

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH SILVER ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF KRIKOS, A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC LINK WITH HELLENISM AND THE WORLD

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to KRIKOS, an outstanding Hellenic cultural organization located in my district, as it celebrates its 25th Silver Anniversary.

Since its founding in 1974 and ensuing incorporation in 1975, KRIKOS has served as a vital link between the various communities of the Hellenic world. KRIKOS aims to foster and promote cooperation and fellowship among Hellenes and phil-Hellenes throughout the world and to preserve and enrich the Hellenic heritage of Hellenic communities worldwide.

Over the past 25 years, the organization has taken many important initiatives to attain its goals. KRIKOS has organized over forty conferences throughout the world and, where possible, published the proceedings. The conferences have covered such topics as energy alternatives for Greece, media coverage of Greece, a history of Byzantium, Greek-American Letters and Arts, the Macedonia-Tinderbox of Europe and the Yugoslav Civil Wars, to name a few.

KRIKOS has also organized a Medical Task Force and, since 1982, held annual medical conferences. The Task Force has supplied various hospitals with kidney dialysis machines, medical publications and other needed supplies. KRIKOS has also guided college and college-bound youth; made arrangements for students to visit abroad through a work-study program; established and assisted in locating and listing the treasures of St. Catherine Monastery on Mt. Sinai through computer technology; created "information banks" of available expertise in a wide spectrum of specialties; donated 5,000 books to the Polytechnic University in Athens; and published a newsletter. The organization has also experimented publishing a quarterly magazine of social commentary.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to your attention this important event in the history of KRIKOS. This organization has played a significant role in the Hellenic community both here in the United States and abroad. I am pleased to recognize them on their Silver Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO JUDITH WHITMER KOZLOSKI

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judith Whitmer Kozloski, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who will be inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame on Friday, March 26, 1999.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

In 1998, Judith Whitmer Kozloski became the first woman in San Mateo's County's history to serve as Presiding Judge of the San Mateo County Superior and Municipal Courts. Before her appointment to the Municipal Court in 1984, Judith served as an Assistant District Attorney in San Francisco, where she headed the Sexual Assault/Child Abuse Unit. Throughout her career Judge Kozloski has worked tirelessly to educate people about the dangers and consequences of child abuse and domestic violence and she has been a key member of San Mateo County's Task Force on Domestic Violence.

Mr. Speaker, Judith Whitmer Kozloski is an outstanding woman and a highly respected jurist. I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

TRIBUTE TO DOUDE WYSBEEK

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and a great leader, Doude Wysbeek. Doude served two separate terms on the San Fernando City Council; from 1982-85 and 1989-99. Doude was a member of the council for the simple reason that he loves San Fernando, where he has lived since 1956. He ran for office to help make a good city even better. I can say without hesitation that he succeeded in reaching his goal.

I have been lucky to work with Doude on several occasions in the past. I must say that in more than 25 years of public service, I have met very few people with Doude's intelligence, dedication and strength of character. He had a seemingly endless supply of innovative ideas to improve the quality of life for all the people of San Fernando. I know I could always count on Doude for sound advice on what the federal government could—and should—do for his city.

It would require a book to list all of Doude's accomplishments as a member of the San Fernando City Council. His role in bringing businesses to the city, helping to guarantee public safety for all residents, and serving as San Fernando's diplomat to the outside world cannot be overstated. By mentioning a few of his proudest achievements, I don't mean to suggest that this is the complete picture. Doude left a legacy that few public-spirited citizens could expect or hope to equal.

Doude was instrumental in securing passage of anti-gang ordinances at two local parks, which in essence returned the parks to law-abiding citizens. At the same time, Doude secured funding to hire a County probation department to work exclusively with at-risk grammar school students in San Fernando, and helped to implement a citywide tattoo removal program. San Fernando Police Chief Dominic Rivetti has praised Doude for his successful efforts to reduce the gang problem within the city.

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Doude also played a key role in bringing Home Depot to San Fernando, which created some 40 jobs.

Doude is a true citizen of San Fernando. In addition to being a member of the council, he was President of the San Fernando Chamber of Commerce, was Chairman of the Morningside Elementary School Advisory Board, held a variety of posts with the San Fernando Lions Clubs and was a scout master. He was also San Fernando's representative on the Metropolitan Water District Board for 10 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Doude Wysbeek, a dedicated public servant, and a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. His commitment to his community inspires us all. I am proud to be his friend.

THE SOLANO PROJECT AND THE CITY OF VALLEJO

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, water supplies for California cities are extremely limited. Whenever possible, cities attempt to use their water storage and conveyance systems in the most efficient ways they can.

The city of Vallejo has tried to use its water supply facilities more efficiently, but has been frustrated by a limitation in Federal law that prohibits the city from sharing space in an existing Federal water delivery canal.

The city of Vallejo simply desires to "wheel" some of its drinking water through part of the canal serving California's Solano Project, a water project built by the Bureau of Reclamation in the 1950s. Vallejo is prepared to pay any appropriate charges for the use of this facility.

Allowing Vallejo to use the Solano Project should be a simple matter, but it is not. Legislation is required to allow the city to use the Federal water project for carriage of municipal and industrial water.

Congress in recent years has expanded the scope of the "Warren Act" to apply to other communities in California and Utah where there existed a need for more water management flexibility. The legislation I am introducing today is similar to legislation I introduced in the 105th Congress. It will simply extend similar flexibility to the Solano Project and to the city of Vallejo.

WYOMING LEADER SPEAKS OUT AGAINST HATE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last fall, when we received the terrible news of the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, who was savagely beaten to death simply because he was a gay man, one of the calls I received

which heartened me came from Peter Simpson from the University of Wyoming. Mr. Simpson is not only a distinguished individual in his own right, he is the brother of the former Senator from Wyoming, Alan Simpson, whom many of us remember with great respect and fondness from his years of leadership in the United States Senate. At that time Mr. Simpson shared with me an eloquent speech that had been made by Philip Dubois, President of the University of Wyoming.

Tragically, another gay man was a victim of brutal prejudice recently in Alabama, when Billy Jack Gaither was beaten to death by two vicious thugs in a manner sadly reminiscent of the murder of Matthew Shepard. In a grim coincidence, this was the week that we had planned to introduce a new version of the Federal hate crimes legislation which does not seek to supersede State law enforcement, but does seek to add a weapon against brutality based on prejudice.

With Congress about to take up consideration of hate crimes legislation, I think it is appropriate that the eloquent words of President Dubois be shared with the Membership. I am appreciative of Peter Simpson sharing them with us, and I hope the Members will read this and pay close attention to the wise words included.

MATTHEW SHEPARD MEMORIAL SERVICE
(OCTOBER 19, 1998)

Good Evening. Let me thank each of you for being here, and for the tremendous amount of support you have shown over the past ten days to the family and friends of Matt Shepard, the University community, and the city of Laramie.

As your program indicates, we have attempted tonight to assemble just a few of the literally hundreds of people affected by this tragedy—those personally involved because they were Matt's friends and those who came to be involved as the events of the last ten days have unfolded. I very much appreciate—as does the planning committee—the understanding of the many individuals and groups who wanted to be represented in this program but who also recognized the limitations of time.

A little over a week ago, we gathered on the lawn outside the Newman Center. Joined at that time around a common purpose, we found ourselves united as a community to pray for Matthew, to demonstrate our concern for his family, and to speak out against the kind of hatred and bigotry that found expression in the vicious attack upon him.

When I finished speaking that evening, I stood next to my new friend, Jim Osborn, and realized that both of us were shivering. It was a chilly night, but it seemed colder than it really was. I looked around at the hundreds of men, women, and children gathered there. With each speaker the crowd seemed to draw closer together, perhaps fighting the cold or perhaps chilled by the thought that somehow we might have been able to prevent the attack upon Matt.

We closed that evening with the singing of "We Shall Overcome," knowing in our hearts that Matt would probably not win his battle. He would not overcome.

I was awakened the next morning at 5 a.m. with a telephone call. A news organization was calling me to get my reaction to the word of Matt's death. The reporter's voice was filled with emotion. He had watched this community for several days. He had seen the pain on the expressions of nearly everyone

on campus and in town. He knew how much this hurt. But he needed a quote.

I recall only that my mind flooded with an unimaginable mix of personal emotions and professional responsibilities. What must Dennis and Judy Shepard be going through right now? Did I have the authority to lower the flags on campus? How could I get a statement out that would provide comfort and reassurance to our gay students? What would I ever say to my children if I had to tell them that their brother had died?

The rest of this past week has been a never-ending repeat of that dreadful morning. Other than the death of my own father three years ago, I cannot remember a week in which I have felt such overpowering sadness.

The sadness of thinking about Matt, his parents, his brother, and his close friends. The sadness of thinking about Matt's gay colleagues, struggling to express simultaneously both their resistance to this violence and their fear that it could have been them in Matt's place.

The sadness of the University faculty and staff who have struggled so hard to create a truly inclusive climate here, only to have others tear down years of work in just a few hours of unspeakable horror.

The sadness of a close-knit community trying to defend itself against ignorance and stereotypes. The sadness of occasionally hearing expressions of such ignorance.

Life is not fair, we've all been told, and this week we lived that lesson again.

But with this sadness have come some small moments of triumph. The Homecoming Parade and the march for Matt. A moment of silence as the football game, broken only by the sound of tears.

The Sunday community vigils and the coming together of this community to "Remember Matthew" on Monday afternoon. Gay Awareness Week, and the courage of our Lesbian, Gay, bisexual, and Transgendered Association (LGBT) to stay the course and not to let fear ruin their plans.

The leadership of our student organizations, ASUW, the Multicultural Resource Center, the Residence Halls, the Greek Community, and our student-athletes to find ways to express their solidarity and support for Matt and their collective opposition to violence, discrimination, and bigotry—regardless of any personal philosophical differences or religious beliefs they might have about homosexuality.

And the professional and personal involvement of our faculty and staff in counseling students and in three days of teach-ins on campus to demonstrate that education and free expression are the most powerful weapons we have against forces that would divide us as an academic community and as a society.

What now can we do? The answer is not simple, but we must begin.

We must begin by reaffirming that UW and Laramie welcome all people, without regard to who or what they are.

We must reexamine all that we have done to cultivate an appreciation of diversity and make sure that we haven't missed a teaching opportunity.

We must find a way to commemorate this awful week in a way that will say to the entire state and nation that we will not forget what has happened here.

And, working closely with the leaders of the local community, we must be vigilant in making sure that the climate for those who are different—whether defined by their sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, national origin, disability, or any other personal

characteristic—not only meets the letter of the law but lives up to the standards of our hearts.

I hope that our elected legislators will also seize this moment. I recognize that the question of hate crimes legislation is a matter over which reasonable and thoughtful people who are neither homophobic nor bigoted can and will disagree. No hate crimes statute, even had it existed, would have saved Matt. But Matt Shepard was not merely robbed, and kidnapped, and murdered. This was a crime of humiliation. This crime was all about being gay. No group of people should have to live in this kind of fear.

I speak only for myself and not this University, but it is time our state makes a public statement through the passage of such legislation that demonstrates our values, our commitment to the state motto, and our collective zero tolerance for hatred. Once was more than enough.

All of us have reacted to the events of the last ten days in our own personal way. Matt meant something different for each of us. That is how it should be. Matt could have been my son. He could have been your brother. He was our friend. All of us will remember him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS
AMERICAN DREAM HOMEOWNER-
SHIP ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, thousands of former servicemen and servicewomen in five states are currently prohibited from receiving state-financed home mortgages. That is why Congressman HERGER and I, along with 21 of our colleagues, are introducing the Veterans American Dream Homeownership Assistance Act. This legislation is similar to bills we introduced in the 104th and 105th Congresses.

In order to help veterans own a home, Congress created a program where states could issue tax-exempt bonds in order to raise funds to finance mortgages for owner-occupied residences. Five states—Wisconsin, Alaska, Oregon, California, and Texas—implemented such a program for their veterans. Under a little-known provision in the 1984 tax bill, Congress limited the veterans eligible for this program to those who began military service before 1977.

As a result of the 1984 tax bill, veterans who entered military service after January 1, 1977 are prohibited from receiving a state-financed veterans mortgage. This means veterans who served honorably in Panama, Grenada, or the Gulf War cannot get veterans home mortgages from their state government. Are those who began serving our country after January 1, 1977 any less deserving than those who served before?

This arbitrary cutoff was created to rise additional revenue in the 1984 tax bill by limiting the issuance of tax-exempt bonds. When this provision was enacted, post-1976 veterans were a small percentage of all veterans, without much voice to protest this discriminatory change. But, nineteen years later, there are thousands of veterans who have served our Nation honorably.