

WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, World AIDS Day on December 1 provides an opportunity to refocus our attention on the HIV/AIDS crisis that has not gone away and will not go away until a concerted effort is made to address the pandemic and develop workable solutions.

In the wake of the tragic events of September 11, attention has been focused elsewhere in the world. While we must do everything we can to combat terrorism, we cannot ignore other crises. Forty million people worldwide are still living with HIV/AIDS; 28 million are in sub-Saharan Africa. There are still 12 million orphans in sub-Saharan Africa, and there are still 15,000 new HIV infections each day.

The statistics regarding HIV/AIDS are staggering, but we must not let these numbers deter our resolve to work together to bring this epidemic under control. The United States cannot ignore the fact that HIV/AIDS poses a serious risk to international stability and creates fertile breeding ground for social unrest. Our survival dictates that we cannot afford to lose this battle.

ACCESS AND OPENNESS TO SMALL BUSINESS LENDING ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Representative MCGOVERN in supporting the Access and Openness to Small Business Lending Act. This legislation would permit the collection of demographic information on small business loans.

Specifically, it would amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require lending institutions to ask the gender and race of small business loan applicants. The applicant's response would be voluntary. I support the Access and Openness to Small Business Lending Act, since it would provide a powerful vehicle to monitor the lending market for discriminatory practices.

Today, there are more than 9 million women-owned businesses, up from 400,000 in 1972. Unfortunately, the main impediment to women entrepreneurs achieving success is obtaining the necessary financing to get their businesses off the ground.

According to Business and Professional Women/TJSA, companies owned by women account for 38 percent of businesses in the United States and are also the fastest growing segment of the business sector. However, women-owned businesses receive less than four percent of the \$36 billion in venture capital invested each year.

A survey by the National Foundation of Women Business Owners and Wells Fargo & Co. indicates that most female entrepreneurs rely on loans and their personal savings to finance their firm's growth. One reason women are not securing funding from venture capital

firms, like many others, is that women traditionally start retail stores. The retail industry is the one business sector in which venture capitalists rarely invest.

To ensure a transparent loan process and confirm that banks are being even-handed when making loan decisions for women and minorities, we need a bill like the Access and Openness to Small Business Lending Act. I urge my colleagues to also support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF BRENDAN BYRNE

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant—an exemplary leader and a friend to the people of my State of New Jersey. Governor Brendan T. Byrne will be honored later today at the "Evening with the Governors" 2001 Good Scout Awards of the Northern New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

This is a most special occasion for me since Governor Byrne and I both call West Orange home. But we share more than a common hometown. We share a love of New Jersey and a devotion to its people. Governor Byrne has turned this dedication to New Jersey into a career of tremendous public service. On Thursday, we will honor the Governor for his work.

His outstanding career first began with service to our great country in the United States Army Air Corps as the youngest squadron navigator in his bomb group. After returning to civilian life, Governor Byrne combined law and public service as Deputy Attorney General and Special Prosecutor in Passaic County. Later, he was appointed as Assistant Counsel to Governor Robert B. Meyner and subsequently named the Governor's Executive Secretary.

At the age of 34, Byrne was appointed by Governor Meyner as Essex County Prosecutor, becoming the youngest prosecutor in New Jersey's largest county. He was reappointed to a second term by Governor Richard J. Hughes. After serving as President of the New Jersey State Board of Utility Commissioners as well as serving on the Superior Court, Governor Byrne quickly rose to Assignment Judge for Morris, Warren and Sussex County.

With nearly 20 years of work for the state of New Jersey, Byrne took his service to the next level and was elected Governor of New Jersey in 1973 by the largest plurality in New Jersey history. To their discredit, his critics "One-term Byrne" was reelected to a second term in 1977.

Mr. Speaker, Governor Byrne worked hard to do what was best for our great state. His pride in his state and understanding of its residents were visible in all that he did. He has always understood that principle of public service—that what matters most is helping real people solve the real problems of real life.

Clearly, this is evidenced in Governor Byrne's career in New Jersey and his heartfelt commitment to its residents. I commend Governor Byrne for his service, which is sometimes difficult, but as we can all attest, always rewarding.

While some may disagree with Governor Byrne on his policies, no one can disagree that he has truly served the people of New Jersey.

I am honored to call this good man a friend.

RECOGNIZING THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, sixty-eight years ago a horrific crime was inflicted, killing an estimated 3–5 million people and yet this genocide is seldom heard of. I am referring to the Great Famine of 1932–1933 in Ukraine conducted by Stalin's Soviet Union. We should not, we can not allow the elimination of a people go unnoticed or become forgotten. While some events in history are documented and memorialized to ensure that future generations will never have to be victim to them again, we have a duty to learn of and reveal those that have not yet been exposed.

The Ukrainian Government has designated the last Saturday in the month of November as Ukrainian Famine Remembrance Day. Today I join those in mourning and assist their cause in expanding the world's acknowledgment of what had happened.

The 1930's marked a time of "Collectivization" for the new Soviet Empire. Any symbolism or feelings of Ukrainian national consciousness or identity was hoped to be erased but to do so required an ethnic cleansing of the most brutal nature. The task took the form of a man-made famine whereas the quota for grain procurement from Ukraine was increased by 44 percent. The extraordinarily high quota resulted in a severe grain shortage, effectively starving the Ukrainian people.

After collection, grain elevators were guarded by military troops and secret police denying access to even those who had harvested the grain in the immediate area. Those hiding grain were killed and an internal passport system was implemented to restrict people from moving to where there was food. The result was a demoralized and depleted Ukrainian ethnic population. Stalin covered up this genocide so effectively that little is known to outsiders even today. Perhaps that will end now.

Today, there is a Ukrainian state, proud but mindful of its past. They will forever suffer the memory of being intentionally starved to death to end their struggle for freedom. Let us, a nation that symbolizes the very definition of freedom, learn of and remember the struggle the Ukrainians endured to obtain it. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of standing up to all who threaten democracy and freedom, last Saturday, November 24, 2001, was the Ukrainian Famine Remembrance Day.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the designation of November