

REMEMBERING MICHIGAN STATE
SENATOR BILL VAN
REGENMORTER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a leader in the victims' rights movement, former Michigan State Senator Bill van Regenmorter.

It was fitting that flags in Michigan were flown at half-mast following Bill's death. Many news reports in Michigan detailed his significant contributions to the people of his beloved state and, most especially, his long advocacy and legislative accomplishments on behalf of crime victims and survivors. I feel it is fitting to equally recognize that Bill's contributions go far beyond the borders of Michigan. As one of the earliest state legislators to draft and enact crime victims' rights legislation, Bill was extraordinarily generous in sharing his experiences, insights and innovations with those of us in other states dedicated to the same cause. His hand can indeed be seen in similar laws in dozens of other states. Bill's tireless efforts were recognized in 2009 by the U.S. Department of Justice, when he received the Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award from the Office for Victims of Crime.

There is no question that without Bill van Regenmorter, we could not have made as much progress as we have in securing crime victims' rights throughout our entire nation. As a Texas judge, I can attest that we tapped Bill's wisdom and expertise in the late 1980s to develop our own "Victims' Bill of Rights"—an important law that, to this day, provides a strong foundation for the fair treatment of crime victims in my state.

In Bill's own words, "victim empowerment has brought integrity to the system that wasn't there before." Bill's legacy can be found in his pioneering efforts that empowered countless crime victims and those who serve them to stand up for victims' rights, and his inspiration for anyone concerned about individual and community safety to, as he did throughout his entire life, get involved and make a positive difference.

The U.S. Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus sends its condolences to Bill's wife Cheryl and his family, and his "extended family" of crime victims, survivors and victim advocates who benefit today and in the future from his pioneering efforts.

And that's just the way it is.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF RICE UNIVERSITY

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, as a Representative of the great state of Texas, I am honored to be a citizen of a state which is home to an outstanding institution like Rice University. Rice is celebrating its 100 year anniversary, as it was inaugurated in October 12, 1912, in Houston, Texas.

Rice has consistently been ranked as one of the top 20 national universities in the United

States by U.S. News & World Report every year since the rankings began in 1983.

Rice also ranks among the 10 best value private colleges by Princeton Review.

The James A. Baker III Institute for public policy at Rice is world renowned for its contributions as a think tank.

Rice has constitutively been ranked among the top 20 universities in the U.S. overall and for Hispanic students.

Rice University is one of three Tier One research and education universities in Texas. Rice is ranked the number 4 best value among private Universities.

Rice plays a leading role in research in many fields, including nanotechnology, space, cellular technology, bioinformatics, energy, health, and the environment.

I congratulate Rice University for 100 years of preparing its students to succeed in a highly competitive and complex world, and look forward to 100 more.

HONORING ADOLFO CALERO
PORTOCARRERO

HON. DAVID RIVERA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. RIVERA. Mr. Speaker, businessman, entrepreneur, freedom fighter and long-time friend of the United States Adolfo Calero Portocarrero died in Managua, Nicaragua on June 2.

Mr. Calero was best known as an ally of the United States in our efforts to prevent the spread of communism in Central America in the 1980s. He was leader of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, the largest group in the broad anti-Sandinista coalition.

Mr. Speaker, I personally knew Adolfo Calero and I can attest that he was a great friend of the United States. He went to high school in New Orleans, received degrees from Notre Dame and Syracuse University, managed the Coca-Cola bottling plant in Nicaragua, and occasionally lived in Miami, Florida.

Calero was a member of the Conservative Party in Nicaragua and after the communist Sandinista (FSLN) overthrow of the Somoza regime in 1979, he was jailed and later went into exile in Florida. Eventually he joined the political directorate of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force and became its president.

What is lesser know is that Calero had also been twice jailed by the Somozas in the 1970s. He was an advocate and friend of democracy and an opponent of dictatorship whether it was on the right or left.

In the 1980s, saddened and angered by Nicaragua's fall to communism and Daniel Ortega's abuse of human rights, Calero joined the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO) in an effort to unify the various anti-Sandinista factions. Nicaragua's "counter-revolutionary" fighters or Contras were largely made up of 18–22 year olds, independent rural farmers and indigenous Christian Indians from the Caribbean Coast. The Contras also filled their ranks with disenchanting Sandinistas—at one time 6 Of 14 Contra regional commanders and 13 Of 52 Contra task force commanders were Sandinista defectors who wanted true freedom. At the peak of their strength, UNO had

30,000 men in the field—more than the Sandinistas ever had in their fight against the Somoza regime.

The decade-long effort to oppose the Sandinistas received typical on-again off-again support from a fickle U.S. Congress. During that time, Soviet-Cuban support for communist governments and insurgencies in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico was steadfast. Their goal was to spread communism throughout the hemisphere and up to the southern border of the United States. Central America was engaged in an epic struggle and Nicaragua was the epicenter. More than 3000 Cuban military intelligence and State security officers set up the repressive internal security apparatus in Nicaragua, advised the Sandinista armed forces, and participated in combat. The PLO sent 100 experienced combat officers, Libya and Iran shipped tons of weapons, the Cubans sent tens of thousands of AK-47s, Soviet Mi-8 helicopters and SA-7 missiles.

Thousands of Contras were killed and maimed, but they held fast. The struggle culminated in a ceasefire in 1988 and democratic elections in 1990. In those elections, UNO's coalition of 14 political parties led by Violetta Chamorro scored an upset victory over the Sandinistas.

Calero's efforts ultimately led to victory and the restoration of democracy. Calero's dedication to freedom and democracy also led to the beginning of the end of Soviet-Cuban penetration of Central America.

REPEAL OF OBAMACARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 6079. Though the Supreme Court opinion didn't strike down the entire law, it did prohibit the federal government's ability to coerce state governments in accepting major expansions to Medicaid.

Now that many states have indicated they will not accept the Medicaid expansion, this seriously undermines a major premise of Obamacare. Even before the Supreme Court's ruling on Medicaid, patients were already seeing higher premium costs and fewer choices.

We need to start over and craft a health care plan that will actually increase patient access and lower premiums. We can do this while working with our state governments rather than trying to force a Washington-knows-best plan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 385, I was absent due to personal reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF PAT
LUCE-AOELUA

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a pioneer, a leader, an advocate, and a dear friend, Pat Luce-Aoelua, who recently passed away in Los Angeles, California.

Pat was born in Fagatogo, American Samoa in 1944 to loane Afele Levi and Fanuaea Vaitupu Tu'ufuli Levi and was adopted by American missionaries, Maurice and Corabelle Luce, in 1946. Later, Pat and her adoptive parents immigrated to California in 1952 where Pat attended school and began her career. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from California State University at Sacramento and her Master of Science in Counseling from the University of California at Davis.

Pat was the Executive Director of the National Office of Samoan Affairs (NOSA) that was based initially in San Francisco and later moved its headquarters to Carson, California. She, together with other Samoan community leaders in California, founded NOSA in 1976 to bridge the federal and state agencies with the local Samoan communities. Some of the community leaders included Senator and Paramount Chief Galeai Tu'ufuli, High Talking Chief Leuluso'o Leatutufu, and Matau Taele. Pat and NOSA made sure that they worked closely with the elder chiefs and local Samoan church organizations in advocating for Samoans and Pacific Islanders both on the state and federal level, in better assisting the needs of the elderly, and providing opportunities for the younger generation.

In the late 1970s, Pat was very active within the Samoan community in northern California. As she became more involved in the 1980s, Pat was instrumental in allowing American Samoans to become eligible for Federal funding and programs through the Native American programs. She also spearheaded the movement in passing state legislation in California providing for the identification and tabulation of Pacific Islanders as an ethnic group in the California state and county systems.

Pat is not only a leader amongst the Samoan community but especially within all of the Asian and Pacific American communities throughout all the U.S. In 1980, through Pat's leadership and diligence, she was able to fight for the inclusion of Pacific Islanders as an identifier in the U.S. Census, a category that remains today. Pat's philosophy was ensuring that much of the needs of the Pacific Islanders could be addressed with the use of data collected through the decennial census and other government surveys.

Although Pat has left us and began a new journey, her legacy will remain vigilant through torch bearers made up of the many new young Pacific Island leaders who have been under Pat's tutelage over the past three decades who today are working closely with their communities and advocating for those who are disenfranchised.

I want to take this time to offer my personal condolences to Pat's husband, Tuimavave Aoelua, their only daughter—Corabelle, and to their many families and friends who are

mourning the loss of one of Samoa's strongest daughters. I pray the Lord will comfort them during this tragic time.

Pat will be greatly missed. la manuia lau malaga.

CELEBRATING THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER PITTSBURGH'S 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE GLOBAL JEWISH COMMUNITY

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh for reaching its 100th year of service to Jewish communities around the globe. Since 1912, the Federation has been capably serving Jewish needs in the areas of healthcare, education and social welfare.

Since its inception, the Federation has never taken its finger off the pulse of the global Jewish community. Its efforts have always kept pace with the dynamic challenges facing Jews living in Pittsburgh, Israel and elsewhere throughout the world. The Federation serves as the central Jewish fundraising organization for Greater Pittsburgh, and has undertaken a number of initiatives to build solidarity and promote prosperity within western Pennsylvania's Jewish community.

In 1984, the Federation conducted a Comprehensive Jewish Community Study to highlight the needs of Greater Pittsburgh's Jewish population. The results led to the creation of a Jewish Community Center in Pittsburgh's South Hills and Jewish Residential Services for special needs individuals of the Jewish faith. After conducting a similar demographic study in 2002, the Federation established new outreach programs and created the Centennial Fund for a Jewish Future through the Jewish Community Foundation.

The Federation has also done a significant amount of philanthropic work abroad. Federation leaders have done a great deal to promote the Buncher Community Leadership Program, which trains Jewish professionals from vulnerable Jewish communities throughout the world. They have also played an active role in programs such as Spectrum and Passover in the FSU, which focus on rebuilding Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union. Furthermore, the Federation was on the front lines of the humanitarian responses to Hurricane Katrina, the 2004 tsunami in Asia and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

In Israel, the Federation has actively helped to respond to terror attacks and promote economic development in recent years by raising more than \$5.5 through its Israel Emergency campaign and by sponsoring numerous educational and solidarity programs. Historically, the Federation has also helped to raise money for Israel during times of conflict. Currently, the Foundation is working to advance the Jewish Agency for Israel's Partnership Together Program, which is focused on strengthening relationships between Jews in Israel and the Diaspora, and on promoting economic development within Israel's Karmeil and Misgav region.

Mr. Speaker, the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh's long history of promoting

solidarity and prosperity within Jewish communities throughout the world is a testament to its abiding commitment to philanthropy. I offer this great organization my most heartfelt congratulations on 100 years of fruitful community service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 386. I was absent due to personal reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF PAUL HAMANN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today the White House honors leaders who had made a significant difference in the way their communities combat homelessness among children and youth. I am so proud that one of the 13 "Champions of Change" is my constituent, Paul Hamann, President and C.E.O. of the Night Ministry.

In the wealthiest nation on earth, any amount of homelessness is unacceptable, yet nearly one million Americans currently do not have a roof over their head. They include men, women and children. This Congress must do more to eradicate homelessness, and we should support people like Paul and organizations like the Night Ministry that are working to provide help and hope to the homeless.

The Night Ministry is Chicago's safety net of last-resort social services, health care, housing and outreach for homeless youth and adults and those who are isolated from the community. I have had the pleasure to witness and take part in the great work the Night Ministry does at their Health Outreach Bus and their Youth Outreach Van in the Uptown and Lakeview neighborhoods in Chicago.

Paul has dedicated his life to helping those in need through his work for non-profit organizations. He has been with the Night Ministry for 10 years and has led the organization since 2007. Under Paul's direction, the Night Ministry has broadened its impact on the Chicago community through health outreach, short-term housing assistance, support and instruction for pregnant teens, and transitional housing. His tireless work has made a difference for thousands of Chicagoans who would otherwise go without healthcare, housing, or food.

I thank Paul Hamann for his outstanding leadership of the Night Ministry and I wish him many years of continued success. He is a true Champion of Change.