

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
ELAINE T. VALENTE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor a good friend and a hard-working public servant, Ms. Elaine Valente. Elaine is retiring as a Commissioner for Adams County, Colorado after 16 years of dedicated service.

Commissioner Valente was born and raised in Adams County Colorado. She and her husband Larry own the successful Valente's Deli, are proud parents of two accomplished children, and are passionate community activists.

Elaine's interest in her community began long before assuming her role as County Commissioner. She served on the Adams County Planning Commission, the city of Westminster Urban Renewal Authority, the Westminster Planning Commission, the Citizen's Evaluation for Retention of Judges, and the School District 50 Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee.

Her deep passion to give something back to her community and to help improve Colorado is what motivated her to run for County Commissioner in 1988. Elaine was victorious in that election and quickly became an outspoken advocate for Adams County's communities. As Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners she took an interest in many issues affecting her constituency, helping pave the way for future economic development, transportation improvements, air traffic investments and reform of county services. When I was elected to Congress in 1998 I knew that one of my first objectives was to learn as much as I could from Elaine, not only about one of Colorado's fastest growing communities, but also about effective public service.

Elaine is the kind of person who speaks her mind with a blend of honest bluntness and old-school graciousness. As a daughter of Italian-Americans she also established a reputation for leadership on behalf of ethnic minorities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Elaine Valente and in wishing her success in all her future endeavors. It has been a true privilege to work with such a remarkable woman.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF
WARRENSBURG, MO

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate and pay tribute to the city of Warrensburg, Missouri, which will celebrate its 150th birthday this year.

Warrensburg, Missouri, was incorporated as a town in 1855, after being settled by local farmers and a blacksmith named Martin Warren. Mr. Warren had a blacksmith shop which served as an informal gathering place for the local farmers. Mr. Warren's shop was named the county seat of the newly created County of Johnson. The township was named Warren's Burg, in honor of the blacksmith.

Warrensburg citizens have many reasons to be proud of their city. One of these reasons is the city's excellent school system. With an enrollment of 3,200 students, the district is accredited with Distinction in Performance by the Missouri State Board of Education. Also, the city is home to Central Missouri State University, which has provided fine post secondary education for more than 130 years.

Warrensburg also is home to many prominent businesses and organizations. EnerSys, GE Transportation Systems, Swisher Mower, Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity world headquarters and Carlyle Van Lines have all thrived in the city, and there are countless other businesses—small and large—that contribute to the economic well being of Warrensburg.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my congratulations to the citizens of Warrensburg, Missouri, for this outstanding accomplishment. I know all the Members of Congress will join me in paying tribute to a great American city.

CONDEMNING THE COMMENTS OF
LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES
MATTIS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, last week, United States Marine Corps LTG James Mattis made public comments that were unbecoming of a military officer. As quoted in numerous newspaper articles and media broadcasts, Lieutenant General Mattis told a San Diego, California audience of 200 civilians that "It's fun to shoot some people." Referencing combatants in Afghanistan he added, "You know, guys like that ain't got no manhood left anyway. So it's a hell of a lot of fun to shoot them."

Lieutenant General Mattis has no doubt served his country with courage and distinction as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. It is, nonetheless, inexcusable that, as a high-ranking officer of the U.S. military, he would make these callous and insensitive remarks that denigrate the value of human life.

Furthermore, comments of this nature reinforce negative perceptions of U.S. military actions abroad and have the potential to incite greater animosity toward our troops. The price to be paid for this irresponsible conduct cannot be exaggerated given the vital role support from the Iraqi people and the international community is to the success of ongoing operations in Iraq.

The U.S. Marine Corps Commandant has said that he has counseled Lieutenant General Mattis with regard to his comments. However, it is incumbent on our military's leadership to ensure that this behavior is not repeated on the part of Lieutenant General Mattis or any other military officer in the future.

It is critically important that a clear and resounding message is sent that this type of conduct will not be tolerated in the United States military. It is wholly inconsistent with the values we hold dear as Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard enough in this day and age to protect my 9-year-old-son—or any child—from graphic violence rife in popular video games, which demean the value of human life and portray killing as just a game—

an act without moral consequence. I suppose they make war look like fun, but tell that to the over 10,000 Americans who've been critically wounded or the families of the nearly 1,500 Americans who gave their lives in Iraq.

Now, we have a general from the field saying how fun it is to shoot people. I think that's wrong, its despicable, it's an unconscionable message to be telling our children.

It is time to put a stop to this unnecessary, obscene war in Iraq and the obscenities of generals like James Mattis, both of which demean and denigrate the moral fabric of our country.

HONORING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased that Congress has recognized the important role that Catholic schools play in our community by bringing House Resolution 23 before the House floor.

As a proud Catholic, I know the impact that faith-based education can have in our society and have witnessed it first hand in my district. Schools such as the St. Thomas Aquinas High School in San Bernardino, California, are highly regarded for their academic and athletic excellence, as well as the life-changing opportunities they provide to their students.

Under the leadership of Bishop Gerald Barnes, the San Bernardino Diocese school system has invested in the future of our children by providing them the educational tools to succeed.

Catholic schools in our Nation's education have been paramount in teaching the values that we as parents seek to instill in our children.

They are sources of goodwill and arbiters of moral values, providing strong foundations for young people. Their curriculums are often full of programs in character development and community service.

Catholic school graduates exhibit a wide variety of qualities that will not only help them in their careers but also in their family and community lives.

It gives me no greater pleasure than to support this resolution today honoring the contributions of Catholic schools and I commend Congressman KENNEDY for his sponsorship.

I also ask and pray for the quick recovery of Pope John Paul II, so that he may continue to lead the Catholic Church and help oversee the Catholic school system and their good works.

GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL
BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 30, a resolution that recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

HIV/AIDS impacts the African-American community worse than any other ethnic group in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that African-Americans account for 50 percent of all new HIV infections, which is an incredible number considering only 12 percent of the American population is African-American. The CDC further reported that 69 percent of all children born to infected mothers were African-American. A study conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation showed that African-Americans accounted for 56 percent of deaths due to HIV in 2002.

Public awareness about HIV/AIDS is vital. National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day will help educate the African-American community about the disease, including prevention and treatment. The first annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was held on February 23, 2001. The slogan for the day was "Get Educated, Get Involved and Get Tested." February 7 of each year is now recognized as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

I was proud to cosponsor this important resolution that encourages State and local governments, including their public health departments, to publicize the day in African-American Communities and to promote testing. The resolution encourages media organizations to carry messages in support of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Most importantly, it encourages enactment of effective HIV prevention programs.

HIV/AIDS is a formidable threat to our African-American communities. However, we can work together to ensure that the public is aware of the ways to prevent transmission of this disease and how individuals can protect themselves. But we can't do this without funding. The Minority AIDS Initiative needs to be fully funded. The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act is authorized through FY2005, so this year we need to ensure that no programs are underfunded or dropped altogether.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution will result in increased public awareness. As advocates work together to protect the African-American community, we in Congress need to ensure the Federal Government is doing our job to fund the programs that will halt the spread of HIV/AIDS.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS ZIPF OF ST. LOUIS, MO

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, my remarks today are to pay tribute to the life of a valued public servant, Mr. Thomas Zipf, of St. Louis, MO.

Mr. Zipf was a valued employee of the City of St. Louis Police Department where he served over 30 years and rose to the rank of Captain. Mr. Zipf was known throughout the force as being dedicated to his job and being driven by his desire to help and protect others.

His love of life and passion for his community live on through his wife, Mary Ann Zipf, and his two children, Kate, and Tom, Jr. His dedication to his job continues with his son, who is also an officer with the City of St. Louis Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, the outpouring of support by family, friends, and the community made it evident to all what an extraordinary person and public servant Mr. Zipf was. His wife and two children are a great testament to his life and vision. My prayers are with his family, friends, and community today, as we honor his life.

HONORING ALVIN F. POUSSAINT,
M.D.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. DELAHUNT, and I rise today to honor the extraordinary achievements and contributions of Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint of Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Poussaint has devoted his professional life to the eradication of racism in American society, and is one of the foremost experts in the world today on the topics of race relations, prejudice and diversity, and is also a world-renowned child psychologist.

Dr. Poussaint, who was born in East Harlem, New York, on May 15, 1934, completed his undergraduate studies at Columbia University before receiving his M.D. from Cornell in 1960. He went on to do postgraduate work at the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute, where he served as Chief Resident in Psychiatry in 1964–65.

Inspired by the burgeoning Civil Rights movement in the South, Dr. Poussaint chose to take a job as the Southern Field Director of the Medical Committee for Human Rights in Jackson, Mississippi, a position he held from 1965–67. In that role, he courageously worked to provide medical care to civil rights workers and fought for the desegregation of health facilities throughout the South.

Dr. Poussaint was influential in the founding of Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) and served as the Chairman of its Board of Directors. Operation PUSH, which has since merged with the National Rainbow Coalition to form the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, has been a significant force in the struggle for racial equality in America, registering hundreds of thousands of voters across the country, assisting in the election of hundreds of local, state and national leaders and lobbying for increased representation of minorities in many industries.

As one of the nation's preeminent psychiatrists and experts on race relations, Dr. Poussaint has authored the books *Why Blacks Kill Blacks* (1972), *Raising Black Children* (1992, with Dr. J.P. Comer) and *Lay My Burden Down* (2000, with Amy Alexander). His most recognizable work includes contributing articles to *Ebony* magazine, and acting as a consultant for several television projects, including *The Cosby Show*.

On Saturday, February 12, 2004, Dr. Poussaint will be honored in Boston, Massachusetts for his wide-ranging contributions to the fields of civil rights, mental health, social justice and the needs of children. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my own heartfelt thanks and congratulations to him for his many years of tireless work for the enrichment of our society. The dedication, intelligence and compassion he brings to his work

have helped him to touch countless lives, and we salute him for his invaluable contributions. Dr. Poussaint's work has been a credit to our country and, indeed, the entire world.

SENSE OF THE CONGRESS RESOLUTION THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT RATIFY THE LAW OF THE SEA TREATY

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a Resolution expressing the Sense of the Congress that the United States should not ratify the Law of the Sea Treaty ("LOST").

The Law of the Sea Treaty was conceived in the early 1970s by the "New International Economic Order," a United Nations political movement designed to transfer wealth and technology from the industrial nations to communist and undeveloped nations. President Ronald Reagan recognized the threat this treaty would pose to America's sovereignty and economic interests and rightly rejected the Treaty in 1982.

Treaty proponents acted again in the 1990s, offering a separate "Agreement" that purported to amend the Treaty. This "corrected treaty" was also deemed unacceptable by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1994. Now we are once again facing a terribly flawed treaty that will hand over more of our sovereignty to a corrupt United Nations—just at a time when the extent of the United Nations' corruption is becoming more evident through the oil for food scandal in Iraq.

What is specifically wrong with the Law of the Sea Treaty?

The Law of the Sea Treaty will deem the oceans of the Earth as the "Common Heritage of Mankind." The Treaty dictates that oceanic resources should be shared among all mankind. The effect of this will be U.N. control over the world's seabeds—a full 70 percent of the earth's surface.

The Law of the Sea Treaty will also create, for the first time in history, an international body with the authority to collect taxes from American citizens. It is truly a U.N. global tax. This will come about as a fee on private enterprise and nation states from seabed mining, offshore oil platforms, and other raw material recovery activities. These fees will first be paid by the governments of the signatory states, which will then have the burden of collecting the monies back from the private enterprises engaged in seabed mining activities.

This treaty will create a Law of the Sea Tribunal, which will claim—and already has claimed—jurisdiction over the onshore as well as within the territorial sea or economic zones of coastal nations. This U.N. Tribunal could very well rule in a manner contrary to U.S. military, counterterrorism, and commercial interests.

Mr. Speaker, the Law of the Sea Treaty is a perfect example of "taxation without representation" that our Founding Fathers rebelled against. We should under no circumstances surrender one bit of American sovereignty or treasure to the United Nations or any other global body. I hope my colleagues will join me by co-sponsoring this