

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MARY SCOTT-HALL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mary Scott-Hallof Saint Joseph, Missouri. Mary is a leader in the Girl Scouts, representing the Midland Empire for over seven years, and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Women in Volunteerism.

As a leader in the Girl Scouts, Mary has gone beyond her expected role, helping to grow the community's interest and excitement for the Girl Scouts. She has organized a variety of service projects for her troop, including donations to the YWCA Women's Abuse Shelter and America's Second Harvest Food Bank. As the Day Camp director for the St. Joseph area, she has provided exceptional programs to over 100 girls each summer. Additionally donating her time to Camp Woodland, she was responsible for preparing meals and programs for up to 150 girls and adults.

Her achievements to the Girl Scouts are highly recognized. Her troop built the Manley Tillison Outdoor Classroom, a part of the troop's Silver Medal Award project. In addition, she has been given the Girl Scouts Outstanding Volunteer Pin by her peers and received the Service to Mankind Award from the St. Joseph Downtown Sertoma Club.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Mary Scott-Hall. Her commitment to the Girl Scouts and service in the community are to be admired. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CARLSON COMPANIES INC., AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRAVEL AGENTS, FLAMINGO TRAVEL, AND ELA BRASIL TOURS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, sex tourism and more specifically the sexual commercial exploitation of children has increasingly become a serious problem. The International Labor Organization estimates that approximately 550,000–700,000 children are forced into sexual exploitation each year. I, therefore, rise to salute the Carlson Companies Inc., the American Society of Travel Agents, ASTA, Flamingo Travel in Philadelphia and Ela Brasil in New York City for signing the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children From Sexual Commercial Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. They have taken a bold stand against the sexual exploitation of children and should be recognized for their actions.

The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children From Sexual Commercial Exploitation

in Travel and Tourism was developed by End Child Prostitution Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes, ECPAT, along with World Tourism Organization, WTO, and has been funded by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). By signing the Code of Conduct, travel and tourism companies commit to take a series of steps to ensure that they are not facilitating the trafficking of children for purposes of prostitution. Law enforcement cannot do it alone. It takes a multifaceted approach to discourage sex tourism.

The Code of Conduct requires that the tourism or travel company establish an ethical policy regarding sexual exploitation of children; train its personnel in the country of origin and travel destinations; introduce a clause in contracts with suppliers requiring that they repudiate commercial sexual exploitation of children; provide information to travelers by means of catalogues, brochures, inflight films, and ticket slips; provide information to local "key persons" at the destinations; and report annually to the Code International Steering Committee and the Secretariat at the WTO.

By reporting yearly, the companies share their experiences and allow for annual monitoring and evaluation of the progress and outcomes of their endeavors. A Steering Committee made up of international independent and voluntary representatives along with ECPAT supervise the Code implementation.

Internationally, more than two hundred companies have signed the Code of Conduct. The United States, however, has lagged far behind. That is why the willingness of Carlson Companies Inc., Flamingo Travel, Ela Brasil and ASTA to sign the Code is so significant. The Carlson Companies Inc. is ranked as one of the largest privately held corporations in America. Among its brands and services are Regent International Hotels, Radisson Hotels, Country Inns and Suites, Park Plaza, Carlson Wagonlit Travel, Cruise Holidays, Results Travel, Raddison Seven Seas Cruises, and Carlson Marketing Group.

Since signing the Code of Conduct, Carlson Companies Inc. has put information about sex tourism and commercial exploitation of children on its company website, has run ads and included editorial content in its hotel publications, and has included information about this issue on their ticket stock. Flamingo Travel, Ela Brasil and ASTA have taken similar steps in implementing the Code of Conduct.

These companies are trailblazers in combating the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Their bold stand could save lives. Significantly their forthright commitment on this issue puts pressure on other American companies in travel and tourism to sign the Code of Conduct as well.

Mr. Speaker, for all the foregoing reasons, I ask my the colleagues to join me in applauding the Carlson Companies Inc., ASTA, Flamingo Travel, and Ela Brasil for their commitment to implementing the Code of Conduct and fighting one of the world's cruelest and most devastating industries.

DISTURBING ECONOMIC TRENDS IN PUERTO RICO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the disturbing economic trends in Puerto Rico detailed in recently released reports by the General Accountability Office (GAO), and the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT). Taken together, these finely written and well-documented studies paint a bleak picture of an island that—instead of being a model of economic development—has fallen further behind the 50 states.

Nothing could be clearer from these reports than that we have failed the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico miserably for over 50 years. Not because of bad intentions, or because of some sort of benign neglect, but because of failed policies that have provided few, if any, of their promised benefits. These studies vividly demonstrate the need for a different approach that will more directly benefit the residents of Puerto Rico, including making them eligible for the refundable portion of the child tax credit, which I proposed in legislation introduced earlier this Congress (H.R. 4451).

These studies paint a fairly stark picture of the ways in which Federal policies have markedly neglected working Americans in Puerto Rico, by denying them basic support accorded to families in the rest of the United States who are struggling to make ends meet.

The focus of the GAO report is the economy of Puerto Rico during the phase-out of the Possessions Tax Credit ("Sec. 936"), the cornerstone of the U.S. tax policy in Puerto Rico until Congress repealed it in 1996. GAO (and an independent study by the Brookings Institution), determined that the repeal of Sec. 936 to a significant degree did not cause the companies that had previously taken advantage of the program to flee the island; instead concluding that "a substantial amount of possession corporation activity has been continued by other types of businesses," primarily by the companies conversion to controlled foreign corporations, which do not have to pay taxes on their PR source income. As such, the GAO provides the most comprehensive and objective assessment that while corporate structures have changed, underlying economic activity has not markedly changed during the Sec. 936 phase-out.

The bottom line conclusion is that the tax policies that have been in place have failed to put Puerto Rico on a path toward equality with the mainland. Growth has been insufficient to reduce the gap in per capita income (one third that of the mainland), living standards (four times the number of people live below the poverty level) and unemployment (twice as high as the mainland)—nor improve the abysmally low labor force participation rate. Clearly the data supports the conclusion that the past approach has had little—if any—direct and

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