

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ASTHMA
AWARENESS MONTH MAY 1, 2012

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Asthma Awareness Month. Nearly 26 million Americans, including more than 7 million children are affected by asthma. I am encouraging Americans to fight against asthma by learning more about the disease and how it affects families and their communities.

As part of Asthma Awareness Month, there are many public and private organizations working hand and hand to honor those who are taking on the challenge of fighting this chronic respiratory disease. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, is honoring exceptional health plans, health care providers and communities in action for their efforts to improve the lives of people with asthma in underserved communities across the country.

There are many triggers during the spring season making it particularly difficult for asthma patients. The annual economic cost of asthma, including direct medical costs from hospital stays and indirect costs such as lost school and work days, amount to approximately \$56 billion. The EPA is working hard to clean the air we breathe and reduce the environmental causes of asthma and other respiratory illnesses. We can ease this financial burden on Americans by supporting the EPA and legislation such as the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, DERA.

Maintaining an active lifestyle is important in staying healthy and if symptoms are properly managed Americans who suffer from asthma can stay active. Here are some simple steps: learn your triggers and avoid them in your home and neighborhood. With a doctor's help, you can create an asthma action plan to help you effectively manage your asthma and reduce exposure to triggers. Taking the appropriate medications and avoiding your triggers. Check local air quality conditions at airnow.gov and make informed decisions about participating in outdoor activities. In addition a downloadable Air Quality Index mobile app is available for smart phones.

Mr. Speaker, this month, it is important to support the nearly 26 million Americans who suffer from asthma. I am encouraging Americans to educate themselves on the chronic respiratory disease, asthma.

SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE
WORD

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and commend the efforts of

the Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign; a grassroots organization founded by college and high school students toward promoting greater awareness and respect for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Created by young people with disabilities and their typical peers, Spread the Word to End the Word promotes the undeniable truth that everyone matters, everyone is accepted and, most importantly, everyone is valued. Today, young activists across the country are leading local efforts to raise awareness and collect pledges from peers and the community to vow not to use the word "retarded" and recognize the first Wednesday of every March as a national awareness day for The Spread the Word to End the Word campaign.

Best Buddies and Special Olympics participants across the nation have enthusiastically taken the pledge to stop the derogatory use of the word "retarded," and have collectively encouraged hundreds of thousands of others to do the same. I am proud to speak about this amazing group of young activists who are spreading hope each and every day; not just in their own communities but across the country and the world by making communities inclusive of people of all ability levels.

I am proud to have taken the pledge, and I thank all who also pledge to think of others before they speak and, in so doing, promote universal human dignity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
RIVERBANK LIONS CLUB

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize the chartering of the Riverbank Lions Club and its chartering members for their commitment to community and humanitarian service.

Lions Club International was founded in 1917 by a group of business leaders who desired working towards the betterment of their community and the world. Boasting over 46,000 clubs and 1.35 million members, it is now the world's largest service organization. Together, they strive to promote the organization's mission to "empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding." Through community volunteer work, implementing programs to encourage good health and youth empowerment, as well as community and environmental awareness programs, they are truly working to make the world a better place to live.

On May 5, 2012, the Riverbank Lions Club joined this prestigious organization with the chartering of its chapter in Riverbank, California. This group will undoubtedly uphold the Lions' vision and help those in need through community service and fundraising projects.

Members of the chartering club are: Linda Abid-Cummings, Annabelle Aguilar, Tom Aja, Mia Alcala-Van Houten, Cynthia Avila, Lynette Bradley, James "Doc" Dachenhaus, Charlie Grom, Carrie Higby, Patty Hughes, Chip Langman, Sharon Langman, Don Langman, Laura Wilson, Leta Larkin, Sandy Lucas, Dotty Nygard, Billy Powell, Bill Redford, Jennifer Redford, Dawn Rios, Angie Timpone, and Joe Timpone.

Mr. Speaker, we thank you for the opportunity to honor the Riverbank Lions Club here today. Further, we appreciate you joining us in congratulating its members on the chartering of their new chapter and to recognize their commitment to service.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ED
HUNT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Edward Woodrow Hunt, who passed away on April 21, 2012 at the age of 69. Mr. Hunt served as Fresno County's District Attorney for two decades, from 1982 to 2002. He was a passionate prosecutor, who sought justice for victims and was instrumental in the passage of California's "Three Strikes" law.

Mr. Hunt was born on July 27, 1942 in Huntsville, Alabama to Ed and Ethel Hunt. He demonstrated his dedication to public service early in his life, when he enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1961. He served proudly until 1964. His military work brought him to California's San Joaquin Valley, where he worked as an aircraft mechanic at the Castle Air Force Base in Atwater, California.

A proud product of Valley schools, Mr. Hunt graduated from California State University, Fresno with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and earned his law degree from the San Joaquin College of Law.

Early in his career, Mr. Hunt worked as a Deputy District Attorney, where his love of public service grew. His zest for the law and service led him to seek election to become Fresno County's District Attorney.

After a demanding 1982 election cycle, the voters selected Mr. Hunt as their District Attorney. As Fresno's Chief Law Enforcement Officer, Mr. Hunt hit the ground running, and worked diligently to take action against those who had violated the law. Not only was he an impeccable District Attorney, he was also an important partner in ensuring the well-being and safety of our Valley, and eventually the entire State.

When two former California Assembly Members, myself and Mr. Bill Jones, co-authored legislation for our State's "Three Strikes and You're Out," which eventually was placed on the ballot as an initiative by the people of California, Mr. Hunt was one of its staunchest

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