

HONORING DALE MAJERCZYK

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dale Majerczyk as he retires as city manager for the city of Essexville Michigan. After 15 years as city manager, Mr. Majerczyk's last date will be on Friday, January 14th.

During his tenure as city manager, Mr. Majerczyk has worked to improve the city of Essexville. He was instrumental in securing funding to reconstruct streets, upgrade the waste treatment plant, develop the industrial park, build a new Department of Public Works facility, develop a brownfield plan for the city, fund landfill testing, and secured funding for a sewer project. He has represented the city with various local, state and national organizations. He helped start Kids Fest and assisted local businesses with expansion and development.

Prior to his work with the city of Essexville, Mr. Majerczyk worked for the city of Petoskey, the city of Traverse City and the Teamsters State, County and Municipal Workers Local 214. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Central Michigan University and has several public service and mediation certifications.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dale Majerczyk as he retires as the city manager of the city of Essexville and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI
HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the one year anniversary of the horrific earthquake that struck our neighbor Haiti last year, killing over 200,000 men, women, and children including U.S. citizens. I join my colleagues in commemorating this somber event and in reaffirming the commitment of our nation to continue to work with the Haitian people and government to not only rebuild Haiti, but make a better Haiti.

There has been progress in the recovery from the devastating earthquake and I applaud the individuals within the State Department, USAID, the U.S. embassy in Haiti, and the many people from communities throughout our country, including my district in Wisconsin, who have volunteered, donated money, and gone to Haiti in the past year to try and make life a little better for those who have suffered so much. I also want to highlight and applaud the brave men and women in our military who were our nation's first responders during the deadly and dark first days of this catastrophe and in the months following the earthquake. For many Haitians, these men and women were the first face of hope in a hopeless situation.

Nonetheless, we are all aware of the various challenges that Haiti continues to face and will face for the foreseeable future. We all

see the tent cities. Over a million people are still waiting for both "temporary" and permanent housing solutions. Dozens of issues, from resolving disputes over land ownership to rubble removal still need to be addressed. For far too many, permanent housing solutions are no closer today than they were on January 13, 2010.

Other challenges remain. A cholera outbreak has killed over 3,500 people and affects over 150,000 more. Millions of cubic meters of rubble still remain in Port Au Prince. Add to this mix the controversy and "irregularities" surrounding the recently held Presidential and Parliamentary elections and there are plenty of obstacles to rebuilding Haiti. These come on top of the challenges existing pre-earthquake.

Additionally, I am distressed and disgusted by the recent reports about the continuing sexual violence and assault being committed in these camps against women and girls. When displacement occurs, whether because of conflict or natural disaster, women almost always suffer the most severe deprivations and consequences. According to UNICEF, a lack of security and the "hard living conditions" in the camps have been major factors increasing the risk of violence against women and girls.

Our Haiti efforts must prioritize—less with words and with more deeds and actions—the rights of vulnerable Haitian women and girls. And first and foremost, must be their immediate protection against these despicable assaults which violate basic human rights. We must strengthen the UN peacekeeping mission and the Haitian police so they can make stopping these attacks a priority.

According to Amnesty International, the risk of rape and other forms of gender-based violence in Haiti's camps has increased "dramatically" in the past year and "Women and girls, already struggling to come to terms with the grief and trauma of losing their loved ones, homes and livelihoods in the earthquake, are living in camps in tents that cannot be made secure, with the constant threat of sexual violence. Without access to medical care and with little prospect of receiving any support or seeing their attackers brought to justice, survivors see no end to their plight."

The U.S. and international community then must drastically increase their attention and focus on preventing this violence against women and girls immediately. It is also critical for the U.S. to push the Haitian government and other international donors to include women and girls in the rebuilding and recovery decisionmaking process and plans.

They have also been reports of significant delays in moving the aid that Congress approved for Haiti relief, recovery, and rebuilding out of the federal agencies and into the hands of partners on the ground in Haiti. What we need to see in 2011 is not a trickle of assistance but a downpour and I hope that these unnecessary delays have been resolved and the Administration will move to ensure that this relief gets to the Haitian people.

We also need to continue to make efforts to strengthen the ability of the Haitian government to take the lead in responding to the long-term rebuilding and recovery needs of the Haitian people. U.S. aid to Haiti, to the maximum extent possible, must be directed through or with the input of the duly-elected Haitian government. While the well-documented problems with recent elections make this goal even more difficult in the short term,

I think we all understand that the future for Haiti depends on it having an effective, accountable, and transparent government that responds to the needs of its people.

Ramping up housing efforts is also critical at this moment. More than 1 million people—approximately 380,000 of whom are children—still live in crowded camps. USAID has reported that it has spent over \$100 million for emergency and transition shelters, including temporary shelters designed to last up to three years. By the end of 2010, its temporary solutions were able to house almost 60,000 Haitians. It is an understatement to say more needs to be done.

Additionally, in the mix of all this, sometime this year, the President must also decide whether to continue Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians in the U.S. After the earthquake, at the urging of a number of Members of Congress including myself, President Obama extended TPS for Haitians in the U.S. preventing them from being deported to the devastated country citing among other reasons, that these individuals "personal safety would be endangered by returning to Haiti." That original order will lapse in a few months. It is clear however that Haiti is still in the midst of the earthquake caused crisis that led to TPS being granted.

Lastly, even with the best intentions and the most diligent of efforts, problems and challenges will continue to affect the rebuilding efforts in Haiti. A cholera epidemic, Hurricane Tomas, highly controversial recent elections, you name it, it appears it will happen to Haiti. Therefore patience is crucial. We must rededicate ourselves to a long-term commitment to our neighbors in Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, we all have an important role to play in Haiti's recovery as it continues on this long road from tragedy to triumph. We know that many hard months remain ahead and much hard work needs to be done.

I want to make clear to the Haitian people that the U.S. government commitment to helping them rebuild is no less clear or strong today than it was on that terrible January day one year ago. This is a key moment for Haiti and for testing our commitment that was so evident in the days following January 12, 2010. Normal will not come soon enough for the Haitian people. As we commemorate the tragic events that took place one year ago, let us redouble our commitment, support, and efforts to rebuild Haiti.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BONNIE ANN HEATH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CORTLAND COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT
HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House join me in recognizing the service of Bonnie Ann Heath, executive director of the Cortland County Chapter of the American Red Cross upon the occasion of her retirement after outstanding leadership in this capacity from May 14, 1984 to December 31, 2010.

We celebrate the collective combined years in which Bonnie Ann Heath began her career as a volunteer with the American Red Cross in 1973, as secretary-bookkeeper from 1977–1979 and worked for the RSVP Program from 1979–1984 before being named the executive director in 1984.

Bonnie Ann Heath inspired, taught, nurtured, encouraged, showed great compassion, direction and organizational skills to countless numbers of youth, members of the Armed Forces and their families, community volunteers with the American Red Cross, in both programming and in the face of disaster.

We remember the active involvement of Bonnie Ann Heath in Red Cross programs such as Blood Services, Disaster Services, Health and Safety Training, Youth Program, First Aid and Babysitter Training, Free Learn to Swim and the Aquatics Program, First Aid Demonstrations, Wellness Days, Health Fairs, Care and Share, Project SHARE, and her work with FEMA and the 2005 Flood Disaster and the outstanding work during the 9/11/2001 disaster organizing response volunteers.

In addition to the passion of her career, Bonnie Ann Heath counts the greatest joys in her life as those of her loving husband Malcolm, her children Alene, Mellora, Derron; her four grandsons, Colby Matthew, Noah and Zachary; other family and friends; for they have been steadfast in their support and love during the countless hours of work as a professional woman.

I ask that this House once again join with me in celebrating and honoring the accomplishments of Bonnie Ann Heath. The Cortland community, this country and our world are better places thanks to the great work and dedication of Bonnie.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY OF THE HAITI
EARTHQUAKE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Haiti earthquake, to remember those who died, and to pay tribute to the remarkable perseverance of the Haitian people.

A year ago today, a massive earthquake caused almost unimaginable loss of life and devastation in Haiti. Some 250,000 people were killed, over a million displaced from their homes, and much of the capital was reduced to rubble.

I traveled to Port au Prince in early March, and I was inspired by the hope and courage of the Haitian people, even in the face of unimaginable loss. In the days and months after the earthquake, Americans responded with immense generosity, donating their money, time, and expertise to help alleviate human suffering in Haiti. More challenges followed, however, in the form of violent storms, political upheaval, and a cholera epidemic that has already claimed the lives of over 3,500 people and sickened 150,000 others.

Today is also a somber reminder of how much more we must do. The heartfelt outpouring of support from around the world in the days following the earthquake has not

translated into meaningful progress toward reconstruction and development on the ground. One year after the earthquake, it is simply unacceptable that over a million displaced people still live under tents, while much of the capital is still covered in rubble. It is unacceptable that so many Haitians lack access to clean drinking water, sanitation supplies, and medical care.

Recently, my good friend Dr. Paul Farmer published an article in *Foreign Policy* magazine outlining five lessons of the Haiti earthquake. I hope my colleagues will have the opportunity to review this important article below.

We must work to build capacity in Haiti; work with the government to provide real, long-term development; create real jobs and viable homes; and foster economic growth and vitality for Haiti and the Haitian people.

Mr. Speaker, today we remember those who were killed. We must also re-dedicate ourselves to providing real, long-term assistance and support for Haitians looking to rebuild their country.

[From *Foreign Policy Magazine*, Dec. 2010]

5 LESSONS FROM HAITI'S DISASTER: WHAT THE
EARTHQUAKE TAUGHT US ABOUT FOREIGN AID

(By Paul Farmer)

1. JOBS ARE EVERYTHING

All humans need money—they need it to buy food and water every day. And no matter how hard the government or the aid industry tries, people will want for all three things until they are employed.

The world pledged some \$10.2 billion in recovery aid to Haiti after Jan. 12's devastating earthquake. Imagine how many people that money could employ, putting them to work on tasks like removing rubble (only 2 percent of which has been cleared to date), rebuilding key government buildings, and planting trees in a country that is almost entirely deforested. And yet so far, just 116,000 people have been employed in this way. Haiti has 9.8 million people, and at least half were unemployed even before the earthquake. If we focused our efforts on the singular task of getting them jobs—even if we did nothing else—Haiti's reconstruction could be a success.

2. DON'T STARVE THE GOVERNMENT

The international community doesn't know best. Local people do. NGOs like the one that I am lucky to work with cannot replace the state—nor can the United Nations or anyone else. We don't have the expertise, and we won't stay forever. We don't have the same stake in building a community that the locals themselves have. And if aid is to work, it can't fall apart when the experts leave.

On this, almost everyone agrees. But the opposite approach has characterized Haiti relief. The dollar figures tell the real story: A mere 0.3 percent of the more than \$2 billion in humanitarian aid pledged by major donors has ended up with local authorities. That money will hardly compensate for the 20 percent of civil servants who died in the quake.

Some donors argue that the Haitian government is rife with corruption and mismanagement—and that infusing it with money will only make matters worse. But we need to strengthen the public sector, not weaken it. And that will take a working budget. It's impossible to be transparent and track your budgets when you lack computers, electricity, and even the personnel to do so. Until the government has the resources it needs, Haiti will remain the republic of NGOs.

3. GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO GO HOME TO

Today, some 1.3 million Haitians live in tent camps amid often squalid conditions—

yet no one has been able to convince them to resettle. Why don't they want to leave? Because there is nothing to draw them back. Many of these displaced men and women didn't own the houses that collapsed around them; they rented them—often under very unfavorable conditions. They were in debt to bad landlords. They had no schools or clinics.

Enticing them to return home will mean providing exactly what they lacked before: housing, education, and health care. Ironically, Haitians are getting some of those things now in the camps. They have shelter in the 69,700 tents distributed by donors; they have the food and hygiene kits that NGOs offer. The tent camps may well become semipermanent homes if those services don't also exist in the cities, villages, and towns.

4. WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

At least half of aid money probably never reaches its recipients, eaten up by overhead; often it's even more. I know of no other business or enterprise in which this would be an acceptable operational strategy. Equally frustrating, sometimes the money doesn't show up at all. Of the donor dollars promised for 2010, Haiti has so far received a mere 38 percent, or \$732.5 million, excluding debt relief. Nine months after the disaster, not a cent of the U.S. donation for Haiti's reconstruction has been disbursed; it's tied up in appropriations. Imagine trying to re-engineer a devastated country when your budget is at the mercy of political whims in foreign lands.

5. RELIEF IS THE EASY PART

Disaster relief is not reconstruction. We haven't rebuilt Haiti despite giving 1.1 million people access to drinking water; we didn't remake the country with the 11,000 latrines that have been installed. "Building Haiti back better" means sustaining those temporary gains and adding education, health care, services, and good governance.

What's most important in getting started? Economic growth. Yet it is a challenge hardly mentioned in aid documents or strategies—coming up only twice in the United Nations' most recent 44-page report. Poverty of the kind that was so acutely revealed this January can't be defeated until there is a brighter economic future for the millions of Haitians who are ready to seize it.

ON THE OCCASION OF MS. JOSEPHINE F. EDWARDS' RETIREMENT FROM ELECTED OFFICE

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary American who has devoted her life to building the community in which she lives—Wilson County, North Carolina. As a caring, thoughtful and passionate leader in the community, Josephine Farmer Edwards has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those around her.

Mrs. Edwards is a native of Nash County, North Carolina. She graduated from Nash County Training School, earned a bachelor's degree from Fayetteville State College (now Fayetteville State University), and a master's degree from Pennsylvania State University. She put that education to work as a classroom teacher for 38 years in Nash and Wilson counties, and later taught adult education.

In 1986, Mrs. Edwards was elected to the Wilson County Board of Commissioners and