

people are trafficked across international borders each year. Instead of dreams of better jobs and better lives, they are trapped into a nightmare of coercion, violence, and disease. However, trafficking is not just a problem in other countries. In addition to the men, women, and children from around the world who are brought into the United States for the sole purpose of being bought and sold by American citizens for commercial sex, in many communities, the victims themselves are Americans.

The legislation, which is based on an amendment attached by Senator GRASSLEY to S. 1321, the "Telephone Excise Tax Repeal Act of 2005," would authorize \$2 million toward the establishment of an office within the IRS Criminal Investigation division to prosecute sex traffickers for violations of tax laws. This office would coordinate closely with the existing task forces in the Department of Justice that are focused on sex trafficking offenders. The IRS would be directed to focus on the willful failure of traffickers to file returns, supply information, or pay tax where the taxpayer is an "aggravated" non-filer. Additionally, the provision establishes a new felony offense for an aggravated failure to file to include failure to file with respect to income or payments derived from activity which is criminal under Federal or State law. The aggravated failure shall carry a maximum sentence of ten years per failure and shall increase the penalty from \$25,000 under current law to \$50,000. The legislation also increases other penalties for underpayment or overpayment of tax due to fraud.

The bill works to the benefit of the women and girls that are victimized by the traffickers not only by removing the traffickers from the streets but also by revising the IRS Whistleblower provisions that are currently in place so that the women and girls who choose to participate in the investigation of the trafficker will be eligible to participate in the whistleblower program and may ultimately receive some payment for their participation.

It is important that we protect the victims of the sex trade industry, and punish the predators who exploit them.

REMEMBERING 9-11

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, in a day that will be looked upon as one of the worst days in American history, I remember it as a day where the world saw the best in all of us. Together, we mourned the loss of our fellow countrymen, grieved for the families they left behind and reaffirmed our resolve to cement the lessons of their sacrifice. Today, we celebrate their memory by forging a renewed commitment to never forget the lives lost on September 11th. For every life we lost, there was also a tale of courage and spirit.

I'd like to take a moment to tell you the story of a 53-year-old Catholic priest living in San Diego named Bill Metzdorf who is also a member of the California National Guard. On September 11th, Father Metzdorf was fulfilling his annual National Guard requirements by performing funerals at Arlington National Cem-

etry. Minutes following the attack on the Pentagon, Father Metzdorf was coordinating an impromptu prayer service. He would later accompany rescue workers into the Pentagon debris and perform blessings over the remains of those who did not survive the attack. He did this for more than two weeks, working 12-hour shifts.

Consoling family members, friends and survivors, Father Metzdorf helped strangers become friends, facing his difficult mission with unshakable resolve and fierce determination. Amidst all of the fear and uncertainty, Father Metzdorf stood with unwavering strength and gave others the gift of comfort. His story is similar to many of the police, fire and emergency responders who went into action, unafraid and unwilling to let cowards win the day.

As we honor those people lost five years ago and the heroes who helped rebuild an injured nation, let us also remember the men and women who are currently serving in our armed forces, who did not expect nor invite what would follow after September 11th. The people living in the San Diego region that I represent understand as well as anyone what kind of sacrifices come with military service. They have agreed to put a greater interest above their own and are the cornerstone of our Republic. They are defending the very thing the terrorists tried to destroy and we will never forget their service or sacrifices.

The truth is—we survived the worst and we still stand tall today. Bound by a common spirit of enterprise and a love of liberty, we have moved beyond the shadows cast by the events of 9-11 and persevered. The terrorists may have succeeded in tearing down structures, but no deed can extinguish the flames of freedom, or the American spirit.

55TH ANNIVERSARY OF AL-ANON

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 55th anniversary of Al-Anon Family Groups. As co-chair of the Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus, I want to recognize the tremendous work of this dedicated organization.

For over half a century, Al-Anon and Alateen have been a key source of support and hope for families and friends of alcoholics and addicts all over the world, with over 26,000 groups in 115 different countries.

Policymakers often focus attention on the individual with chemical addiction and forget or underestimate how devastating a loved one's disease can be on friends and family members.

Thankfully, Al-Anon and Alateen have never forgotten and are always there whenever a hurting person reaches out for help. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Al-Anon and Alateen.

This month not only marks the 55th anniversary of Al-Anon, it is also the 17th annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. As we celebrate the promise and possibility of recovery this month, we must also remember the loved ones impacted by this devastating disease. As the chemical depend-

ency professionals tell us, chemical addiction is truly a "family disease."

Thanks to Al-Anon, these individuals have a place to go where they can find hope and support. For that we owe this wonderful organization and all of its members our support and gratitude for 55 years of dedicated service.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Al-Anon and Alateen.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably unable to be on the House Floor for rollcall vote 451, final passage of H. Con. Res. 210—Supporting the goal of eliminating suffering and death due to cancer by the year 2015; rollcall vote 452, final passage of H. Res. 622—To recognize and honor the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democratic ideals and their important contribution to the outcome of World War II; and, rollcall vote 453, final passage of H. Con. Res. 415—Condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community and calling for the emancipation of Iranian Baha'is. Had I been present I would have voted: "aye," for rollcall vote 451, "aye" for rollcall vote 452, and "aye" for rollcall vote 453.

HONORING THE REVEREND DR. RAYMOND A. BELL

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the accomplishments of a great man and a great Virginian, Dr. Raymond A. Bell, Senior Pastor at Mount Hope Baptist Church.

Dr. Bell celebrates his 20th Anniversary with Mount Hope Baptist Church on September 23, 2006.

Dr. Bell is a true pillar of his community. As a leader in the faith community and an advocate for his congregation, Dr. Bell is a real example of the values held dear by Virginians—hard work, perseverance, and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Bell is a true American leader. A successful reverend and public servant who has worked tirelessly for so many years, I wish Dr. Bell many more years to so greatly impact his fellow Virginians.

"FLOOD INSURANCE COMMUNITY OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM ACT OF 2006"

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, one year after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it is clear that more needs to be done to protect and prepare homeowners from future catastrophic flooding.

Which is why I have introduced the "Flood Insurance Community Outreach Grant Program Act of 2006." The intent of this legislation is to increase the overall participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) while moving the program toward long-term stability and solvency.

My legislation will forge a stronger partnership between the federal government and local floodplain managers. It will: Create a grant program within FEMA to educate property owners about their flood risk and about the importance of flood insurance; and Funds this grant program at \$50 million dollars annually over five years.

People at risk of flooding need to know their options and our local floodplain managers are our best partners in this effort. To put it quite simply, with 20,000 participating communities in NFIP—one size does not fit all. Our local partners know the risks, they know the landscape and in many cases they know the people. They know how to reach out to the people in their flood plain.

They can focus on the estimated 20 to 25 percent of property owners who have fallen through the cracks of our flood insurance system. People who are supposed to carry flood insurance, but do not carry it. Or use the money for an educational campaign directed towards people living in areas protected by levees, but not subject to the federal flood insurance requirement. Spreading the message: Levees can fail or overtop in severe weather. So it is common sense to carry flood insurance, even if the federal government no longer requires it.

This program can work.

Last year, with the support of a \$162,000 FEMA grant, my local flood protection body, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), conducted just such a flood insurance outreach initiative.

SAFCA reached out to more than 45,000 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policyholders in the American River floodplain. In February 2005, this densely populated region was released from the Federal flood insurance requirement.

SAFCA's efforts yielded impressive results.

More than one year after SAFCA conducted outreach, 74 percent of the 45,000 NFIP policyholders who were removed from the Fed-

eral requirement had maintained their flood insurance protection.

Of this group, 43 percent now carry Preferred Risk flood insurance. Preferred Risk Policies provide property owners, who have been released from the federal requirement, but remain at risk of flooding, with full flood insurance protection for about half the price of a Standard flood policy. Because of their lower cost, it is likely that these Preferred Risk Policies will result in a higher level of policy retention over time.

Through this partnership with SAFCA, FEMA was able to retain a high number of flood insurance policies in the Sacramento region—a region that accounts for nearly 1 in 4 of all flood insurance policies in California.

Increasing the number of people who carry and hold on to their flood insurance will only strengthen the National Flood Insurance Program. And as Katrina made painfully clear: We need a strong and functional program to be there for our constituents in times of crisis.

While this grant program would be funded at \$50 million annually and authorized for 5 years, I want to emphasize that this grant program has an excellent return on its investment.

For FEMA to recoup its initial grant to SAFCA, 550 Preferred Risk Policies had to be sold to property owners who otherwise would have canceled their flood insurance. SAFCA accomplished this . . . more than 20 times over.

Because of the FEMA and SAFCA partnership, more than 35,000 property owners who did not have to carry flood insurance stayed in the federal flood insurance pool. What is more, nearly 13,000 policyholders in the American River floodplain switched to Preferred Risk Policies.

In short, FEMA got its money's worth. And this says nothing of the Sacramento premiums that will continue to come into the Federal flood insurance pool each year these policyholders maintain their flood insurance.

Again, most of these policyholders no longer have to buy flood insurance. They do so because it is the safe thing to do. Because SAFCA has alerted them to the ongoing flood risk in their community. And because they saw what happened on the Gulf Coast.

If we can have this type of success in Sacramento, I am confident it can be replicated across the country.

These local outreach efforts will augment and benefit FEMA's existing marketing program by targeting property owners who are most likely to leave the NFIP—those who have been or will be released from the Federal flood insurance requirement.

The lesson learned here is that people whose houses, apartments and businesses are vulnerable to flooding are willing to enter and stay in the National Flood Insurance Program when they are informed of the risk they face and the options available to them.

Let me be clear; I speak from experience. When it comes to flood risk, my district of Sacramento is the most at-risk river city in the Nation.

My highest priority is to provide the city of Sacramento, my neighbors and my constituents with the best flood protection possible. We are making strides in strengthening and reinforcing the levees in Sacramento and making improvements to Folsom Dam—but whenever I talk about these efforts, I remind my constituents, "If you live behind a levee, you should purchase flood insurance."

Finally, I am encouraged by the efforts we are making as a Nation to develop a comprehensive flood protection agenda.

FEMA is in the process of implementing their Map Modernization Program that will update our Nation's flood maps.

Additionally, the Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a national levee inventory. When completed, this inventory will provide communities with a greater understanding of their flooding vulnerabilities. It will also provide us with a good indication as a country as to what long-term investments need to be made toward our flood protection infrastructure.

Both the FEMA Remapping Initiative and the levee inventory are important to the long-term safety and economic security of our country. The "Flood Insurance Community Outreach Grant Program Act of 2006" would be an excellent resource for communities to augment these initiatives.

This bill is a step in the right direction in providing for comprehensive flood protection for property owners and communities. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.