

CONGRATULING THE FAIR LAWN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND McDONALD'S ON "A SAFE PLACE FOR SMALL FRIES"

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fair Lawn Police Department and the McDonald's Corp. for a pioneering new program intended to help young children contact police in times of need. This program is extremely worthwhile and I am certain it will serve as a model that will be copied by many communities throughout our northern New Jersey region if not nationwide. Nothing in the world is more priceless than our children.

The Fair Lawn police and the local McDonald's restaurant this weekend will begin operation of a new project called "A Safe Place for Small Fries." Under this program, children who are lost, injured or otherwise in trouble can come to the restaurant and receive help in calling the police. The police department and McDonald's are circulating flyers advising the public of the new service, and McDonald's staff are being trained in how to respond to requests for help.

This program was the idea of Fair Lawn Police Officer Glen Callons. Officer Callons and his family were walking along a Jersey Shore boardwalk last Father's Day when they encountered an obviously lost 3-year-old girl. After his own young children approached the girl, the off-duty officer took the youngster to a nearby police substation, where she was reunited with her family.

Officer Callons couldn't stop thinking about the girl in the days that followed, worried that other small children might now know where to go if lost. It then struck him that almost all small children recognize the golden arches trademark of the ubiquitous McDonald's restaurant chain. Callons, assigned to the community policing division in Fair Lawn, approached the manager of the local McDonald's and began to develop plans for the program. The program is carefully structured, with children urged to dial 911 from a public phone if not close to the restaurant, and not to pass up a police station, fire station or hospital in order to reach the restaurant. A special training video has been prepared for McDonald's employees by police, and workers are supplied with multi-language information cards to help them deal with children who don't speak English.

McDonald's Corp. officials say they are looking at the program as a pilot. If successful, the company may enter similar arrangements with other police departments, potentially establishing a similar program nationwide. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has supported the proposal, noting that the Boys and Girls Clubs of America have established similar "save havens" at their clubhouses.

If this program can save even a single child from being lost or worse, then it is worthwhile. I am glad there are people like Officer Callons

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

thinking pro-actively about the safety of our children in today's dangerous world. Officer Callons, Acting Chief of Police Rodman D. Marshall, and McDonald's Regional Marketing Coordinator Teresa Monohan deserve special recognition. I offer my support and wish this program success.

ASSAULT WEAPON BAN ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, today I joined with several of my colleagues to introduce the Assault Weapon Ban Enhancement Act of 1999. This legislature is designed to strengthen the existing ban and to respond to efforts by gun manufacturers and importers to cosmetically alter their weapons to avoid the ban.

I was a proud cosponsor of the Assault Weapon Ban Enhancement Act that passed in 1994, and I remain a strong supporter of that law. It specifically prohibited nine categories of pistols, rifles, and shotguns. It also had a "features test": that is, it bans semiautomatic weapons with multiple features (e.g., detachable magazines, flash suppressors, folding rifle stocks, and threaded barrels for attaching silencers) that appear useful in military and criminal applications, but that are unnecessary in shooting sports.

The Department of Justice recently released a report on the "Impacts of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban: 1994-96." Among the report's key findings are that "criminal use of the banned guns declined, at least temporarily, after the law went into effect." It said that further studies were needed to assess the long-term effects. It also stated that "evidence suggests that the ban may have contributed to a reduction in the gun murder rate and murders of police officers by criminals armed with assault weapons."

But the report also observed that the ban could be easily avoided by gun manufacturers and importers. It said that "shortening a gun's barrel by a few millimeters or 'sporterizing' a rifle by removing its pistol grip and replacing it with a thumbhole in the stock, for example, was sufficient to transform a banned weapon into a legal substitute."

That is why we have to do more. We have witnessed, in gun shows and advertisements on the Internet and in magazines, a new brand of assault weapon, specifically designed to avoid the ban, but still lethal and potentially harmful to the American public. The BATF has recently approved a new weapon—the VEPR. We fear that gun makers will use the VEPR as a prototype of a new generation of weapons that seek to avoid the ban and flood the U.S. market with high-powered deadly assault rifles—assault rifles in fact; but evading the 1994 legal definition.

Our gun import laws are like a series of sieves. The first sieve is the 1989 ban on the importation of assault weapons, and the 1994

ban on the domestic manufacture of assault weapons. But there are some holes in this sieve. The second sieve—the Clinton Administration's April, 1998 ruling—has slightly smaller holes and blocks a few more weapons, including some guns that were cosmetically altered to avoid the first ban. The final sieve is the Nadler bill, which has the smallest holes. It stops guns that would have been determined to be assault weapons except for the fact that they had a thumb hole stock instead of a pistol grip. It stops guns that can be easily modified to accept high capacity magazines, or that use .22 caliber ammunition. Now, some guns will still make it through the Nadler sieve. Regular sporting rifles, and weapons that can't be modified to accept large capacity magazines would still be able to be imported. But the Nadler bill is designed to strengthen an already good law and to prevent manufacturers from evading the assault weapons ban.

This legislation was designed to head off the influx of this next generation weapon, before these guns are used in the next round of deadly violence. This is a forward-looking bill, that will take strong preventive action now, so that we do not hear about another awful tragedy later. If we act quickly, we can do a world of good, and save countless lives.

A TRIBUTE TO COALINGA POLICE CHIEF LUELLE "KAY" HOLLOWAY

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the induction of former Coalinga Police Chief, Luella "Kay" Holloway into the National Police Officer's memorial.

Chief Holloway's law enforcement career began when she was hired as a police matron and file clerk at the Torrance police Department in August 1963. In June 1964, she became a Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff. The majority of her career was spent with the department until she relocated to the city of Coalinga as the Chief of Police.

Chief Holloway was the first woman Chief of Police in California history. At the time of her service in Coalinga, she was one of six female police chiefs in the country. During Chief Holloway's three and a half years in Coalinga, she was responsible for obtaining several important grants and initiating several new programs for the community.

On January 3, 1980, Chief Kay Holloway and her husband, California Highway patrol Officer Don Holloway, were killed in an airplane accident while returning home from a California P.O.S.T. training session in Sacramento. She died in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the induction of former Coalinga Police Chief Luella "Kay" Holloway into the National Peace Officer's memorial.