

viability. The Reserve was created to meet urgent humanitarian food needs in developing countries. Commodities in the Reserve—such as wheat, corn, sorghum, and rice—can be released when domestic supplies are tight, or to meet unanticipated emergency needs in developing countries.

The problem with the Reserve today is the manner in which it is replenished. When commodities are released, the Commodity Credit Corporation, which administers the Reserve, is reimbursed for the value of the commodities from PL-480 food assistance program funds. These funds cannot be used to replenish the Reserve.

The Reserve can only be replenished either with an appropriation, or by designating Commodity Credit stocks for the Reserve. Neither of these is a viable option—Congress has never made an appropriation to replenish the Reserve, and the Commodity Credit Corporation does not hold excess stock.

This bill would convert the Reserve into the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust, which could hold as a commodity either food, or an equivalent amount in funds. It creates two alternative mechanisms for replenishing the Reserve, in addition to the current option of replenishing by appropriation.

First, the bill gives the Secretary of Agriculture authority to hold PL-480 funds—used to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation—as an asset of the Trust. This would allow the Reserve to buy commodities when domestic market prices are favorable.

Second, the Trust could be replenished from unexpended balances at the end of the fiscal year—from both the PL-480 account and the Commodity Credit account. Commodity Credit balances that are already obligated would not be available nor would balances be drawn down from export promotion programs.

Allowing the Reserve to be replenished from these additional sources permits the Reserve to operate more efficiently and increases our ability to respond to humanitarian crises.

WHO SUPPORTS IT

This bill is the result of bipartisan cooperation. Humanitarian groups—such as Bread for the World and the Coalition for Food Aid—must be commended for their serious commitment and valuable suggestions to this bill. We have also consulted with the Administration on the bill. These efforts have been undertaken to ensure that this bill reaches its goal of advancing agricultural and rural development and reducing famine.

I look forward to continuing to work on this bill with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I intend to work with the Administration to try to accommodate their concerns as we move forward.

CONCLUSION

Without increasing U.S. spending, this bill will maximize our current efforts to protect and develop the vital human and physical resources that are necessary to drive economic prosperity in Africa. By making U.S. programs more effective and sustainable, it will ensure that the United States continues to be constructively engaged with the people of Africa.

H.R. 3636 will bring Congress and the Administration closer to our shared goal of creating a U.S. policy toward Africa that is no longer dominated by crises, but that is driven by a long-term commitment to development and economic partnership.

PREVENTING CONVEYANCE OF VETERANS MEMORIALS TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce a bill that would preserve the sacred monuments to our fallen soldiers. This legislation would prevent the conveyance of any veterans memorial, or any part of any memorial, to a foreign government without the express consent of Congress. This has become an issue in recent months with the Bells of Balangiga, part of a veterans memorial at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in my home State of Wyoming. I strongly believe we should protect this and every other monument to the sacrifice made by our Armed Forces.

Since the founding of our Republic over 200 years ago, our brave soldiers and sailors have been called upon to defend our liberties and preserve the vital national security interests of the United States. Many have given their lives in the line of duty.

Many monuments dedicated to our veterans commemorate events that occurred abroad. As time passes, the memory of those who fought so gallantly in the service of our nation often fades. I believe it is absolutely essential to preserve the memory of our veterans who served their country when they were called.

In an attempt to satisfy a request from the Philippine Government, there is a movement afoot to return the bells from the monument at F.E. Warren AFB. The Philippine Government would like the bells in time for its centennial celebration of independence from Spain. However, the bells are completely unrelated to the Spanish-American War.

The bells, once used to call the faithful to worship were converted to instruments of war in 1901 when they were used to call insurgents to massacre unsuspecting American soldiers stationed in Balangiga, a village in the Philippines. Fifty-four Americans died in that attack. The twenty survivors of that brutal attack brought the bells back to Fort D.A. Russell, now F.E. Warren Air Force Base, as a memorial to their fallen comrades.

When I harbor no malice towards the people of the Philippines, I believe the United States has an obligation to protect the memory of those who fought and died for their country. The Bells of Balangiga should not be simply dealt away in the conduct of foreign policy. This war memorial represents the blood and sweat invested by America to bring about an independent Philippines. I hope my colleagues will join me in prohibiting the conveyance of the Bells of Balangiga or any other veterans monument to a foreign government.

THE OLDER WOMEN'S PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Hargraves had nine children, 23 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. Helen

Hargrave was 71, her husband, 83. Last Memorial Day, Charles Hargrave became violently angry. He pushed her to the ground, then shot and killed her before turning the gun on himself. Unfortunately, Helen Hargrave is not alone.

Older people are victimized by different types of abuse, including psychological, financial, physical abuse and neglect. And there is a significant population of older people who are abused by adult children or care givers. The number of reports of elder abuse in the United States increased by 150% between 1986 and 1996. Further, of the more than one million people aged 65 and over who are victims of abuse each year, at least two-thirds are women. And older women report more serious injuries than male victims of elder abuse.

These figures can no longer be ignored, these women can no longer be overlooked. The time has come to effectively and comprehensively address the issue of violence against older people. We must provide professionals with the skills needed to identify the problem, support for those who are too frightened or demoralized to ask for help, and protection for those who are vulnerable.

In an effort to confront this complex issue, Congressman MIKE CASTLE and I have introduced the "Older Women's Protection from Violence Act of 1998." This legislation will help protect older people from elder abuse, including domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as institutional and community violence. This legislation will also encourage existing outreach efforts and other services to better assist older people victimized by such crimes.

Older women often experience such violence differently than their younger counterparts. For example, it is more difficult for an older woman to do something about an abusive relationship. She has fewer options than a younger woman, and usually is more dependent on her husband's medical coverage as well as his income. And like many women her age, she is unlikely to have a career or pension of her own on which to rely. Older women have reported being pushed, hit, and even shoved down flights of stairs, suffering fractures, dislocated joints, and deep muscle bruises that take weeks to heal. Further, domestic violence can be exacerbated by age-related conditions or circumstances, including retirement, failing health, financial pressures, and changing patterns of dependency in relationships.

Several potential scenarios of older abused women exist. Some women have been in violent relationships for 30, 40, even 50 years. Others are starting new relationships following a divorce or the death of spouse, while some older battered women have been in non-violent relationships for many years with abuse starting later in life.

Experts have found that service providers in the field of domestic violence often lack critical experience and skills in working with elderly clients. Most shelters for abused women are not equipped to deal with older women who may have physical limitations or health problems. Similarly, service providers in the field of elder abuse have also had difficulties in working with older battered women because their approaches often do not address the root causes of such violence.

Some of the key issues addressed in the "Older Women's Protection from Violence Act" include: domestic violence services and outreach programs to address the specific needs