 Afghan Girls Return to School

Hon. Barbara Lee
Of California
In the House of Representatives
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable event that will be taking place this week in Afghanistan. For the first time in five years, Afghan girls will be allowed to enroll in school without fear of the Taliban.

The Taliban regime has enabled the Afghan citizens to enjoy new personal freedoms that were once forbidden. Under the Taliban regime, women and girls were not allowed to go to school to attain a basic education. Many illegal schools were set up in private homes during the repressive regime because women and girls did not want to give up their education. During this time, if any of these underground schools were discovered, these women and girls wound up in jail, were severely beaten, or sometimes even killed.

This week marks a time for celebration. Women and girls will no longer be threatened and harmed from pursuing their right to an education. I celebrate with the Afghan women and girls on their return to school and join my colleagues in celebrating this momentous event in empowering women around the world.

The Hospitalized Veterans Financial Assistance Act of 2002

Hon. Susan Davis
Of California
In the House of Representatives
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I have the pleasure to introduce the Hospitalized Veterans Financial Assistance Act of 2002 and thank my Veterans Affairs Committee colleagues, Committee Ranking Member LANE EVANS, Benefits Subcommittee Ranking Member SILVESTRE REYES, and fellow Benefits Subcommittee member CORrine Brown who have joined me on this important legislation. I would also like to thank the authors of the Independent Budget who brought this critical issue to our attention. In short, current law subjects many hospitalized veterans to a financial hardship. Let me explain further.

An inequity exists in current law controlling the beginning date for payment of increased compensation based on periods of incapacity due to hospitalization or convalescence. Hospitalization in excess of 21 days for a service-disabled veteran has no applicable to the disabled soldier.

This week marks a time for celebration. Women and girls will no longer be threatened and harmed from pursuing their right to an education. I celebrate with the Afghan women and girls on their return to school and join my colleagues in celebrating this momentous event in empowering women around the world.

The Hospitalized Veterans Financial Assistance Act of 2002 would allow for payment of benefits in all hospitalization and convalescent claims to begin effective the first day of the month in which hospitalization or treatment begins. Mr. Chairman, once again the nation’s soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines are on foreign soil either engaged directly with an enemy or on alert to respond as necessary to assure our citizens’ right to live in freedom. Let us in Congress assure these dedicated men and women that we will provide for those who bear today’s and tomorrow’s battles and not force them to endure a financial hardship.

President Abraham Lincoln said it best, “...what is fairly due from us here, in the dispensing of patronage, towards the men who made the sacrifices, by keeping them out of saving our country...is that, other claims and qualifications being equal, they have the better right; and this is especially applicable to the disabled soldier.”

Tribute to Mr. Clifford C. Laplante

Hon. Norman D. Dicks
Of Washington
In the House of Representatives
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime friend and a great American, Mr. Clifford C. Laplante. Cliff is about to retire after more than 50 years of dedicated service to our country and to the defense and aerospace community.

Born and raised in upstate New York, Cliff joined The Boeing Company as its first full-time liaison representative to the Congress. Over the course of his career, he distinguished himself as the U.S. Air Force’s most trusted and admired member of the aerospace community. In his book, “The Great Engine War,” Cliff provides a classic case study on how defense procurements were delivered as the U.S. Air Force.

Mr. Speaker, I know that he will bring the same spirit and vigor that has exemplified his past under takings to his foundation and that he will certainly continue to “Bring Good Things to Life” for underprivileged kids.

Mr. Speaker, as the U.S. Air Force’s2002

Mr. Speaker, while the big school college basketball championship is still to be decided, we in Central Ohio are already celebrating the Otterbein College Cardinals’ victory in the NCAA Men’s Division III championship game. The Cardinals came from 11 points behind in the second half to crush Elizabethtown 102-83 and bring the national title home to Westerville, Ohio.

The victory topped a spectacular season for Coach Dick Reynolds and his squad. The Cardinals finished first in the tough Ohio Athletic Conference during the regular season, then won the conference tournament en route to an overall 30-3 record. It’s a homegrown success story too, with every player coming from the Buckeye State and all of them from the Central Ohio area.

Otterbein is no stranger to basketball success. The Cardinals’ title came in their third trip to the Final Four in Reynolds’ 30 years with the program. Their games weren’t on ESPN and you won’t find them on your tournament bracket sheet. But some of the best basketball in the
country is played on the Division III level. We’re proud that Otterbein College, the best of the best, has brought a national title to Central Ohio.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on March 19, I was in Florida participating in my close friend Ted Winpenny’s wedding as his best man and therefore, missed four recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted yes on recorded vote number 65, yes on recorded vote number 66, yes on recorded vote number 67, and yes on recorded vote 68.

CONGRATULATING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE U.S.A. ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL RYAN
OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, this month the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. (GSUSA) is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Additionally, the Girl Scout Council of Kenosha County is celebrating its 80th anniversary. I would like to recognize the accomplishments of the Girl Scouts in Wisconsin’s First Congressional District: the Girl Scout council of Kenosha County, the Girl Scouts of Racine County, and the Girl Scouts of Racine County.

Juliette Gordon Low believed girls needed a supportive community for girls and young women to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. On March 12, 1912, Ms. Low assembled twelve girls in Savannah, Georgia, for the first Girl Scout meeting. The idea spread quickly. In 1918, six years after that inaugural meeting, Kenosha County organized its first meeting and joined the Girl Scout movement. Four years later, in 1922, the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. awarded the Girl Scout Council of Kenosha County its official charter.

The Girl Scout Law, on which the Girl Scout movement rests, encourages all girls to uphold values such as honesty, fairness, and responsibility, while developing respect and compassion for the world around them. Girl Scouts continue to build on this foundation by adopting the practice of these values to the contemporary issues facing girls today.

In contrast to those first twelve Scouts 90 years ago, Girl Scouts today is comprised of over 2.7 million girls and 900,000 adult volunteers. Girl Scouts has grown globally; that number tops 10 million members in over 140 countries. Currently, the Girl Scout Council of Kenosha County proudly maintains an active membership of 3200 Scouts. To put that in perspective, one in nine girls are involved in Girl Scouting nationwide, while in Kenosha County, one in every five is a Girl Scout.

Girl Scouts depends on its volunteers and its community. As with all Girl Scout Councils, the secret behind the success of Scouting is the hard work of the adult volunteers. This well-qualified team of volunteers works with the Council to organize and encourage the Scouts. Additionally, the support of the community is integral to the Girl Scouts. Troop meetings take place in local schools, churches, and other community centers, and outreach activities encourage a connection of community businesses and organizations. The strength of these relationships is visible in Southeastern Wisconsin. The adult members, businesses, and organizations work together to open doors for young women to learn and expand their horizons.

For 90 years, Girl Scouts has empowered girls with the values and skills it takes to become the next generation of leaders. The Girl Scout Council of Kenosha County, the Girl Scouts of Badger Council, and the Girl Scouts of Racine County, like Councils all over the world, are helping girls to grow strong and build the necessary foundation to be successful in all they do. It is with admiration that I congratulate the Girl Scouts and all who support them on the first 90 years of remarkable service, and wish the Council all the best on the next 90 years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE “GUN SHOW BACKGROUND CHECK ACT OF 2002”

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the “Gun Show Background Check Act of 2002”, legislation designed to close the loophole in federal gun laws which allow criminals to buy firearms at gun shows. I am joined by Representatives Frank, Bernman, Nadler, LoFgren, Waters, Meehan, Delahunt, Weiner, Ackerman, Andrews, Brown, Clay, Crowley, Cummings, Davis (IL), DeGette, Hastings (FL), Jackson (IL), Kilpatrick, Lee, Markey, Schakowsky, and Wexler.

As you know, under current law federal firearms licensees are required to maintain record-keep...