support these bills because the people of Darfur need help. Too many lives have been taken; too many women have been sexually violated. These bills help send a clear message to the Sudanese government and the Darfur rebel groups that we will not continue to allow these crimes to happen on our watch. It is time to end this genocide.

TRIBUTE TO VELMA ALLEN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Velma Allen as she retires from Mott Children's Health Center. Dr. Allen is the President and Chief Executive Officer and will retire on December 31. A dinner in her honor will be held on November 8 in Flint, MI.

Dr. Allen began her career as an English teacher in Mississippi. She moved to Michigan and became the Supervisor of Secondary Special Education with the Grand Rapids School System. She served as the Director of Special Education with the Lansing Schools from 1977 through 1981. She moved to Flint and was program officer for the C.S. Mott Foundation from 1981 to 1984. After serving as the Superintendent of the Michigan School of the Blind, Velma started to work at the Mott Children's Health Center. She has spent the last 17 years working to improve the care for the children of Genesee County who have special health or developmental problems.

Under her leadership, the C.S. Mott Children's Health Center has expanded its role in Genesee County. Working with the Genesee Intermediate School District, the Center has implemented four school-based health centers offering multiple services to elementary, middle school, and high school students and offer dental health screening and prevention in elementary schools. The Center works with the Cedar Street Children's Center and the Child Welfare Society of Flint to offer mental health prevention services. She has added a fifth pediatric dental resident and partnered with the University of Michigan Dental School to offer an Advanced Education in General Residency resident. The Center also has implemented a child obesity prevention program and offers a 2-week summer camp.

Working with community allies she has advocated on behalf of children at both the state and national level. Recognizing that the life of the larger community has an affect on children, Dr. Allen works with various organizations to improve the quality of life. She is a Commissioner with the Michigan Commission for the Blind, a Board Member for the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health, a Member of the Genesee County Community Collaborative, a Board Member of the "Ready, Set, Grow!" Passport Program, a Board Member of Priority Children, the Vice Chair of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, a member of the Flint Journal Community Advisory Committee, a Board Member of United Way of Genesee County, and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Velma Allen for her work on behalf of the children in Genesee County. I wish her the best as she retires from the C.S. Mott Children's Health Center.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1013 taken on Tuesday, October 30, 2007, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1012 taken on Monday, October 29, 2007, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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