

HONORING MARY LOUISE
PLUNKETT

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and say thanks to Mary Louise Plunkett one of the most influential people in my life for more than 25 years, and one of the most valued members of the Queens community for more than 50.

I was blessed to meet Mary Lu in my early twenties, when I stopped into the Queens Democratic County Headquarters while running errands for my Uncle Walter. That day was the start of one of the important friendships in my personal and political life.

But, long before Mary Lu became a valued part of my life, she was already a valued and well-established force in Queens County.

Brooklyn-born Mary Lu moved to Jackson Heights in 1949 with her husband, Jack. Mary Lu was quick to engage in her community and church, and we were just as quick to forgive Mary Lu for her Brooklyn past.

Mary Lu's foray into politics started when she joined the Amerind Democratic Club. She went on to volunteer at Queens County Democratic Headquarters, where she became a full time member of the staff in 1956. While working at County headquarters, Mary Lu served some of Queens finest leaders, including Moses Weinstein, Jim Roe and Tom Manton. And, her influence on them and our community was felt by all.

No political event or dinner was held without Mary Lu and her charm. She helped to welcome such dignitaries as Jack Kennedy, TED KENNEDY, Jimmy Carter, Hugh Carey, Ed Koch, Mario Cuomo, and Bill and HILLARY CLINTON in to our Queens family.

Her intelligence, warmth and kindness made all people feel welcome and comfortable.

However, Mary Lu's reach went far beyond local politics. When she was not at County headquarters, she was working to create a better Queens. For example, she hosted an annual fundraiser to help the children of St. Gertrude's Parish in Far Rockaway.

On top of all she does for others, most important to her is her role as mother and grandmother. There is nothing Mary Lu won't or hasn't done for her two children—Steven and Jamie and her three grandchildren—Matthew, Christopher and Caroline.

I have tremendous respect for Mary Lu and all she has accomplished, but as her friend I am most proud of how she has led her family.

In the coming weeks, my fellow friends and colleagues in Queens will gather to honor Mary Lu for her lifetime of service to Queens, New York.

We will applaud her for her charity, wit and political skill. And, I will thank her for being a mentor and friend.

Mary Lu, congratulations on a lifetime of achievements.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, because the end of the hour grows close, I would now come before this body with a sunset memorial. We intend to repeat this from time to time to chronicle the loss of life by abortion on demand in this country.

Madam Speaker, it is January 23, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun sets today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand just today.

Exactly 35 years today, the tragic judicial fiat called Roe v. Wade was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million children. Madam Speaker, that is more than 16,000 times the number of innocent lives lost on September 11.

Each of the 4,000 children that we lost today had at least four things in common. They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. And each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Madam Speaker, those noble heroes lying in frozen silence out in Arlington National Cemetery did not die so America could shred her own Constitution, as well as her own children, by the millions. It seems that we are never quite so eloquent as when we decry the genocidal crimes of past generations, those who allowed their courts to strip the black man and the Jew of their constitutional personhood, and then proceeded to murderously desecrate millions of these, God's own children.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blindness and invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath. The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the Declaration, not the casual notion, but the Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet today, Madam Speaker, in this body we fail to honor that commitment. We fail our

sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 innocent American babies who died without the protection we should have been given them.

Madam Speaker, I believe that this discussion presents this Congress and the American people with two destiny questions.

The first that all of us must ask ourselves is very simple: Does abortion really kill a baby? If the answer to that question is "yes," there is a second destiny question that inevitably follows. And it is this, Madam Speaker: Will we allow ourselves to be dragged by those who have lost their way into a darkness where the light of human compassion has gone out and the predatory survival of the fittest prevails over humanity? Or will America embrace her destiny to lead the world to cherish and honor the God-given miracle of each human life?

Madam Speaker, it has been said that every baby comes with a message, that God has not yet despaired of mankind. And I mourn that those 4,000 messages sent to us today will never be heard. Madam Speaker, I also have not yet despaired. Because tonight maybe someone new, maybe even someone in this Congress, who heard this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill a baby, that it hurts mothers more than anyone else, and that nearly 50 million dead children in America is enough. And that America is great enough to find a better way than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on another day yet to come, may that be the day that we hear the cries of the unborn at last. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

This is a sunset memorial, Madam Speaker. It is January 23, 2008, in the land of free and the home of the brave.

NEW TREATMENT FOR HIV/AIDS

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mrs. BONO MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the approval of a new treatment that will provide renewed health and hope for people living with HIV/AIDS. On Friday, January 18, 2008, the Food and Drug Administration approved INTELENCE™, for the treatment of HIV infection. Tibotec Therapeutics innovative efforts in developing new, effective treatments for people living with HIV/AIDS should be commended.

We are all aware of the success HIV therapies have had on prolonging and enhancing the quality of life for those infected with HIV/AIDS. As the infected population lives longer and becomes increasingly resistant to current treatment regimens, there is a growing need to focus on access to newer therapies for treatment experienced. HIV drug manufacturers are being challenged to meet the treatment needs of this changing population.

INTELENCE™, also known as TMC125, is the first new drug in the NNRTI class to be approved in a decade. It brings new hope to HIV patients, whose HIV virus has become resistant to other HIV therapies, including drugs in the same NNRTI class.

Tibotec Therapeutics has worked with the HIV patient and physician communities in the 45th Congressional district among many others during the development and approval of INTELENCE™. The results of these efforts and clinical trials have been positive; patients are achieving and maintaining suppressed viral loads with minimal side effects. Notably, the FDA approved INTELENCE™ through an accelerated approval procedure—a process that is reserved for the early approval of drugs that show a meaningful therapeutic advantage over existing treatments for serious or life-threatening diseases.

I applaud the fact that Americans living with HIV/AIDS will now have access to a new and important treatment option, affording them the possibility of living healthier and productive lives.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DIANE WOLF

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and special contributions of Diane Wolf who passed away unexpectedly at age 53 on January 12, 2008.

Our nation's capital city has lost one of its great cultural patrons. The Wolf family has lost a beloved daughter, sister and loved one and I have lost a wonderful friend. Diane Wolf was blessed to be part of one of America's most successful families. Through the years, I have had the privilege of knowing and working with her. She devoted her boundless energy, time and resources to advance history, art and culture not only for Washington, D.C., but also for the people of our country. I had the honor of working with her to raise private funds for construction of the new visitor center for our U.S. Capitol building. Her service on numerous boards aided the National Archives, the Kennedy Center, the National Gallery of Art, and the Smithsonian Institution.

In New York City, Diane Wolf was renowned for her work and support of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Frick Collection.

Miss Wolf was appointed by President Reagan in 1985 to serve on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. She also served on the U.S. Senate Preservation Board of Trustees, and the Washington National Opera Board of Trustees.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and with a master's degree from Columbia University, she went on to earn a law degree from Georgetown University.

Miss Wolf also served as president of the Capitol Hill Federal Bar Association.

Of all the individuals I have worked with in our nation's capitol during the past three decades, no one has been more personally dedicated to making a difference in promoting artistic and cultural endeavors than Diane Wolf.

Miss Wolf was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming and raised in Denver, maintained residences in New York City and Washington, D.C.

To her parents, Erving and Joyce Wolf; and two brothers, Daniel Wolf and Matthew Wolf; and on behalf of the House of Representatives, we extend our deepest sympathy.

HONORING JUDGE PHILLIP FIGA

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. District Judge Phillip Figa, who passed away earlier this month at his home in Greenwood Village, Colorado after a struggle with cancer.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Judge Figa received his legal credentials from Cornell Law School in 1976 before becoming a highly-successful litigation lawyer and co-founding the Burns, Figa & Will P.C. law group, where he built a reputation for fairness and impartiality. He became Chair of the Colorado Bar Association Ethics Committee in 1984 and eventually President of the Association in 1995.

In 2003 President Bush appointed Judge Figa to the U.S. District Court for Colorado where he served our nation as a fair and dedicated jurist. Colorado has lost a fine public servant with the passing of Judge Figa. Our best wishes and heartfelt condolences go out to all who knew and loved him.

TRIBUTE TO TOM TERRELL

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Terrell, a versatile music journalist, promoter and DJ, who was among the first industry insiders to focus attention on reggae and world music. Tom was a cornerstone of the New York music community for 16 years before returning to his native Washington, DC, where he passed away on November 29, 2007, after a brave battle with prostate cancer. He was 57 years old.

Mr. Terrell, who was ubiquitous in Washington music circles in the 1970s and 1980s, seemed to know everyone and to be ahead of every trend. After beginning his journalistic career at Howard University, he worked as a disc jockey at local stations and wrote about music for the *Unicorn Times*, the *Washington City Paper*, and other publications. As the house DJ at d.c. space and the 9:30 Club, he introduced audiences to an eclectic selection of records reflecting his interest in soul, jazz, New Wave, reggae, and African music.

Mr. Terrell's unique, humorous, insightful, and always honest voice was ubiquitous in places such as *Vibe*, *Essence*, *JazzTimes*, the *Village Voice* and *National Public Radio*. Mr. Terrell's journalism was often a spirited blend of autobiography and musicology, leavened with slang, profanity, and the knowledge of every trend in popular music for the past half-century. He wrote about virtually every form of music from Africa and the Americas.

Between his DJ work and writing, he promoted concerts for artists as diverse as Cab Calloway, the *Art Ensemble* of Chicago and

Mali's Salif Keita. After moving to New York in 1990, he worked in marketing for Island Records, *Gee Street Records*, and *Verve*, wrote for magazines and served as the DJ for jazz giant Ornette Coleman's 70th birthday party. Mr. Terrell was also an accomplished photographer who photographed hundreds of musicians in performance.

Back in Washington, one of his final projects was to write liner notes and record video interviews for a six-CD box set of Miles Davis's "On the Corner" recordings of the early 1970s.

Mr. Terrell was much more than a talented writer and musicologist with a gift for discovering artists and musical developments. He was a radiant, joyful presence, whose enthusiasm and appreciation for life, music, and a good joke will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to know him. Above all, his life represented the ideal that music could be a beneficial force in the world, uniting people across racial, social and geographical boundaries. This was his magic.

As his sister Bevadine Z. Terrell says, "He loved bringing new music to people. He loved bringing people together, not just African Americans, but white people, Asian people, African people."

Mr. Terrell set a great example of community for artists to follow. "How can I help you?" was a question Tom was always asking. May his memory serve as a reminder to all of us to keep asking that question.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall Nos. 19 and 20 on Tuesday, January 22. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 19 to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4211 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 725 Roanoke Avenue in Roanoke Rapids, NC, as the "Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office" and "yea" on rollcall No. 20 to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 866 honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the Coast Guard seizing over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007, far surpassing all of our previous records.

HONORING JEANNIE HASTINGS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, this weekend, the Family and Children's Services of Nashville, Davidson County, TN will honor the dedication and service of a trusted and treasured volunteer, the late Jeannie Hastings.

Jeannie loved the organization and served it well, providing both guidance and leadership as it worked to fulfill its mission to provide