

is definitely one of a kind. He has an outstanding ability to see the good in a person. He is supportive, caring, kind, honest, strong and hopeful. His views on many issues are a little nutty, but I never said he was perfect. He always tells me the truth, even when I hate to hear it because chances are 9 out of 10 times he's right. He told me once that he hates it when people say "I can't", and I find that to be very inspirational.

James calls our relationship "love and hate" relationship, but I see it more of a big brother, pain in the neck type of relationship. (But in a very good way). Who is going to lecture me about school and my study habits, and who is going to lecture me about how I choose my dates! It's very difficult to see myself coming into the office and not having James around. It's going to be a sad day on April 11, 2008. However, I know that he will go on and accomplish great things. Who knows, he might even get to meet Malcolm Jamal Warner!

Kim Muzeroll, Executive Assistant: James is one of the most selfless and thoughtful people I know. He is smart and he is savvy. He works under the radar but he is immensely effective. He doesn't seek the spotlight and he never wants credit for his accomplishments, but he deserves recognition for his commitment to social justice and his tireless work on behalf of the constituents of the 9th Cong. district, Illinois, the nation and in fact the world.

Abbey Eusebio: The ninth congressional district has been lucky to have James Yoo as a tireless advocate for almost a decade. He worked with constituents one on one to assist them with immigration matters and provided outreach to different ethnic groups in the district. James was the go-to person for immigration matters and was a constituent advocate that constituents and colleagues could always count on. He set a high standard for his colleagues for substantial and efficient constituent service. He is a great role model and always kept the needs of constituents and the office as a priority.

As a friend, James is like our big brother. He is a humble man who is down-to-earth and has a great sense of humor. James was a great asset to Team Schakowsky. We will be very sad to see him go but know that he will continue a career of advocacy as an immigration attorney.

Paola Castano, Constituent Advocate: James is very knowledgeable and a great source of information. I am always impressed about the wealth of knowledge that he has on various subjects. James is the type of person you can talk to about just about anything under the sun. And whenever we would discuss subject matter that we weren't exactly sure of, off to internet we went, and it was Wikipedia once again to the rescue! If it weren't for Wikipedia, we would have never learned the names of the 3 Chipettes (Brittany, Eleanor, and Jeanette), the Chipmunk's female counterparts. If we didn't know that, then where would we be?

I am most grateful to him for other reasons too. When I started working in this office in December of 2006, it was taking me a bit of time to adjust to all the transitions taking place within the office. However, the most difficult aspect for me, the thing that was holding me back was that I had just come from an unpleasant work experience in my previous law office job, so I wasn't allowing myself to warm up to my new surroundings. However, from the very beginning, it was James who helped me to feel very welcome and tried to make me feel like I was part of the office. I soon came to realize that if he was taking the time and making an effort to make me feel at home here, the least I could do was to try too. And because of these efforts, I have made friends

with some truly great people in this office, including James.

I also thank James for taking the time to train me on immigration these last few weeks. He has been very patient and understanding with me. Though it was intense, I believed at times that it was all too much at one time, and I felt as if I could never, ever, come close to taking on the role he has had in this office and this community. James reassured me and helped me to believe that I could take on this new role as a CA.

Ann Limjoco, Suburban Director: I have had the privilege of working with James for more than 6 years now. Over the last 6 years, I have seen him become a master at immigration casework. He is the immigration guru in our office. James is the one we would all go to with any questions on immigration. He was able to grasp such an understanding of immigration law, more than any other Constituent Advocate I've seen in the last 6 years in this office. It is so fitting that he is leaving this office to become an immigration lawyer. I think the time he has spent in this office has prepared him to do this.

I can also call James a good friend. He is the type of person I can rely on at all times. When I moved into my apartment in Glenview, James was right there helping me move boxes into my parents' minivan and unloading them into my new place. We have also spent countless hours going out to dinner or having drinks. I will miss him greatly. Not only will the constituents of the 9th Congressional District be losing a great asset, but we will be losing a great co-worker. However, I know our friendship will continue on and that we will keep in touch. I will miss working with him dearly!

Kris Sadur, Constituent Advocate: It's been an honor to know and work with James Yoo. His calm demeanor and steadfast dedication to assisting our constituents is unwavering. He is an excellent and patient teacher, assisting all staff on the intricacies of immigration and always willing to listen to questions regarding a case. I will miss his sweet smile, composed nature and astonishing intelligence. We are losing an extraordinary staff member and thoughtful advocate for constituents in the 9th Congressional District.

I join all of my staff in praising James for his remarkable service to our district and to the thousands of people he has helped. I will never be able to thank him enough for his extraordinary work and for the standard of excellence that he set for our office. I am confident that James will continue to make this world a better place and a happier place to be. Though I will miss him in the office, I fully expect that he will never desert Team Schakowsky.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KIM DOTTS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments and civic contributions of my friend, Kim Dotts, whose commitment to her community and to the students of the Clark County School District is an inspiration.

Kim graduated with honors from Penn State University in 1988 with a degree in music education. While at school, she performed with the Penn State Singers, the Concert Choir, and the University Choir. After graduating from

Penn State University, Kim began teaching music in the Catskills region of New York. During this time she was introduced to the method of motivating students through musical studies. Kim then relocated to Las Vegas and began a musical program for elementary school students in the Clark County School District.

At William Lummis Elementary School, Kim holds extracurricular guitar classes, Honor Choir, and Percussion Ensemble classes in the mornings before the start of the regular school day. These free lessons are an opportunity for the students to expand upon their normal schedules and learn something new and to develop an appreciation for the musical arts. She encourages students to express themselves creatively through the arts.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Kim Dotts, an inspirational teacher and motivator. Her dedication to the Clark County School District is commendable, and I wish her and her students continued success in their music lessons.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, on April 2nd I was unavoidably delayed and unable to be present for three votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 154, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 1605, providing for the consideration of H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "no."

I would have done so because defeating the previous question would have allowed the House to consider an amendment dealing with the appropriations earmark process. I support reforming that process and think that the House should at least debate changes to it, although I reserve judgment on whether I would have supported the specific language of the amendment since it was not debated.

On rollcall No. 155, adoption of H. Res. 1605, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall No. 156, the Carson of Indiana Amendment to H.R. 5501, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall No. 157, the motion to recommit H.R. 5501, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 158, passage of H.R. 5501, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING T.C. WILLIAMS CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the T.C. Williams men's basketball team upon becoming this season's Virginia AAA state champions.

Guided by Coach Ivan Thomas, on March 15, 2008 at the Siegel Center in Richmond, Virginia, the Titans ended Bethel High School's 29-game winning streak, surging to a commanding 70–57 victory and unprecedented 2nd state title.

Led by a trio of sharpshooters, seniors Travis Berry, Anthony Winbush and junior Edward Jenkins—who combined for 59 of the team's 70 points—the Titans started fast and never let up till the final buzzer sounded. The stifling T.C. team defense forced a whopping 20 turnovers, holding the opposition to only a 37 percent shooting percentage and less than 20 points in the first half.

Madam Speaker, T.C. Williams High School has a proud tradition of excellence, both in the classroom and on the athletic fields. I stand today on the floor of the House, to salute the entire T.C. Williams community—students, faculty, parents and fans—on this year's unforgettable championship basketball season. May this victory inspire you to climb to even greater heights in the road ahead.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, A SCOURGE IN THE CARIBBEAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker. I would like to bring to your attention an article written on domestic violence featured in the New York *CaribNews* for the week ending March 25, 2008 on “Domestic Violence, A Scourge in the Caribbean—Women Suffer at Men's Hands in Almost Every Country.”

Domestic violence is an ill that plagues many communities but is especially prevalent in immigrant communities as highlighted by a recent State Department human rights report. Domestic violence primarily affects women and children and mostly girls. The violence is often at the hands of fathers or male authority figures in the family or community.

Despite tougher laws and penalties, domestic violence continues as a “significant social problem.” Often victims of domestic violence are reluctant to report incidents of abuse due to the stigmatism that it carries and fear of reprisal from their abusers. Even more troubling are the cases that go unreported because the perception that law enforcement officers and magistrates can be bribed to make cases disappear. Clearly there is much work to be done in educating both victims and law enforcement personnel on the serious effects of domestic violence.

Articles such as this are instrumental in raising public awareness of this critical problem; and serves as a reminder that domestic violence is problematic in both immigrant and nonimmigrant communities. As a society, we have a moral obligation to educate and protect our most vulnerable members.

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, A SCOURGE IN CARIBBEAN—WOMEN SUFFER AT MEN'S HANDS IN ALMOST EVERY COUNTRY

(By Tony Best)

It's like a recurring decimal. In almost every country, from Barbados, the Bahamas, St. Vincent and Jamaica to Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize and Haiti

the story was the same: physical abuse of women at the hands of their lovers is rampant throughout the Caribbean.

Admittedly, though, the problem is far more serious in some places than in others. Take the case of Barbados, where the U.S. State Department human rights report described violence and abuse against women as significant social problems.

And they exist despite the presence of tough laws which impose stiff sentences on men, depending on the severity of the charges.

For instance, penalties can range from fines for a first time offenders (unless the injury is serious) up to death penalty for a killing.

In between are prison terms for those who breach court-imposed restraining orders. But apart from physical abuse, there are the sexual offences, including spousal rape, for which the maximum penalty is life behind bars. In 2007, about 63 rape cases, seven assaults with intent to rape and 30 cases of sex with a minor were reported to the police.

But women were not the only victims of violence in the home. Children in Barbados too suffered, complained the State Department. The abuse of women and children by lovers and fathers was a serious issue in Belize. Domestic violence, discrimination against women, sexual abuse of children, trafficking in persons for sexual and labor exploitation, and child labor were also problems, as was the way the report described the situation in Caricom's lone member-state in Central America. The numbers tell much of the story: in the first six months of last year, the Ministry of Health recorded 455 cases of domestic violence, of which 385 involved physical abuse of women and 67 were for sexual abuse.

The picture of violence against women was worst in the Bahamas. For not only did the report term it “serious” and “widespread” but warned it often ended in murder.

Last year, 14 of the 79 homicides in the Bahamas “were related to domestic violence.” To add to the tragedy, Washington cited complaints from women's rights groups that law enforcement authorities were generally reluctant “to intervene in domestic disputes.” However, the State Department softened the blow by insisting that the “police recognized domestic violence as a high priority, provided specialized training for all incoming officers and offered continuing training in domestic violence.” The sketch of Guyana didn't include homicides but at the core was a triple whammy: violence, rape, including spousal rape, and the trafficking of women.

In addition, Guyanese women face the added burden of a perception that some police officers and magistrates could be bribed to make cases of domestic violence go away.

That's not all. Despite the existence of laws designed to deal with the problem, the report charged that the real headache was a failure to implement programs designed to curb domestic violence.

Small wonder, then, that a leading NGO, Help and Shelter, which handled 739 abuse cases of which 538 involved spousal abuse against women in 2007 demanded sensitivity training for magistrates and court staff to improve the handling of domestic violence.

St. Vincent is another country where abuse of women is a hard and continuing fact of life. A human rights organization there charged that in far too many cases domestic violence went unpunished due to the culture in which victims choose not to seek assistance from the police or the prosecution.

As for Jamaica, the situation there too could best be described as dismal, although not as deadly as the Bahamas. Social and cultural traditions perpetuated violence

against women, including spousal abuse the report charged. Violence against women was widespread, but many women were reluctant to acknowledge or report abusive behavior, leading to wide variations in estimates of its extent.

Just as serious and complex was the report on Trinidad and Tobago where abuse of women was a matter of grave concern. Like Jamaica, tough laws and programs to aid battered women are in existence in the twin-island republic but there was a common problem: cops are lax in enforcing the law. If figures compiled by women's groups are accurate between 20 to 25 percent of women in Trinidad and Tobago were victims of abuse.

While no figures existed in Haiti that would give an indication of the depth of problem, what was clear was that it was a nightmare. For instance, a man who kills his wife or her lover found in act of adultery in the home wouldn't be charged under the country's criminal code. But a woman who murders her spouse under similar circumstances would be hauled before the court, the State Department reported.

Although laws against domestic violence were enacted, human rights activists described domestic violence as both “commonplace and underreported,” so much so that Women's Solidarity, a human rights body for women, estimated that eight of every 10 Haitian women were victims of domestic violence.

Meanwhile, the problem of domestic violence has seemingly spread from the West Indies to Caribbean immigrant groups in New York City. Both physical and verbal abuse is said to be high in Brooklyn where Charles Hynes, Brooklyn District Attorney, has an aggressive program to combat spousal abuse. “We see it quite a lot among Caribbean immigrants,” said an official of the DA's office. “But people from the Caribbean aren't alone. Spousal abuse is prevalent in almost every immigrant community, whether they are from Europe, Latin America or the Caribbean.”

NATIONAL INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2342, the National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems Act authored by my friend and fellow co-chair of the House Oceans Caucus, Representative ALLEN.

The Integrated Ocean Observing System has the following goals: To improve the safety and efficiency of marine operations; to more effectively mitigate the effects of natural hazards; to improve predictions of climate change and its effects on coastal populations; to improve national security; to reduce public health risks; to more effectively protect and restore healthy coastal marine ecosystems; and to enable the sustained use of marine resources. This bill will coordinate and manage the existing regional Ocean Observing Systems.

In my district, the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System has proven invaluable in understanding and managing the ocean. The esoteric task of observing surface currents was indispensable in reacting and responding to the *Cosco Busan* oil spill in the