

IN SUPPORT OF DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a month-long project dedicated to addressing the victimization of men, women, and children in our nation and raising awareness of the devastating impact of domestic violence. This month, we honor the survivors of domestic violence, whose struggles and successes continue to inspire us all as we rededicate ourselves to ending domestic violence in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, domestic violence touches the lives of Americans of every background and circumstance and affects every sector of our society. It is defined as a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse can be physical, emotional, sexual, or behavior used to coerce, threaten or humiliate another person.

Mr. Speaker, despite the progress and achievements we have made in the recent past, there is still so much more to do. It is time to put an end to this devastating crime. Far too many families in this nation are affected by domestic violence. It is a growing epidemic affecting local, national, and international communities alike.

In the United States, one in four women and one in thirteen men will be the victim of domestic violence at some point in his or her lifetime and over 3.3 million children witness domestic violence each year. Furthermore, domestic violence can also act as a precursor to more serious crimes. In 80 percent of intimate party homicides, regardless of which partner was killed, domestic violence was present during the relationship prior to the killing.

Mr. Speaker, victims of violence often suffer in silence, with limited options, not knowing where to turn for support and guidance. We need to break this silence. Local domestic violence agencies, shelters, victim services providing legal, emotional, and medical support are vital to helping victims and their families heal. To effectively respond to domestic violence, we must support efforts to help expand these services and to continue to foster awareness.

This month, let us recommit ourselves to ending domestic violence in our communities. We have a responsibility to continue to broaden our efforts to end violence against men, women and children. But we cannot solve this crisis alone. We must work together to create support, expand resources and eliminate barriers for victims of domestic violence. Stopping domestic violence means saving lives.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

BACKLASH TO THE BACKLASH

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, previously I submitted an extraordinary, eloquent and thoughtful column by Thomas Friedman of The New York Times on the essentiality of free speech, the absolutely unjustified nature of violence and the hypocrisy involved when many of those who declaim what they found insulting are themselves guilty of equal vituperation of other religions and ethnic groups. Mr. Friedman has subsequently written a follow up to that column, which I found equally compelling. I submit this excellent column as well as it deserves to be widely read.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 25, 2012]

BACKLASH TO THE BACKLASH

(By Thomas L. Friedman)

One of the iron laws of Middle East politics for the last half-century has been that extremists go all the way and moderates tend to just go away. That is what made the march in Benghazi, Libya, so unusual last Friday. This time, the moderates did not just go away. They got together and stormed the headquarters of the Islamist militia Ansar al-Sharia, whose members are suspected of carrying out the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi that resulted in the death of four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens.

It is not clear whether this trend can spread or be sustained. But having decried the voices of intolerance that so often intimidate everyone in that region, I find it heartening to see Libyans carrying signs like "We want justice for Chris" and "No more Al Qaeda"—and demanding that armed militias disband. This coincides with some brutally honest articles in the Arab/Muslim press—in response to rioting triggered by the idiotic YouTube video insulting the Prophet Muhammad—that are not the usual "What is wrong with America?" but, rather, "What is wrong with us, and how do we fix it?"

On Monday, the Middle East Media Research Institute, or Memri, which tracks the Arab/Muslim press, translated a searing critique written by Imad al-Din Hussein, a columnist for Al Shorouk, Cairo's best daily newspaper: "We curse the West day and night, and criticize its [moral] disintegration and shamelessness, while relying on it for everything. . . . We import, mostly from the West, cars, trains, planes . . . refrigerators, and washing machines. . . . We are a nation that contributes nothing to human civilization in the current era. . . . We have become a burden on [other] nations. . . . Had we truly implemented the essence of the directives of Islam and all [other] religions, we would have been at the forefront of the nations. The world will respect us when we return to being people who take part in human civilization, instead of [being] parasites who are spread out over the map of the advanced world, feeding off its production and later attacking it from morning until night. . . . The West is not an oasis of idealism. It also contains exploitation in many areas. But at least it is not sunk in delusions, trivialities and external appearances, as we are. . . . Therefore, supporting Islam and the prophet of the Muslims should be done through work, production, values, and culture, not by storming embassies and murdering diplomats."

Mohammad Taqi, a liberal Pakistani columnist, writing in the Lahore-based Daily

Times on Sept. 20, argued that "there is absolutely no excuse for violence and indeed murder most foul, as committed in Benghazi. Fighting hate with hate is sure to beget more hate. The way out is drowning the odious voices with voices of sanity, not curbing free speech and calls for murder."

Khaled al-Hroub, a professor at Cambridge University, writing in Jordan's Al Dustour newspaper on Sept. 17, translated by Memri, argued that the most "frightening aspect of what we see today in the streets of Arab and Islamic cities is the disaster of extremism that is flooding our societies and cultures, as well as our behavior. . . . This [represents] a total atrophy of thought among wide sectors [of society], as a result of the culture of religious zealotry that was imposed on people for over 50 years, and which brought forth what we witness" today.

The Egyptian comedian Bassem Youssef wrote in Al Shorouk, translated by Memri, on Sept. 23: "We demand that the world respect our feelings, yet we do not respect the feelings of others. We scream blue murder when they outlaw the niqab in some European country or prevent [Muslims] from building minarets in another [European] country—even though these countries continue to allow freedom of religion, as manifest in the building of mosques and in the preaching [activity] that takes place in their courtyards. Yet, in our countries, we do not allow others to publicly preach their beliefs. Maybe we should examine ourselves before [criticizing] others."

Whenever I was asked during the Iraq war, "How will you know when we've won?" I gave the same answer: When Salman Rushdie can give a lecture in Baghdad; when there is real freedom of speech in the heart of the Arab Muslim world. There is no question that we need a respectful dialogue between Islam and the West, but, even more, we need a respectful dialogue between Muslims and Muslims. What matters is not what Arab Muslim political parties and groupings tell us they stand for. What matters is what they tell themselves, in their own languages, about what they stand for and what excesses they will not tolerate.

This internal debate had long been stifled by Arab autocrats whose regimes traditionally suppressed extremist Islamist parties, but never really permitted their ideas to be countered with free speech—with independent, modernist, progressive interpretations of Islam or by truly legitimate, secular political parties and institutions. Are we seeing the start of that now with the emergence of free spaces and legitimate parties in the Arab world? Again, too early to say, but this moderate backlash to the extremist backlash is worth hailing—and watching.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
WALTER V. CUCUK

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Walter Vladimir Cucuk, who passed away on September 22, 2012 at the age of 80. Walt will always be remembered for his faith, his devotion to family, and his strong affection to farming.

Walt was born on March 20, 1932 in Fresno, California, and spent his entire life in the Fresno Lone Star area. After graduating from Sanger High School and Reedley College, Walt served our country for two years in the

United States Army at Fort Ord near Monterey, California. In 1960, he married the love of his life, Barbara Erickson, and together they raised four children: Chris, Sheryl, Lori and Karen.

Community service played an important role in Walt's life. As a Veteran, he served on the Fresno Chamber's Military Affairs Committee, Selective Service Board, National Guard Commission and the Association of the U.S. Army. Walt was also elected to the Sanger Unified School Board of Trustees, and served on the Fresno County Planning Commission, the Fresno Regional Foundation Board of Directors, and the Fresno Chamber Board, representing agriculture. In addition, Walt was an active member for the Sanger Lions Club and the Serbian Men's Club.

One of Walt's greatest passions was farming. A proud grape, plum and citrus farmer, he became active in the Fresno County Farm Bureau in the late 1970's. Walt was encouraged to join the FCFB by members of the Lone Star Center, specifically his brother, Bill. Walt was honored to serve as President of the Fresno County Farm Bureau from 1984–1986. His love of the Central Valley and agriculture made him an exemplary leader at the Farm Bureau and during his tenure, the organization grew to 7,900 members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Walter Vladimir Cucuk, one of Fresno's most distinguished farmers and a true champion for the people of the San Joaquin Valley. His leadership and community service made him a role model and a source of pride to our community. Walt's caring nature and vibrant spirit will be sorely missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JERRY MARKS AND MRS. WENDY MARKS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jerry Marks and Mrs. Wendy Marks, for their work in furthering issues of importance to the Jewish community. Their work has been instrumental in helping to build a more united Jewish commonality.

Originally from Brooklyn, both Mr. and Mrs. Marks moved to New Jersey to pursue a life of advocacy and philanthropy. However, their commitment goes further than just philanthropy, as both Mr. and Mrs. Marks have been involved with multiple organizations in an effort to promote issues of vital importance to the Jewish community. Their involvement with the Jewish community is most evident through their work with the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County, where both Mr. and Mrs. Marks have dedicated much of their time and efforts volunteering in different capacities. This includes Wendy's tenure as President of the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County, as well as Jerry's tenure as Vice President of Endowments. Both Mr. and Mrs. Marks have served on the board of directors for many years, and both have traveled extensively around the world as representatives of both the Jewish community and the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County. Both Mr. and Mrs. Marks have received recognition for their work by the Sons of Israel Congregation, and in

2010 Mrs. Marks received the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award at the International Lion of Judah Conference in New Orleans which was established to recognize "Woman of Valor". Mr. and Mrs. Marks are proud parents and grandparents of four adult children and seven grandchildren, as well as members of Temple Shalom in Aberdeen. It is with great pleasure that I join the Jewish Family and Children's Service in recognizing the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Marks this evening.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in leading this body in recognizing Mr. and Mrs. Marks for their tremendous work on behalf of the Jewish community. Their dedication and commitment to Jewish philanthropy and advocacy is truly inspirational.

RECOGNIZING LGBT HISTORY MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, October is LGBT History Month, and I rise to pay tribute to the remarkable achievements of this vibrant community. LGBT History Month, which will last throughout the month of October, commemorates the history of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender persons in addition to the history of gay rights movement.

I am proud to have supported the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which was formally abolished by the military on September 20, 2011, after an orderly transition program prepared troops for the change without affecting force readiness or morale. Our nation is now stronger and our people are safer thanks to the sacrifices made by these brave Americans, who no longer need to choose between service and silence.

There have been other changes for the better under the Obama administration. In July 2011, President Obama and his administration concluded that a critical section of the Defense of Marriage Act is no longer constitutionally defensible. And, on June 24, 2011, the State of New York passed a law with bipartisan support extending the right to marry to gay and lesbian couples.

History, and progress, is also being made at the local level. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, one of the largest LGBT communities in the nation is located in the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area, which I am privileged to represent. This dynamic community is culturally diverse and economically and artistically vibrant. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize two LGBT leaders who helped to make this possible.

Jean Harris was a lifelong human rights activist who employed her uncanny talent for community organizing to electing open-minded city officials and defeating discriminatory legislation. A true force in California's LGBT community, she served as chair of the California Democratic Party's Lesbian/Gay Caucus, president of San Francisco's Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, and vice president of the Long Beach Lambda Democratic Club. Indeed, many local leaders and public servants across California owe their careers to her tireless advocacy. Jean Harris passed away on June 15, 2011.

In August 2011, I rose to pay tribute to the late Paul Duncan, the Director of Outreach for the Long Beach Community Business Network, who spent the last ten years of his life working tirelessly to connect local Long Beach employers to business organizations from Hawaii to Washington, DC. An advocate for economic empowerment of LGBT business owners and entrepreneurs, Mr. Duncan was known around the nation and beloved by the Long Beach community. He died suddenly of an aneurysm at a national conference where he was one of 70 affiliate leaders working for job creation and expanded economic opportunity for LGBT-owned businesses.

Mr. Speaker, progress is made through the efforts of courageous leaders like Jean and Paul; people who actively engage their communities and face adversity to ensure that the rights of all are clearly defined and protected.

People like the legendary Bayard Rustin, a leading strategist of the Civil Rights Movement and trusted advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr. An early proponent of nonviolent resistance, Rustin organized the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation which inspired the Freedom Rides of the 1960s and helped Dr. King organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference which became the nerve center of the American Civil Rights Movement.

Bayard Rustin was a driving force behind the iconic 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom which brought national attention to the civil rights struggle and spurred the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. He arranged the transportation, trained the marshals and oversaw all of the logistical details involved in putting on one of the most effective political demonstrations in world history and setting the stage for Dr. King's timeless "I Have a Dream" speech.

Later, Bayard Rustin worked to integrate all-white unions and became heavily involved in international humanitarian development and peacemaking. Openly gay, he became a public advocate for LGBT causes in the 1970s and passed away on a mission to Haiti in 1987.

Many great writers of the Harlem Renaissance, such as Countée Cullen and Bruce Nugent, were homosexual, and the contributions they made to literature are forever ingrained in the cultural fabric of America. Langston Hughes was probably the most well known, though he was an intensely private man and never spoke openly on the subject.

Billy Strayhorn was a musician and gifted composer whose 30-year collaboration with Duke Ellington resulted in some of the most indispensable music of the jazz age. Openly gay, Strayhorn participated in many civil rights causes and arranged a musical score for his friend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1963.

James Baldwin is one of the great literary figures of the 20th century. The writings of this African-American explored issues of race and class and gender. He rose to prominence with the civil rights movement and worked to bridge the gap between the competing approaches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X, both of whom were his personal friends. His work and life had a profound impact on countless equality activists and writers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of just a few of the countless number of Americans who defied the