

WORLD AIDS DAY—DECEMBER 1ST,
2012

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance and significance of World AIDS Day.

Established by the World Health Organization in 1988, December 1st is universally known as World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day serves to focus global attention on the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. All governments, national AIDS programs, churches, community organizations and individuals are given the opportunity to display their commitment to fight this deadly disease.

It has been more than 30 years since the first AIDS case was reported in the United States. It does not seem like it was too long ago, but HIV/AIDS had affected many around the world before the disease even made its way to America's shores. Since then, countless researchers, healthcare providers, politicians, and educators have contributed to the global initiative to contain and eventually eliminate its presence in all corners of the world.

Although HIV/AIDS is no longer a mysterious and mischaracterized entity, it is the most relentless and indiscriminate killer of our time. And though a diagnosis is no longer the sealing of an immediate fate, it is the beginning of an indefinite battle for life, adequate health care, and for social belonging.

With an estimated 38.6 million people worldwide living with HIV at the end of 2005, and more than 25 million people having died of AIDS since 1981, December 1st is a date which serves to remind everyone that action makes a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Let there be no mistake, we are here to acknowledge that AIDS is a deadly enemy against which we must join all our forces to fight and eliminate.

Americans should be reminded that HIV/AIDS does not discriminate. With an estimated 1,039,000 to 1,185,000 HIV-positive individuals living in the U.S. and approximately 56,000 new infections occurring every year, the U.S., like other nations around the world is deeply affected by HIV/AIDS.

The detrimental effects of HIV/AIDS have also hit home. More than 65,000 people in Texas are living with HIV. Thirty-Six percent more Texans are living with HIV today than just seven years ago. In 2010, studies showed that 1 in every 3 diagnosed persons in Texas were not getting proper medical treatment. We must make certain that every affected individual receive efficient medical treatment that will afford them long life.

Not only is the state of Texas suffering from HIV and AIDS, but my district, the 18th Congressional District of Texas, has seen an increasing number of people living with the disease. In 2010, there were over 22,000 reported persons living with HIV (non-AIDS) in the greater Houston area, and more than 9,000 reported persons living with AIDS.

This problem continues to escalate as there have been 1,700 new infections each year among individuals in Harris County, particularly among racial and ethnic minorities. We must continue to fight a tough fight to reverse all of these costly and tragic trends.

I will continue to sponsor and co-sponsor legislation that addresses the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The fight is not over. We must continue to stand strong in our struggle to conquer some old and new challenges that we as Americans and members of the global community encounter.

This Saturday, December 1st is World AIDS Day. And, we will focus on HIV/AIDS, prevention and awareness, and continue to fight for life. Together, we will help all of our friends, relatives, and children live healthy and full lives.

MARKING WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, December 1, World AIDS Day, is an opportunity for people in the United States and around the world to unite in the fight against HIV and AIDS, to show their support for those living with the virus, and to commemorate the many who have died from this terrible disease.

The first World AIDS Day was held in 1988, just weeks after my first election to Congress. I am proud of the work the Congress has done since that time to combat the scourge of HIV and AIDS throughout the world. Through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the work of the U.S. Agency for International Development, and our support to multilateral organizations, such as UNAIDS and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the United States has led the way in modernizing the global response to HIV and AIDS. Our efforts not only save lives, but also promote economic growth and increased stability throughout the world. Recognizing that we cannot beat this epidemic with treatment alone, I am pleased that recent global efforts are increasingly focused on prevention as well as sustainability, efficiency, and program effectiveness.

Today, there is more hope than ever that we can achieve an AIDS-free generation. A new UNAIDS report demonstrates the clear progress we have made in our fight. Access to antiretroviral therapy has increased by an incredible 63 percent in the last 24 months alone, and AIDS-related deaths fell by more than 25 percent globally between 2005 and 2011. The rate of new HIV infections has been reduced by more than 50 percent in the last decade across 25 low- and middle-income countries—more than half of which are in Africa. This could not have happened without U.S. leadership. PEPFAR has directly supported HIV testing and counseling for more than 49 million people in fiscal year 2012, providing a critical entry point to prevention, treatment, and care.

However, despite the encouraging progress, estimates are that 6.8 million infected people still need access to treatment, and the total number of new HIV infections remains high, at 2.5 million persons worldwide in 2011. This is simply unacceptable. So while our efforts are impressive, they are clearly not enough. The spread of HIV and AIDS continues to disproportionately affect many of the most vulnerable populations, especially women and girls, and I will not rest until we bring an end to

AIDS here at home and around the world. Our commitment to ending this pandemic must be smart, strategic, and unwavering. AIDS knows no boundaries, and neither must our generosity and determination to overcome it. And so, on this 25th World AIDS Day, I urge my colleagues to continue our commitment to fighting this disease.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN'S GENEROSITY TOWARD HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF EFFORTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, my Colleagues and I were pleased to learn that the government of Taiwan (Republic of China) has pledged to donate \$1.3 million to the United Way International, Habitat for Humanity International, the states of New Jersey and New York, and New York City for post-Sandy relief.

During October of this year, Hurricane Sandy devastated much of New York, New Jersey and other parts of the Northeastern United States. Many lives were lost from these storms as were houses and many personal belongings. Having my congressional district in New York City, I witnessed a lot of this destruction firsthand.

These two charities mentioned above, among many other relief agencies, have done an excellent job in collecting funds for the victims. They were at the frontlines in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and need our help to rebuild themselves. The contributions from Taiwan will continue to provide these organizations the financial support that they need to continue to be effective.

A ceremony marking the transfer of funds to the charities will be held in Washington, D.C. on December 6, 2012. Taiwan's donation is a most generous act by the people and Taiwanese government. Taiwan gave generously to the victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and was a major donor to the Twin Towers Fund as well as the Pentagon Memorial Fund. Taiwanese friendship for us is everlasting and commendable.

This is another example of the continuing warm relations between the people of Taiwan and the people of America. We are grateful of their compassion in these difficult times.

IN HONOR OF EDYTHE Y. BRADLEY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding and truly one of a kind woman, Ms. Edythe Y. Bradley. Sadly, Ms. Bradley passed away on Saturday, November 24, 2012. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2012 at 2 p.m. at Saint Mary Missionary Baptist Church in Baconton, Georgia.

Ms. Bradley was widely known as the Sports Information Director at Albany State

University. She became the school's first female SID in 1997 and served as the main media contact for Albany State's eleven NCAA Division II sports programs. But anyone who worked with her knew she went above and beyond the typical duties of a Sports Information Director. A one-woman show, she often worked more than eighty hours a week. Despite her busy workload, Ms. Bradley always made time to help someone or to brighten their day with her infectious smile. She was beloved by students, faculty, and the community at large.

A Camilla, Georgia native, Ms. Bradley graduated from Mitchell-Baker High School in 1983. She attended Florida A&M University, where she worked with The Famuan student newspaper and was a member of the Society of Professional Journalists/Sigma Delta Chi and the Public Relations Student Society of America. She received her Bachelor's degree in Journalism/Public Relations in 1988. Prior to joining the ASU staff in 1993, Ms. Bradley worked at her hometown newspaper, the Camilla Enterprise.

Ms. Bradley loved her job and all things Albany State. She was a member of the College Sports Information Directors of America, the Black College Sports Information Directors Association, and the Sports Information Directors Association. She also served as the SID chairman for Albany State's conference. In addition, Ms. Bradley was a member of St. Peter A.M.E. Church in Camilla.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are so blessed that Edythe Bradley passed this way and shared with us her bright smile and beaming personality. She touched the lives of so many and her warm, shining presence will certainly be missed.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Ms. Bradley's daughter, Morgan Chelsea Dunlap, and her family members, friends, and the Albany State University community during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BERNARD LANSKY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Bernard Joseph Lansky, a famed Memphis clothier. He was born in Memphis, Tennessee to Samuel Lansky on March 10, 1927. Bernard Lansky, and his brother, Guy, shared a passion for clothing. As business partners, their expressive clothing can be seen in some of Elvis' most famous suits, including the suit he wore during his first appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show and his sparkling gold-lamé jacket. Mr. Lansky also suited Elvis for his high school prom and for his funeral, saying that "I put him in his first suit, and I put him in his last suit." This gained him the reputation in Memphis as the "Clothier to the King."

Bernard Lansky was one of nine children, who were all raised by their father alone. Mr.

Lansky served the U.S. Army at Fort Knox during the Second World War. In 1946, Bernard Lansky's father gave him and his brother \$125 to buy a consignment shop on Beale Street. The shop went through a few changes, first being a dry goods store and an army surplus store.

Realizing that he was a natural salesman with a talent for retail, Lansky and his brother opened a shop on Beale Street called Lansky Bros., which has since moved into the Memphis Peabody Hotel and expanded into four similarly named shops. In addition to dressing Elvis, Bernard clothed music royalty such as B.B. King, Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis. After admiring a new suit on a customer, Mr. Lansky often smiled at them saying, "Clean as Ajax. That's as clean as Ajax."

Bernard's passion and love for clothing extends to each generation of the Lansky family, as his son, Hal, and granddaughter, Julie, continue the unique designs so true to the original store. On November 15, 2012, Mr. Lansky passed away at 85 years of age. He was preceded in death by his brother and business partner, Guy, who died in 2005. Bernard is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joyce; two sisters, Mildred Krasner and Bernice Banes; two brothers, Frank and Alvin; a son, Hal; a daughter, Anise; and four granddaughters along with two great-grandsons. Mr. Lansky will be remembered as a life-long Memphian and pioneer in the clothing industry.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BALDWIN COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF SCOTT WARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise to pay tribute to Baldwin County, Alabama Deputy Sheriff Scott Jeffrey Ward, who gave his life in the line of duty on November 23, 2012. Deputy Ward was laid to rest on November 27, 2012, in Fairhope, Alabama.

Just as our nation's liberty isn't free, we also cannot take for granted the peace and security of our streets and neighborhoods. In America, sadly, a law enforcement officer is lost every 53 hours protecting our families and communities. Last week, for the first time in 25 years, the Baldwin County Sheriffs Department suffered the loss of one of its own. Deputy Scott Ward, age 47, succumbed to gunshot wounds while in the performance of his duties the day after Thanksgiving.

A native of Biloxi, Mississippi and resident of Silverhill, Alabama, Deputy Ward was a 15-year veteran of the Baldwin County Sheriffs Department, having served as an investigator, field training officer, defensive tactics instructor and a SWAT member.

His service to community was built on a solid foundation of service to country. A veteran of the United States Air Force and more recently the United States Coast Guard Reserve, Deputy Ward was deployed to Afghanistan in 2011. He was a decorated and respected member of the Baldwin County Sheriffs Department.

Sheriff Huey "Hoss" Mack observed that Deputy Ward "put himself in harm's way over

and over again," and he character was one of "wanting to serve and wanting to help the people."

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I offer my condolences to Deputy Ward's wife, Andrea Elizabeth Fisher Ward; his mother, Cheryl Ward; his brother, Howard Ward, and their many family members and friends. You are all in our thoughts and our prayers at this difficult time.

THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCARCERATION OF ALAN P. GROSS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, Sunday marks the third anniversary of the incarceration of Alan P. Gross. Each day that he sits in a Cuban jail is further evidence that the Cuban government has total disregard for his human rights.

Three years ago Alan Gross was imprisoned for sharing communications equipment with Cuba's Jewish community. During and after his trial, the Cuban government ignored concerns that have been repeatedly raised about his health. Since his incarceration began, he has lost 110 pounds. The Cuban government has also refused to allow an independent physician to examine a growth that has developed on his shoulder. A campaign has begun in the United Nations to hold Cuba accountable for willfully disregarding his declining health.

I call on the Cuban government to recognize Alan Gross's human rights and provide him immediate access to an independent physician so that any questions about his health can be answered.

As the three year anniversary of the imprisonment of Alan Gross approaches, my sympathies and prayers are with his friends and family. I join them, my colleagues and the rest of the international community in calling for Alan's immediate release. We will not rest until justice is done and Alan Gross is free.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 30, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,323,083,449,604.98. We've added \$5,696,206,400,691.90 to our debt in nearly 4 years. This is \$5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.