

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LAUREN MINTO

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2009*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee will soon bid farewell to our Congressional Fellow, Lauren Minto, who has been with the Subcommittee for over a year. Before her detail with the Committee, Ms. Minto served the United States Army Corps of Engineers as Legal Clerk and Assistant District Counsel at the Corps' Louisville Office of Counsel for over six years. There, she supported the implementation and regulation of Corps projects funded through the appropriations process. Reviewing legislative language, responding to Congressional requests, and evaluating policy compliance, Ms. Minto developed a strong understanding of the relationship between Congressional legislation and on-site execution as well as a unique level of legal expertise required to facilitate the process.

It is no surprise, therefore, that Ms. Minto quickly became an invaluable member of the Committee staff when she joined the team in February 2008. Her in-depth knowledge of the legal implications of bill language and policy compliance, as well as her technical experience with the Corps' civil works projects, made her an indispensable addition to the staff. A remarkably fast learner and tireless worker, Ms. Minto quickly mastered the responsibilities assigned to her. Her refined analytical skills and exceptional attention to detail have been critical to our success in reviewing requests, synthesizing disparate information, and, ultimately, producing the bills and reports for the fiscal year 2009 and American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

Perhaps her most noteworthy contribution, however, has been to the development of the Energy and Water Subcommittee's Member Request Database. A relatively new system, the database is meant to facilitate the review and processing of requests made to the Subcommittee. Ms. Minto had the unfortunate experience of being one of the first to deal with the system. In her typically tireless way, she not only overcame any of the unforeseen obstacles, but took an active role in updating and reforming the database. Working closely with our IT department, Ms. Minto made targeted suggestions to perfect the system and, because of her work, our jobs, and those of future staff members will be easier. Indeed, Members' offices have expressed their appreciation for the standardized system of authorized projects that are now generated automatically. Ms. Minto's efforts have led to more reliable, accurate requests and more transparency. This has enabled Members to focus more on the policy behind the earmarks and less on the technical aspects of entering requests.

For these innovations, and for her overall diligence, ingenuity, and consistently positive

attitude over the past year, all of us at the Energy and Water Subcommittee would like to thank her. She will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors, and are confident that she will go on to do great things.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. HENRY  
DAVID PRENSKY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Dr. David Prenskey—a profoundly respected and admired activist, lecturer and classical music enthusiast.

Dr. Prenskey was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1917, to a mother who encouraged him to study piano and from whom he inherited his love of classical music. Dr. Prenskey attended dental school and served as a ship's dentist for the U.S. Navy during World War II. Following his service in the Navy, he found a way to integrate his profession and his love of classical music through his dental practices in Miami, Florida and Mexico City, Mexico by playing classical music to relax his patients. In 1954, he married fellow art enthusiast Bryna Prenskey, who opened her own art gallery featuring Contemporary Mexican Art.

Dr. Prenskey dedicated his time to supporting local art programs, education and was an active member in the local Democratic Party. He shared his love of classical music with audiences around Palm Beach, Florida as a lecturer for the Society of the Four Arts and Regional Arts, the Etta Res Institute of New Dimensions at Palm Beach Community College, as well as for the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra. He was integral in the advancement of the Alexander W. Dreyfoos Jr. School of the Arts in West Palm Beach and dedicated his time to developing the schools' art and music libraries, scholarships and foundation. In honor of his commitment to the school, the orchestra rehearsal hall bears his name. In addition to Dr. Prenskey's dedication to the advancement of the arts, he was an avid activist for universal health care and founded Floridians for Health Care. Additionally, he co-founded the local Palm Beach Democratic Club. Although it has been almost a year since his passing, Dr. Prenskey's ability to mobilize the community and advocate for the social welfare of others continues to be evident to all those who have been touched by his efforts.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Dr. Henry David Prenskey and in honor of his outstanding achievements in the advancement of arts education and health care.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOL-  
UNTEERISM AND EDUCATION  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 18, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws:

Mr. HARE. Mr. Chair, President Obama has set high goals for this nation to improve public education, combat climate change, extend quality affordable health care to all Americans, and honor our veterans. I believe renewing our nation's commitment to service will be the vehicle through which we meet these challenges.

Under the leadership of Chairman MILLER and Subcommittee Chair, Congresswoman MCCARTHY, the GIVE Act (H.R. 1388) answers the President's call to service, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. Chair, very important to me as a veteran of the Army Reserves and the veterans' community is a provision I worked to secure in the GIVE Act that establishes a Veterans' Corps.

Last Congress when we considered legislation similar to H. R. 1388, I offered an amendment to create a grant program to enhance service opportunities for veterans and military families. The GIVE Act builds upon this effort by establishing a separate Veterans' Corps.

As more and more troops return from Iraq and Afghanistan, fulfilling our promise to them will be an even greater challenge and priority for our nation. Through the Veterans' Corps we can recruit and mobilize veterans into service projects that provide educational and economic opportunities, job training, mentoring and outreach to other veterans.

Mr. Chair, our nation's veterans have already demonstrated a profound commitment to service. The Veterans' Corps aims to harness that spirit and in the process give back to those who have sacrificed so much for us.

I would like to acknowledge the work of my friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN SARBANES of Maryland. Together, we introduced H.R. 1401, the VET Corps Act, which was the foundation for the Veterans' Corps in the GIVE Act.

I ask my colleagues to vote yes on the GIVE Act.

HONORING GLORIA MENDOZA

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2009*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Gloria Mendoza has dedicated her life to education, starting as a kindergarten teacher and advancing

• 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.

to administrator, all the time an advocate for students and staff. She has had a consistent commitment to quality education for all students, in the process becoming a role model for students.

She worked in New York City public schools for ten years as a teacher and administrator and in 1987 started her career with the Yonkers Public Schools as an Assistant Principal at Enrico Fermi School for the Performing Arts.

In 1991, she was appointed Principal of School 17, and served as Principal of Museum Middle School prior to her current assignment as Principal of Enrico Fermi School for the Performing Arts.

She has built partnerships with community organizations to create initiatives for her schools, including the Groundworks Gardening Project, the Parents-as-Partners Family Resource Center, the Healthy Eating Program, sponsored by St. John's Hospital and the Gorton High School Medical Magnet, the Westchester County Grandparent Volunteer Program, Yonkers Police Department's DARE Program, and St. Joseph's Hospital Yonkers Spectrum Clinic.

She has demonstrated that civic involvement and community service are important to her students' success and has encouraged staff, parents and students to reach out to the sick and the elderly, as well as to members of the United States Military in Iraq.

One of her passions, the Yonkers Pathways to Success, is a program to help adults learn to speak English and earn their high school diploma.

For her dedication to education she is being honored by the Yonkers YWCA with its Pacesetter Award, and I congratulate her and thank her for her great work in educating our children.

A TRIBUTE TO LEGAL ACTION OF  
WISCONSIN

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2009*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Legal Action of Wisconsin. Legal Action of Wisconsin is the largest staff-based provider of civil legal services for low income persons in Wisconsin. In April, 2009, Legal Action of Wisconsin will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

In 1968, Milwaukee Legal Services and Freedom Through Equality merged to become Legal Action of Wisconsin. Legal Action staff and volunteer attorneys providing pro bono services have represented and served over 400,000 clients since its inception. The agency has gained public benefits on behalf of clients, helped clients gain custody of their children, and assisted clients in relief from evictions. Further, Legal Action has always sought to go beyond individual representation for low income people by seeking systemic change for problems in order to provide relief to as many clients possible. Legal Action's intervention on behalf of low-income clients has resulted in many achievements including rule changes and modifications, improved procedures from agencies and greater income for clients. They have also positively impacted school systems,

health care systems, prison systems and the agribusiness industry to benefit and provide fundamental justice for clients.

The sole mission of Legal Action of Wisconsin has been to achieve fundamental justice for its clients through creative and effective legal representation. To that end, Legal Action of Wisconsin's lawyers, paralegals and support staff have always upheld the basic democratic principle that all people are entitled to equal justice under law. Legal Action continues to act in cooperation with clients, the private bar, and community organizations to ensure that they remain a community oriented law firm.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I pay tribute to Legal Action of Wisconsin for their 40 years of service. Its dedicated staff, board of directors, and volunteers continue to adhere to the principle that all people are entitled to equal justice under the law in the 4th Congressional District and the entire State of Wisconsin.

THANKING JOE DAVID BERG FOR  
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2009*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on February 2, 2009, we rise to thank Mr. Joe David Berg for 32 years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Joe has served this great institution as a valuable employee of House Information Resources (HIR), in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Joe began his tenure with the United States House of Representatives in 1977 as a Senior Technical Aid working in the Configuration Planning and Management Section (CPMS). All computing capabilities were provided by a huge mainframe computer with hardware that filled a 10,000 square foot room. Joe provided technical support to the mainframe programmers as a member of the Programmer Assistance Team for ten years.

Joe served the House in many different roles during his 32 years working at HIR. His expertise in the Configuration Planning and Management Section led to Joe becoming manager of that group. Joe served as assistant to the Operations Manager, where he implemented automated system monitoring and alerts. The use of automated monitoring tools was so effective that Joe continues to implement automated monitoring and alerts systems on current technology. Joe served as Security Manager of House systems for more than 2 years. He also served as Special Assistant in Communications, working on the budget, planning and coordination of Communications activities. In Technical Support, Joe provided direct support to Member offices with the National Change of Address service, better known as NCOA. The NCOA service, formerly operated by HIR, improves the accuracy of postal mailing lists. Joe currently serves as a Senior System Engineer on the Windows System Engineering team.

Joe's excellent level of performance over the years gave him the opportunity to oversee and work on many complex projects to include

building the AppManager monitoring system and was an active part of the design and build of the FinMart financial system that will become a part of the Atlas Project. Joe assisted in the initial build of the SQL database clusters that are the backbone of the majority of Windows based applications and websites for the House and is the primary engineer for the Windows based Active Server Page (ASP) and Moveable Type websites for Member and Committee offices. Joe single-handedly created sites for over 202 offices. He is also the primary engineer supporting the Federal Funds project. He has actively worked with our Virtualization effort in our "Green the Capitol" initiative and was instrumental in preliminary testing and subsequent implementation. He is one of the primary engineers for all hardware based efforts and server builds on the Infrastructure Team. He has provided countless consulting services to customers for various application and system creation projects.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Joe for many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives. We wish Joe many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR  
HOMES ACT

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2009*

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1106, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009.

When I was a kid, my parents lost their house. My father became sick and could not keep up with the payments. Millions of Americans have suffered a similar fate during the current economic crisis and millions more are hanging on by a thread. We have a moral obligation to help prevent vulnerable homeowners from experiencing the same pain and suffering my family did.

It is projected that nearly 4,000 homes in my congressional district will go into foreclosure this year with over 8,000 to follow in the next 4 years.

H.R. 1106, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act would provide lenders the incentive to refinance mortgages for homeowners in danger of foreclosure. It would reduce fees for refinancing and protect lenders from investor lawsuits. In addition, the bill would allow bankruptcy judges to modify the terms of a mortgage for homeowners who can no longer afford their payments. This provision will save an estimated 1,225 homes in my district.

Millions of Americans have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. So it is no wonder that many cannot afford their house payments. Allowing working families to renegotiate the terms of their mortgage is both fair and responsible.

Addressing the foreclosure crisis is key to our economic recovery. The mortgage meltdown got us into this mess, driving down home values and leaving our banks frozen with toxic assets. This legislation will protect homeowners and get our economy back on track. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 1106 and help families save their homes.