

While all veterans who are subject to the concurrent receipt offset are unfairly penalized, the Military Retiree Fairness Act would rectify the injustice which falls most heavily on our older veterans. Retirees who qualify for Social Security disability benefits have those benefits offset by monies received under State worker's compensation laws. However, the Social Security statute provides that this offset, which is similar to the military retirement offset, ends when the worker attains 65 years of age. Furthermore, while recipients of Social Security benefits who earn income have their Social Security benefits reduced as a result of their earnings, this offset is reduced at age 65 and eliminated entirely at age 70. The Military Retiree Fairness Act would promote fairness between military retirees and Social Security retirees by reducing the amount of the concurrent receipt offset by 50 percent at age 65 and eliminating it entirely at age 70.

Those military retirees who have given so much of their lives to the service of our country and suffered disease or disability as a direct result of their military service do not deserve to be impoverished in their older years by the current receipt offset penalty. I urge my colleagues to join this bipartisan effort to promote fairness for America's military retirees.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR T.L. BARRETT, JR., PASTOR OF THE LIFE CENTER CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 1998

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pastor T.L. Barrett, Jr. on the occasion of his celebration of his Thirtieth year in the Pastoral ministry. Pastor Barrett serves proudly and with distinction as the Pastor of the Life Center Church of God in Christ in Chicago.

Pastor Barrett has served in the Gospel Ministry for thirty-five years, accepting the call of the Lord at the age of nineteen. Pastor Barrett is the recipient of two honorary doctoral degrees. He holds the Doctorate of Divinity and Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Monrovia in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa. Under the leadership of Bishop Ocie Booker, Prelate—First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Illinois, Churches of God in Christ, Pastor Barrett serves as Superintendent of the E. Burns Memorial District.

In 1968, the Lord directed Pastor Barrett to organize the Mr. Zion Baptist Church. Pastor Barrett moved the church to its present location in 1983, where being led by Christ, the name was changed to Life Center. With the power of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Barrett has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the foundation of the Christian mission, leading souls to repentance.

Building a ministry that focuses on the total man, Pastor Barrett is an outstanding motivational speaker and teacher. He is the author of many publications on the science of better living and positive thinking. He has organized numerous programs in the Robert Taylor Homes public housing complex, including the Big Brother and Sister program and the Life Enrichment program. Pastor Barrett is the

proud father of 13 children and 12 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage Pastor T.L. Barrett, Jr., Pastor of the Life Center Church of God in Christ to continue to be steadfast and unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. I am truly honored to pay tribute to this outstanding Servant of God and am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, March 8, women around the world observed International Women's Day and paid tribute to the women around the world who are being denied basic human rights. Today, members of Women's Caucus, with the leadership of our co-chairs, are joining with them on the floor of the House in their struggle for justice and equal treatment.

In spite of our advances as we approach the 21st century, women around the world continue to be under attack. With increasing frequency, women are being used as tools of war, dehumanized not only for their gender, but also for their ethnicity and religious and cultural practices. In Algeria, women have been targeted for rape, they are raped and maimed and either casually killed, or kidnapped and forced into sexual servitude. The women of Afghanistan cannot work or go to school; they are not allowed out of their homes unescorted and must be covered from head to toe. In 1994 thousands of rapes, gang rapes, and rapes with objects such as sharpened sticks and gun barrels were carried out against Rwandan women by Hutu soldiers and members of the militia. Many Tutsi women were sexually mutilated or forced into sexual slavery, often after witnessing the torture and killing of their relatives and the destruction of their homes. Estimates from rape-related pregnancies range from 2,000–5,000. To date, the perpetrators of these acts of sexual violence have not been brought to justice for the crimes.

In too many countries, women either lack legal protection or the judicial system does not prosecute violations of those laws protecting their basic dignity. Female genital mutilation, one of the most horrific crimes inflicted upon women, has been performed on 85–114 million girls worldwide. In Sudan 82% of women have had the most extreme form of female genital mutilation performed. It is estimated that untrained birth attendants perform 2/3 of the procedures. They typically have limited knowledge of hygiene and often use inadequately cleaned traditional instruments. Side effects include trauma, bleeding and hemorrhaging; pain, stress and shock; infections (which can be fatal); painful and difficult sexual relations; obstructed labor and difficult childbirth; and psychological trauma. This procedure is contrary to basic human rights and any rational health care and must be stopped.

Women also continue to be subjected to the dehumanization of the sex industry. Each year

in China, tens of thousands of mostly rural Chinese women are abducted or lured away from their homes by criminal networks promising work or travel. The women are then raped and beaten before being subjected to forced marriages to strangers or prostitution in Asia's sex industry centers, especially in Thailand or Taiwan. Approximately 10% of the female population of Thailand is in prostitution, although not enough to meet demand. Thai officials estimate that there are 20,000 women and girls trafficked from Burma to Thai brothels with 10,000 more imported each year, 10,000 women and girls from the Soviet Union and 5,000 from China.

Mr. Speaker, these are but a few of the issues concerning women's rights and dignity that we in Congress must be addressing. We have done much, but we must do more. The most positive step which we could take is to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women. This treaty, ratified by 161 countries, has been languishing before the Senate for 17 years. CEDAW will give the force of international law to our efforts on behalf of women's rights, and also give us the credibility to be taken seriously on this issue when we advocate with foreign governments on behalf of human rights.

LATINA HISTORY DAY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 1998

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on March 13, 1998, Hispanas Organized for Political Equity (HOPE) Education and Leadership Fund's Seventh Annual Symposium, entitled A Proud Past . . . A Powerful Tomorrow will take place in California's 33rd Congressional District. In honor of this important event, I am proclaiming March 13, 1998, as LATINA HISTORY DAY.

The Symposium serves to address a variety of issues important to Latinas of all ages. I am pleased that Latinas benefit from the workshops on science and technology, and corporate management. This year's Symposium also introduces TEEN TRACK, which will focus on providing young Latinas with information on higher education and the importance of leadership.

Since its founding in 1989, the HOPE Education and Leadership Fund has remained dedicated to furthering the educational, political and economic status of Latinas. HOPE has anchored itself to the principle that knowledge of the political process coupled with active participation will guarantee a more representative, democratic government.

The proclamation of Latinas History Day during "Women's History Month" memorializes the important role Latinas play in American society. It recognizes the work and sacrifices of prior generations, celebrates contemporary Latinas, and lays the foundation for future generations.

I commend the HOPE Education and Leadership Fund for their commitment to Latinas, and in their honor, proclaim March 13, 1998, as Latina History Day.