

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2009

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in enthusiastic support for H. Res. 194 a resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day. For the last century March 8th has been a day for people to unite in their commitment to honor the women who courageously fight for gender equality and women's rights across the globe.

The course of women's history through the 20th and 21st centuries has been on an upward trajectory, and while we celebrate how far we have come, it is important to pause and reflect on the reality that women continue to face political and economic obstacles, discrimination, and violence all over the world.

While there are many who deserve our appreciation, I would like to recognize the women of Afghanistan who have begun to steadily chip at the steel grasp of patriarchy, and begun to fight for safety and justice.

Before 2003 the idea of a women's shelter in Afghanistan was unheard of, and domestic abuse victims who did seek protection from law enforcement were often thrown in jail or returned to their husbands, perpetuating a culture of silence around the practices of beating, torture, and forced marriage.

Now, shelters like the Women for Afghan Women in Kabul and the Afghan Women Skills Development Center provide protection, treatment, and legal services to women who might otherwise have resigned themselves to a life of quiet misery, or resorted to suicide.

These shelters, like others around the world, provide solace and safety for women with nowhere else to turn. They provide the basic hope of possibilities for those seeking a safe haven from abuse. Before these shelters existed many Afghan women could only dream of a life in their own control, and now they have hope.

I would like to thank my colleague Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY for sponsoring this important resolution which allows us to stand and celebrate our common ideals with the 3 billion women across the globe in dignity and certitude that one day women will live free of discrimination and violence no matter where they were born.

IN HONOR OF FATHER JOHN J.
CREGAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Chaplain Father John J.

Cregan, as he is being honored by the Retired Irish Police Society with the "2009 James P Sweeney—Man of the Year Award." Father Cregan's service to police officers and firefighters who bravely serve our community continues to be an invaluable source of support, kindness and guidance for the women and men who bravely serve in the line of duty.

At a very young age, Father Cregan and his four sisters, Sister Theresine, Rita, Florence and the late Margaret were taught the importance of family, faith, heritage and service. Father Cregan's grandfather, born in Ireland, was a Cleveland police sergeant. His father, Joseph Cregan, served for many years as a Cleveland Police Lieutenant, and two of his nephews currently serve as Cleveland police officers. Father Cregan's mother, Florence Cregan, was a critical influence in shaping his wonderful sense of humor, his faith and his sense of compassion for others.

Father Cregan has served in parishes throughout our community, including Blessed Sacrament, St. Joseph's Church, St. Thomas More and Our Lady of Angels, where he was appointed Pastor in 1987 and where he continues to serve today. Moreover, Father Cregan continues to serve as the Chaplain for the Cleveland Police and Fire, Greater Cleveland Police and Fire, Holy Name Society, Cleveland Office of the FBI, the Greater Cleveland Police Emerald Society and the Anchor Club—roles he has held for more than forty years. He has also served as the Chaplain for the Retired Irish Police Society since 1988.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Chaplain Father John J. Cregan, as he is named the 2009 John P. Sweeney "Man of the Year" by the Retired Irish Police Society. Father Cregan's warmth, concern, support and guidance continues to impact the lives of police officers and firefighters throughout our community. As he has for forty years, Father Cregan has been there with our safety forces to celebrate the happiest of times, and most significantly, he has stood with them in the most trying of times, offering strength, hope and faith to officers and their loved ones. Father Cregan continues to lift the lives of countless individuals and families throughout Greater Cleveland and today, we stand in gratitude and honor.

TRIBUTE TO MS. LUCILLE HART

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the one-hundredth birthday of Ms. Lucille Hart of Le Roy, Illinois. Ms. Hart joins the rank of centenarians after a fulfilling career in education and with the postal service. For fifteen years, she taught in Delavan, Illinois. She then became the school treasurer, a position she held for thirty more years. After

brief positions held at Caterpillar and the local post office, she retired and became an avid gardener. She continues to tend to her flowers and plants indoors during Illinois' harsh winters. Today, she is joined by her closest friends and family to celebrate.

In the last one hundred years, Ms. Hart has seen women granted the right to vote. She witnessed the United States in World War II. She watched a man walk on the moon. She can recall the civil rights movement and Dr. Martin Luther King's speeches. She was born during the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt and has seen the White House change hands eighteen times. Ms. Hart knows what life was like before Blackberries, cell phones, the internet, computers, color television, microwaves, traffic lights, and bubble gum. In one hundred years, American life has changed drastically right before Ms. Hart's eyes.

Ms. Lucille Hart is an inspiration to us all. It is my honor to congratulate Ms. Hart's long life of achievement. May her health remain good and may she continue to inspire.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEXAS PYTHIAN HOME

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Texas Pythian Home. The Home, called the "Castle on the Hill," is located in my district in the city of Weatherford, Texas.

The Texas Pythian Home began on March 1, 1909, as a home for widows and orphans of Knights of Pythias members. The Pythians, a fraternal order, made the decision to build the home in Weatherford following a donation of three hundred acres of land.

The main building housed orphaned children on the second floor. The basement was divided into apartments for widows with children. There were soon so many boys that it became necessary to build a boys-only dorm. The boys moved into their new dorm in 1914. In 1925, a girls-only dorm was built. In the early 1970s, widows moved to the completed retirement home in Greenville, Texas.

The Pythian Home School was designated an independent school district on August 1, 1910 and continued until 1972. In 1937, the last high school graduating class walked across the Pythian auditorium stage. It had been decided to send grades 6–12 to Weatherford Independent School District. Grades 1–5 continued to have classes at the Pythian Home until 1972.

As part of its effort to be self-sufficient, the Home had a large dairy operation for many years. Animals were raised to provide meat.

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