

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING SISTER MARY ROSE CHRISTY ON RECEIVING THE JEFFERSON AWARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sister Mary Rose Christy on her recent receipt of the Jefferson Award and to thank her for her multiple contributions to not only the Bay Area community but also the international community. The Jefferson Award is given by the American Institute for Public Service, founded by Jacqueline Kennedy, Senators Robert Taft Jr. and Sam Beard. The award is considered the Nobel Prize for public and community service. I congratulate her on receiving this award, and I am proud that she resides in my Congressional district.

When Christy sees a need, she simply applies her talents to help solve the problem. Since becoming a registered nurse completing degrees in both social work and political science, Christy has been actively involved in helping the poor and underserved. In the 1950's and 1960's, Christy helped those in need by working in hospitals, speaking before state legislators, and creating community programs.

Mr. Speaker, after suffering back injuries, Christy continued her advocacy for the disadvantaged by writing letters to the editor. After recuperating, she began a development program in Burlingame, California before moving again to El Salvador.

Christy's story of tireless work for the needs of others doesn't end in El Salvador. After seeing a television program that revealed the deplorable state of the Romanian orphanages, Christy decided she had to help. In 1991, she began her work in Romania. She started a new school, established a youth recreation program, and bettered the children's daily diet. Christy also addressed poverty, housing issues, and proper health care through more than a dozen programs that she established. She has also helped the community as a whole, increasing awareness on issues such as domestic violence, women's rights and other women's issues.

Mr. Speaker, not only has Christy improved the orphanages, but also she has reunited families, helping to solve the root problem. Christy's programs have assisted in reuniting more than 2,500 families. Now, less than 2 percent of the children that the association works with end up in orphanages. Since 1995, more than 2,000 children have been prevented from being abandoned or put into orphanages.

Christy's colleagues describe her as a determined activist with a huge heart. Her determination allows her to help many. She never takes no for an answer. Even though Christy's services have benefited thousands, she still praises the efforts of others, including those who have gone to help the Hurricane Katrina

victims on the gulf coast. Christy's humility is evident when she describes herself as just one American among many who has helped those in need. Christy is proud of America's tremendous willingness to serve others.

Sister Mary Rose Christy received this prestigious recognition for her activism and founding the nonprofit Romanian American Association for the Promotion of Health, Education and Human Services, ARAPAMESU, an organization that helps at-risk Romanian families, in Sibiu, Romania.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Sister Mary Rose Christy for her contributions at home and abroad. Her friends and colleagues have praised her for her selfless acts of service, and I hope the acknowledgement of this award will inspire others to devote more of their time to serving others.

CONGRATULATING LOU DAWSON ON BEING INDUCTED TO THE COLORADO SKILL AND SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Lou Dawson on being inducted into the Colorado Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame for 2005. Mr. Dawson's efforts have greatly impacted the lives of ski mountaineering enthusiasts for many years, and he deserves recognition for the many contributions he has made to his community.

Throughout his life, Dawson has demonstrated time and again that he is dedicated to being an inspiration and guiding light in backcountry skiing. While becoming the only person to ski all 54 of Colorado's Fourteeners, Dawson has also been an author of many books that help others enjoy Colorado's wilderness. His titles include Colorado High Routes, Colorado 10th Mountain Trails, Dawson's Guide to Colorado Backcountry Skiing, Dawson's Guide to Colorado's Fourteeners, Wild Snow, and Trooper Travers. He has contributed many articles to *Couloir* and *Climbing* magazines about his expertise and passion for the mountains, and his body of literature has enabled ski enthusiasts to more safely enjoy the backcountry. He has helped the world of ski enthusiasts by enhancing and developing safer and more effective mountaineering gear and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our congratulations to Mr. Dawson for contributing to the safety of our ski community in far-reaching ways. I'm proud to honor his induction into the Colorado Ski Museum, Colorado Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame in 2005 and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE LEGACY AND LIFE OF CHARLES WHITMAN JONES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and memory of Charles Whitman Jones, beloved husband and father, activist, scientist, educator and administrator, and friend and mentor to countless people, as his brilliant legacy is honored by Myers University of Cleveland, Ohio.

Armed with intelligence, educational achievement, integrity, motivation and a strong work ethic, Mr. Jones overcame the challenges of racial discrimination with grace and dignity. His vision for himself and for his family reflected joy in living, achievement and service to others and was a vision that would not be thwarted by the oppressive time of racial inequity in America.

The accomplishments of Charles Whitman Jones are many, varied and significant. He was named class valedictorian in high school, yet he was prohibited from giving the address because of his race. After high school, he received academic honors in both college and graduate school. Beyond his outstanding educational achievement, Mr. Jones was a superior athlete. He was awarded fourteen varsity letters during high school, and during college, he was a track, baseball and boxing champion. His outstanding baseball talent was such that he could have played in the Major Leagues, yet at that time, there was no possibility of his acceptance into a League exclusive to white players. Charles Whitman Jones was later inducted into the Meyers University Athletic Hall of Fame, and was named "Father of the Year"—just two of the many awards and honors bestowed upon Mr. Jones throughout his lifetime.

Following graduation from Ohio University, Mr. Jones was inducted into the United States Army. He was selected to become one of the elite Tuskegee Airmen, and rose to the rank of Lieutenant. Following his service in the Army, Mr. Jones worked as a teacher, then chemist at Standard Oil Company in Cleveland.

He married his childhood sweetheart, Diane, and together they raised their son, Peter. His commitment to others led him to leave Standard Oil to join Neighbors Organized for Action in Ohio (NOAH) as its executive director. This non-profit agency focused on constructing and providing decent and affordable housing for residents in the Hough area of Cleveland. Later, Mr. Jones was asked to join the administration at Myers University, where he served as Director of Admissions, Athletic Director, Director of Student Services, and Assistant to the President for Community Affairs.

Throughout his lifetime, Charles Whitman Jones consistently reached beyond the racial barriers of the day and held strong to his dream, purpose and focus his wife and son,

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his commitment to others, and his professional and individual achievements. With dignity, strength and grace, he paved the way for others to succeed, gently leading and always inspiring.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Charles Whitman Jones, as Myers University and the Cleveland community gather in tribute to his brilliant life and legacy. His energy and spirit live on through his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched, especially his wife, Diane; son, Peter Lawson Jones, daughter-in-law, Lisa Jones; and his grandchildren, Ryan, Leah and Evan.

Mr. Jones led by example and his activism and service continues to pave the way for educational and professional opportunities for the young adults of our community. His integrity, warmth, wit and concern for others has left an indelible mark upon our entire community, and he will be remembered always.

RAY FLETCHER, A SALUTE TO
HURRICANE VOLUNTEERS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute those individuals and organizations that opened their hearts and dedicated both financial and emotional support to the evacuees of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. All of the states along the Gulf Coast have endured terrible hardships during this hurricane season, and I know that the generosity of North Texans played a vital role in bringing some peace into their lives.

Today, I want to specifically thank one man for his creditable contribution. Ray Fletcher, of Gainesville Texas, has done an outstanding job as the Cooke County Emergency Manager, especially during and after Hurricane Katrina.

As the Cooke County Emergency Manager, Mr. Fletcher has successfully managed the relief efforts conducted in his community, including a shelter that housed many displaced Louisianans.

I stand here today to sincerely thank Ray Fletcher for his hard work. It is people like him that I am proud to call a fellow Texan. Through his contribution, he not only stands as a devoted and giving American citizen, but he serves as an inspiration to others.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE
GREATER AWARENESS OF
EFFECTIVE RUNAWAY YOUTH
PREVENTION PROGRAMS

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 484, a resolution which supports efforts to promote greater awareness of effective prevention programs for youth at-risk of running away from home and the need for safe and productive alter-

natives, resources, and supports for homeless youth. The resolution also commemorates National Runaway Prevention Month.

The statistics of runaway and homeless youth are staggering: 1.6 million youth are on the streets every day; more than 1,200 youth run away from home each day; and 1 out of every 7 children in the United States runs away from home before the age of 18. It's not easy being a kid today. The decisions and concerns confronting kids today are tougher than ever: peer pressure, drug/alcohol abuse, and more. Some face pregnancy or AIDS. Many more are experiencing violence in the streets, at home, and in the classroom.

For the estimated 1.6 million kids living on the street, these dilemmas may be especially difficult because there is all too often no one to talk to. These youth thought they could escape their problems by running away, only to encounter even more problems.

That is why I support the National Runaway Switchboard (NRS)'s mission which serves as the federally-designated national communication system for homeless and runaway youth. While its national headquarters is in my district in Chicago, NRS provides services to youth and families across the country. Without organizations such as the National Runaway Switchboard, over a million youth each year would have nowhere to turn during a time of crisis. Established in 1971, NRS is recognized as the oldest hotline in the world. With the support of more than 150 volunteers, NRS handled over 111,000 calls last year and more than 3 million calls in its 34-year history. NRS provides crisis intervention, referrals to local resources, and education and prevention services to youth, families and community members throughout the country 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Over 10,000 youth have been reunited with their families through the NRS Home Free program.

On April 18, 2005, I joined Executive Director, Maureen Blaha, at NRS headquarters to unveil NRS's new 800 number, 1-800-RUNAWAY to the American public. NRS also announced the establishment of a new web site, www.1800RUNAWAY.org to match its new signature 800 number. These new initiatives are intended to provide vulnerable and at-risk youth with an easy name and number to remember when they are experiencing crisis and looking for help. The NRS hopes to offer its services to more and more youth with the rollout of 1-800-RUNAWAY.

Now is the time to protect the vulnerable and support our youth. Tomorrow's leaders are running away from homes and falling into a life of uncertainty, violence, and crime. I urge my colleagues to join me in this fight to save tomorrow's leaders; vote "yes" on H. Res. 484.

ANNOUNCING PASSING OF
FORMER CONGRESSMEN ED ROYBAL
AND BOB BADHAM

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to a friend and distinguished former colleague, Mr. Edward Roybal of California.

I had the honor of working with Ed for 17 of the 30 years he served in the House of Representatives. I knew Ed to be a man of integrity, good conscience, courage and passion. He always stood for what he believed was best for the country. And he helped found many institutions of importance to America's Latino community.

Ed's passion and dedication to public health and quality of life issues has benefited generations of people and helped saved lives. He and I both shared the belief that government has an obligation to invest in the public good. Ed's work to secure the first funding for AIDS research and programs at the Center's for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1982 stands out to me. Back then, we did not fully understand how serious and deadly the AIDS virus would become, but Ed Roybal did.

Consequently, I thought it was a fitting honor for the CDC central campus in Atlanta and the California State University at Los Angeles Institute for Applied Gerontology to dedicate their facilities in his name. These honors, and many others given him, are well deserved.

I offer my sincerest condolences to Ed's surviving family, including his daughter, my friend and current colleague, Representative LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD. With Ed's passing, America has lost a leader, role model, and to those of us who were fortunate enough to call him such: a friend.

TESTIMONY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN
CENTRAL ASIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following testimony for the RECORD.

Good morning. It's a pleasure for me to speak before you today, the Middle East and Central Asia subcommittee. I want to commend the subcommittee for organizing this important hearing and for your work concerning the ongoing problems in Central Asia.

The peoples of Central Asia are largely Muslim, with a history of living under Russian rule for centuries. Despite our hopes and modest expectations that these nations would matriculate from dictatorships to democracies, from my vantage point as Co-Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the disappointing reality over the last fifteen years is that most are moving in the wrong direction. Moreover, in all countries of the region "super-presidents" dominate the political arena while their families, friends and favored few exploit the country's natural resources. Corruption among the elite is pervasive, as is cynicism among the populace. Legislatures and judiciaries have languished while the authorities maintain tight control of the most important media outlets.

Yet despite these similarities, the five countries of Central Asia run the gamut from the standpoint of democratization and human rights observance; I would like to offer quick character sketches of each and then suggest some policy options.

Kyrgyzstan represents one positive advance, as the only country in Central Asia where the head of state won his job in a fair contest. In last March's Tulip Revolution, opposition leaders mobilized popular resistance to yet another rigged election and