

TRIBUTE TO ELENA PEISER  
HANRAHAN

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 1999*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elena Peiser Hanrahan on the celebration on her 70th birthday on Saturday, March 13, 1999.

Elena is a woman of many accomplishments. She has been a leader in her Bayside community for many years and she has volunteered countless hours for many different causes.

Elena has served her parish of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament as President of the Rosary Society. She has also been an active member of the National Council of Catholic Women. She served as President of the Brooklyn Diocesan branch of the NCCW, and was appointed executive director of the Northeast region. She currently is the NCCW representative to the United Nations.

Elena was the Director of Volunteers at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary for 12 years. While there, she expanded the network to include handicapped volunteers as well as senior citizens and teens.

Currently, Elena is the community relations director for her local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons. She still maintains her busy schedule at her church where she helps to produce the monthly newsletter, organizes a pre-school group called "Mommy and Me," and lectures regularly at Mass.

Elena has accomplished all of this while devoting herself to her family of 8 children, 4 stepchildren, and 10 grandchildren. She is an energetic and motivated citizen who shows no sign of slowing down as she enters her eighth decade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending my best wishes and congratulations to Elena Peiser Hanrahan on the occasion of her 70th birthday, and wishing her many more years of active service to her family and to her community.

IN SUPPORT OF H. CON. RES. 22

**HON. PETER DEUTSCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 1999*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was very disturbed to read on the front page of The Washington Post on February 11, 1999 the headline "Chinese Missiles Menace Taiwan." Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have fought hard to ensure the safety of Taiwan, and this report and others are evidence that Congress must be vigilant in reinforcing its commitment to this tiny island state.

According to a Pentagon report, Beijing now has 150–200 ballistic missiles aimed at Taiwan and has plans to increase that number to 650. It is clear that this threat is a challenge to Taiwan's increased democracy and independence—as evidenced most recently by its successful elections.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

We all remember the last time this happened. In March, 1996, China reacted to Taiwan's imminent first democratic presidential elections by testing missiles in the waters just miles off the coast of Taiwan's largest harbor, Kaohsiung. The United States responded swiftly and effectively, by dispatching aircraft carriers to the Taiwan Straits to show the Chinese government our strong opposition to its actions.

Our response in 1996 was based on the provisions of the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, which stipulated that the United States consider "any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means . . . of grave concern to the United States." Our response now should be based on this same principle.

1999 marks the 20th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act—the cornerstone of U.S. commitment to Taiwan's safety and security. We must commemorate this anniversary by sending a clear message to Beijing that their acts of aggression and intimidation against Taiwan need to cease. Beijing must understand that, as we have in the past, we will come to the aid of Taiwan in case of a Chinese threat.

I am proud to be a co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 22 which concludes that "the United States should help Taiwan defend itself in case of threats or a military attack by the People's Republic of China against Taiwan." This resolution repeats the provisions of one I introduced in 1997, which was passed by the House of Representatives later that year.

Mr. Speaker, let us pass H. Con. Res. 22 now, and let us send a strong message to Beijing that we will not stand idly by while our friends on Taiwan are bullied into submission by Chinese military might.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 931

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 1999*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill important to all workers, H.R. 931.

We no longer live in an era of one-company careers. Workers today change jobs with frequency. Oftentimes, these job changes are because of the worker's own choosing, however, just as often, they are not. In this era of downsizing and mergers, no one is safe from unemployment. Fortunately, Congress established the unemployment compensation system to provide temporary financial relief to workers who have lost their jobs. And it is a good thing it did. Last year, unemployment compensation was estimated to have helped 8.6 million workers who lost their jobs.

H.R. 931 takes this important program and goes a step further to improve it. It allows individuals who left their jobs because of sexual harassment or the loss of child care to collect unemployment compensation.

Sexual harassment is a widespread phenomenon. 42% of women and 15% of men have encountered some sort of sexual harassment in occupational settings. Despite the per-

vasive nature of this problem, only 1%–7% of victims file formal complaints. Oftentimes, sexual harassment results in low productivity and absenteeism. Although some victims may escape the problem simply by leaving their jobs, this option is not available for everyone. Unless one has money saved or another job lined up, it is hard to give up a steady pay check.

My bill addresses this economic obstacle by giving victims of sexual harassment the option to leave their jobs and to collect unemployment compensation if they can show "facts sufficient to establish a prima facie case" that they were victimized by sexual harassment.

In addition, H.R. 931 helps workers who leave employment because of the loss of child care by allowing them to collect unemployment compensation.

The need for child care is a daily reality for millions of America's working families. As real wages have stagnated over the last decade, many families have adapted by having two wage earners per family. Also, over this same period, the number of children living in mother-only families has increased. As a result, more women with children are working. In 1997, 65% of women with children under the age of 6 were working compared to only 39% in 1975. Child care is critical for these millions of working families.

If a working parent loses this child care, he or she has little choice but to stop working until new child care can be found. H.R. 931 would help those parents by allowing them to collect unemployment compensation if they left their jobs because of the loss of adequate child care for a dependent child under the age of 12.

The loss of child care places a tremendous strain on working parents. Although H.R. 931 does not relieve the stress over this loss, it does ease the financial strain placed on parents in this situation.

I am proud to introduce H.R. 931 and I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join me in support of this bill. We must seize the opportunity to help workers trapped in these unfortunate situations.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HENRY A. GOMEZ

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 1999*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues in Congress to join me in paying tribute to an outstanding individual and my high school football coach, Henry Gomez. Coach Gomez passed away on January 13th after leading a long and distinguished life of service to his community and commitment to the enrichment of young minds.

Henry Gomez devoted his professional and private life to serving his home state of Texas. After graduating from Jeff Davis High School in Houston, he entered the Navy to bravely fight for his country during World War II, where he served in the Seabees as a special undersea diver in the Philippine Islands.

After the War, he returned to his hometown of Houston to continue his education at the