

TRIBUTE TO PHIL ROSENSTEIN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, Quite often, the familiar faces we see and depend upon have entire stories behind them that we don't know. Phil Rosenstein of Corpus Christi has a familiar face, one that is always reliably around when there is a civic event, or if there is a cause to be advocated.

I have been friends with Phil for several decades and he has a beautiful heart and a way of finding out what people need and how to get it to them. Everyone should know what a great man Phil is, what a great American he is, what a unique, charitable human being, what an everyday hero he is.

An orphan raised in New York City, Phil came to Corpus Christi and joined the Merchant Marine and proceeded to see the world and his place in it. He visited orphanages all over the Far East, taking candy and clothing, offering financial assistance to them and, most importantly, drawing attention to their plight in the United States, connecting many Asian orphans with American families.

As a Merchant marine for 40 years Phil never forgot his adopted hometown of Corpus Christi, and he combined that devotion with his love of the arts. As a Merchant Marine traveling to a host of foreign lands, Phil always set forth to find fine art and antiques that he purchased and donated to museums in the Coastal Bend. He was appointed field representative of the Corpus Christi Museum.

He was also the Mayor Luther Jones' goodwill ambassador, representing Corpus Christi well and arranging for exchanges between Yokosuka, Japan and South Texas (Yokosuka was then the sister city to Corpus Christi).

Phil helps those who need help, particularly seniors and children. Visiting local nursing homes led him to become the Mayor's volunteer liaison to senior citizens and senior care centers. He got them cable and purchased television sets for seniors. The Senior Community Service Awards confers an annual award to companies and agencies that have done the most for the senior community. In 1990, Phil won the award as a citizen, not a business nor a service agency.

For his service in the Merchant Marine in World War II, Phil won service medals for campaigns in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean war zones, but those who depend upon HAM radios for contact with the world most value his service to them. At his own expense, while he was a Merchant Marine, he bought, set up, replaced or repaired any number of HAM radios for people living across the South and Midwest. He knew the world was too far away for those who were paralyzed or stricken with some manner of disability that kept them in the home, so he helped them with their HAM radios if they asked.

He started the school supply program for needy children in Corpus Christi and was noted for his assistance to the Head Start program in Corpus Christi. He donated shoes to needy kids in Corpus Christi, even getting the crew of a ship on which he served to donate money for children's shoes in his hometown.

Once, Phil noted that crosswalks at a school needed repainting. When the city didn't get to

it, he bought the paint and painted it himself—this is a metaphor for his whole life. When he saw a need, he went to fill it. (Even if it made the city unhappy.)

I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Phil Rosenstein, a unique American, a good Samaritan, and an extraordinary patriot.

**SUPPORT OF NATIONAL BLACK
HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the second annual observance this February 7, 2002, of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. I strongly believe that National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day will bring much needed attention to the disproportionate and rapidly increasing rate of HIV/AIDS infection among African Americans. The goal of this nationwide effort is to mobilize local communities for the purpose of encouraging African Americans to be tested for HIV/AIDS.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that AIDS is the number one killer of African American men and women ages 25–44. This annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is greatly needed to stem the tide of continuing devastation by HIV/AIDS in Black communities across the nation. The objectives of the National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day are: HIV/AIDS education; Increase testing for HIV infection; and HIV/AIDS Advocacy involvement.

I fully support the various schedule activities that will take place across our nation seeking to provide awareness of this devastating disease.

**NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS
AWARENESS DAY**

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, which will take place on February 7, 2002.

While significant progress has been made in the diagnosis and treatment of HIV and AIDS, the underlying reality is that the HIV epidemic in our country is far from over and disproportionately affects African-Americans. African-Americans comprise 12 percent of the U.S. population yet 47 percent of all new AIDS cases in 2000 were among African-Americans. Among women, an astonishing 63 percent of new AIDS cases were African-American, and three-fourths of these women acquired HIV through heterosexual sex. The National Institute for Allergy and Infections Diseases reports that AIDS is now the fifth leading cause of death in the United States among people aged 25 to 44, and is the leading cause of death for black men in this age group. Among black women in this age group, HIV ranks third.

We will not have a truly effective arsenal against HIV/AIDS until we have an effective vaccine, improved education and prevention campaigns, and increased access to retroviral treatments. But before these come to pass, we must attack the most serious obstacles to overcoming the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the African-American community: denial and delusion. It is only when patients accept the possibility that they or their partner may be infected with HIV that health care workers can consider treatment options; it is only when African-Americans accept that their community is also at risk that education and prevention campaigns will be effective.

Mr. Speaker, these disturbing statistics demonstrate that while we may have won some battles against HIV/AIDS, the war is far from over. Programs aimed at education and prevention must be expanded, and treatment options must be available to all Americans. It is my hope that National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day will draw attention to the effects of this terrible disease on the African-American community and remove some of the stigma associated with the disease.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEE
BAHRYCH**

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to pay tribute today to a woman whose life is the very embodiment of kindness, selflessness and love. Lee Bahrych is both inspirational and courageous, and a true testament to the inherent greatness that resides in all of humanity. Throughout her life, she has consistently given her time, effort and love to others, and it is with a great deal of satisfaction and pride that I pay tribute to her as we celebrate her tremendous accomplishment of being named the recipient of the Colorado Women 2002 Power of One Award.

Lee's long list of accomplishments is as impressive as the award being bestowed upon her today. The dedication and quality with which she has conducted herself in her distinguished career in the Colorado House of Representatives, as well as in the many philanthropic endeavors she has undertaken in her lifetime is truly remarkable. After retiring from the Colorado House of Representatives in order to attend to a loved one who had fallen ill, Lee began a much-appreciated effort to beautify the State Capitol. She created an attractive setting in the basement so that citizens could come to the State Capitol and find an aesthetically pleasing environment while experiencing government in action. This remarkably selfless act has served to enrich the experience of innumerable Coloradans who visit the State Capitol each day, and we, as Coloradans, will always be thankful for her effort.

In addition to her efforts at the State Capitol, Lee has created one of the most well kept treasures in all of Colorado. She has spent countless volunteer hours interviewing former and current leaders of Colorado, capturing on tape a priceless historical account of actions taken on behalf of the citizens of Colorado. She has spent innumerable hours with former