

RECOGNIZING THE ABILITYONE
PROGRAM

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, today I pay homage to an unsung hero among Federal programs. This initiative has found innovative ways to employ the blind and severely disabled persons among us. I am speaking, of course, of the AbilityOne Program, formerly known as the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program, which in FY07 created over 40,000 quality jobs for Americans who were blind and/or severely disabled. Because of this program, blind and severely disabled people are able to gain skills and training that have helped them to find meaningful employment, which ultimately improved their quality of life.

Thanks to the AbilityOne program, blind and severely disabled people have more opportunities to more fully participate in society. Traditionally, people with these conditions are left with no other alternative but to rely heavily on Government programs such as SSI to support themselves. AbilityOne gives them more control over their own lives and destinies by allowing them to significantly reduce their dependence on Government resources. Recent studies have shown that the AbilityOne's employment program creates a positive net impact of \$46.75 million to Federal and State governments in both reduction of entitlements and increases of payments employees make through income and payroll taxes. Moreover, this program also helps them to enhance their self esteem by giving them alternative ways of defining themselves, their place, and their purpose in the world.

Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin Inc. is able to provide sound employment opportunities and training for 935 blind and disabled people through the AbilityOne Program. National Industries for the Blind and NISH, along with local nonprofit organizations in Milwaukee, Wisconsin are creating new employment opportunities for people who are blind or disabled. These local programs right here in our community make possible the economic and personal enhancement of physically disadvantaged people.

I commend the efforts of AbilityOne and Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin Inc. in fighting to bring new opportunities and resources to those that are blind or severely disabled. The remarkable contributions that they have made to communities in and around Milwaukee are significant and worthy of recognition.

IN HONOR OF JEFF NORMAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the life and memory of a dear friend, Jeff Norman, who died last fall at the young age of 56. Jeff was a longtime resident of Big Sur in my central California Congressional District. He was many things in his short life: botanist, histo-

rian, author, activist, to name just a few. But to the many people whose lives Jeff touched, he will always be remembered as a friend, an inspiration, a pillar of support in times of need, and the possessor of a most acute acid wit that could add humor and common sense to the most tense and fractious meeting.

Jeff was born in Oakland, CA, and moved to Pebble Beach in 1962 with his parents, Don and Kathy Norman. He found his life's work as a naturalist at a very young age. While only 14, he discovered a fern unknown in Monterey County at Pico Blanco Boy Scout Camp. At 15, he was the youngest person hired as a lab technician at Hopkins' Marine Station. He graduated from Pacific Grove High School in 1969 and then attended UCSC.

Jeff's childhood experiences in the Big Sur area drew him back to the coast following college. He built a life for himself in this creative and fiercely independent community of the Big Sur coast. He lived in Palo Colorado and Bixby Canyons, and on the Post Ranch. In 1980, Jeff purchased his dream home, Alta Vista, a unique, handsplit redwood cabin that was built in the 1920s by the Overstroms, a homesteading couple. Jeff lived for 28 years in his beloved remote sanctuary three miles above the highway with no road access. It was a life that few still choose to live in modern America, but Jeff sought it out with both gusto and grace. Yet Jeff was very much connected to the world around him, especially the people, history, and environment of Big Sur. Indeed, his life's work was the preservation of both the natural and social fabrics of Big Sur.

Jeff's enthusiasm for gathering information, seeking answers, and solving puzzles was insatiable. He found equal joy in discovering a new species of clover or swapping wild tales with an old timer. As a consulting biologist he was fiercely protective of the unique ecology of the Big Sur region. Over the years he worked as a biologist for many different organizations, including the U.S. Forest Service, CA State Parks, UC Santa Cruz, the Big Sur Natural History Association, the Esalen Institute, and the Monterey County Planning and Building Department, among others. An active member of the California Native Plant Society, he was a consultant for the Big Sur Land Trust and the Monterey Pine Forest Watch.

As a social historian, Jeff was a friend and chronicler of the larger-than-life characters of Big Sur, including homesteader families such as the Posts, Harlans, Ewoldsens, Pfeiffers, and Trotters, artists and bohemians, intellectuals, conservationists, ranchers, and other folk. He was in his element when he was lecturing on local history and natural history at libraries, museums, Pacific Valley School and Big Sur Elderhostel or presenting talks on Robinson Jeffers for the Tor House Foundation. He was a charter member of the Big Sur Historical Society and past president and member of the Friends of the Big Sur Library. In 2004, Jeff co-authored *Images of America: Big Sur* with the Big Sur Historical Society, a book that traced the history of the coast from the days of the homesteaders with numerous never-before-seen photographs of the coast. He also co-authored *Big Sur Observed* with Kip Stewart in 1994, and was a major contributor to Donald Clark's *Monterey County Place Names* (1991). At the time of his death he was energetically at work on a new book about the bohemians of Big Sur.

Madam Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in extending my condolences to

Jeff's family and friends. He will be greatly missed. He had mastered the art of a life well lived. So while we mourn his passing we are grateful for the spark of wonder and stewardship that he ignited in all of us.

RECOGNIZING THE UNI-CAPITOL
WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PRO-
GRAM

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program. Since the inception of the Uni-Capitol program, I have participated in this relationship building program that brings some of Australia's best and brightest future leaders to Washington. I have benefited greatly by the work of unique and talented individuals that produced top-notch work to both of my offices. In my personal office I have participated in the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Program for the last nine years. This is the first year that I have also hosted an intern at the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe in my capacity as Chairman.

I have been pleased to host two amazing young women, Siobhan Coughlan and Katrina Mae.

Siobhan Coughlan, who is in her third year at the University of Queensland, first arrived in the Helsinki Commission's office on January 3, 2008, and since then has provided able, thorough, and important assistance to the professional staff of the Commission. Over the past two months with the Commission, Siobhan has demonstrated her honorable personal character and integrity in the way she confronted the topic of human rights and democratic principles and the manner in which she interacted with staff on economic development and tolerance issues in a domestic and international context. Siobhan has served our organization in a number of capacities, and at each stage has proven to be valuable because of her professionalism, her drive to succeed, and her ability to work well within a group dynamic. Siobhan always demonstrated the highest level of conscience in keeping the respectability of our program as she sought to achieve our common goals. Siobhan brought her courteous and positive demeanor to hearings, briefings and events that the Commission held and events she attended on behalf of the staff here at the Commission. Much as been gained by having an international student at our side and Siobhan has greatly contributed her experiences, ideas, and thoughts that are shared by our good Australian friends across the water. I am delighted that she's able to extend her internship for another two months.

In her short time here, Katrina Mae has become an indispensable asset to my office. An undergraduate law student at the University of Wollongong, Katrina came to my office with an ardent interest in civil rights and a desire to work with individuals who support policies that encourage tolerance and cooperation across racial and cultural lines. Over the course of her two months, she has attended hearings and briefings on a myriad of policy issues,

drafted countless constituent correspondence, assisted visitors and callers in her always patient and thoughtful manner, and helped several staffers with legislative research and special projects. While her professional skills and academic credentials are certainly impressive, Katrina is also an absolute pleasure to work with. No matter the assignment, she is always eager to help and approaches every new task with a smile. The anecdotes of her adventures as a first-time visitor to the United States were a constant source of entertainment, and her tales of life in Australia gave our office a greater understanding of her country's rich history, culture, and values. Katrina arrived on Capitol Hill hoping to acquire a better understanding of the U.S. legislative process, and it is my sincere hope that she benefited as much from this experience as we did from having her with us.

Madam Speaker, in addition to Siobhan and Katrina, I am delighted to recognize our colleagues here in the House and other colleagues in the Senate who have been congressional hosts in 2008:

James Paterson of Melbourne University, interning with Rep. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART; Monique Salm of Griffith University, interning with Sen. CHUCK HAGEL; Madelene Fox of Deakin University, interning with Rep. JERROLD NADLER; Lucas Robson of Melbourne University, interning with Sen. CHRISTOPHER DODD; Clare Anderson of Griffith University, interning with Rep. JOHN TIERNEY, Stephanie Lyons of the University of Canberra, interning with Rep. SAM FARR; Suzanne Allan of the University of Canberra, interning with Sen. MIKE CRAPO; Katrina Mae of the University of Wollongong, interning with Rep. ALCEE HASTINGS; Stella Rieusset of Melbourne University, interning with Rep. MIKE CASTLE; Anthony Bremner of the University of Queensland, interning with Rep. JAMES CLYBURN and the Majority Whip's office; Tim Goyder of the University of Western Australia, interning with Del. ENI FALEOMAVAEGA; and Ally Foat from the University of Queensland, interning with Rep. JAMES CLYBURN.

Let it not go unnoticed the hard work that goes into the Uni-Capitol Internship Program is done by founder Eric Federer. Eric is a former senior House and Senate staffer of a dozen years, who successfully combined his experience in Washington with his extensive travels and lectures throughout Australia into an ingenious program of diplomatic exchange through cultural appreciation and understanding. I have said in the past that I heartily congratulate him on making his vision a reality. This program is a step in the right direction of supporting our young people who have a passion for and commitment to civic engagement and public service.

Over the last nine years, my staff and I have greatly benefited from the relationships that have been made from the result of this program as it continues to provide all of us an extraordinary experience with our friends on the other side of the ocean. It has been a great privilege to host Siobhan and Katrina and I ask all my colleagues to extend their open arms to the Uni-Capitol Internship Program and to our Australian friends in the future.

A TRIBUTE RECOGNIZING THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the 190,000 former and current volunteers of the United States Peace Corps, as we celebrate the 47th Anniversary of this extraordinary agency.

In a 1960 speech to students at the University of Michigan, President Kennedy issued one of his most historic challenges. He asked Americans to trade the comforts of home for the adversities of volunteer work overseas and, in doing so, serve our country by serving the rest of the world.

President Kennedy's original mission for the Peace Corps remains unchanged today. The Peace Corps volunteers—who range from college graduates to retirees with decades of experience—help the people of host countries by sending trained men and women with expertise in a variety of professional fields. The volunteers also promote a better understanding of Americans abroad and create bonds of friendship that last a lifetime.

More than 8,000 Peace Corps volunteers currently serve in 74 countries. In some of the most deeply impoverished regions of the world, the volunteers are often the first glimpse of America that the people have ever encountered. These volunteers make significant and lasting contributions in each host country through their work in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, youth, environment, health and HIV/AIDS.

Through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, Peace Corps volunteers continue to meet the challenges of the HIV/AIDS pandemic working both formally and informally in 10 of the 15 focus countries. In 2007, approximately 93 percent of all Peace Corps posts contributed to HIV/AIDS activities. These volunteers assisted more than 1 million people.

I am especially proud of the seven volunteers from the 34th District currently in service with the Peace Corps. These remarkable men and women from my Los Angeles district and the countries they are currently serving in are as follows: Jennifer Baez, Ecuador; Roberto Dubon, Paraguay; Anna Frumes, Ukraine; Joyce Hahn, Azerbaijan; Roanel Herrera, Panama; and Christina and Justin Senter, Mauritania in North-West Africa. I congratulate them and all of the 821 Californians currently serving around the globe as Peace Corps volunteers.

I also thank Peace Corps Director Ron Tschetter, himself a former volunteer in India, for his service at the Corps's helm since September 2006. Mr. Tschetter is the latest in a long line of distinguished Peace Corps Directors that includes Jack Vaughn, Carol Bellamy and, of course, Sargent Shriver, who served as the organization's first leader under President Kennedy.

Peace Corps volunteers each cross the borders of language and culture to inspire new perspectives, provide real assistance in their host countries, and extend American values

and friendship around the world. They are a unique and effective corps of informal ambassadors for this country.

Madam Speaker, as the organization observes its 47th Anniversary, please join me in congratulating Ron Tschetter and the Corps's thousands of volunteers on a job well done. They truly represent the best of what our great Nation has to offer.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHESAPEAKE GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS NETWORK REAUTHORIZATION

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network (CBGN), which will otherwise expire at the end of 2008. The CBGN provides grants to parks, volunteer groups, wildlife refuges, historic sites, museums, and water trails throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Network ties these sites together to provide meaningful experiences and foster citizen stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay. Since 2000, it has grown to include 156 Gateways in six States and the District of Columbia, and over 1500 miles of established and developing water trails.

My own Congressional District includes several such Gateways sites. For example, the Annapolis Maritime Museum, which sits on the banks of Back Creek, promotes an understanding of the maritime heritage of Annapolis and how that history has influenced the evolution of the State of Maryland. The museum campus occupies the site of the old McNasby's Oyster Packing Company. For years, from the shores of the Back Creek and other tributaries, watermen came and went delivering their daily catch. Boatwrights and craftsmen ran boatyards to sustain the industry. Employees of McNasby's and other businesses shucked, canned, and shipped oysters and other seafood as far as the Rocky Mountains. The maritime and seafood industry made Annapolis a prosperous town—and they were all connected to and dependent upon the Chesapeake Bay. The Annapolis Maritime Museum teaches current residents and youth about this connection to the water and how it continues to influence our culture and economy to this day.

As reported in the Baltimore Sun late last year, the museum has established a program with Eastport Elementary School to connect students with the Chesapeake Bay through activities that fit into their studies in reading, math, and science. The students participate in activities such as “measuring water temperature, salinity and clarity; they observe, measure and document the museum's terrapins and oysters; and account for funds they're raising to support the upkeep of the terrapins.” These kinds of programs have a profound and long lasting impact on students as evidenced by the feedback from one parent who said, “My child has become more excited and interested in the bay and what it means to the area where he lives.”

By maintaining the Gateways network and providing access to sites such as the Annapolis Maritime Museum, we can help develop