IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DOCTOR DENNIS ALAN VIDMAR ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATES
Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to my friend and colleague, Representative BARBARA LEE, as someone who makes a difference because she thinks globally and acts locally. Her compassion for those who are less fortunate is matched by her legislative skill. We are most fortunate to have her as part of the Bay Area delegation.

[From the Oakland Tribune]

REP. LEE: POLITICIAN WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE
(By Paul Cobb)

Congresswoman Barbara Lee is one woman who does make a difference because she acts and thinks globally and locally simultaneously. During her young career in the United States Congress as a member of the powerful Banking and International Relations committee, she has often stood alone with her votes of conscience. In Havana, Cuba, Colombia and Banking legislation.

CONNECT THE DOTS

She has often disagreed with President Clinton, her own party and members of the Republican Party. Yet, she has won their respect by making them realize they need her because she knows how to meld pressing social and moral issues with practical, vital, economic and security interests.

Lee garnered the support of Republican committee chair James Leach and thanked Congressman Dellums, now serving as chair of the President’s Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) and a leader of the Constituency of Africa, for being “my mentor and inspiration.”

SECURITY INTERESTS

Lee utilized her membership on the Domestic and International Monetary Policy Subcommittee to talk with the President, Secretary of Treasury, United Nations officials, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other financial institutions to develop a plan to commit $1 billion to $2 billion in seed money. The funds would then be leveraged 9:1 from funds donated by other G-7 nations and the private sector.

Even though she doesn’t sound her own trumpet or spend excessive time raising funds for her own campaign coffers, she’s not about to allow the vital concerns of her constituents to be drowned out by the noisy symbolism of political rhetoric. Last week the Leach/Lee World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act (H.R. 3519) passed the House by a unanimous voice vote. Lee has surprised and floor her fellow congresspersons with her passage of H.R. 3519 because she put together a bi-partisan effort around an explosive and contentious issue. And, what is more, she assembled legislative leaders on both sides of the aisle by expanding the understanding of the global AIDS crisis. By skillfully demonstrating that the AIDS scourge threatens our national security and financial institutions, she connected needs to resources.

Lee expressed her support of Republican committee chair James Leach and thanked the Congresswoman Barbara Lee, now serving as chair of the President’s Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) and a leader of the Constituency of Africa, for being “my mentor and inspiration.”