

This year should also see New York playing the role of host to Caribbean Presidents and Prime Ministers who are due in the City in June to meet with business and political leaders and the large Caribbean immigrant community.

U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel, Chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, who is perhaps the region's best friend on Capitol Hill is expected to do his part in making the meetings a success.

They are to be a follow-up to last year's Caribbean conference in Washington which culminated with sessions with Mr. Rangel and other members of his Committee, the Black Caucus and President George Bush.

Clearly, then, 2008 promises to be a year of action.

HONORING WILLIAM H. EASTBURN III

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William H. Eastburn III. Mr. Eastburn passed away on March 7, 2008, following a long and courageous battle with cancer. Mr. Eastburn lived an honorable and noteworthy life, dedicating himself to helping those in his community.

Mr. Eastburn began his career of service to others as a prosecutor at the Bucks County District Attorney's office and then later at the state Attorney General's office. After his work as a prosecutor, Mr. Eastburn became a fourth generation member of the law firm of Eastburn and Gray, Bucks County's largest law firm.

In addition to his distinguished legal career, Mr. Eastburn will be long remembered for his philanthropic work within Bucks County. Mr. Eastburn founded and served as chairman of the board for the Voice of Reason, an organization dedicated to ending gun violence. He served for several years as the chairman of both the Bucks County Commission on Violence Prevention Task Force and the Bucks County Implementation Commission on Violence Prevention. Mr. Eastburn also dedicated his time to the Heritage Conservancy, Western Health Foundations, First Service Bank, and the Free Clinic of Doylestown Hospital.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Eastburn spent his life working to improve, not just Bucks County but the larger American community as well. He established and participated in various organizations that benefited people all across the United States. Along with his wife Connie, Mr. Eastburn helped found the Americans for Native Americans, which raised money and gathered supplies for Native Americans living in the Southwest United States. Mr. Eastburn helped organize and lead the Bucks-Mont Bay Waveland Katrina Relief Project which raised over \$2 million for the hurricane ravaged area of Hancock County, Mississippi.

As his outstanding work and achievements show, William Eastburn III dedicated his life to helping those in his community and beyond. Through his lifelong efforts, Mr. Eastburn has transformed Bucks County and America for the better. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Eastburn for his lifetime of extraordinary accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL FACCHINA SR.

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today I want to commend Paul Facchina, Sr., for his outstanding contributions to the natural heritage of the State of Maryland. Mr. Facchina has made his name as one of Maryland's leading businessmen—but I suspect that he will be remembered just as much for his wonderful generosity. He has left our State a gift whose value cannot be measured in dollars: the gift of open, unspoiled land.

Most recently, Mr. Facchina made headlines with his donation of 179 acres in St. Mary's County to the Maryland Environmental Trust. No doubt, he could have sold development rights on that land for a significant profit. But by placing it under a conservation easement, he ensured that it will remain pristine and largely undeveloped. Wetlands and woods will stand in place of housing tracts. And our State's environmental health will benefit: By including vital waterfront land in his grant, Mr. Facchina contributed to our efforts to clean up and preserve the endangered Chesapeake Bay.

At the same time, the grant strengthens one of southern Maryland's most valuable economic resources, the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. By protecting the buffer surrounding the Navy base, Mr. Facchina's donation helps ensure that the Naval Air Station will remain open and viable, creating jobs in St. Mary's County and driving the local economy. In cases like this one, conservation often proves to be good business.

So I thank Paul Facchina, not only for his most recent gift, but for a long and proud legacy of giving that includes an historic plantation, headwater streams of the St. Mary's River, and the forest habitats of Maryland birds. In all, his family has entrusted more than 2,100 acres to the environmental care of our State. When Maryland residents enjoy that open land, and all of its benefits, I hope they will remember whom to thank.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize the excellent work of the Maryland Environmental Trust, which will take care of that land as part of its more than 112,000 acres. Since 1967, the Trust has worked to help keep our State beautiful, and to help landowners preserve their piece of it. For more than four decades, landowners have relied on the Trust to watch over the legacies they leave, and I'm sure that they will be able to do so for decades to come.

ON RISING VIOLENT CRIME IN THE CARIBBEAN AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the pressing matter of increasing violent crime in the Caribbean and to introduce a New York CARIB News editorial that eloquently elucidates the problems and

speaks to possible solutions. A conflux of drugs, guns, disaffected youth, and poverty has gripped the area's island nations, particularly Jamaica, with a world-leading 59 homicides for every 100,000 people. This is an issue neither solely endemic, nor of sole concern, to the Caribbean. The international community, rather, must accept its contribution to the problem, in the way of an aggressive international drug trade and the rampant sale of small arms. The Caribbean itself must do its part to draw its youth away from criminality and hopelessness, and invest in their educations and financial security.

GUNS, DRUGS AND MURDER A LETHAL COMBINATION IN CARIBBEAN—WHERE IS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND GUN MAKERS?

“The Caribbean Sun, sea and murder.”

That unsettling headline atop an equally disturbing story about violence in the Caribbean was summarized in a shocking fashion by The Economist, one of the English language's leading weekly news publications.

“Indeed,” it stated, “the Caribbean better known for its blue skies, cricket and rum punch, is the world leader in violent crime.”

While that may be something of an overstatement, the fact of the matter is that the picture is deeply troubling and needs urgent attention, not simply by Caribbean governments but the international community.

Some numbing figures tell much of the story about homicides in a part of the world where people and their government are wedded to law and order, tranquility and democracy. With 59 homicides for every 100,000 persons in the country, Jamaica heads the list as “the world's most murderous country,” according to the magazine. Some distance away were St. Vincent & the Grenadines 36; Belize 33; St. Kitts-Nevis 32; Trinidad and Tobago 30; the Bahamas 25; and Antigua & Barbuda 23 for every 100,000 persons.

It's not difficult to figure out why this tragic situation has evolved in a part of the world that's known as a bit of paradise on earth. Drugs, guns and disaffected youth sum up the story. Add poverty to the mix and the situation comes into proper perspective.

The Caribbean has been the soft underbelly of the international drug trade for decades. Illegal narcotics, especially cocaine and some heroin are ferried through the region from South America by Colombia, Bolivia and Venezuela and destined for North America and Europe.

In addition, some Caribbean states, including Jamaica and St. Vincent & the Grenadines are considered by law enforcement authorities in the United States and Canada as significant marijuana growers.

Because guns and ammunition are companions in the nefarious drug trade, it shouldn't come as a surprise to learn there is a flood of small arms in the region. Almost every country has reported a rising incidence of the use of guns in criminal activity. Law enforcement authorities are reporting more and more cases of drug-related offenses in which guns are a factor. Next are the armed robberies; kidnappings, shootings, and as the story indicated homicides.

The countries seem unable to stem the drug tide and the importation of guns. With wide open waterways and beaches, most of them find it virtually impossible to put a dent in violent crime. Perhaps the most dramatic and frightening incident in recent years was the massacre in Lussignan, the East Coast Demerara village of East Indians late last month. Eleven men, women and children were slaughtered in their homes by criminals. The killing of a soldier by a merciless gang brought the death toll to an appalling dozen persons. What then can be and must be done?

Caribbean governments are already diverting scarce resources from education, health, roads, bridges, services to the elderly and the youth in order to boost law enforcement. They recognize two things: (1) their nationals and businesses must be able to feel safe on the streets, stores, offices, factories and homes, and (2) the vital tourism industry can be undermined if visitors stop going to the beautiful destinations because of a fear of crime.

Interestingly, crime and violence aren't always seen by the populace as pressing issues. They barely registered on the political radar screens during recently general election campaigns in the Bahamas, Jamaica and Barbados. But in Trinidad and Tobago where kidnappings and killings drive fear into people's hearts, there are growing calls for the use of capital punishment as something of a deterrent.

Already, the prisons in almost every nation are overcrowded and except for the acquisition of sophisticated equipment, more powerful guns and better training of cops, there is nothing that the countries have not already tried.

Crime has featured prominently at the summits of the region's heads of government and the subject is expected to be raised again.

But the international community must also do its part. Until the United States and Europe in particular address the issue of the demand for illegal narcotics, the Caribbean would remain highly vulnerable. Washington must also re-evaluate its stance at the United Nations and elsewhere on the sale of small arms. The Caribbean isn't a producer or exporter of guns, yet deadly weapons are in the hands of people everywhere. At a time when the U.S. is said to be fighting terrorists at home, most of the guns being used to kill people next door in its neighbors have a made in U.S. label on them.

The world's rich countries can ill-afford to turn a blind eye to the peril caused by the twin evils of guns and drugs.

Of course, the Caribbean must deal with the problem of disaffected poor youths, most of them males, who have seemingly lost their way and have little desire for an education that would enable them to become productive citizens. That's a dangerous trend because in the years ahead, the islands and coastal states would have hundreds of thousands of people who are unprepared for the challenges of life in a highly sophisticated world. That would heighten frustration and can lead to more crime.

Bringing back hanging isn't going to solve anything. The death penalty has never been an effective deterrent to curb crime.

The international community must consider rising crime in developing countries as a global issue that requires financial and other resources. The poorer states too must join hands to tackle the problem.

Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados are acting wisely in strengthening their coast guard and other security forces to "choke the influx of drugs, and guns," recognizing that success in a few countries would simply mean the narcotics merchants would find another route to ply their trade.

HONORING PAUL THOMAS MORGAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Paul Thomas Morgan of Lee's Summit, Missouri. Paul is a very special

young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1221, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Paul has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Paul has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Paul Thomas Morgan for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Human Rights Campaign, defender of civil rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, and force for fundamental fairness and equality for all.

It is with great honor that I recognize this important organization tonight during its fifteenth annual Human Rights Campaign Gala Dinner and Dance. Founded in 1980, Human Rights Campaign initial goal was to support candidates running for Congress who they recognized as unequivocal supporters of civil rights and fairness of all people. Twenty years on, this organization has grown into a national leader in the pro-equality movement. Today, HRC represents over seven hundred thousand members and supporters as the largest national gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization. HRC works in Congress and the private sector to gain necessary protections for GLBT workers as well as to successfully raise this Nation's awareness of the need for protecting everyone's civil rights, regardless of gender and sexual orientation. The Human Rights Campaign has shown its ability to unite diverse communities to strive, lobby and fight for equality for all people.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Human Rights Campaign, a leader in promoting the rights of all people and as an important force in empowering and inspiring people and communities nation wide.

HONORING JERRY HERRIN RETIREMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jerry Herrin on the occasion of his retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Grapevine Chamber of Commerce.

Jerry Herrin was born in Arp, Texas in 1939. Mr. Herrin graduated from Arp High School and attended the University of Texas in Aus-

tin. Mr. Herrin is married to Nancy. He has three children: Lisa, Mike, and Brad. He is the proud grandfather of five grandchildren: Jesse, Ashley, Keller, Michael, and Andee.

Jerry Herrin began his distinguished career working on the staff of the Austin Chamber of Commerce from 1963 to 1967. Mr. Herrin took his first job as a Chamber CEO in 1968 at the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce. Over the years, he has served as president and CEO of numerous Chambers including Conroe, Garland, and Temple.

Jerry Herrin has served as president and CEO of Grapevine Chamber of Commerce since 1985. Mr. Herrin has dedicated himself to the betterment of the Grapevine community promoting area businesses, and supporting growth of new establishments, for over twenty-three years. Under his tenure, Mr. Herrin has secured dedicated members, many who serve on its committees and board of directors.

Jerry Herrin has provided tremendous support for his community and his outstanding leadership is worthy of recognition. I wish Mr. Herrin a happy, healthy retirement, and a well deserved change of pace. It is an honor to represent him in the 24th District of Texas.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ELIZABETH STINSON

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with great pleasure to honor a visionary, diplomat, activist, and advocate for peace on the occasion of her receipt of the 2008 Jack Green Civil Liberties Award by the American Civil Liberties Union of Sonoma County. Elizabeth Stinson's work with the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County and her lifetime dedication to human rights have left an enduring legacy.

In 2001, after several years work with the United Nations, where she still retains a position with the UN's International Indigenous Forum, Elizabeth became director of the Peace and Justice Center, helping those Sonoma County residents who are victims of our Nation's most challenging conflicts.

In Santa Rosa, for example, Elizabeth has mediated inter-gang disputes while leading campaigns to end escalating local violence. In 2002, recognizing the need to provide youth with nonviolent choices, she founded the High School Outreach Peace Education, or HOPE, project to educate them about their rights as students, their rights regarding the military, and service learning and internship opportunities.

In addition, through Elizabeth's coordination with courts in three counties, the Peace and Justice Center was established as an authorized diversion program provider for convicted and at-risk teens and young adults.

Under her direction, the Peace and Justice Center has also gained national attention for supporting troops who need a military separation for reasons such as untreated combat-related trauma, repeated deployments, recruiter misrepresentations, and other compelling mental and physical issues. Since the beginning of the occupation of Iraq 5 years ago, Elizabeth and her team of volunteers at the