

THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
ACT

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I support the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA"). On September 26, 2000, this Body voted to reauthorize VAWA in a vote of 415 to 3. Our colleagues in the other Body are now considering the reauthorization of this important legislation.

In my career as a judge and prosecutor, I witnessed many instances in which violence tore at the fabric of family life, causing harm to women and children.

The Violence Against Women Act would ensure a comprehensive approach to combating violence through the tools of family services, community initiatives, training for law enforcement, and educational programs. The Act would also protect women with disabilities, many of whom are unable to advocate on their own behalf.

This Body's support of VAWA indicates widespread recognition of the problem of violence against women, and that it must stop. I urge that our colleagues in the other Body reauthorize this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN
SIDNEY YATES

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished legislator, a paragon of virtue and a national treasure—Congressman Sidney Yates from my home state of Illinois. I am deeply saddened by the news that Sid Yates died last night. I join my colleagues in taking the time to honor this truly remarkable man for his invaluable contribution to this nation. During this time of sorrow for his family, I want them to know that I hold them in my heart and in my prayers.

Mr. Yates was first elected in 1948, and for four decades served as a member of the Appropriations Committee. I am honored to now fill his seat. As the member who coined the appropriations moniker "College of Cardinals," he spent 20 years as Chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. Sidney Yates was a staunch advocate for the arts, and a defender of the environment. He embodied all that is just and virtuous about public service. Through his exemplary tenure, Sidney Yates typified what it truly means to be called, "the honorable."

Mr. Yates was considerate to me, generous with his time and extremely helpful to me as a new legislator. On December 14, 1995, Mr. Yates introduced me after I took the oath of office, and continued to serve as a guide and teacher. As the Dean of the Illinois delegation, his courageous and principled stands on issues and legislation were inspirational—this despite great pressure to do otherwise.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

I believe I speak for every member of this body when I say we will continue to be guided by the light of Sid Yates' leadership, public service, experience and wisdom. I will miss my good friend and trusted mentor.

ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE IN VIRGINIA
HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR EX-
PANDED HATE CRIMES LEGISLA-
TION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I was extremely disappointed that the conference committee on the defense authorization legislation voted to drop the hate crimes provision from the bill. As president Clinton said, yesterday, dropping this provision is a serious error. The hate crimes provision had strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. This legislation simply provided that all persons should be treated the same under our nation's laws, and it is a principle that all of us here in the Congress should support.

Mr. Speaker, a tragic incident just a few days ago in Roanoke, Virginia, has only served to highlight the need for this legislation. Ronald Edward Gay shot and killed Daniel Lee Overstreet simply because he was gay. Mr. Overstreet worked for Verizon network and was well liked by all who knew him. But he happened to be in a gay bar, when Ronald Edward Gay entered the bar and shot and killed him because, in Gay's words, he wanted to waste some "faggots". Like Matthew Shephard before him, Daniel Lee Overstreet was a victim of blind, impersonal hatred and bigotry.

The brutal attack in Virginia and the rise in hate crimes based on sexual orientation shows the need for Congress to adopt comprehensive hate crimes legislation. If we fail to enact this legislation, more and more people will continue to suffer from hate crimes in our country. According to the FBI, hate crimes based on anti-gay violence increased 14.3 percent from 1997 to 1998—even as the overall crime rate decreased. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation have nearly tripled since the FBI began collecting statistics in 1991, and in 1998 such crimes comprised 16 percent of all hate crimes—some 1,260 crimes nationally.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of Americans believe that now is the time to pass the expanded hate crimes legislation. According to recent polls, 63 percent of independent voters say they are "less likely" to vote for a candidate opposed to hate crimes legislation. These voters believe as I do, that hate crimes legislation does not make murdering someone who happens to be homosexual a greater crime than murdering someone who happens to be heterosexual as its opponents charge. Rather, it sends a message throughout our nation that hate crimes will not go unnoticed and they will not go unpunished.

Mr. Speaker, with the recent anti-gay violence in Virginia and the increasing number of hate crimes across the nation, it is now time to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. We

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have the support of the American people. We need to take action to prevent tragedies like those of Matthew Shephard and Daniel Overstreet in the future. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1082 so that we can curb this rise in anti-gay violence and send a clear message that hate is wrong and the perpetrators of hate crimes will be punished.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT A.
SCOTT ON RECEIVING THE 2000
RAOUL WALLENBERG HUMANI-
TARIAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Robert A. Scott, Ph.D., president of Adelphi University and former president of Ramapo College, on being chosen to receive the 2000 Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Leadership Award. Dr. Scott, in addition to being a proven educational leader of high standards and strong management expertise, has been uniquely active and outspoken on issues surrounding the Holocaust, genocide, racism and anti-Semitism. He clearly deserves and has earned this high honor. I have worked closely with Dr. Scott for many years and can attest to his integrity and dedication.

The Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Leadership Award is presented annually by the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Ramapo College. While the Center was established before Dr. Scott became president of Ramapo in 1985, he was one of its strongest supporters throughout his tenure and contributed significantly to its growth and prominence in the world of Holocaust studies. Today, the Center is an independent, non-profit organization that encourages and assists persons of all ages in learning the history and lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides in the hope that through education such tragedies can be prevented from ever occurring again. The Center sponsors a variety of activities, including workshops for educators, recording of local Holocaust survivors' testimonies, art exhibits, film series, lectures and panel discussions.

The Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Leadership Award is given to individuals who display "outstanding leadership in advancing Holocaust studies and interfaith understanding." Dr. Scott clearly meets that test, and strives to follow the examples of courage and leadership set by Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved the lives of thousands of Jews in Budapest during World War II.

Prior to becoming president of Adelphi University on July 15 of this year, Dr. Scott spent 15 years as president of Ramapo College. His tenure at Ramapo was marked by rising enrollments, increasingly rigorous admissions standards, a construction boom, fiscal stability, the addition of three graduate degree programs and numerous other accomplishments. He has been a member of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education since 1994 and chaired the Commission's Higher Education Restructuring Team. As a senior advisor to the U.S. State Department, he represented the United States at the 1998 United