

Susan Poole has made to the California Corrections Community over her 28 years of dedicated service.

RECOGNITION OF THE LEARN SHOP, INC.

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 2, 2000*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Learn Shop, Inc., a Montgomery County based United Way organization that is dedicated to improving economically disadvantaged school communities throughout the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan area. Entering its second year, their "Drive for Supplies" program has made significant advances towards reducing poverty in school communities by aiding underprivileged students, schools, and communities. This creative recycling program, in conjunction with Montgomery County Public Schools, encourages students at the end of the school year to donate their used but usable school supplies to impoverished students in disadvantaged school communities.

The "Drive for Supplies" program has already had significant success in its first year. At the end of last school year, with the full support of Montgomery County Public School Superintendent Dr. Jerry Weast, the program collected \$75,000 in school supplies. Learn Shop Inc. is helping students realize that what was previously regarded as trash can be turned into usable school supplies, clothing, and computers. These items not only help disadvantaged students in other school communities but it also gives students a sense that they are filling a need in the world.

Along with promoting community action, the "Drive for Supplies" saves schools money each year by reducing disposal costs while also reducing waste in our community. For their innovation, "Drive for Supplies" has enjoyed a glowing recognition from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Children and communities positively affected by the "Drive for Supplies" program have been more than grateful for Learn Shop Inc.'s efforts. Not only has Learn Shop Inc. distributed school supplies to local area children, they have also donated supplies to refugee students affected by the war in the Balkans in Kosvo. The "Drive for Supplies" program truly has the ability to reach thousands of students across the world.

Beginning with Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic Region, Learn Shop hopes to expand the program around the nation, in hopes of reducing poverty nationally and helping children in need. I applaud the efforts of Learn Shop and encourage them to continue all the work that is greatly needed in our communities.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 2, 2000*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform the House about my leave of absence from March 21 through March 24 of this year. I was out of the country on official business. Accordingly, I was unable to cast any votes.

If present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 75, H. Con. Res. 290, the Budget Resolution for FY 2001.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 74, on agreeing to the Spratt amendment to H. Con. Res. 290.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 73, on agreeing to the Sununu amendment to H. Con. Res. 290.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 72, on agreeing to the Stenholm amendment to H. Con. Res. 290.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 71, on agreeing to the DeFazio amendment to H. Con. Res. 290.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 70, on agreeing to the Owens amendment to H. Con. Res. 290.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 69, on a motion that the Committee rise to H. Con. Res. 290.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 68, providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 290, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for FY 2001.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 67, providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 290, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for FY 2001.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 66, on approving the Journal.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 65, on passage of H.R. 3822, the Oil Price Reduction Act of 2000.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 64, providing for consideration of H.R. 3822, the Oil Price Reduction Act of 2000.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 63, on passage to S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2000.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 62, to commit with instructions S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2000.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 61, whether the House will consider S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2000.

"No" on rollcall vote No. 60, providing for consideration of S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2000 (H. Res. 444).

"No" on rollcall vote No. 59, providing for consideration of S. 1287, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act (H. Res. 444).

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 58, on approving the Journal.

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 57, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the National Park Service should take full advantage of support services offered by the Department of Defense (H. Res. 182).

*November 2, 2000*

TRIBUTE TO DYLAN GEORGE MOHAN

**HON. JAMES M. TALENT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 2, 2000*

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the May 16, 2000, birth of Dylan George Mohan. Dylan was born at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, DC, at 8:56 p.m. He is the son of Kristin Young and Matthew Mohan. Dylan is the first grandson of his grandparent George and Phyllis Young and grandparents Jim and Mary Mohan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating this new family and to wish Dylan much joy and happiness in the years to come.

HONORING REV. CURTIS COFIELD II, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 2, 2000*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to join the Immanuel Baptist Church and the New Haven community in paying tribute to my dear friend and an outstanding member of the New Haven, CT, community—Rev. Curtis Cofield. As a pastor and community leader, Reverend Cofield has dedicated his life to making a real difference in the lives of the residents of Greater New Haven.

The clergy has always played a vital role in our community and Reverend Cofield is a sterling example. His commitment to the service of our community through religious leadership is admired by many and rivaled by few. His involvement, not only with the congregation of the Immanuel Baptist Church, but with the entire community, has had a tremendous impact on many lives, especially those who face arduous struggles and frustrating situations in their daily lives. Working with his wife Elsie and the AIDS Interfaith Network, Reverend Cofield has helped hundreds of individuals and their families cope with the devastating effects caused by this terrible illness. For years, he has ministered to the spiritual needs of countless people in the New Haven community—strengthening the bonds of faith and helping to build stronger neighborhoods of which we can all be proud.

Throughout his decades of service to the New Haven community, Reverend Cofield has been a leading advocate for some of our country's most vulnerable citizens. He has served as a strong voice for their best interests. As a member of over 30 service and religious organizations throughout his career, he has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to ensuring that his actions and participation enriched his community. I have always held a deep admiration for community service and those who provide it. With his extraordinary record of service, Reverend Cofield serves as an example to all that one person really can make a difference.

As the first African-American chairman of the Connecticut State Freedom of Information

Commission, organizing founder of the Dwight Neighborhood Corporation, and as a pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church, Reverend Cofield has enriched the lives of residents in New Haven and across the State of Connecticut. His dedication has been recognized locally, nationally, and internationally. The myriad awards and honors that adorn his walls are testimony to his unparalleled commitment and dedication.

It is with great pride that I stand today to join Elsie, his children, family, friends, and the entire New Haven community to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Reverend Curtis Cofield for all of the good work he has done. As a pastor, community leader, and friend, he has touched the lives of thousands and leaves a legacy of dedication and inspiration second to none.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2000

Ms. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my support for H.J. Res. 123. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, I stayed in Washington until the last possible moment, hoping that Congress could finish the business of the people of the Central Coast and all Americans. There are critical unresolved issues still on the table—including school modernization, common-sense tax relief, and adequate funding for Medicare.

I am deeply dismayed that the Congressional leadership has decided to push these issues off to a lame duck session. The American people deserve better.

#### LAOTIAN-AMERICANS FROM PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND PARTICIPATION IN U.S. CONGRESSIONAL FORUM ON LAOS

SPEECH OF

### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents from Rhode Island recently participated in a U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos held on October 19. Laotian and Hmong leaders from around the United States and the globe gathered to present testimony to policymakers and Members of Congress. They joined in a special ceremony in Congress to honor former Congressman Bruce Vento, who recently passed away, for his leadership role on behalf of the freedom-loving for the people of Laos.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a significant Laotian and Hmong-American population in Rhode Island. I share their deep concern about their relatives and countrymen still in Laos—and the need for human rights and democracy. My uncle, President Kennedy, also believed strongly in freedom for the peo-

ple of Laos, and committed the United States to that goal. I am honored to continue that fight in the United States Congress today, and firmly believe that forums like this are an excellent way to work toward that goal. I also appreciate their efforts to honor my colleague, former congressman Bruce Vento, for his work on behalf of freedom and human rights for Laotian people.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. Thongsavanh Phongsavan, of the Lao Representatives Abroad Council, based in Providence, Rhode Island, for his important work in the Laotian community. I am grateful that Laotian students from Rhode Island played a leadership role in the event, including Mr. Thongkhoun Pathana, Ms. Viengsavanh Changhavong, Ms. Sothida Bounthapanya, and Ms. Ammala Douangsavan. Many Hmong-Americans also attended from Providence including Mr. Xay Ge Kue, Mr. Xia Xue Kue, Mr. Toua Kue, and Mr. Nhia Sue Yang. I also want to thank Mr. Philip Smith, Executive Director for the Center for Public Policy Analysis, for helping to convene this important forum. The National Democratic Institute (NDI) and many other important organizations were able to speak and participate with regard to the ongoing need to promote human rights and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I would commend my colleagues in Congress the following testimony of Mr. Thongsavanh Phongsavan from the Lao Representatives Abroad Council:

Thank you Mr. Philip Smith, Honorable Congressman, Honorable Senator, Your Excellency, and Distinguished Guests:

On behalf of the Laotian Representatives Abroad Council I am deeply encouraged by the promise that this historic U.S. Congressional Forum VI hold for the future. With the wisdom of our Laotian Leaders, this new era of co-operation will inspire peace and prosperity for many generations to follow. This new age will also give rise to opportunities for our peoples unimaginable only a short while ago. In the eyes of industrialized nations, no longer will we be viewed as a group of ethnicities closed and divided, but as a model of the tremendous progress that freedom, democracy and free enterprises can achieve in the Laos.

Now more than ever, we need to work together to secure this vision of hope. At this point there can be no turning back; only the swift and purposeful push towards a more productive future. Indeed, the Twenty-First Century is our oasis in the desert. It is a place where Laotian people and ideas will come together for the betterment of all of Humanity, Respect and justice to all.

Laotian Representatives Abroad Council and Lao Progressive and their emissaries have been hard at work to help bring these new developments into focus. Working not only with the Laotian people, but with peoples of all ethnicities, it has achieved tremendous economic opportunity through the expansion of business development, job opportunity, education, social orientation, and political consultations.

For more than 30 generations, the people of Laos and their leaders have stood proud despite the winds of social burden. The history of our nation runs deep and wide. And from the beginning, its many political, social and economic struggles have been overcome in the name of freedom, democracy and prosperity.

With French colonization late in the last century and the sociopolitical breakdowns

that followed, Laos 65 ethnic groups were divided by pressure from within and without—as other, developing nations, aspired to progress. Men, women and children bound by a common vision of hope fought for independence. But isolated by differences of language and culture within their own borders, their collective strength was diminished.

The ensuring years provided few signs of relief. Relations among the struggling classes and the French remained tenuous at best. And despite the growing numbers of young Laotian being educated in French universities by the 1920's higher education was yet restricted to all but Laos' social elite.

Lack of education and poor agriculture imbued further hardships for both the people and the land. The colonist, indifferent to the idea of investing in the masses through improved social opportunity, employed unskilled labor in mining operations; the harsh conditions of which caused many workers to perish. Times grew much worse for the rural and uneducated people. And without a means of unifying their philosophies, de Gaulle and other leaders could place little hope on maintaining Laos' status quo as a French colony.

Lao History in its later chapters is plagued by struggles of even greater intensity. Prolonged war ensued between the Pathet Lao and the Royal government. And this turmoil was further compounded by the fact that government control in Vientiane passed back and forth between General Phoumi Nonsavan's pro-Western alliance, and Laos' Neutralists, which were led by Prince Souvanna Phouma.

The stunning success of the LPF and its allies in winning thirteen of the twenty-one seats contested in the May 4, 1958, elections to the National Assembly changed the political atmosphere in Vientiane. This success had less to do with the LPF's adroitness than with the ineptness of the old-line nationalists, more intent on advancing their personal interests than on meeting the challenge from the LPF. The two largest parties, the Laos Progressive Party and the Independent Party, could not agree on a list of common candidates in spite of repeated prodding by the United States embassy and so split their votes among dozens of candidates. The LPF and the Peace (Santiphab) Party carefully worked out a strategy of mutual support, which succeeded in winning nearly two-thirds of the seats with barely one-third of the votes cast. Souphanouvong garnered the most votes and became chairman of the National Assembly. The Laos Progressive Party and the Independent Party tardily merged to become the Rally of the Laos People (Lao Rouam Lao).

In the wake of the election fiasco, Washington concentrated on finding alternatives to Souvanna Phouma's strategy of winning over the Pathet Lao and on building up the Royal Lao Army as the only cohesive nationalist force capable of dealing with the communists' united front tactics. On June 10, 1958, a new political grouping called the Committee for the Defense of the National Interests (CDNI) made its appearance. Formed mainly of a younger generation not tied to the big families and as yet untainted by corruption, it announced a program for revitalizing the economy, forming an anticommunist front that excluded the Pathet Lao, suppressing corruption, and creating a national mystique.

Washington which was paying the entire salary cost of the Royal Lao Army, was enthusiastic about the "young turks" of the CDNI. This enthusiasm was not altogether