

Irvin Dyer's actions in Romania serve not only the people of Romania, but the whole world. The goodwill he spreads reflects well on Americans and our belief in caring for those less fortunate, protecting the future for our children and making the world a better place for all people.

We should all be grateful for the wonderful example of Mr. Dyer, and like him, reach out to help the millions of people suffering the ravages of addiction.

HONORING THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF AGENCIES SERVING THE BLIND

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a wonderful organization in my State of Florida, the Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind (FAASB).

FAASB has an honorable mission to serve as a united voice and be the organizational support empowering private agencies serving Floridians with blindness and visual impairment to provide state of the art professional vision rehabilitation services which enhance the quality of individual and community life.

I would like to praise FAASB for its successful initiative to create the first-ever state license plate benefiting the blind. Additionally, I must commend them for creating a vision caucus in the Florida State Legislature, similar to the Congressional Vision Caucus, which I co-chair. This State Vision Caucus will educate members of the State Legislature so they comprehend the scope of eye problems in our country and will ensure adequate resources are directed towards the research, prevention and treatment of eye disease.

FAASB has also created an annual Florida Vision Summit, where they look to create a statewide vision strategy to raise awareness about the increasing number of Americans with vision loss and provide better understanding of the importance of necessary steps to preserve and protect eyesight.

Once again, I would like to thank FAASB for their continued commitment to prevention, better eye care, and services to those who already live with low vision and blindness. I congratulate them on their achievement and service to the community.

HUNTING IN THE NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, the New River Gorge National River in southern West Virginia was designated as a unit of the National Park System in 1978. At times referred to as the 'Grand Canyon of the East' we in West Virginia refer to the Grand Canyon as the 'New River Gorge of the West.' The national river is comprised of over 70,000 acres of mostly rugged terrain and is renowned as a

destination for its world-class whitewater recreation, rock climbing and other outdoor activities. But it is also a place where generations of West Virginians have hunted and fished. Unfortunately, the ability to hunt in the gorge is now being drawn into question.

As the Congressman from New River County, today I am introducing legislation to ensure that hunting remains a purpose of the New River Gorge National River.

I view it as a God given right for West Virginians to hunt in the New River Gorge. This area is not immune from activities such as housing developments that are placing a premium on lands where hunting by the general public may take place.

Unfortunately, the National Park Service, as part of the development of a new general management plan for the park unit, has included a no hunting alternative. It is doing so because the legislation which established the New River Gorge National River states that hunting "may" be permitted. The enabling statute for the nearby Gauley River National Recreation Area, on the other hand, states that hunting "shall" be allowed. In fact, this is the case for the vast majority of the 62 units of the National Park System in which hunting is permitted.

The bill I am introducing today simply changes the "may" to a "shall" in the law which established the New River Gorge National River. While there is no doubt in my mind that the current Superintendent of this park unit will do the right thing and allow hunting to continue in the final general management plan, this is too important of an issue to remain at the discretion of future managers of the park unit.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF METROPOLITAN FAMILY SERVICES

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Metropolitan Family Services on its 150 years of service to individuals and families of the Chicago metropolitan area.

Metropolitan Family Services, MFS, was launched on February 15, 1857, as the Chicago Relief and Aid Society, renamed as United Charities in 1909, and then renamed again in 1995 as Metropolitan Family Services.

MFS was assigned by Chicago Mayor R. B. Mason to help citizens recover after the Chicago Fire. It assisted more than 18,000 families, constructing more than 7,000 temporary homes and administering more than \$10 million, in 1871 dollars in aid donated around the world.

MFS was one of the Nation's first organizations to provide free legal services for the poor through the Legal Aid Society.

A leader in meeting the needs of thousands of people through the Great Depression, World War II, and postwar years, MFS provided a range of services including mental health counseling, elder care, and early childhood education.

MFS successfully advocated for State legislation enacted in 2005 that protected poor and

lower-income families from predatory lending practices.

Presently, Metropolitan Family Services employs 559 professionals serving close to 55,000 families and individuals. It has seven community centers that provide a full range of services, including child and youth development, mental health services, child welfare, employee assistance programs, legal aid, services for older adults and their families, social policy and community development, and violence prevention and intervention.

I congratulate MFS on its success in providing and mobilizing the services needed to strengthen Chicago area families and communities.

CONGRATULATING KIRSTEN AMBORS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Kirsten Ambors of Parker, Colorado. Ms. Ambors is a mathematics student at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Ambors and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE UPON ITS 10TH YEAR

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenth year of a unique program in the annals of our Nation's proud military heritage. On January 28, 1999, the Honorable Mahlon Appgar, IV, then Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Logistics and Environment, first presented the Residential Communities Initiative, known as RCI, in a briefing to the Urban Land Institute. Few in that distinguished audience of real estate developers, financiers and public officials appreciated the far-reaching impact that RCI would have on the Army, on industry, and, most importantly, on improving the quality of life for thousands of military families.

At that time, the Army faced a monumental challenge in its Government-owned housing and infrastructure. Seventy-five percent of the family housing on Army posts was substandard, and the poor conditions were hurting

recruiting and retention. Military communities lacked amenities that most other Americans enjoyed. The Army's construction and maintenance backlog exceeded \$6 billion, with no predictable funding sources in sight. Complicated, cumbersome business processes caused significant delays in planning and executing housing programs.

Today, as we start RCI's tenth year, it is a major success. In fact, the Bush Administration calls RCI the "most important military housing improvement program in our Nation's history." I am honored to have played a leadership role in RCI from its start. Despite numerous challenges in policy, organization and execution, RCI has achieved high satisfaction rates among military families, lower development costs and faster construction, better housing, neighborhoods and community facilities, and more responsive maintenance and management. RCI encompasses over 88,000 new and renovated multi-family housing units—97 percent of the Army's U.S. housing stock—located on 45 installations in 20 states. RCI communities are purposefully and profitably built and managed by nine major real estate development groups and are financed with \$10 billion of new private capital, achieving 10-to-1 leverage of public investment—an exceptional result for the taxpayer. RCI projects are pioneering the use of manufactured housing, solar-powered and "green building" techniques, and "new urbanism" design concepts for safe, walkable neighborhoods, with community centers and leisure facilities that are especially important to military spouses and children during long deployments. RCI has spawned other military privatization programs for Army lodging, unaccompanied housing, retail and "lifestyle" centers, office parks and warehouse developments. RCI has become one of the Federal Government's largest public-private partnership programs.

I was proud to help Secretary Apgar steer RCI through four Congressional committees and a skeptical Army leadership. With no prior Washington experience but a clear vision of the future, a gracious manner and a pragmatic approach, he bore the brunt of considerable criticism and built coalitions among numerous stakeholders across the political and commercial spectrum.

Many saw RCI as a dilution of control, a diversion of resources, and a haven for profiteering. But Secretary Apgar saw it as a means of expanding the Army's military construction budgets with private capital, enlisting the entrepreneurship and capabilities of American business, and reforming the Army's approach to meeting infrastructure needs.

Madam Speaker, RCI has progressed from the vision and persistence of a single official, through the minefields of committee oversight and staff reviews and the complexities of our vast military organization, to a mature, sustainable, bipartisan, public-private partnership effort. At a time of enormous sacrifice by our soldiers and their loved ones, we can be proud of a program that provides military families with the quality housing and communities they so deserve. And in an era of economic stress, we should look to RCI for lessons that may help to meet our national challenges in rebuilding infrastructure and managing resources.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MURDER OF JOURNALIST HRANT
DINK

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, it is with a mixture of anger and sadness that I rise today to honor the 1-year anniversary of the murder of Hrant Dink, the courageous Armenian-Turkish journalist, who was murdered by a Turkish extremist.

Mr. Dink founded the bilingual newspaper *Agos* in 1996, giving a voice to Turkey's Armenians. He acted on his beliefs of building community and acknowledging the past, for which he was persecuted, prosecuted and eventually forced to pay the ultimate price. Clearly, however, his life's work was not in vain; at his funeral, approximately 100,000 people marched behind his coffin, chanting, "We are all Dink. We are all Armenians."

Before Mr. Dink's untimely death last January, the Turkish government constantly tried to limit his freedom of speech. It confiscated copies of *Agos* on many occasions and on the flimsiest of pretenses. In 2004, Mr. Dink wrote an article stating that Turkey's first woman pilot was an Armenian orphan adopted after 1915. The government convicted him of insulting "Turkishness" under Article 301 of the Penal Code, a law specifically designed to prevent discussion of the Armenian Genocide. He received a 6-month suspended sentence. This was just one of several such prosecutions against Mr. Dink.

Mr. Dink's courage to confront the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide cost him his life. He continually received threatening telephone calls, e-mails, and letters. He reported this terrorization to the police, but they failed to protect him. On January 19, 2007, an extreme nationalist teenager shot Mr. Dink three times outside the *Agos* offices in Istanbul, killing him. Court hearings continue, but Mr. Dink's family stated that the investigation of his murder was conducted in secrecy and is incomplete.

Turkish prosecutions under Article 301 increased in 2007 and continued to affect Mr. Dink's family. Arat Dink, his son, published an interview in which Mr. Dink said that the 1915 to 1917 Armenian massacres constituted genocide. Last October Arat Dink received a 1-year suspended sentence for publishing this interview. Punishing Mr. Dink's son for publishing his murdered father's words is a travesty and exposes the lengths to which Ankara will go to hide the truth about the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. Dink's death was devastating to the democratic principle of a free and unfettered press and to the efforts of a handful of Turkish intellectuals who have been fighting to expose the crimes of Turkey's Ottoman predecessor. Denying the Armenian Genocide harms Turkey and imperils the future of this important nation. As the world marks the anniversary of Dink's murder, I reiterate my call for Turkey to honor the memory of Hrant Dink by repealing Article 301, and to acknowledge the truth of the Armenian Genocide.

Together with his family and colleagues, the Armenian community in Turkey, and his admirers around the world, we remember Hrant

Dink, heroic defender of speech and human rights, on the 1-year anniversary of his murder.

CONGRATULATING LESLIE
ANDERSON

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 28, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Leslie Anderson of Longmont, Colorado. Ms. Anderson is a political science student at the University of Florida and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Anderson and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2007—VETO MESSAGE
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge a "yes" vote on overriding President Bush's veto of the urgently needed reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program. Over the last several months, President Bush has had an opportunity to work with a bipartisan majority of Congress and provide health insurance to over 10 million low-income children. However, he decided instead to place himself on the wrong side of the history of health care and play politics with the health of American children.

The Children's Health Insurance Program is a highly successful program with a proven track record that is supported by an overwhelming majority of the American public. We need to reauthorize and build on the success of this program and override this ill-timed and unconscionable presidential veto.

A recent Joint Economic Committee report estimated that between 700,000 and 1.1 million additional children will enroll in Medicaid and CHIP programs each year due to slowing employment growth.

In fact, the JEC report notes, "The association between poor economic conditions and children's enrollment in Medicaid/CHIP is large, consistent, and statistically significant." So what does the president do as working families strain to make ends meet in the face of a looming economic crisis? He vetoes health care for poor children! This is unacceptable.