

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP TO ERADICATE OBSTETRIC FISTULA ACT OF 2012

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the United States Leadership to Eradicate Obstetric Fistula Act of 2012, which will help to eradicate a consequence of prolonged labor for pregnant women in low-resource areas.

Obstetric fistula is an avoidable and tragic medical condition which is a result of insufficient medical interventions that often results in the death of the child and devastating physical and social ramifications for the mother. An estimated 2 million women are currently suffering from an obstetric fistula, and women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa are disproportionately affected.

A simple surgical procedure or extended medical care is often needed to treat and cure women suffering from an obstetric fistula. It is therefore critical that the infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa be further developed to better care for and treat women who have already developed an obstetric fistula and women who may develop a fistula in the future. It is also imperative if we are to prevent women and girls from developing a fistula. And it is important that obstetric fistula care and treatment not be overlooked within the general global health and development initiatives already under way.

This bill would authorize the development of a comprehensive strategy to not only prevent fistula, but successfully treat the women that are already suffering from this condition. It encourages the expansion of private-sector and multi-sector efforts in addition to public-private partnerships rather than relying strictly on public-sector efforts. It would also establish the International Obstetric Fistula Institute for Sub-Saharan Africa to implement parts of the comprehensive strategy.

This legislation focuses its efforts on sub-Saharan Africa to ensure a meaningful and successful strategy to eliminate this condition. Local factors that are part of the reason obstetric fistulas may develop vary dramatically in regions where women are afflicted. By focusing on a single region that is already rich in diversity, we believe that the strategy and campaign will be successful and sustainable.

This legislation has the potential to transform the empowerment of women in the region by eradicating fistula and, as a result, improving the social, educational, and economic conditions of fistula victims and their communities. Accordingly, addressing this issue is not only a moral imperative for the United States, but it is also in our best strategic interest. I urge my colleagues to support our efforts, and this legislation.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA HEHMEYER

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Barbara Hehmeyer, and honor her for her 23 years of dedicated service to the Lemay Chamber of Commerce. She has made the Lemay Chamber one of the most vibrant Chambers of Commerce in Missouri's Third Congressional District.

Ms. Hehmeyer began working for the Lemay Chamber of Commerce in 1989 and has accomplished many great things during her tenure. She tirelessly pursued many projects that resulted in redeveloping and improving her community. She led the Lemay Development Corporation as it engaged in workforce and youth development activities, as well as neighborhood beautification efforts. Her advocacy for the Community Reinvestment fund will result in at least \$15 million dollars in direct investment for the Lemay area. Barbara also played an instrumental role in bringing Pinnacle Entertainment's River City Casino to Lemay; a project that resulted in over \$380 million in investment and has created 1,000 jobs for the people of St. Louis.

Barbara has also worked to strengthen not only her community but also the Lemay Chamber of Commerce itself. She has doubled the levels of membership in the Lemay Chamber and has established many innovative member benefits. She developed a modern day newsletter, and started annual events which recognize outstanding educators and provide scholarship for area high school students. Barbara also worked with the Lemay Child and Family center, BJC School, the Hancock Place school district, the Salvation Army, the Carondelet YMCA, and St. Louis Community College in implementing the successful Lemay Charting for Change project.

Barbara's commitment to the Lemay Chamber of Commerce and to the St. Louis region has been outstanding. For over two decades she has strived for and achieved excellence. I thank my constituent and good friend, Barbara Hehmeyer, for her work and dedication to our community, and invite my colleagues to join me today in recognizing her great work.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY COLONEL RICHARD E. CROGAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments U.S. Army COL Richard E. Crogan. His dedication to soldiers as a leader, warrior, and innovator has had a profound and lasting effect on United States Army Aviation. As the Commander for the Aviation Center Logistics Command, ACLC, Colonel Crogan supported an Army at war by providing maintenance, sustainment and logistics support and proficient U.S. and Allied Aviation Officers.

Colonel Crogan was responsible for oversight and quality assurance on the largest

aviation service support contract in the U.S. Army. He was tasked with maintaining 587 rotary wing aircraft, providing over 500 launches every day to support an ever-increasing need for army aviation. Colonel Crogan was personally responsible for providing the aircraft required to professionally train aviators and provide the Army's next generation of great warriors. Aviation maintenance is an expensive proposition and Colonel Crogan's innovative leadership and creative solutions have shown a total cost saving during his command of more than \$750,000,000.

Colonel Crogan's great leadership contributed significantly to the elimination of the flight training backlog on Fort Rucker which reduced the time aviators spent training from 22 months to 12 months. Aviators will now report to their units ten months earlier to begin missions and the Army will see enormous cost savings in a time of fiscal reduction. Colonel Crogan raises the bar for those around him as demonstrated by ACLC winning the Army Chief of Staff Supply Excellence Award in 2011.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring COL Richard E. Crogan's exceptional service, dedication and devotion to duty, leadership, and professional competency. He exemplifies the fine tradition of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Department of the Army, and the United States of America. May he know that his nation is greatly appreciative of his dedication, and wishes him the best in all his future endeavors.

HONORING MR. JOSEPH FALBO

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Joseph Falbo, who was recently named the "2012 Dundalk Citizen of the Year" by the Optimist Club of Dundalk. Mr. Falbo was chosen to receive this prestigious award for his remarkable efforts to improve the quality of life in his community.

Mr. Falbo has volunteered with the Dundalk Heritage Association since 1980, when he answered an ad in the Dundalk Eagle seeking volunteers to help erect a fence for Dundalk's signature event, the Heritage Fair. Working his way through the ranks, Mr. Falbo stepped up to serve as the organization's president in 2007 when its then-president fell ill.

From booking bands to ensuring the event runs on schedule, the fair requires year-round planning. Though unprepared and inexperienced, Mr. Falbo's first fair at the helm went off without a hitch. The event has grown since, with last year's shattering attendance records. He continues to make improvements to each year's fair. In addition to being named the "Citizen of the Year," Mr. Falbo recently received a "Milestone Award" from the Dundalk Renaissance Corp., which honors residents who help revitalize the community. The organization said Mr. Falbo's "leadership and heavy lifting" ensure the annual fairs "grow and evolve with our community."

Despite his many awards and acclamations, Mr. Falbo remains humble and appreciative. When told he was receiving his most recent

award, Mr. Falbo said he couldn't accept it unless his whole organization was also recognized.

Mr. Falbo also spent years coaching tee ball, baseball, and soccer teams for the Dundalk-Eastfield Recreational Council. Furthermore, Mr. Falbo helps with the group's annual Dundalk Christmas Parade.

In addition to his volunteer efforts, Mr. Falbo is a fixture in Dundalk's business community, having owned and operated his auto-repair shop since he took it over from his father in the 1990s. He is a graduate of Dundalk High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Mr. Joseph Falbo. His genuine love for his community and neighbors are an inspiration to us all, and are deserving of the utmost gratitude. It is with great pride that I congratulate Mr. Falbo on his exemplary contributions to the Dundalk community.

**HONORING JAMES V. LOUGHRAN
UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James V. Loughran, a distinguished resident of the town of Amherst, Erie County, New York, upon the occasion of his retirement.

Coming from a large family with a longtime dedication to public service, Jim Loughran served with honor and distinction as a Rifleman with the United States Marine Corps. After multiple combat tours in Vietnam between 1967 and 1969, Jim made the decision to dedicate his professional career to his country with a career in the military.

Jim spent his military career principally in areas of administrative management and recruitment. Time and again Jim was called upon to manage and administer the safe deployment of Marines, often doing so for the largest active and reserve units within the Corps. On multiple occasions, Jim received commendations from his commanders who knew all too well the type of dedication and commitment that Jim showed to his country and to his duties.

Jim maintains a close relationship with former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Peter Pace, under whom Jim served when both were stationed in Buffalo. On three different occasions, Jim was fortunate to serve under Gen. Pace's command, and their relationship speaks volumes about the type of soldier Jim was, and the impact that Jim's leadership had on his commanding officers.

Jim's commitment to his brothers and sisters in the military did not end when soldiers removed their uniforms. Jim took a serious interest in what soldiers and military personnel would have to face after their careers ended, and spent several years in hands-on counseling of veterans transitioning from military to civilian life.

In the mid-1990s, Jim faced that same transition himself. Our region was fortunate to attract Jim to come back home. And his community was all the better for that decision.

After several years of service to one of our region's most highly regarded members of the

Erie County Legislature, Jim put his management skills to work as the Administrator for the Town of Amherst Justice Court. The largest such court in New York State, Jim served several town justices in Amherst by administering the operations of the court with flawless quality and impeccable honesty and integrity. Amherst Town Justice Mark Farrell has said that, "Jim transformed Amherst Town Court into the most efficient justice court in New York State, leading in the management of the largest caseload and managing the largest such staff in the state. No one gets a job done better than Jimmy Loughran."

Jim was an innovator. Working closely with Judge Farrell, Jim was on the ground floor in the formation of specialized courts, including service to veterans and to those in need of treatment for problem gambling. Jim also worked with town justices to form the Amherst Drug Court and Therapeutic Foundation, where today he serves as President. Jim is involved with dozens of professional and civic associations and has a particular interest with fundraising efforts for the many charities, including the Leukemia Society, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Jim was faced with a health challenge not long ago, and his many friends and family members are delighted to see that he is working through it. On Thursday, May 17, what is sure to be a capacity crowd will fill the Sonoma Grille in the heart of Jim's beloved hometown of Amherst to fete Jim upon the occasion of his retirement.

A long time ago, during his Marine service, Jim earned the nickname "Jimmy Good Guy," and that is as appropriate an appellation as has ever been assigned to a person. Jim earned that nickname simply because of his willingness to help someone—anyone—who was in need. No one who has had the good fortune to encounter Jim Loughran has left that engagement without knowing that Jim would do anything he could to help them.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I am asking that all members of the House join with me, and with Jim's own friends and family, to wish Jim Loughran—the one and only "Jimmy Good Guy"—the very best of good luck and good health in the months and years to come.

**HONORING THE 95TH BIRTHDAY OF
MR. GEORGE GAYNES**

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. George Gaynes on the occasion of his 95th birthday. Mr. Gaynes is a distinguished member of the Santa Barbara community. He is a man who has devoted his life to the arts, a man who has delighted us all with his wonderful talents both on-stage and on-screen.

George Gaynes was born in 1917 in Helsinki, Finland. In Europe, he served in the Dutch and British Navies during World War II. Mr. Gaynes served as a translator on battlefields since he spoke, and still speaks, six languages fluently. Mr. Gaynes, blessed with a wonderful singing voice, started his career in opera companies in Switzerland and London,

and later in the New York City Opera Company singing basso.

After moving to the United States, Mr. Gaynes became an accomplished Broadway actor, best known for his on-stage role in *Wonderful Town*. He also had notable roles in the Cole Porter musical *Out of This World* and in the U.S. on-stage tour of *My Fair Lady*. Mr. Gaynes has also enjoyed a distinguished career on-screen. He is perhaps best known for his role in the Police Academy series as Commandant Eric Lassard, as Henry Warnimont on the NBC television series *Punky Brewster*, and as Arthur Feldman on *The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd*. Gaynes is also remembered for his role as Frank Smith on the popular soap opera *General Hospital*, and has appeared in movies such as *The Way We Were*, *Tootsie*, and *The Crucible*.

Gaynes met the love of his life, fellow dancer and actress Allyn Ann McLerie in 1952 in New York where they were both performing on Broadway. The couple has been married for 58 years and has two wonderful children, Iya and Matthew. They have one grandchild, Nicole Falcone Stryjak and are expecting their first great-grandchild, Portia, in June 2012.

George and Allyn Ann moved to Santa Barbara in 1989 and the couple immediately became involved in the issues important to our community and could always be counted upon to support those causes they believed in deeply. In fact, George has continuously contributed various "Letters to the Editor" on both local and national issues in several local newspapers. The couple were also founding members of the State Street Ballet Company in Santa Barbara.

George Gaynes is a man who has devoted his life to the arts and his community. Today I am pleased to recognize him as we celebrate his life as a distinguished actor and entertainer, a man dedicated to making the Central Coast and this Nation a richer, more vibrant place.

**IN RECOGNITION OF KATM KAT
COUNTRY 103**

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize KATM Kat Country 103, a country music radio station located in the 18th Congressional District of California. The station recently won two national awards in the country music industry. It was honored as the 2011 Station of the Year at the Country Music Association Awards as well as at the 2012 Academy of Country Music Awards. Both accolades are highly prestigious and speak volumes of Kat Country's performance.

Debuting on the air on April 4, 1992, Kat Country 103 has been providing country music to the Valley for over fifteen years. Kat Country 103 serves listeners from Sacramento to Merced and from the Foothills to the Bay Area. Under the slogan "Continuous Country Favorites and Fun," it provides listeners with radio music, host concerts and events for fans, and participates in many charitable events as well. Kat Country is owned by Cumulus Media and is under the direction of Nikki Thomas, Program Manager.