

Congratulations to the City of Citronelle on this special occasion and a very Happy 200th birthday! May there be many more good years ahead in the next chapter of your rich history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, had I been able to vote, I would have voted “yes” on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 10.

SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT
OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter from one of my constituents with respect to the debate on H.R. 1254 that occurred on December 7, 2011.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LATHAM: Regarding the Synthetic Drug Control Act, as you know I am a mother who lost her son to these drugs and I can't stop myself from reacting to the opposition on the floor yesterday.

Hundreds of chemical compounds are used to make synthetic drugs manufactured under the guise of bath salts, plant food, k2 and various names of synthetic marijuana—with the sole purpose being to ingest. These drugs are smoked, snorted, injected, or put into drinks. The label may say they are not for human consumption, but they are implicitly being sold as such.

Yet those opposing H.R. 1254 argue that not enough research has been done to prove whether or not these already banned and potentially future banned chemicals would bear any medical benefit.

To the contrary, not only have the synthetic drugs included in this legislation failed to show medicinal promise, but the Controlled Substances Act would still allow research on these synthetic drugs to continue if H.R. 1254 were enacted.

Under current law, researchers, universities and labs may register with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to obtain Schedule I controlled substances for scientific study. DEA allows thousands of labs to handle Schedule I drugs for scientific and investigative purposes. Chemicals with “a high potential for abuse” and “a lack of accepted safety” under the Controlled Substances Act should be placed under Schedule I—available for scientific study but not sold on convenience store shelves.

The reality is that without H.R. 1254, our society will continue to allow informal, un-supervised and unethical medical experimentation—with our kids as the subjects. It begins with unscrupulous manufacturers obtaining unknown chemical compounds from other countries. It is either manufactured overseas here or in our own backyard. These drugs are openly sold to those “18 years or older” and can be purchased at gas stations, convenience stores and head shops around this country. Its availability is rampant on the internet as well. It is difficult if not im-

possible to find out who the people really are that sell the chemicals or premade products. When it's all said and done, it is American teens who are being endangered and experimented with.

Let's be bold and put a stop to the newest drug trends that are sweeping across our nation like a tidal wave—Jan Rozga, Indianola, IA

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN KATZ

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Alaska's most distinguished, faithful, and respected public servants, John Katz.

Fresh out of Berkley Law, he boldly moved to Alaska and made a decision to embark upon a life of selfless public service to the people of Alaska. Among his first few jobs in public service were being Alaska Commissioner of Natural Resources and special counsel on land-use issues, before being appointed the Governor's man in Washington D.C. in 1983.

His departure can only be described as an enormous loss for our great state. For more than 40 years, and spanning eight governors, he has served Alaska with unwavering commitment, integrity, and with the utmost level of professionalism. Having worked with him for almost 30 of those years, I have little doubt that his loyalty to and knowledge of Alaska is second to none.

Through thick and thin, his dedication to Alaska was evident to everyone who worked with him. Over the years he has always put the needs of Alaska first, no more so than when he delayed his retirement at the request of Governor Frank Murkowski.

His reputation of being calm and cool under pressure is well known and his ability to work well with Republicans and Democrats alike should be emulated by others here in Washington. He once said his greatest disappointment was being unable to open up ANWR and I share that disappointment with him.

But despite ANWR, he was an integral part of every positive development to happen to Alaska in the last three decades including Alaska Native rights, fisheries management, protecting Alaska's sovereignty, and natural resource development. After all the work we've done together, I will do my utmost to continue this legacy for the good of Alaska.

He is exactly the kind of public servant who gives public service a good name. My staff and I will miss working with him, but I hope that our paths will continue to cross.

Thank you for your service to Alaska, John, and I wish you all the best in the future.

SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT
OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I am voting for this legislation because, like the rest of my

colleagues, I want to see an end to the illegal manufacture, sale, and use of synthetic drugs that mimic the properties of illegal drugs. Many of these drugs are extremely dangerous and warrant control. In fact, some 30 states, including Hawaii, have laws that address the manufacture, sale, and use of synthetic drugs.

I am concerned, however, that we may be moving too fast. I would prefer to see a bill that is as important as this considered under regular order, with members having an opportunity to offer amendments. I am hoping that the Senate will take a more measured approach in considering this legislation.

I am especially concerned about the application of mandatory minimum sentences and Schedule I penalties that are included in this bill. I support judicial discretion, especially when the lives and futures of young people are involved.

I know too that there are concerns that this could impede legitimate scientific research of chemical compounds listed in this bill. Adjustments to this legislation may be needed to ensure that we don't hinder development of future biomedical breakthroughs.

We need to make sure the legislation targets those most responsible for widespread distribution of these drugs. Most important, we need to find ways to keep our young people from using synthetic drugs. Education of parents and young people is badly needed as is market regulation to reduce the availability and misuse of certain household and industrial aerosol products. Adding to our already crowded prisons is not a real solution to the very real problem of synthetic drugs.

THE CENTENNIAL SEASON OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and joy that I join my constituents in celebration of the centennial season of the San Francisco Symphony. Its illustrious history is marked by commitment to artistic excellence and innovation; its future is sustained by its large and loyal base of supporters.

One hundred years ago today, December 8, 1911, the Symphony gave its first performance. In recognition of this historic occasion, on September 7, 2011 we began a year-long celebration with a free outdoor concert at the Civic Center Plaza with Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, pianist Lang Lang and violinist Itzhak Perlman. This concert demonstrated the San Francisco Symphony's value of making music available to everyone. The founders believed music was a source of enrichment and pleasure intended for all and not the province of the privileged few. Reaching broader audiences has always been a priority, from recordings and radio broadcasts in the 1920s to video and internet today. Today the San Francisco Symphony has accomplished one of its early goals, to offer music to a city, to a Nation and to the world.

To help commemorate the centennial over the next year, San Franciscans will welcome notable performers and six of our Nation's greatest orchestras will visit San Francisco:

the Boston Symphony, the Chicago Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

The centennial presents a wonderful opportunity to honor the Symphony's robust musical history, starting with the Barbary Coast. Over the past century, the Orchestra has grown in stature and acclaim under the leadership of eminent music directors, including Pierre Monteau, Seiji Ozawa, Herbert Blomstedt, and since 1995 Michael Tilson Thomas.

Michael Tilson Thomas has brought pride to all San Franciscans. He has served as Music Director for 15 years, and this is his 25th season as Artistic Director of the New World Symphony—an academy for training the next generation of orchestral musicians. A recipient of the 2010 National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists by the President, and winner of seven Grammy Awards, Thomas has been a remarkable mentor and supporter to many young artists, and he has educated millions about the joy of music.

The San Francisco Symphony provides the most extensive education and community programs offered by any American orchestra. Concerts for children have been part of the programming from the beginning and the groundbreaking Adventures in Music program, now over 20 years old, provides music education and free concerts to every first through fifth grader in San Francisco's public schools—75,000 children each year.

We offer special congratulations to John Goldman, the Symphony's President, whose generosity and family philanthropy have had a dramatic impact on the quality of life in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Symphony is blessed with an active board of governors with deep philanthropic and social ties to our City as well as tremendous public support. Thank you to the Symphony's brilliant musicians, dedicated staff and volunteers.

The first one hundred years of the San Francisco Symphony have been distinguished by outstanding concerts of the highest quality. Its second century is certain to be just as successful.

INTRODUCTION OF END RACIAL PROFILING ACT OF 2011

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the End Racial Profiling Act of 2010, along with additional cosponsors. This legislation represents a comprehensive federal commitment to healing the rift caused by racial profiling and restoring public confidence in the criminal justice system at-large. This legislation is designed to enforce the constitutional right to equal protection of the laws by eliminating racial profiling through changing the policies and procedures underlying the practice.

This legislation can be traced back to the data collection efforts of the late 1990's that were designed to determine whether racial profiling was a fact versus an urban legend. Based upon the work around that legislation, by September 11, 2001, there was significant empirical evidence and wide agreement

among Americans, including President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft, that racial profiling was a tragic fact of life in the minority community and that the Federal government should take action to end the practice. Moreover, many in the law enforcement community have acknowledged that singling out people for heightened scrutiny based on their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin had eroded the trust in law enforcement necessary to appropriately serve and protect our communities.

At a recent Judiciary Committee hearing on the issue of racial profiling, we approached the issue from the perspective of "smart policing" and what makes sense in a time of austerity in the face of the continuing need to protect public safety. I believe that it became clear during the hearing that enough agreement exists to allow us to re-open the bipartisan dialogue on racial profiling commenced by President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft.

Despite the fact that the majority of law enforcement officers perform their duties professionally and without bias—and we value their service highly—the specter of racial profiling has contaminated the relationship between the police and minority communities to such a degree that federal action is justified to begin addressing the issue.

While the Department of Justice promulgated a series of guidelines in 2003 which were designed to end the practice of racial profiling by federal law enforcement agencies, these measures do not reach the vast majority of racial profiling complaints arising from the routine activities of state and local law enforcement agencies. Further, the guidelines provide no enforcement mechanism or methods for identifying law enforcement agencies not in compliance and, therefore, fail to resolve the racial profiling problem nationwide. In this instance, there is no substitute for comprehensive federal anti-profiling legislation.

The End Racial Profiling Act is designed to eliminate racial, ethnic, religious, and national origin profiling that is well documented. First, the bill provides a prohibition on racial profiling, enforceable by declaratory or injunctive relief. Second, the bill mandates that training on racial profiling issues as part of Federal law enforcement training, the collection of data on all routine or spontaneous investigatory activities that is to be submitted through a standardized form to the Department of Justice. Third, the Justice Department is authorized to provide grants for the development and implementation of best policing practices, such as early warning systems, technology integration, and other management protocols that discourage profiling. Finally, the Attorney General is required to provide periodic reports to assess the nature of any ongoing discriminatory profiling practices.

Decades ago, with the passage of sweeping civil rights legislation, this country made clear that race should not affect the treatment of individual Americans under the law. However, recent events demonstrate that racial profiling remains a divisive issue that strikes at the very foundation of our democracy. When law-abiding citizens are treated differently by those who enforce the law simply because of their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin, they are denied the basic respect and equal treatment that is the right of every American. With the cooperation of the Administration, we have the opportunity to develop a comprehensive

approach to eliminating the practice of racial profiling through this legislative effort. I hope that we do not miss this historic opportunity to heal the rift caused by racial profiling and restore much of the community's confidence in law enforcement.

SUPPORT OF KAISER PERMANENTE'S INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE BREASTFEEDING AND PREVENT CHILDHOOD OBESITY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a new Kaiser Permanente initiative to encourage breastfeeding as an important component of preventing childhood obesity and promoting other health benefits. Kaiser is implementing a systemwide program to ensure mothers are provided ample breastfeeding education and support. They will track their successes as a measure of hospital quality.

Research suggests breastfeeding has multiple benefits for baby and mother alike. Breastfed babies have a lowered risk of childhood obesity as well as allergies, asthma, and sudden infant death syndrome. Nursing reduces a mother's risk of post-partum depression, Type 2 diabetes, ovarian and breast cancer.

Family- and patient-centered prevention initiatives like this will play an enormous role in battling America's toughest health care challenges. Kaiser's new breastfeeding initiative is an example of how a commitment to prevention can positively impact health outcomes.

Health care in America must shift from its singular focus on treating disease to incorporating a strong commitment to prevention. I encourage other major health care providers to follow Kaiser's example.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF MARTINA DAVIS-CORREIA, SISTER OF TROY ANTHONY DAVIS

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today with a heavy heart. Martina Davis-Correia, the older sister of executed Georgia prisoner, Troy Anthony Davis, died last week in Savannah. She was the most outspoken advocate of the "I Am Troy Davis" clemency campaign, which spread to countries all around the world. Correia traveled far and wide to any group that would give an ear in a strenuous effort to save her brother's life. Despite several commutations of his sentence, Davis was killed by lethal injection in Georgia in September of this year. The Davis case has helped turn the tide of public opinion in the struggle for repeal of the death penalty.

I am deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Martina Davis-Correia. The agony of this death sentence and execution has killed not just one man, but has decimated an entire nuclear family. After 22 years of struggle, Davis's mother died in the spring, her son