

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, since 1994 Congress has expanded and reauthorized the landmark Violence Against Women Act numerous times in a bipartisan manner. It is unfortunate that the Republican leadership in the House has deviated from tradition with this bill.

This bill not only strips important provisions that were passed in the Senate by a bipartisan vote of 68–31, but also weakens preventive provisions that have been included in previous bills reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, which were supported by Democrats and Republicans over the past 18 years. The Senate's comprehensive reauthorization bill improves protections for Native American women, immigrants, and ensures all victims are assisted regardless of religion or sexual orientation. I support the Senate's bipartisan approach to the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization bill. I cosponsored a version of the bill in the House of Representatives. I also voted to bring the Senate bill up for a vote in the House, but the Republican leadership blocked all amendments and the opportunity to vote on the Senate version.

House Republicans have brought to the floor today a controversial bill that will weaken long-standing protections and roll back key provisions. This is the first time the Violence Against Women Act has become political and it is shame. More than 300 groups have opposed aspects of this bill. Those groups include the National Network to End Domestic Violence, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, Break the Cycle, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, National Organization for Women, YWCA USA, AAUW, Business and Professional Women's Foundation, National Women's Law Center, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, American Bar Association, Human Rights Campaign, NAACP, National Congress of American Indians, National Council of La Raza, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church. I believe that Congress should stand up for all victims of domestic violence and support a comprehensive reauthorization bill.

I hope the House rejects this bill today and immediately passes the Senate's Violence Against Women Act reauthorization bill. I will monitor the progress of this bill in conference with the Senate. I am hopeful that future changes and improvements will give me a chance to vote on an acceptable alternative.

IN HONOR OF MRS. MARILYN
RANSOM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Marilyn Ransom, the North

Olmsted Community Council Citizen of the Year for 2012. A resident of North Olmsted, Ohio since 1967, Marilyn has been an active volunteer and activist in her community for more than four decades.

Marilyn became involved in volunteerism as a parent by supporting her children's schools and the Girl Scouts. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, she volunteered as a cadet assistant leader, leader and eventually Field Director for the Erie Shores Girl Scout Council as a recruiter for future leaders. Marilyn was also an involved member of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). She served as president of the North Olmsted Pre-School PTA and the Early Childhood Education chair for the Ohio PTA.

Marilyn dedicated her time to the City of Lorain YMCA, where, in her role as administrator, she was able to keep the facility open for an additional three years. She was an active member of the North Olmsted Christian Science Society, an organizer of Relay for Life teams and a volunteer with North Olmsted Community Council's Scholarship and Parade Committee. Marilyn was instrumental in the creation of the North Olmsted Honest Conversations program and the All Nations Day celebrations.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mrs. Marilyn Ransom, the 2012 North Olmsted Community Council Citizen of the Year.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SECOND
INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT
MA YING-JEOU OF TAIWAN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, it is important to recognize the very important occasion of the second inauguration of President Ma Ying-Jeou as the leader of our friend and ally the Republic of China (Taiwan).

The upcoming inauguration on May 20, 2012 is the culmination of a tremendous amount of hard work by President Ma who is deserving of praise for his years of public service. President Ma began his career as an assistant to the President of Taiwan before he became the youngest Cabinet Minister in the history of Taiwan. He confronted the difficult challenges of the Justice Ministry where he investigated and prosecuted corrupt public officials before being elected as the Mayor of Taipei where he successfully helped Taiwan's largest city grow economically. First elected in 2008 President Ma is now beginning another four year term following his recent reelection.

Last year, the United States and Taiwan celebrated the 100 year anniversary of our friendship and alliance. I look forward to continuing a robust friendship with this steadfast ally for many years to come and send my best wishes to President Ma as he undertakes the challenges of a second term in office.

HONORING HUDSON VALLEY'S
FIRST RESPONDERS

HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first responders who serve our beautiful Hudson Valley in New York's 19th Congressional District.

This past year brought many challenges to our first responders. It's a privilege to join all of our neighbors in thanking these men and women. As part of our nation's first line of defense, our police, fire, and emergency services personnel put themselves at risk every day to protect our homes, families, and communities.

In particular, the first responders named below deserve special recognition for conspicuous acts of valor, years of dedicated service, and leadership.

From Orange and Rockland Counties:

Captain William Stropell
Responder Stephen Broesler
Responder Melvin Livsey, Jr.
Responder Elieen Searless
Paramedic Elizabeth Bodnar
EMT Pat Conques
EMT Lois Stranges
EMT Anthony Maggio
EMT Shaun Mill
Firefighter Justin Phillips
Police Officer John Bourke
Public Safety Dispatcher Brad Dain
Firefighter Andrew Kolesar
Gas Troubleshooter Ian Mackey
Gas Troubleshooter Lee Stipek
Firefighter Kenneth Patterson
Firefighter Jerry Knapp
The West Haverstraw Volunteer Fire Department
The Haverstraw Volunteer Ambulance Corps
Rockland Mobile Care Paramedics
The Rockland County Anti-Terrorism Analytical Group
From Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess Counties:
North Salem Emergency Management Coordinator Kurt Guldan
Chief Albert Melillo
Firefighter Joseph Simoncini, Sr.
Firefighter Robert H. Ruston
The Westchester County Technical Rescue Team
Tim Fisher, Richard Benkwitt, Thomas Bock, Joseph Alimena, Chris Blaich, Fred Briggs, Carlos Canos, Paul Cappello, Chris Colombo, Mark Dickey, Robert Franklin, William Gallagher, Phil Goulet, Nikolai Kabelev, Eliot Lazar, Gerard McIlvain, Terence Murphy, Jerome Newman, Joseph Nickischer, Doug Palmesi, Richard Palmesi, Brett Schlosser, Albert Sulenski
Paramedic, EMT, and Past Captain Donald Graesser
Police Officer Bryan Shay
Police Officer James Terrazos
Detective John Falcone
Paramedic Michael Revenson
Lieutenant Erin Scott
Past Chief Kenneth Clair
Firefighter Daniel Valentine
Firefighter Michael M. Bowman
Chief Mathew Steltz