

CENTRAL RANKIN RELAY FOR
LIFE

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, Rankin County, Mississippi advocates with the American Cancer Society Relay for Life will host their annual "Paint the Towns Purple" walk on April 1, 2011 at Shiloh Park in Brandon.

Relay for Life is the signature event of the American Cancer Society and celebrates cancer survivors and caregivers, remembers loved ones lost to the disease, and empowers individuals and communities to fight back against cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2010, 14,330 individuals were diagnosed with cancer in my home State of Mississippi, and regrettably, this deadly disease claimed the lives of 6,060 Mississippians last year.

Today, I rise to recognize the Central Rankin Relay for Life in their efforts to rid America of this tragic illness. May their efforts of saving lives and creating a world with less cancer and more birthdays be an overwhelming success.

EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE
TREATMENT OF BAHAI'S IN IRAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concern about the treatment of Baha'is in Iran. Recent reports suggest that the seven Baha'i leaders convicted last August have been transferred to more dangerous areas of the prison in which they are being held. Additionally, a series of arrests of Baha'i adherents began in Isfahan on February 13th. The fate of those individuals is currently unknown, but these arrests suggest that the Iranian government is continuing its persecution of members of the Baha'i faith.

Freedom of religion is a basic human right. The United States has always been committed to defending religious freedom around the globe. The world must be vocal in its condemnation of the mistreatment of the Baha'i people at the hands of a brutal government.

I urge the Iranian government to release all those whom it has imprisoned solely because of their religious beliefs, and to treat all of its religious minorities with tolerance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency I unfortunately missed a series of votes on February 17, 2011, which included roll call votes number 67 through 79.

If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" or "aye" on rollcall vote number 67, 68, 69, 70, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, and 79.

If I had been present, I would have voted "no" or "nay" on rollcall vote number 71.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROSENBERG
FOUNDATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Rosenberg Foundation on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary.

For three quarters of a century, the Rosenberg Foundation has committed itself to achieving social and economic justice for the people of California.

The Rosenberg Foundation was established in 1935 by a group of relatives and business associates who were designated as trustees in the will of Max L. Rosenberg, a San Francisco businessman and philanthropist.

Throughout its history, the Foundation has set forth on a mission of expanding opportunity to all Californians. It has distributed more than 2,800 grants totaling nearly \$80 million to regional, statewide and national organizations advocating for social, economic and civic justice in the state.

These grants have focused on California's most vulnerable communities, from those in rural areas to women to minorities to children. Today, the Foundation is spearheading innovative solutions for tackling issues such as immigrant rights, justice for farm workers, sentencing reform and economic disparity.

For these efforts, the Rosenberg Foundation has been recognized with many prestigious awards. In 1997, it won the Outstanding Foundation Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals. In 2003, it was one of three foundations to receive the Paul Ylvisaker Award for Public Policy Engagement by the Council on Foundations.

As our nation emerges from this historic recession and inequality continues to rise, groups like the Rosenberg Foundation will play a critical role in helping all Californians realize their share of the American Dream. The Foundation understands that people aren't looking for a handout, but a hand up.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Rosenberg Foundation and its dedicated staff for their extraordinary contributions to the people of California during the last 75 years. I have no doubt we will be celebrating many more anniversaries in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE RETIRED SENIOR AND
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance and necessity of senior care programs such as the Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP). Philadelphia's RSVP is based in the Jewish Community Center Klein Branch and currently enlists about 600 volunteers. The program offers much-needed community services as well as

an opportunity for seniors to volunteer their time. RSVP provides important volunteer services such as tutoring, food for Meals on Wheels and assistance with tax preparation. The following article from the Philadelphia Daily News illustrates the importance of programs like RSVP and the need for our continued support of their worthy accomplishments.

[From the Philadelphia Daily News, Feb. 7, 2011]

SENIORS, LIFE'S CALLING YOU. SEND YOUR
RSVP

(By Stu Bykofsky)

DON'T TRUST anyone under 30.

Maybe reversing the infamous (and bigoted) catchphrase from the '60s is overdoing it.

But while many cultures, equating experience with knowledge, revere elders, here in the U.S. of A. we lionize "youth" (even while watching the reading and math scores of our "youth" fall, like tokens into a fare box).

Baby Boomers who cranked up the social-revolution line are now in the Social Security line.

In addition to the vast financial wealth that the Boomers piled up, they (and their elders) also collected a warehouse of wisdom, which some of them like to share.

Motivated older adults—55 and up—form the backbone of RSVP—the Retired Senior and Volunteer Program, a 40-year-old national agency which in Philly operates from the Klein JCC, in the Far Northeast.

Klein has about 600 RSVP volunteers. Some are way above 55, like Harold and Libby Yaffe, the 93-year-old married couple who come in to serve lunches.

"The only way we can do what we do is through volunteers," says Marcia Gross, RSVP project director, as she shows me around the lowslung Klein JCC at 10100 Jamison Ave. Gross is a woman of a certain age with no hard edges, a smiling round face framed by light-brown hair.

There are lots of underutilized or bored retirees, and a lot of programs that need help but can't afford to hire people, Gross says. You don't have to be Einstein to connect two dots.

When some people hear "volunteer," for free, they hit the exits. Better people see service to others as a benefit to society—and to themselves.

"I have to have something to do in the morning and I love every minute of it," says widowed Center City grandmother Laurette Feltoon, who admits to "65-plus."

For the last 13 years, she's been taking her master's in psychology (she had a private practice in marital and premarital counseling) and volunteering, every day, as a mediator in Municipal Court's Dispute Resolution Program.

The city and the warring parties get the benefit of her decades of experience, while Feltoon has a place to go and a mission to accomplish.

Dots connected. Win-win. Volunteers go only to nonprofit agencies, says Gross, ranging from the American Red Cross (blood-mobile aides) to WHYY-TV (special events, begathons).

Sure, there are expected needs for people who can do data entry and fill clerical roles, make weekly visits to the homebound, tutor students or prepare food for Meals on Wheels.

But there are less-conventional volunteer options, such as tax preparation, historical research, ushering at local theaters, guiding tours at Independence National Historical Park or the Philadelphia Zoo, and providing immigration assistance. For those better with their hands than their mouths, RSVP

uses people to drive vans, walk dogs at the PSPCA, stock food pantries, knit, garden and provide minor home repairs.

If you don't know whether you have a useful skill, Gross says, "Come in and we may suggest something you hadn't thought of." Anyone with computer literacy is needed, and RSVP is looking for people to teach financial literacy.

Retiring after 42 years working on the railroad, Norm Feldman wanted a new challenge.

The Tacony resident, a volunteer at the Clean Air Council for 27 years, has become an expert in indoor air pollution and radon. The octogenarian volunteers Wednesdays, and takes emergency calls at home, goes out to talk to schools and community groups on other days.

He took some EPA training, but mostly learned on the job, and is so much an expert that he gets calls from county health departments. "Even professional people have problems and they can't get answers from the city, state or federal government," Feldman says, because most law deals with outside air. He's the man on the inside.

After Sunny, his beloved wife of 51 years, died four years ago, Ike Silverberg was depressed, even suicidal. He tried some shrinks, but it didn't help. The 85-year-old still misses Sunny like hell, but RSVP gave him a new life.

Mondays and Fridays, mornings and afternoons, he's at the Delaware Valley Veterans' Home, pushing a beverage cart, making sure the vets are hydrated. He's happy doing it because the vets are appreciative.

His Tuesdays and Wednesdays are very different. He drives from his Rhawnhurst home to Mayfair Elementary, where he sits with eight first-graders at a round table. Everyone reads in turn and Ike challenges them on spelling. The great-grandfather of seven loves kids, so this is a treat for him.

Wednesdays the chatty former construction worker, salesman and bagel-baker reads with third-graders at the JCC. All the volunteering keeps him out of "that house," as he refers to his formerly happy, now lonely home.

Getting out into the world is a benefit to volunteers, says Gross. According to a poll, she says, the No. 1 reason people give for not volunteering is: "No one asks them."

RSVP is asking.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, if I had been present on February 28, 2011, I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 394, H.R. 347, and H.R. 368.

RECOGNIZING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF SUMGAI MASSACRES

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the 23rd anniversary of the vicious at-

tacks against Armenians in Sumgait, Azerbaijan.

Dozens of Armenians were killed. Hundreds were injured. Women, including young girls, were raped.

Apartments were robbed, cars were burned, and local businesses were destroyed.

According to testimony reviewed by the Supreme Court of the USSR: "Tenants were dragged from their apartments. If they tried to run and escape, the mob attacked them. The mob used metal rods, knives and hatchets, after which bodies were thrown into the fire."

But shockingly most of the Azeris who committed these horrific acts and their accomplices in government were not brought to justice.

The Sumgait Massacres are part of a long and disgraceful history of violence against the Armenian people.

It is long past time for the United States to officially recognize the Armenian genocide. This anniversary should serve as a reminder that we can stay silent no more.

Let's take this moment to remember all those who lost their lives at Sumgait and pledge to prevent ethnic cleansing from occurring anywhere in the future.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. GABOR PAPP

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Gabor Papp, a man who was devoted to preserving and celebrating Hungarian culture and language.

In 1915, Mr. Papp was born in Maramarossziget, Hungary. He earned his law degree at the University of Debrecen before moving to Cleveland after World War II. In 1951, Mr. Papp began working as a draftsman at Lucas Machine Tool Co. and Acme-Cleveland Corp.

In 1958, Mr. Papp founded the Hungarian School at St. Emeric Catholic Church, serving as its principal and director for 27 years. The Hungarian school teaches both children and adults about Hungarian language and culture. He also served as an officer at the United Hungarian Fund, where he spearheaded philanthropic efforts for scholarships, disaster recovery, and many other programs. Mr. Papp was also a volunteer at the Senior Ethnic Fund of Cleveland. As a result of his dedication to the community he was honored by numerous government officials throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Gabor Papp, a true leader. Mr. Papp's devotion to the Hungarian community of Cleveland was admirable and irreplaceable. I extend my sincerest condolences to his wife of 64 years, Katalin; his daughters, Eva, Klara, Gabrielle, and Susan; and his many grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SHINGLES PREVENTION ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Shingles Prevention Act.

Many of us have had shingles or know of others, especially over the age of 60, who have. In 2006 a new vaccine was created that prevents occurrence of shingles or dramatically reduces the symptoms and pain of shingles. Experts agree that adults over the age of 60 should receive this immunization.

Half of us will experience shingles by the time we are 80. Shingles is a painful skin rash often accompanied by fever, headache, chills, and upset stomach. What is more pressing is that one in five shingles patients will endure post-herpetic neuralgia—severe pain lasting much longer than the rash itself. The pain can be so intolerable that patients are housebound, and there have been cases of suicide from the disease. Shingles is most common among seniors because the immune system wanes with age, making Medicare beneficiaries the best candidates for the vaccine.

Since its development in 2006, the shingles vaccine has been recommended for adults 60 years or older by the Centers for Disease Control. However, current Medicare Part D coverage of the vaccine is insufficient. Not all beneficiaries are enrolled in Part D or another drug prescription plan. More important, seniors are facing high out-of-pocket costs due to a lack of coordination among doctors, pharmacies, and Part D plans. For example, there is no established direct billing method between doctors and plans for Part D vaccines. Because of this, beneficiaries typically must pay the full price up front, which results in out-of-pocket costs that limit access to those that need the vaccine the most—our seniors.

The billing problem, the resulting low utilization of the vaccine, and costly storage requirements are enough to keep many doctors from stocking the vaccine. When doctors do not stock, beneficiaries' only alternative is to obtain the vaccine from pharmacists. But many states do not allow pharmacies to administer Part D vaccines, so the beneficiary has to take the vial from the pharmacy back to the physician office. Thus, a senior who is thinking about getting vaccinated would have to go first to the doctor's office for a consult, then to the pharmacist, then back to the doctor for the shot.

Not surprisingly, many seniors are not getting immunized against shingles. This low utilization rate contributes to the half a billion dollars of treatment costs per year and, for hundreds of thousands of seniors, many weeks spent suffering from a disease that could have been prevented. The Shingles Prevention Act will move shingles vaccine coverage to Part B—thus treating it in the same manner as the flu vaccine under Medicare, simplifying the process for physicians and beneficiaries, and lessening the cost burden for our seniors. This is a common sense and cost effective way to increase access to high quality health care for our seniors, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure its passage.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).