

When President Bush called our nation to join the battle against terrorism in response to the terrible attacks of September 11, 2001, Captain Allen responded. As part of her 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, she volunteered for a 120-day overseas deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

As the senior medical member of her three-person crew, Captain Allen served in the position of Medical Crew Director, transporting combat and non-combat casualties resulting from operations conducted in the Afghanistan battle theater. She performed her duty of diagnosing and supervising the treating of military patients with the highest level of professionalism and skill, often in challenging environments both in the air and on the ground.

Captain Allen's patients included U.S. combat troops, Special Operations Forces, coalition and friendly forces, as well as civilian casualties and enemy prisoners of war. To be sure, it was not easy work as she and her crew lived in tented facilities and were often called upon to relocate in response to hostile threat or medical necessity.

Captain Allen, whose uncommon service to her nation has resulted in her receiving both the Air Force and Army Commendation medals, the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the Air Force Training Ribbon, has not escaped the notice of our President.

President Bush requested that Captain Allen sit with the First Lady during tonight's State of the Union Address here in this Chamber. Personally, I believe the President made a fine choice in honoring Captain Allen for her patriotism. I joined the rest of Alabama in expressing pride in her service beyond the call of duty to America.

CIBOLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE CORRECTION ACT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation on behalf of my friend, Mr. Frank Dokter, to right a past error by the Department of Interior in designating the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge. In the last Congress, similar legislation that would have adjusted the Refuge boundaries to allow a family business to continue, was passed by the House, but unfortunately did not see similar outcome in the Senate.

Mr. Dokter and his family operate Walter's Camp, a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) concession on land near the lower Colorado River in Imperial County, California, near and within the Cibola Refuge. The facility provides visitors with a family-friendly outdoors experience, which includes camping, hiking, canoeing, fishing, birdwatching and rock-hounding. In an increasingly crowded Southern California, Mr. Dokter and his family have provided a welcome diversion from city life to many of the region's outdoors enthusiasts.

Walter's Camp was first authorized in 1962, and in August 1964, Public Land Order 3442 withdrew 16,627 acres along the Colorado River to create the Refuge. The withdrawal er-

roneously included the 140.32 acre Walter's Camp, but neither the BLM nor the Fish and Wildlife Service immediately recognized the mistake. The BLM continued to renew the original permit, allowing the recreational concession use to continue unbroken until the present time. However, given the discovery of the past mistake, the BLM does not have the authority to continue issuing the concession contracts to Walter's Camp.

The Fish and Wildlife Service and the BLM agree that the land has "insignificant, if any, existing . . . or potential . . . wildlife habitat value," as stated in a Department of Interior memo. Therefore, I have introduced this legislation to correct this mistake and allow the BLM to continue to issue contracts to Walter's Camp.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincere recommendation that this land be taken out of the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, and that Mr. Dokter's family be allowed to continue their valuable and productive service to our region.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CIVIL
RIGHTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored today to be joined by Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. MALONEY and 80 other co-sponsors to introduce the "Violence Against Women Civil Rights Restoration Act of 2003." The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 ("VAWA") was historic legislation that contained a broad array of laws and programs to address domestic violence and sexual assault in our country.

In addition to funding numerous programs such as law enforcement and prosecution grants to combat violence against women, a National Domestic Violence Hotline, and battered women's shelters and services, VAWA created both civil and criminal causes of action to target domestic violence and sexual assault.

In 2000, the Supreme Court struck down a provision of VAWA, which allowed victims of gender-motivated violence to sue their attackers in Federal court. Importantly, that case, *United States v. Morrison*, 529 U.S. 598 (2000) did not affect the validity of the rest of VAWA, which is clearly constitutional. But, *Morrison* is just the latest in a series of cases in which the Supreme Court has, in my view, improperly narrowed Congress' authority to legislate under the Commerce Clause.

The Court's 5-4 majority disregarded the mountain of evidence that Congress had amassed through four years of hearings, documenting the effects of violence against women on interstate commerce. The Court's majority substituted its own judgment for that of Congress—and this from supposedly "conservative" Justices who purport to defer to Congressional findings.

In response to the *Morrison* decision, I am introducing the "Violence Against Women Civil Rights Restoration Act of 2003." This legislation will restore the ability of victims of gender-motivated violence to seek justice in Federal court, where there is a connection to interstate commerce.

For example, a rape victim could bring a civil suit against her attacker in Federal court where the attacker crosses a state line; if he uses a facility or instrumentality of interstate commerce—such as the roads, the telephone, or the Internet; or if he uses a gun, weapon, or drug that has traveled in interstate commerce. In addition, she could bring a case where the intent of the offense is to interfere with her participation in commercial or economic activity.

The bill also authorizes the Attorney General to prevent discrimination in the investigation and prosecution of gender-based crimes. This bill will ensure that all victims have fair and equal access to the courts.

I want to thank the domestic violence and sexual assault communities for their support of this legislation, especially NOW Legal Defense and Education fund, who defended Christy Brzonkala before the Supreme Court, and who has been instrumental in drafting this bill.

I look forward to working with the Majority, the Senate, and the White House to help pass this bill into law and restore the civil remedy for victims of gender-based violence.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO CAROLINE
GRETICK, 2003 RECIPIENT OF THE
ATHENA AWARD

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding woman from the Fifth Congressional District in Ohio. Caroline Gretick, of Bryan, Ohio, is a Consumer Advocate at the Four County Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board (ADAMHs). She is being awarded the Bryan Chamber of Commerce and Stan Pepple Motors ATHENA Award. This is the twelfth presentation of the award presented annually by local Chambers of Commerce throughout the United States as well as several other countries. The award is given to individuals who exemplify excellence in their business or profession, who serve the community in a meaningful way and who assist women in developing their leadership potential.

Mr. Speaker, Caroline was the Co-Founder of the Bryan Montessori Pre-School, 1967-69. She was the Co-Director and a Teacher for the Williams County Head Start Program, 1966-71.

From 1981-91 she served at the Bryan Community Hospital. There she conducted interviews and developed statistical information for Certificates of Need for CAT-scan procedures. During her time there, Bryan Community was the smallest hospital to receive such approval. In addition to this duty, Ms. Gretick vetted applicants seeking hospital privileges. She was also the First Administrative Assistant at the Bryan Area Health Education Center.

Since 1993 Caroline has been a Consumer Advocate at the Four-County ADAMHs. There she has formalized existing depression support groups. She has also established and developed an extensive lending/research library at the ADAMHs Board offices. The library includes materials relating to brain disorders, to