

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JERRY MILLER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and retirement of the Interim Vice President for Extension and Outreach at Iowa State University, Dr. Jerry Miller.

Dr. Miller is a professor of agronomy and is well known in the soil and conservation community for his numerous contributions to enhancing water quality and soil conservation. Dr. Miller has given 35 years of his life to Iowa agriculture and in the process has given Iowa greater clarity in a subject we hold very dear.

In addition to his illustrious career at ISU, Dr. Miller also served Iowa in an entirely different way through his efforts in the Iowa Army National Guard. Dr. Miller retired from service several years ago as the Commanding General of the 34th Infantry Division.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent Dr. Jerry Miller in the United States Congress. Dr. Miller is a true testament to Iowa's reputation of service and commitment. I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating Dr. Miller and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

**VIOLENCE AGAINST COPTIC
CHRISTIANS IN EGYPT**

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, since the start of the Egyptian unrest earlier this year, religious minorities have been specifically targeted by Muslim extremists. Taking on the brunt of the attacks are Coptics, Christians who have lived peacefully in this part of the world for millennia. Recently, terrorists burned two Coptic Churches to the ground, killing 16 and injuring over 300. Coptic churches—rich in culture and architecture—were destroyed forcing innocent Christians to flee their home communities in order to protect their lives. This comes only a few months after twenty-four Christians were killed in yet another church bombing.

I am proud to represent a vibrant Coptic community in southeast Michigan and privileged to consider the clergy of St. Mark's Church in Troy, Michigan as my friends. I rise today to share their concerns—and the concerns of Coptics across our nation—about the future of their community and the desire to preserve their ancestral homeland.

For millennia, Coptic Christians have lived and worshipped in Egypt but some extremists are attempting to capitalize on the political vacuum created by the uncertainty in the country to drive them out of their homes and places of worship. While we are hopeful for democratic change in Egypt, it is imperative that we maintain support for religious minority communities such as the Coptics and seek to preserve and allow for the continuity of their community.

As a member of the Religious Minorities in the Middle East Caucus, I ask my colleagues to join me in being mindful of these Christian minorities that need a voice and demand an

end to extremist violence that is destroying this peace loving community.

THANKING MR. ALI QURESHI FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to commend a loyal and valued House employee on the occasion of his departure.

Ali Qureshi joined the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer in February of 2003 in the House Information Resources Unit. His hard work and diligence were quickly acknowledged and he rapidly rose within the organization, finally achieving the position of Senior Deputy Chief Administrative Officer where he served as a senior advisor to the Chief Administrative Officer. In this role, he has overseen House operations and maintained direct oversight of House Information Resources; Administrative and Financial Services; Strategic Initiatives and Assets, Furnishings and Logistics.

Prior to joining the House, Mr. Qureshi served as a consultant in the private sector. He has a graduate degree from the Wharton School of Business and University of Pennsylvania School of Engineering and a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from Wilkes University in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, every day we go about conducting the business of the American people. We are able to do this because of the tremendous men and women that support our efforts. Staffers in our personal offices, House Committees and the House Officers work tirelessly and with dedication. They perform a tremendous service for us and for the American people. Mr. Qureshi is an example of that commitment, dedication to excellence and loyal service that allows us to do what we do every day. I wish him all the best as he transitions to a new and exciting chapter in his life and sincerely thank him for his years of service to the House. He will be missed.

ANGELA Z. MCCOLLOUGH

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Angela Z. McCollough, an employee of the Congressional Budget Office, who is retiring on June 3, 2011 after nearly 40 years of service to the Federal government. Angie started her federal career in 1972 when she began working for the Environmental Protection Agency. In August of 1975, Angie joined the Congressional Budget Office, just a few months after CBO was founded. From 1975 until 2008, she served as the secretary and administrative assistant to the Assistant Director of the Natural Resources and Commerce Division (since renamed the Microeconomic Studies Division). In October of 2008, Angie was promoted to Executive Assistant to the CBO Director.

Angie has been an invaluable member of the CBO team. She received two CBO Direc-

tor's Awards—in 1984 and again in 2003. She has also received several STAR awards for her work in the Microeconomic Studies Division and the Office of the CBO Director. Angie was honored in 2001 for her role in recreating CBO's timekeeping and payroll system and for ensuring that CBO's employees were paid during that difficult period in the Fall of 2001 when the Ford House Office Building, where CBO is located, was closed for the anthrax investigation in the weeks following the tragic events of 9/11.

Angie is one of the longest serving employees in the history of the Congressional Budget Office. Her tenure at CBO spans the agency's lifetime. She has served under all 8 CBO Directors. And throughout her time at CBO, Angie has exemplified the highest standards of dedicated public service. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best in her retirement.

IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTING
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise once again in opposition to the reauthorization of PATRIOT Act provisions. While it will come as no surprise to my colleagues that I find the PATRIOT Act objectionable in its entirety, the roving wiretap, "any tangible thing," and lone wolf provisions of the law are by far the most toxic to our civil liberties.

Nothing has changed that makes the extension of wiretapping of citizens, searches of our private records and information, or warrantless surveillance of individuals not connected to terrorism more acceptable. Now is the time to end what was supposed to be a temporary, state-of-emergency response to the events of 9/11. Over a decade later, organizations from the Cato Institute to the American Civil Liberties Union have documented abuses of the law, and Osama bin Laden has been killed—though there is no evidence that the PATRIOT Act helped to find him.

The government's extension of the PATRIOT Act is hypocrisy, pure and simple. Republicans support smaller government but want continued warrantless searches of their constituents. President Obama campaigned on the promise of abandoning the PATRIOT Act, calling it a "dangerous and shoddy" law, yet has done nothing to make good on that pledge. Let's end this duplicity.

The importance of empowering our intelligence agencies to help protect us does not supersede the importance of preserving our civil liberties. Until a balance is reached, I will continue to vote against the PATRIOT Act and its provisions and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

A TRIBUTE TO LEROY AND LOUISE
CHRISTIANSSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize LeRoy and Louise Christiansen of

Pocahontas and commend them on their upcoming 65th wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Christiansen were married on June 16th, 1946 in Pomeroy, IA and have since helped bring three children, ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren into this world.

Prior to their wedding, LeRoy was a proud Iowa farmer before he was asked to put his career on hold and defend his country in the Second World War. LeRoy served his country honorably as an Army Air Corp nose gunner in Italy before being discharged with honors and returning to Iowa.

LeRoy and Louise were born, educated and have now retired in Iowa out of love for a state that has given them so many joys and blessings.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent LeRoy and Louise in the United States Congress. Mr. and Mrs. Christiansen are a true testament to Iowa's reputation of service and commitment. I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating them and I wish them continued happiness in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE 36TH ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 36th annual Capital Pride, a celebration of the national capital area's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) communities and their families and friends.

In 1975, Deacon MacCubbin, owner of the Lambda Rising Bookstore in Dupont Circle, launched the first Capital Pride. It began as a block party on 20th Street, between R and S Streets, NW. By 1980, the festival had outgrown being a block party and moved to Francis Junior High School in 1981, with the Pride Parade becoming an annual part of the festivities. As Capital Pride continued to grow, it moved to Freedom Plaza in 1990 and then onto Pennsylvania Avenue in 1997. Today, Capital Pride consists of more than 10 days of events, including Trans Pride and Latino Pride, organized by the Capital Pride Planning Committee and dozens of local community partners.

Capital Pride's 2011 theme, "Celebration and Opportunity, Paving the Way," acknowledges the many successes of the GLBT community and the work that still needs to be done to ensure equality.

This year, Capital Pride culminates with what has been declared D.C.'s best parade, the Capital Pride Parade, on June 11, and "The Main Event," a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol, on June 12. Capital Pride's producer, the Capital Pride Alliance, Inc., predicts an attendance of 250,000, making Capital Pride one of the largest GLBT festivals in the United States.

I have marched in Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize universal human rights and the importance of enacting federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community. Congress has much

work to do. We must pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the Respect for Marriage Act, the Safe Schools Improvement Act, and the Uniting American Families Act.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the 36th annual Capital Pride and to welcome its attendees.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION, RISK REDUCTION, AND AWARENESS ACT OF 2011

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act of 2011, which will help provide accurate, evidence-based information to pregnant and breast-feeding women about medications, chemical exposures, foodborne illness, and other exposures associated with birth defects or health risks to a breastfed infant.

This bill would establish a grant program to revitalize the national network of pregnancy risk information services, more than half of which have closed over the last decade due to lack of funding. Over 70,000 women seek information from these essential services each year. It would also establish a national information campaign to help increase public awareness among health providers and at-risk populations.

The legislation has been endorsed by the Allergy and Asthma Network, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, March of Dimes Foundation, Mothers of Asthmatics, Organization of Teratology Information Specialists, Spina Bifida Association, and the Zero to Three National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families. I hereby submit for the record letters of support from these organizations.

There is nothing more important than protecting our children, and this legislation will help expectant and breast-feeding mothers to obtain clear, accurate information about the potential risks of medications, illnesses, and other exposures during pregnancy and breastfeeding, helping them to both avoid risks and improve healthy behaviors like taking folic acid. This legislation will help mothers and health care professionals access critical information to help ensure their babies are healthy, and I urge my colleagues to support our efforts.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ALLERGY,
ASTHMA, & IMMUNOLOGY,
Washington, DC,
April 11, 2011.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. DELAURO: On behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, I write to express strong support for the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act. This legislation will fund the national network of pregnancy risk information services that are currently severely underfunded. These services counsel pregnant and breast-feeding women on exposures to medications, chemicals, infections,

and other risks to healthy pregnancy and healthy infants.

A pregnant or breast-feeding woman lives in fear of any exposure that might pose a risk to her pregnancy or her baby. This is because of the paucity of information on the impact of exposures to medications, chemicals, infections and illnesses during pregnancy and nursing. Some exposures can be avoided, but for women with chronic diseases such as asthma, epilepsy, hypertension, or depression, continued use of medication may be essential to the health of both the woman and her infant. Asthma affects about 8% of pregnant women—over 300,000 women per year. Some women simply discontinue their asthma medications during pregnancy out of fear of a potential birth defect. However, uncontrolled asthma may pose a greater risk of complicating the pregnancy. Our organization has initiated a major study of asthma drugs in pregnancy in collaboration with the nation's pregnancy risk information services. This study simply could not be done without the resources available through these services. Unfortunately, more than half of the pregnancy risk information services in the country have closed over the past decade, and those that remain have sustained severe funding cuts. The legislation you are introducing will increase support for these important programs and assure that the vitally important counseling and research services they provide can be reinvigorated.

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology is the largest professional medical specialty organization in the United States representing allergists, asthma specialists, clinical immunologists, allied health professionals, and others dedicated to improving the treatment of allergic diseases through research and education. We thank you for your leadership in support of prevention and research related to birth defects and are pleased to offer the Academy's support for your legislation.

Sincerely,

DENNIS K. LEDFORD, M.D.,
President, American Academy of
Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology.

SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2011.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DELAURO: On behalf of the Spina Bifida Association (SBA), the only national voluntary health organization working on behalf of the estimated 166,000 individuals who live with all forms of Spina Bifida and their families, I am writing to express our support to you and the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction and Awareness Act. This legislation will provide much-needed support to pregnancy risk information services, which play a crucial role in educating women on how to reduce the risk of preventable birth defects, including Spina Bifida.

One of the primary goals of SBA is to increase awareness of the importance of folic acid consumption among the 65 million women in the United States of child-bearing age. The risk of Spina Bifida and other serious birth defects can be reduced by up to 70%, if women of childbearing age consume 400 micrograms (400 mcg) of folic acid (a B-vitamin) every day. Grants funded under the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction and Awareness Act will help ensure that women who are considering becoming pregnant have access to information on the importance of folic acid supplementation, as well as other key steps they can take to ensure a healthy pregnancy.