

In this moment of pain, the Government of Cape Verde expresses its profound sorrow for the irreplaceable loss of a man who became Cape Verdean to better serve his high ethical and spiritual ideals.

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER,
PRAIA NOVEMBER 8, 1999.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING THE
TRAFFICKING OF BABY PARTS

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 11, 1999

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to lend my support to H. Res. 350, which I have co-sponsored, which expresses the sense of the House that Congress should exercise its oversight responsibilities and conduct hearings into the possible trafficking of baby parts for profit.

Throughout the abortion debate, many Americans have come to realize that abortion is a morally repugnant act which has no place in a civilized society. In spite of the brutality of partial-birth abortion and other abortion methods which more Americans have become aware of in recent years, Congress has been unable to override a Presidential veto which would outlaw this practice.

Many Americans are beginning to reevaluate their views on this issue. Recently uncovered evidence shows that infants "delivered" by partial-birth abortion and even those born alive have been killed for their body parts. Private companies have circumvented laws banning this practice by acting as "middlemen" in this gruesome trade by selling baby body parts from abortion clinics to research facilities.

My colleagues, certainly we can begin to take some action to address this terrible practice. I strongly urge you to join me in voting for H. Res. 350, to express the sense of the House that Congress should conduct hearings into the possible trafficking of baby parts for profit. Let's show this Nation that the unborn should be protected by conducting hearings and getting more information on this issue.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably absent on a matter of critical importance and missed the following vote: On the agreement to the amendment to H.R. 1714 introduced by the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. DINGELL, I would have voted "yea."

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WESTSIDE AMERICAN HEART
WALK

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the American Heart Association on the occasion of the 1999 Westside American Heart Walk.

The Westside American Heart Walk will kick off on Saturday, November 20, 1999. This year's event chair is Philip P. Thomas, the Chief Executive Officer of the V.A. Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. More than 3,500 enthusiastic walkers are expected to participate in the non-competitive 5K walk and fun run. Proceeds from the event will go toward cardiovascular research grants and community education programs throughout the greater Los Angeles area. I am delighted to participate in this very important cause.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in our country. It takes the lives of about 960,000 each year, including more than 25,000 residents of Los Angeles County. I want to commend the American Heart Association for its fight against cardiovascular disease and strokes. It raised \$312 million during fiscal year 1997-1998 for research and education and community programs. Without the hard work and dedication of more than 4 million volunteers, the American Heart Association could not fulfill its important mission each year.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Philip P. Thomas and the staff, volunteers, and friends of the American Heart Association on their tremendous work to make the 1999 Westside American Heart Walk a success.

OP-ED BY FORMER CONGRESSMAN
PETER RODINO ON THE NEED
FOR WARNING LABELS ON RAW
SHELL EGG CARTONS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, over the last two years I have been growing increasingly concerned about the difficulty the federal government has had in combating outbreaks of food borne illnesses in this country. Food borne illnesses are on the rise and, according to a recently released report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are occurring with a far greater frequency—more than double the rate—than was previously thought.

In an effort to address this troubling trend, I have introduced two pieces of legislation this Congress that would improve the safety of the Nation's food supply. The first, the Consumer Food Safety Act, would establish a comprehensive food safety inspection and education program across the nation. The second, the National Uniform Food Safety Labeling Act, would help consumers make more in-

formed choices about the food they eat through warning labels placed on food packaging.

One particular aspect of the second bill I wanted to mention tonight concerns the placement of warning labels on egg cartons. I wanted to mention this for two reasons. The first is that the Secretary of Health and Human Services is expected soon to make a final recommendation on a proposal put forth in July to require warning labels on raw shell egg cartons. I strongly support that language and recently sent a letter to the Secretary urging her to finalize the language proposed in July, which I think will go a long way in protecting consumers against food borne illnesses caused by eggs.

The second reason I wanted to mention this particular provision is one of the House's most distinguished former Members, Congressman Peter Rodino from my home State of New Jersey, has written an op-ed on this matter. Congressman Rodino's op-ed succinctly describes the problem, and the reasons why the Secretary's July language on raw shell egg safety should be finalized.

I commend Congressman Rodino for recognizing the importance of this issue. He is right on the mark in his suggestion that the Federal Government should be looking at food safety as a priority issue. To that end, I submit his op-ed for the record and urge all of my colleagues to follow the suggestions of one of the most respected public figures to ever have served the people of New Jersey and the Nation.

Over the past few years, I've followed with great interest news and television stories about food poisoning. And, this summer, I was disturbed to learn that the incidence of food borne illness is on the rise, and that according to the Centers for Disease Control, 76 million Americans became ill and 5,000 die annually from food poisoning. While E. coli and mad cow disease are significant, severe illness caused by salmonella bacteria are pandemic, and eggs stubbornly remain the number one source of food poisoning caused by salmonella.

Salmonella contaminated shell eggs is an excellent example of government recognizing a major health problem on one hand, and having a solution on the other, yet sitting on its hands.

The Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) projects that the number of cases of illness due to food poisoning from eggs will continue to rise significantly from an estimated 660,000 cases each year. Recently at a public hearing in Washington, both the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) agreed upon a goal of reducing salmonella egg related illness by 50% by the year 2005.

I commend Secretary Donna Shalala for her efforts to combat food borne illnesses by proposing stronger warning labels on egg cartons to warn consumers about the risk of illnesses caused by salmonella.

I've also learned, the very same FDA created a standard to pasteurize a raw egg in its shell, and the USDA designed a process to inspect raw egg pasteurization, even certifying it with a special seal of approval. Experts point out this is a 99.999% solution to the problem.

While I commend the FDA for approving this egg pasteurization technology and the USDA for creating a mechanism for the protection against salmonella, until full-scale,

raw egg pasteurization equipment is available to egg producers, there are other common sense steps to protect against food borne illnesses.

One step is in a bill introduced by my friend, New Jersey Congressman Frank Pallone together with a number of other co-sponsors earlier this year. The bill, known as the National Uniform Food Safety Labeling Act, requires warning labels on raw or soft cooked eggs, unpasteurized juice, and fish. These foods could be harmful to as much as 30% of the population consisting of children, the elderly, pregnant women and persons with weakened immune systems such as AIDS patients.

Senator Durbin (D-IL), recognizing the gravity of the problem of food borne illnesses, introduced his bill, The Safe Food Act, to address this problem. It would replace the current fragmented federal food safety system with a single, independent agency to oversee all federal food safety activities.

With all the risks facing us, eating eggs should not be one of them. The CDC calls salmonella food poisoning from raw or soft cooked eggs "epidemic," the USDA says that salmonella costs the U.S. economy up to \$2.3 billion annually. A story related by Congressman Pallone before the House of Representatives concerning Lynn Nowak, his personal friend and constituent, describes how Lynn became ill from food poisoning while pregnant. This resulted in severe health complications for her unborn daughter, Julia. Although modern antibiotics cured Lynn, her daughter was left scarred.

Until such time as pasteurization is required, I urge that the Congress take the simple step of supporting the egg carton warning label language proposed by Secretary Shalala which states, "Eggs may contain harmful bacteria known to cause serious illness, especially in children, the elderly and persons with weakened immune systems. For your protection, keep eggs refrigerated, cook eggs until yolks are firm, and cook foods containing eggs thoroughly."

Hopefully this warning label could help reduce the possibility of one more death or illness like Lynn's from ever occurring again. It is unconscionable to sit still and not support this right to consumer awareness.

There many stories to tell, but Lynn and Julia's compelled me to speak out on this critical issue. The human and economic costs of food poisoning are simply too great to stand by and do nothing.

Not every tragedy can be prevented, but those that can be should be stopped.

Food safety should be looked upon by our government as a priority issue.

Peter W. Rodino, Jr.

HONORING MILWAUKEE PRINCIPAL
DIANE NEICHERIL

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge and commend Diane Neicheril, known in our community as the "woman on a mission." For 14 years Ms. Neicheril's mission has been serving as the principal of the Clarke Street School in Milwaukee, setting high expectations of her students and teachers, and holding even higher standards for herself.

I have known Diane Neicheril for many years, well enough to understand how her dogged determination to achieve goals affects others. The teachers and students at the Clarke School all hold her in high esteem and acknowledge that Diane Neicheril provided inspiration for them to strive for excellence.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel proclaimed that the Clarke Street School, "might be the most successful school in the Milwaukee Public Schools system." Its students scored 10 percentage points above the statewide average and more than 30 percentage points above the Milwaukee average on reading proficiency tests.

This accomplishment is made all the more remarkable given the many challenges facing the Clarke Street School in past years. Working far longer hours than expected of her, Ms. Neicheril fought to keep her students away from the scourge of drugs and violence that lay just beyond the schoolyard fence.

Ms. Neicheril will be sorely missed at the Clarke Street School, but I have no doubt that she will continue to be an integral part of the Milwaukee community and that her legacy will continue to inspire educators and citizens in our city and beyond.

FOREST SERVICE FEES

HON. MERRILL COOK

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will direct the Forest Service to set fees in a fair, honest manner for forest lots on which families and individuals have built cabins for seasonal recreation. A companion bill is being introduced in the Senate by Senators CRAIG and THOMAS.

The Forest Service recreation residence program is the oldest of the formal undertakings by Congress to provide American families with rustic settings for leisure and for physical and emotional renewal. Authorized in 1915 under the Term permit Act, more than 15,000 of these forest cabins remain today, providing generation after generation of families and their friends a respite from urban living and an opportunity to regularly reconnect with nature.

Approximately 20 years ago, the Forest Service saw the need to modernize the regulations under which the cabin program is administered. Acknowledging that the competition for access and use of forest resources has increased dramatically since 1915, both the cabin owners and the agency wanted a formal understanding about the rights and obligations of using and maintaining these structures.

New rules that resulted nearly a decade later reaffirmed the cabins as a valid recreational use of forest land. At the same time, the new policy reflected numerous limitations on use that are felt to be appropriate in order keep areas of the forest where cabins are located open for recreational use by other forest visitors. Commercial use of the cabins is prohibited, as is year-round occupancy by the owner. Owners are restricted in the size,

shape, paint color and presence of other structures or installations on the cabin lot. The only portion of a lot that is controlled by the cabin owner is that portion of the lot that directly underlies the footprint of the cabin itself.

The question of an appropriate fee to be paid for the opportunity of constructing and maintaining a cabin in the woods was also addressed at that time. Although the agency's policies for administration of the cabin program have, overall, held up well over time, the portion dealing with periodic redetermination of fees proved in the last few years to be a failure.

As the results of actual reappraisals on the ground began reaching my office in 1997, it became clear that the Forest Service was out of alignment in determining fees for the cabin owners.

At the Pettit Lake tract in Idaho's Sawtooth National Recreation Area, the new base fees skyrocketed into alarming five-digit amounts so high that a single annual fee was nearly enough money to buy raw land outside the forest and construct a cabin. Many cabin users in my district faced increases of several hundred percent.

At the request of the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture in 1998, the cabin owners named a coalition of leaders of their various national and state cabin owner associations to examine the methodology being used by the Forest Service to determine fees.

It was learned that the Forest Service, contrary to their own policy, was appraising and affixing value to the lots being provided to cabin owners as if this land was fully developed, legally subdivided, fee simple residential land not a highly regulated lease.

I urge each of my colleagues to be in contact with cabin owners in their state during the congressional recess.

There are more than 15,000 families out there who fear that the long tradition of cabin-based forest recreation is nearing an end because the fees have made the program unaffordable for all but the wealthy. I along with the American Land Rights Association and the National Forest Homeowners welcome your whole-hearted support and your co-sponsorship of this important legislation. Protect these cabin owners from bureaucratic zealots. Don't let the Forest Service tax Americans out of their log cabins.

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Chemistry Week. I rise on this occasion to recognize the thousands of American Chemical Society members who are volunteering their time this week—not only across the nation, but around the world as well—to teach all of us about the exciting ways that chemistry and chemical engineering benefit our country and improve our everyday lives.

This is the 12th year that the American Chemical Society has led the celebration of National Chemistry Week. And I'm especially