

History Day. This program encourages students to draw attention to important historical events that shaped their own hometowns as well as our Nation, and in the process it improves their writing, reading, and critical thinking skills. It gets students excited about learning, while teaching them skills that will help them throughout their lives.

For its efforts to promote the National History Day program, I would like to commend the Vermont Historical Society. National History Day has had a significant impact in history and social studies classrooms in Vermont and across the country. But there is still much to be done. Many teachers are unable to take advantage of the National History Day program because of a lack of funding.

I urge my colleagues to support funding for the National History Day program in the Fiscal Year 2000 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO PETER B. LEWIS
AND DANIEL R. LEWIS

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, there is a growing concern in the global community that the United States may be drifting into increasing isolationism and that the American people are largely disinterested in what happens outside the borders of their own country. I am very proud to highlight two individuals, brothers named Peter B. Lewis and Daniel R. Lewis, who are shining examples of individual American's interest and concern for people in need in other countries and their willingness to stand up and make a difference.

Peter B. Lewis, a resident of Cleveland and one of my constituents, and his brother Daniel R. Lewis have dedicated a great deal of their own time and resources to promoting peace in the Middle East. They have worked hard to lay the groundwork for peaceful coexistence among the national, religious and ethnic groups in the Greater Cleveland Area.

The Lewis brothers have worked in conjunction with Interns for Peace to develop and implement innovative community development projects that bring together Israelis and Palestinians to work on issues of common concern.

To date, the largest project initiated by the Lewis brothers is the Rabbi Albert Manilla Lewis Saving Human Life Project, which has empowered and united thousands of Palestinians and Israelis in public safety issues. The program has identified road safety as an area of common concern among all sectors of society in Israel and Palestinian areas. Using this common ground, the Rabbi Lewis Program has brought together individuals from different communities to work toward the common goal of reducing traffic injuries and fatalities. Perhaps most impressive, this program works across the complete spectrum of society in the region with a heavy emphasis on individuals from Palestinian refugee camps and in Orthodox Jewish communities in Israel.

The Lewis brothers' choice of mechanisms for engendering cooperation and understanding is no accident. They know a thing or two about automobile safety. The Lewises

founded one of the largest insurance companies in the United States, Progressive Insurance, which is based in northern Ohio and provides automobile insurance to millions of Americans.

The work of Peter Lewis and Daniel Lewis is making a difference in the Middle East at a critical time. The program they have created works to promote peaceful co-existence and mutual respect, despite the cultural and historical differences of the communities involved. This is a parallel and complimentary track to the formal peace negotiations underway and important groundwork for any peace agreement that may be reached.

I commend Peter Lewis and Daniel Lewis for their insight, compassion, and creativity in seeking to make the world a better and safer place for people today and for future generations. It is through people like the Lewises—ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things—that our country has prospered and become a global leader and a beacon of hope for people across the globe.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to others, and good luck in your future efforts to promote peace and understanding in the Middle East.

AN APPRECIATION AND TRIBUTE
TO CURTIS MAYFIELD

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to salute and pay tribute to Curtis Mayfield, a great American songwriter, singer, guitarist, producer, and film composer. He was indeed a poet who wrote lyrics of hope and profound optimism. He was a philosopher and balladeer of the people seeking social action and commitment to the civil rights struggle of the 1960's.

Curtis Mayfield stood on the mountaintop of American music. As a native of Chicago, he was the architect and builder of what has become known as "Chicago Soul." His roots were purely American—originating in the gospel music of his boyhood church. But the heart and soul of his music reached around the world. At the age of 57, after years of fragile health from a near tragic accident, he died on December 26, 1999, during the waning days of the 20th century. Yet, he gave us four decades of song beginning with the formation of The Impressions in the late 1950's, writing soul hits in the 1960's, composing a provocative and memorable soundtrack for the film "Superfly" in the 1970's and recording the Grammy-nominated album "New World Order" in the 1990's.

During the 1960's, his music tapped into the consciousness of a generation. With songs like "It's All Right," "People Get Ready," and "Keep on Pushin'," his call to social action was undeniably clear: he urged us to care about a nation whose great promise was so dear yet woefully denied to people of color and the poor. Wherever people were, wherever they lived, whatever they did, Curtis Mayfield made people think. You could not listen to his songs without being stirred to tears of hope. It was like he knew the soul of Amer-

ica because his music changed us in some way. He lifted our spirits and opened our minds with a sharp-edged social commentary on America in the 1960's.

Whether you listened to his powerful songs in a beauty shop in Harlem or on a sunny afternoon at a midwestern university, without his music, the civil rights movement would have been like a bird without song. Simply, Curtis Mayfield wrote the soundtrack to the civil rights movement. With his songs, he demanded and we accepted his challenge to not rest until we build a new America based on peace and justice.

We are lucky. We are more than lucky to have been touched by the creative genius of Curtis Mayfield. He has fed our hearts and minds with spiritual food. He has moved the feet of a nation toward a better society. He has never left us in spirit because his music still inspires us to remember his optimism, his hope, his sense of righteous indignation, and his abiding faith in a better America.

Another great songwriter and musician, Stevie Wonder, once said of Curtis Mayfield:

For as long as there is romance in love, the joy of pride, the power of words, the teaching of right, and songs with haunting melodies there will always be a need for the music of Mayfield.

As we honor this great American, the legacy of his music is still alive. A new generation of musicians are writing and performing new songs, but they stand on the shoulders of Curtis Mayfield, who created a powerful vision of America through word and song.

Like the men and women before him, who shed blood and tears for a better America, Curtis Mayfield was, above all else, a founder of the New America. His music was inspiring, profoundly creative and courageous. And as a civil rights activist, his contribution to the cause in music will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE ROLANDO
PAULINO ALL-STARS

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute and to congratulate the Rolando Paulino All-Stars team for a very successful year. This group of young South Bronx little leaguers finished their season one game shy of making it to the Little League World Series on August 17, 2000.

They have demonstrated that they have the ability and the desire to be assets and role models in our community. We are proud of their accomplishments and I hope they will continue to be successful both on and off the diamond. They are terrific examples for young men throughout our communities.

Mr. Speaker, about 150 family members and friends of the Bronx players, almost all of them wearing the team's cardinal red colors and some of them with their faces painted red, sat behind the team's dugout that night to cheer on these Little Bombers.

This year, in repeating as the New York State champion, the Bronx team won 10 consecutive games to qualify for the Eastern regional. It defeated four teams from its district in New York City, three teams in the sectional

tournament, including South Shore, and three more teams in the State tournament, including Colonie in the final.

Mr. Speaker, what made the overall performance of the Bronx team even more remarkable was that it has no home field; players used diamonds in both the south and east Bronx, especially at Claremont and Crotona Parks, and a field at the intersection of LaFontaine Avenue and 181st Street.

Again, I congratulate and I wish them the best of luck in their future enterprises. They are our Champions!

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to and congratulating the Rolando Paulino All-Stars Team.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and recommend that all members read and consider it when looking at the issue of Violence Against Women. I hope members find it helpful when considering reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 8, 2000]
BATTERED GIRLFRIENDS NEED PROTECTION,
Too

(By Judy Mann)

Barbara Dehl, a 44-year-old mother of four girls, lives a lot of her life in hindsight. Every day, she wonders why she didn't get "Cassie's Law" passed before her 17-year-old daughter, Cassandra, ended up dead—the victim, her mother has testified, of an abusive relationship with a boyfriend.

After Cassie's parents divorced and her mother moved near Boise, Idaho, Cassie chose to remain with her father, Curtis Dehl, in Soda Springs and finish school there. When she was 14, she met Justin Neuendorf, a former altar boy at her church, who was three years older than she was. For the next year, she went out with him off and on.

Her parents didn't realize that their daughter was undergoing verbal and mental abuse. In testimony before a state legislative committee, Barbara said she found out later, from Cassie, that Neuendorf would tell her such things as she wasn't pretty enough for

anybody else to love. "Once a wedge had been inserted between Cassie and her family and friends, the physical abuse began," Barbara testified.

In the spring of 1998, Barbara testified, he choked Cassie hard enough to make her bleed from her nose and ears and ruin a white coat. Cassie had been staying with a girlfriend while her father was out of town. About six weeks after the incident, the girlfriend told Cassie's father about it, and he confronted his daughter. Cassie denied it. He intercepted a letter in which Neuendorf said he was "sorry for almost killing you" and explained that he had been on drugs. Curtis intercepted another letter in which the boyfriend mentioned slitting Cassie's throat.

"We gave these letters to the local police, the prosecutor, the probation officer and to his parents," Barbara says in an interview. "Nobody believed a teenage girl living in her parents' home could be abused by her boyfriend. They just said, 'Why doesn't she walk away?' Nobody believed abuse could happen to a young girl who wasn't married to the abuser. . . . He had her so manipulated that in her mind she thought she was in love with this guy, and she was as helpless to leave him as a victim of battered-wife syndrome.

"When she was 16, she said, 'If I was only better, he wouldn't have to hit me.' When I would confront her, she would tell me it was her fault."

It's a 350-mile trip, each way, between Boise and Soda Springs, and Barbara says she drove it weekly, trying to get help for Cassie. "We put Cassie into domestic-abuse counseling twice, but they didn't have training in dealing with young girls and dating violence," Barbara says. "We never allowed him to see Cassie. He'd take her out of school, out of work, out of state.

"Idaho did not have a domestic-violence order to cover girls her age. I filed for one, anyway. We went before the judge, and he said we had all the evidence in the world, but there were no domestic-violence laws to protect Cassie."

On the night of Dec. 3, 1999, Neuendorf picked Cassie up from a girlfriend's house and did not allow her to get her coat, according to Barbara Dehl. It was below zero. "After midnight," Barbara says, "the truck crashed down an embankment. He was not in the truck. She was. We don't know how he got out. He was slightly injured, with a broken wrist.

"The accident was not reported for more than 15 hours," she says. "The fact that she was in the accident and left at the scene was not reported for 18 hours. When the sheriff's

deputy arrived on the scene, she was dead and her body frozen solid. That's how they found my baby."

Neuendorf has been charged with vehicular manslaughter.

"Her sisters and father and I decided we had to make sure no parent ever had to walk in our shoes," Barbara says.

The Idaho legislature started in January. Barbara wrote what became known as "Cassie's Law," which allows judges to issue a domestic-violence protection order for people in an abusive dating relationship. It allows parents to secure this restraint even without a child's help. Barbara quit work, cashed in her retirement and used her savings to lobby the legislature. The bill passed, was signed into law by the governor on April 3 and went into effect July 1.

Barbara Dehl is now helping the National Task force to end Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women lobby for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. The act, passed in 1994, expires in October, and unless Congress reauthorizes it during what remains of this session, the agencies that help victims of domestic violence will be greatly weakened.

Over the past six years, \$1.6 billion has gone to states and communities to train law enforcement officials and counselors on how to deal with domestic violence. "A lot of it is going to police and prosecutors and shelters and community education," says Pat Reuss, chair of the coalition. "It's been a very good bill."

In 1993, women experienced an estimated 1.1 million violent offenses at the hands of an intimate partner, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. By 1998, the estimate had declined 21 percent, to 876,340 offenses, even though women have become more likely to report crimes of domestic violence. And the number of women killed by an intimate partner declined 23 percent between 1993 and 1997.

The Violence Against Women Act is every bit as important as some other political hot topics, such as prescription drug coverage and hate crimes. It is saving lives. The House version covers women in dating relationships; the Senate version does not.

What happened to Cassie Dehl should persuade the Senate to go along with the more inclusive House provisions. If anything, teenage girls are more susceptible to abusive relationships than mature women.

The bills have strong bipartisan support, and they should be passed promptly. They are too important to be caught up in the last-minute rush of election year politics.