

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RETIRING CONCORD TOWN JUSTICE MARY HUBERT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a woman whose tireless service as Concord Town Justice has made her court the envy of town courts throughout Erie County. I want to honor the service of Judge Mary Hubert.

A native of Buffalo, Judge Hubert has served on the bench as Town Justice in the Town of Concord for many years. She is well known throughout the legal community as a fair-minded and efficient judge.

The Hubert family has served their adopted hometown very well. Judge Hubert's husband, Raymond, is a longtime member of the Concord Town Board, and their combined service has augured well for local residents; they are better for having had the privilege of Judge Hubert's service.

As Judge Hubert now goes into retirement as an active judge, I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me an opportunity to honor her service to the residents of the town of Concord in this manner. My thanks go out to Judge Hubert for her fine service, and my best wishes go out to her, Ray and to their entire family for good luck and Godspeed in the months and years to come.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF DR. FRANK WILLIAM REIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of Dr. Frank William Reis, upon his retirement that reflects 35 years of exemplary service as an educator and leader within the public school and college arena.

Dr. Reis honorably served our country as a Vietnam war veteran. Following his service, he enrolled in college and earned a bachelor's degree in education, MBA and ME degrees, and a Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Leadership. Equipped with an unwavering commitment to raising the lives of children through the power of education, Dr. Reis brought his enthusiasm and concern for his students into the inner city classrooms of Rhode Island. In 1974, Dr. Reis was named the Rhode Island Teacher of the Year—a rare occurrence at that time for an inner city schoolteacher.

For the past 16 years, Dr. Reis served in critical positions at Cuyahoga Community College, most recently as executive vice president for Administration and chief operating office. His leadership and expertise served to elevate operations throughout the areas of human re-

sources, training and development, public affairs, staff advancement, public safety, information technology, telecommunications and government affairs. Additionally, Dr. Reis instituted the "Jennings Scholar" program that recognizes outstanding public school teachers, K-12, throughout Greater Cleveland. Beyond his abiding dedication to his professional vocation, Dr. Reis has volunteered countless hours as a member and leader within numerous civic organizations, including the Community Organization for Drug Abuse Control, Kidscope, Recovery Resources and the Governor's Regional Economic Advisory.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Frank William Reis, whose retirement reflects 35 years of educational excellence and accomplishment. Dr. Reis's steadfast devotion as an educator and leader in education has empowered and inspired countless students, young and old. We wish Dr. Reis and his family an abundance of peace, health and happiness as he journeys onward from here.

IN MEMORY OF VICE ADMIRAL ARTHUR K. CEBROWSKI

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Vice Admiral Arthur K. Cebrowski, USN, Ret.

Admiral Cebrowski was born in Passaic, NJ. He graduated from Villanova University in 1964. He received a master's degree in Computer Systems Management from the Naval Post Graduate School and attended the Naval War College.

In 1964, he entered the Navy through the Reserve Officers Training Corps. He was a naval aviator and commanded Fighter Squadron 41 and Air Wing 8. He commanded the assault ship USS *Guam*, the aircraft carrier USS *Midway* and the USS *America* Battle Group. He had combat experience in Vietnam and Desert Storm. His joint assignments included service as the director, Command, Control, Communications and Computers, J-6, Joint Staff. He also had served in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as director of space, information warfare, and command and control. Admiral Cebrowski retired from the Navy on October 1, 2001, after serving as the president of the Naval War College in Newport, RI. On November 26, 2001, Admiral Cebrowski was appointed to the position of director, Office of Force Transformation.

Mr. Speaker, Admiral Cebrowski was a valuable leader in the U.S. Navy and our country. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family.

RECOGNITION OF NIDA'S PSA CAMPAIGN CONNECTING DRUG ABUSE WITH RISK OF HIV/AIDS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on this our first day in session following World AIDS day, I rise to recognize a public awareness campaign released by the National Institute on Drug Abuse that brings critical attention to the dangerous link between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS.

This campaign seeks to inform our youth how drug abuse can impair judgment and cause risky sexual behaviors that increase the danger of contracting or transmitting HIV.

The connection between drug abuse and HIV/AIDS isn't limited to the risks of injecting drugs and being infected by contaminated needles. It is much bigger than that. Drug or alcohol intoxication changes behavior—inhibitions disappear and the ability to make good decisions is impaired.

Only 1 in 50 high school students report having ever injected an illegal drug. However, young Americans use alcohol and other drugs at high rates. According to NIDA, between 2000 and 2003 about 10 young people (age 13-24) were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS each day.

Today an estimated 1 million people in the United States are living with HIV/AIDS, and, approximately 4 out of 10 U.S. AIDS deaths are related to drug abuse.

My advisory committees on AIDS/HIV and Drugs and Substance Abuse confirm the toll that this dual epidemic has taken. Drug abuse and HIV/AIDS affect our children, our families, and our communities not only in the 7th District of Illinois but also across this nation.

I commend NIDA's efforts in advancing research and public awareness to better understand the pivotal role drug abuse (in all its forms) can play in the spread of HIV/AIDS.

We need to continue to educate our constituents about the risks of drug abuse and HIV infection. We need to provide adequate and accessible treatment for those with drug problems and HIV/AIDS. We need to support what NIDA has established that drug abuse treatment is HIV prevention. Because by limiting and protecting against the risky behaviors associated with drug abuse, we can decrease the likelihood of spreading or contracting HIV/AIDS.

TRIBUTE TO BRONSON METHODIST HOSPITAL

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bronson Methodist

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan for providing outstanding health care to the residents of Southwestern Michigan. Bronson was recently honored with the 2005 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, which is our Nation's highest Presidential honor to commend quality and organizational performance excellence.

The 6 recipients of the Malcolm Baldrige Award were selected from a highly competitive field of 64 nation-wide applicants, which were rigorously evaluated by an independent board of examiners.

This prestigious award will come as no surprise to the folks of Southwestern Michigan who have for years relied upon the hard work and treatment provided by Bronson Methodist Hospital. There is nothing more important to us than our health and the health of our family members. I would like to thank Bronson Methodist Hospital for the continued quality service they provide our community and congratulate them once again for being recognized nationally for their hard work and dedication. We are truly fortunate to have such an exemplary hospital working for us in our corner of Southwest Michigan.

TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, as the House stands poised to consider and pass H.R. 1717, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005 (TVRA), I want to express my strong support for this legislation. I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 1717. I want to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of Survivors of Torture, International (SURVIVORS) in my district of San Diego, California. SURVIVORS is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to caring for survivors of politically-motivated torture and their families who live in San Diego County.

San Diego is home to the busiest land border crossing in the world. According to conservative estimates based on International Red Cross Red Crescent Societies' extrapolations of the percentage of torture survivors among refugees from countries where the use of systematic torture is documented, approximately 11,000 torture survivors are living in San Diego County today. They are from countries where the use of systematic torture is documented, including countries in Africa, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America.

Since 1997, SURVIVORS has helped more than 500 torture survivors from more than 40 countries to recover from their traumas through a holistic program including medical, dental, psychiatric, psychological, legal and social services. SURVIVORS empowers torture survivors to reclaim the strength and vitality that were stolen from them by brutal dictators and governments. The specialized care SURVIVORS provides these vulnerable individuals helps them to become self-sufficient and healthy members of their families and of our community. SURVIVORS currently serves approximately 200 survivors of torture and their families in San Diego County.

Mr. Speaker, SURVIVORS works with refugees, asylees, asylum seekers, and immigrants who are survivors of torture. By working with this large population in San Diego County, SURVIVORS is strengthening the nation: many of its clients move to other communities in the United States after receiving the care and services necessary to successfully build a new life here. As SURVIVORS continues to work in the community, it receives an increasing number of referrals and requests for services each year. There is also a need to continue making services even more comprehensive.

The professional background of SURVIVORS' clients include: business, religious, government, and farm leaders; university students and educators; journalists; physicians and nurses. They are talented, trained, productive people who feel destroyed. Torturers today are able to create conditions which effectively break down the victim's personality, identity, and his/her ability to live a full life later. At SURVIVORS and groups like it across the nation, these individuals find help to begin reclaiming their lives.

The significant majority of SURVIVORS clients in San Diego suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, or both. The worst consequences of torture are psychological "sequelae." These are normal yet disabling reactions for ordinary people who have endured the extreme trauma of torture.

People are referred to programs like SURVIVORS through a variety of sources, including: religious and community-based social service organizations, refugee resettlement organizations, immigration attorneys, public health care providers, schools, individuals in the community, and other torture survivors.

Mr. Speaker, the TVRA provides funds for torture treatment centers in the U.S. through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Currently, 27 programs in 17 states receive assistance through ORR. The treatment provided by these programs enables survivors of torture to recover their lives and become productive members of their communities. Many of these centers also train mainstream organizations and personnel. This increases the ability of health care providers, schools and other institutions to provide for the special needs of torture victims and contribute to the prevention of torture.

Since 2000, SURVIVORS has received the bulk of its funding from TVRA through ORR; and almost two-thirds of SURVIVORS' current financial support is funded through an ORR grant. TVRA provides funds for foreign treatment centers through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). In some cases, direct investment by the U.S. in torture rehabilitation centers provides important political support and protection, especially when the local embassy, Members of Congress and other American leaders visit these centers. SURVIVORS also receives funding to provide technical assistance and build the capacity of NGOs in Mexico that provide services to survivors of torture.

Mr. Speaker, TVRA also authorizes a contribution to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT). Funding from the U.N. helps many centers feel more secure in the dangerous work of aiding torture survivors that a regime has identified as its enemies. The UNVFVT supports nearly 200 treatment programs spanning 70 countries, in-

cluding nearly all U.S. centers. This funding is also vital to groups like SURVIVORS for direct programs.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, the TVRA is a vital piece of legislation which funds essential services for survivors of torture throughout the 53rd District of California and San Diego County, and enhances the standing and reputation by exporting America's values in the form of support for foreign treatment centers. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill that is so important to so many.

HONORING RETIRING CONCORD
TOWN COUNCILMAN JOHN ALLAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor John Allan, whose service as a member of the Concord Town Board will come to an end on December 31, 2005.

Councilman Allan is a man dedicated to effective public service for the residents of the Town of Concord. Few public officials love their hometown the way John Allan does, and his public acts have always had the intention of making life in the town of Concord better for those fortunate enough to live there.

While John's most recent run for public office has proven unsuccessful, it is a virtual certainty that he will remain active in local civic affairs. That is a good thing, for the town of Concord is better for the active public service of individuals like John Allan.

I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for offering me this opportunity to honor the public service of retiring Concord Councilman John Allan, and I hope that you will join me in offering to Mr. Allan the House's best wishes of good luck and Godspeed in all of his future endeavors.

U.S. MARINE LANCE CORPORAL
DAVID A. MENDEZ RUIZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Marine Corporal David A. Mendez Ruiz of Cleveland, Ohio, who bravely, honorably and selflessly heeded the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Family, friends and service to others framed Corporal Ruiz's young life. He gained personal strength and faith from those who knew him best and loved him most, especially his father and mother, Maximiliano and Miriam; sisters and brothers, Sandra, Byron, Laura, Mynor, Zucely, Edgar and Nydia; grandmother, Elvia Ruiz; and his fifteen nieces and nephews.

Corporal Ruiz was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on May 26, 1985. In 1991, at the age of six, Corporal Ruiz and his family immigrated to the United States and settled in Cleveland, Ohio. He quickly assimilated to American culture; his easygoing nature and generous heart easily drew others to him. One