

have come forth under the leadership of Representative TED POE, founding co-chair of the Victims' Rights Caucus, to speak out against violence perpetrated against women. Violence against women is one of the most pervasive forms of violence throughout the world today, affecting an estimated one billion women and girls. It is a reprehensible violation of fundamental human rights and a crime against humanity.

According to the United Nations, approximately 1 out of every 3 women in the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. The World Health Organization reports that in some countries, up to 70 percent of women report having been victims of domestic violence at some stage in their lives.

Violence against women has come to be systematically used as a tool of war in some regions, where women are publicly raped, beaten and murdered. In Rwanda, up to half a million women were reportedly raped during the 1994 genocide. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, nearly 60,000 women were raped in a campaign of ethnic cleansing during the war.

Women have become "prey," according to the New York Times, in Guinea, and in the Democratic Republic of Congo it is reportedly more dangerous to be a woman than a soldier.

Shocking stories such as these provide only a snapshot of the complete scope of this deplorable problem and are exemplary, sadly, of the experiences of vast communities of women and girls every day.

It is critical that we in Congress, along with other governments, multilateral organizations and nongovernmental organizations throughout the world, take a strong stand against these crimes. We must not allow violence against women to become a socialized norm.

In 1994 the Violence Against Women Act was signed into law by President Bill Clinton, in an effort to comprehensively acknowledge and address the severity and importance of this insidious problem within the United States. This landmark Act enhanced judicial and law enforcement tools to combat violence in all forms, improved existing services and provided for additional services, economic security, and protection for victims.

This legislation has since served as an example globally on how issues affecting women can be successfully incorporated into public law and social consciousness. Freedom from violence, abuse and intimidation is a basic building block of empowering women. And, when women have a voice, communities and countries are made stronger, more economically prosperous, and more stable.

In 2009, the International Violence Against Women Act was reintroduced, to extend the provisions of VAWA to tackle violence worldwide. This bill would ensure that all women are protected under the same policies and approach now codified for women and girls in the U.S.

IVAWA seeks a comprehensive international strategy to reduce and prevent violence against women and girls. This includes assistance to reduce international violence, enhanced U.S. accountability and training of foreign military, police and judicial officials on preventing and responding to violence, and addressing violence in humanitarian relief, peacekeeping, conflict and post-conflict operations.

We in Congress, along with our international partners, must stand up now to take bold action on ensuring that women and girls are no longer targets of brutal violence; violence that destroys families and communities, and has lasting detrimental effects on productivity, health, and many other areas of women's daily lives.

Furthermore, we must work tirelessly to give women a voice to impact the issues that affect them and be agents of change in their societies. When women thrive, families, communities, societies and economies thrive. When women and girls are victimized, families, communities, societies and economies suffer and are profoundly weakened, and the cycle of violence is perpetuated. Violence against women and girls is an assault against us all and we must end it now.

IN RECOGNITION OF RETIRED SAN
MATEO POLICE DEPARTMENT
CAPTAIN KEVIN RAFFAELLI

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Kevin Raffaelli, who retired as a Captain with the San Mateo Police Department in December of 2008 after 30 years of dedicated and loyal service.

I must note that last year Kevin continued his law enforcement service on an on-call basis and on August 24, 2009 was credited with preventing a pipe bomb suspect from carrying out a potentially catastrophic event at Hillsdale High School. For this heroic action he was awarded the prestigious Medal of Valor, proving again, that some of us get better with age.

The list of commendations for Kevin is long and meritorious and many involve the apprehension of burglary subjects during the commission of a crime. He is well known throughout San Mateo County for his expertise in tactical deployment and special operations at events. He was, for example, commander of the Countywide Tactical Chemical Assault Team, a model operation replicated by other municipalities after 9/11.

He played key roles in coordinating security for numerous dignitaries visiting the San Francisco Bay Area, including President Bill Clinton, President George W. Bush, President Jimmy Carter as well as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Kevin grew up in the city of South San Francisco where his brother, Mark, served as the chief of police, so Kevin's thirst for public safety runs deep in his family.

Madam Speaker, Kevin Raffaelli has served his fellow citizens to the utmost of his ability and he has saved lives in the process. I commend him and wish that he and his wife, Elizabeth, enjoy this well-earned retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. DIANNE
ADDINGTON'S DECADES OF
SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY AS
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF
GENISYS CREDIT UNION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dianne Addington, president and CEO of Genisys Credit Union, on her retirement from Genisys. As a Member of Congress it is both my privilege and honor to recognize Ms. Addington for her many years of service and her contributions which have enriched and strengthened our community.

Ms. Addington brings a lifetime of experience to her current position at Genisys Credit Union; a career which began almost 40 years ago as a part-time teller at T&C Federal Credit Union. Through Ms. Addington's ingenuity and hard work she eventually rose to the position of president and CEO of T&C Federal Credit Union, one of the parent companies of Genisys, which she has held for the last 21 years. During her tenure at Genisys, Ms. Addington has been awarded numerous accolades for her commitment to the community including awards from the Sojourner Foundation, the Clinton Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce. In recognition of her many contributions, the Michigan Credit League, MCUL, awarded her the Distinguished Service Award in 2006, for which she was inducted into the Michigan Credit Union Hall of Fame.

Under Ms. Addington's leadership Genisys Credit Union has grown into a thriving local institution, which is deeply involved in strengthening the communities it serves. Genisys is a strong philanthropic partner to Southeast Michigan, having received numerous awards and recognitions from the community for the programs it has sponsored. In keeping with their mission to provide excellent customer service and to support its community, Genisys continues to create programs which highlight the importance of financial literacy to its more than 117,000 members and to the communities it serves. Moreover, through its strong commitment to quality customer service Genisys Credit Union was recognized by the readership of Corp! Magazine as a "Best of Michigan Business" in 2009.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Ms. Dianne Addington for her many contributions to our community and her leadership at Genisys Credit Union. I wish her many more years of health, happiness, and productive service.

CONGRATULATING ANGEL RAY
GUERRERO

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, Angel Ray Tudela Guerrero is a teenager in the Northern Mariana Islands, who, despite facing extraordinary health problems in his own life, found

ways to improve the lives of other young people.

At age 12 Angel Ray was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. He spent a year and a half in a Hawaii hospital battling cancer.

But Angel Ray did not let his disease control his life. Instead, he used his experience to empower himself to help others.

During his long hospital stay, Angel Ray found that time passed more comfortably because of a playroom in the pediatric ward. It was filled with games and toys, computers and a TV well stocked with DVDs, all of which helped take the young patients' minds away from their illness and from the reality of being in the hospital. In the playroom, Angel Ray told a reporter from the Saipan Tribune, kids "don't feel like they're sick. They feel like they're at home."

But Angel Ray knew—from personal experience—that kids back home at the Commonwealth Health Center in the Northern Marianas had no playroom. Though the average stay is only two-and-a-half days, some patients are there for six weeks or more. And they have no toys or books, no refuge from the psychological toll of being sick.

So Angel Ray partnered with Hawaii state representative Glenn Wakai and with Reach Out Pacific, a non-profit organization that takes surplus medical and educational supplies from Hawaii to the Pacific islands, including the Marianas, Guam, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae, Pohnpei and the Philippines. Together, they organized donations of toys and books to create a playroom at the Commonwealth Health Center. The Shriner's Hospital in Honolulu was being renovated and needed to clear out toys in its pediatric area. Moanalua High School gave hundreds of books. The U.S. Bankruptcy Court donated shelving. And Matson Navigation offered to ship the 20-foot container stuffed with 50 boxes of books, 19 bookshelves, and 60 bags of toys from Hawaii to the Northern Mariana Islands.

Madam Speaker, Angel Ray Guerrero is an inspiration to us all: an individual who took the adversity in his own life and turned it into a benefit for others.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. DOROTHY IRENE HEIGHT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today we mourn the loss of Dr. Dorothy Height, a true American hero, who worked tirelessly throughout her 98 years to make the world better as a leader, activist, and counselor in the civil rights and women's rights movements. In 2004, I was privileged to support legislation that honored Dr. Height with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award Congress can bestow. Dr. Height led a remarkable life and made a significant difference in the lives of so many others.

After earning degrees at New York University, Dr. Height joined the staff of the Harlem YMCA. There she met human rights activists First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and educator Mary McLeod Bethune. Her encounter with Dr.

Bethune led to Dr. Height's involvement with the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), an organization she would come to lead as president for four decades. Dr. Height was a tremendous mediator and minister during times of great civil rights strife, such as after the 1935 riots in Harlem and then again in 1963, at the request of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., she traveled to Birmingham, Alabama, after a bomb killed four African American girls in a church.

Called the queen of the civil rights movement, Dr. Height was often the only woman at key moments in civil rights history and we are indebted to her for keeping women's rights and equality in the fore. During her tenure with NCNW, Dr. Height instituted programs to establish dialogue between interracial groups of women, to expand business ownership by women, to celebrate women's history at the Bethune Museum and Archives, and to monitor human rights around the world.

In addition to her efforts to overcome racial prejudices and for full voting rights of all, she also fought for school desegregation, for access to decent housing, and for better employment opportunities. It seems only fitting that we honor the legacy of Dr. Height on Equal Pay Day, a day each April intended to bring awareness to the inequalities that still exist in our society. Dr. Height was at the White House ceremony when President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act and was there again when President Clinton marked the 35th anniversary of the legislation.

Dr. Height was apt to tell her colleagues at NCNW to continue their efforts to address issues of social concern. In gratitude for everything she has done, we are inspired to continue with her life's dedication to expand civil rights and equality for all.

COMMEMORATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, under the leadership of Speaker PELOSI, the 111th Congress has passed some of the most extensive and ambitious environmental legislation this country has seen since the 1970s. So it brings me great pleasure to be here in the House of Representatives to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

Such legislation includes the Recovery Act, which I was proud to support and has made historic job-creating investments in a clean energy future that will provide hundreds of thousands of jobs. The House also passed clean energy jobs legislation that enhances the American manufacturing base and will make the U.S. a world leader in new energy technologies.

Additionally, I recently introduced the 10 Million Solar Roofs and 10 Million Gallons of Solar Water Heating Act, which will provide valuable cash rebates for the creation of 10 million small power plants located on the roofs of American homes and businesses throughout the country. This legislation will also create an estimated 1.35 million direct and indirect jobs, lower energy costs, strengthen the econ-

omy, and put America on the path to energy independence.

Corporate interests have spent millions espousing mistruths and presenting a false choice to the American people—the idea that efforts to preserve our planet and ensure our own survival will destroy the American economy. However, this Congress has exposed these claims for what they really are—lies. The 111th Congress has proven that we can indeed strengthen the American economy and ensure that all Americans can breathe cleaner air and drink cleaner water, and I am honored and proud to have been a part of such a historic effort.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND WORK OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINNIE SHIRLEY WIGGINS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and work of County Commissioner Minnie Shirley Wiggins who died on Sunday, April 18, 2010 after a short illness. Commissioner Wiggins was a well-respected elected official and community leader in Perquimans County, North Carolina.

Born on February 6, 1933 to the late Mary and Hardy Wiggins, Sr., Commissioner Wiggins was a graduate of Perquimans County Training School and St. Agnes School of Nursing in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Commissioner Wiggins served our Nation with honor as a United States Navy Nurse Corps Captain, serving aboard the USS *Sancuary* during the Vietnam War. She was a proud member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Vietnam Veterans of America.

During her more than 20 years as a Perquimans County Commissioner, she provided a passionate and tireless voice for the youths and senior citizens of the Albemarle Region. She worked as a volunteer with elementary school children and devoted significant time to the Meals on Wheels program. She earned recognition for her devotion to public service, including North Carolina's highest honor—the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Commissioner Wiggins had a great passion for her church, Melton Grove Missionary Baptist Church of Winfall, North Carolina, where she was a devoted member for many years.

She is survived by brothers, Percy A. Wiggins Sr. and Horace Wiggins; brother/son Hardy Wiggins Jr.; daughter/niece C. Loretta Buggs; and a host of nieces, nephews, adopted sons and daughters, godchildren and extended family.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise to recognize the life and work of Commissioner Minnie Shirley Wiggins and her outstanding public service to the community. I also ask that we pass along our best wishes and prayers to her family, friends and loved ones during this time of bereavement.