

Frank Loy, meanwhile, is said by participants to be resisting the emerging consensus that the international AIDS effort should be centered in Thurman's office.

The task force has also battled over proposals to amend the Foreign Assistance Act, which requires all taxpayer-funded aid to come from American suppliers. Public health agencies want exceptions for condoms and AIDS test kits, which can be acquired more cheaply overseas. Congress willing, the task force is likely to recommend that change.

The high-profile attention from the top is "raising this issue in ways that leaders [of afflicted nations] can't ignore it," one White House official said. Richard C. Holbrooke, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, used his rotation as Security Council president in January to declare a month on Africa. He made AIDS the subject of the first Security Council meeting of 2000 and invited Gore to speak. When Clinton traveled to India in March, he successfully pressed the government to issue a joint declaration on AIDS.

Pervading the recent U.S. effort is a strong sense among participants of time misspent. The virulence of the pandemic are accurately foreseen, and "the United States didn't exactly cover itself with glory," said one close adviser to Clinton.

"We saw it coming, and we didn't act as quickly as we could have," said Helene D. Gayle, a physician who directs AIDS prevention at the CDC. "I'm not sure what that says about how seriously we took it, how seriously we took lives in Africa."

Peter Piot, a virologist who heads the United Nations AIDS efforts in Geneva, said "the good news is that the U.S. government is mobilizing. The bad news is that it took so long. This is not a catastrophe that came out of the blue. It has been clearly coming for at least 10 years."

Asked about those comments, Thurman looked pained.

"Oh yeah," she said softly. "It's very late. But better late than never. You rarely ever get a second chance in an epidemic."

IN RECOGNITION OF JULIE DENT FOR SERVICE TO THE BUSHWICK COMMUNITY

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 8, 2000

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Ms. Julie Dent and honor her for her commitment and service to the children and families of the Audrey Johnson Day Care Center in Bushwick, New York.

President John F. Kennedy once said "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." Ms. Dent, who was recently honored by the Friends of Edward Norman with a Community Service award, has always worked to address the cognitive, social, physical and emotional needs of children.

Before becoming Educational Director at Audrey Johnson Day Care Center, Ms. Dent served as an Administrative Director and teacher at the Horace E. Green Day Care Center for a number of years.

Her community involvement includes serving as Second Vice Chair for Community Board #4, Chair of the Youth and Education Com-

mittee for the Board, is an active member of the Woodhull Hospital Comm. Advisory Board and Second Vice Chair of the Bushwick Geographic Targeting Task Force.

Ms. Dent's additional honors include, The Professional Association of Day Care Directors Inc., Service awards from Mayor Giuliani, Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden, City Council, Honorable Victor Robles and Honorable Martin Dillan, State Legislature Honorable Vito Lopez, Honorable Darryl Towns and Honorable Ada Smith.

I honor Julie Dent today for her continued commitment to education and for her ongoing service to the families and children of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 8, 2000

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, 2000 I was unable to be present in this chamber when the following votes were called: rollcall vote 56, rollcall vote 57 and rollcall vote 58. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on each of these rollcall votes I missed. I also missed rollcall vote 61 and had I been present, I would have voted "no".

On the week of April 10, I was unable to be present in this chamber when the following votes were called: rollcall vote 111, rollcall vote 112, rollcall votes 113 and 114. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on each of these rollcall votes I missed. During the same week, I also missed rollcall vote 130 and had I been present, I would have voted "no".

IN HONOR OF THE LEXINGTON DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF MANHATTAN

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 8, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Lexington Democratic Club, a very special and important democratic organization in the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Over the fifty-one years of the club's existence, Mr. Speaker, the members of the Lexington Democratic Club have forged a more democratic, more inclusive form of civic participation in New York City.

The "Lex Club" was the first Reform Club in Manhattan. Driven by the belief that openness and public deliberation are the key ingredients for a healthy democracy, the Lexington Democratic Club blazed a trail for opponents of top-down, closed-door decision making in the political process. Decisions at the Club are made at open meetings of the membership and patronage positions have been replaced with merit-based nomination systems.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the Lexington Democratic Club led the way in reforming the

system for judicial appointments in New York. The Club spearheaded the creation of a system where independent experts screen applicants and recommend three candidates to the club for every open judicial seat. The Club then endorses a final candidate through open meetings.

The Lexington Democratic Club has been graced with dynamic leaders since its inception. Jack Baltzell and Alice Sachs were the very first Reform District Leaders in the city and they helped make the reform movement a major political force in New York.

Ken Mills, the current President of the Lex Club, has increased membership in the club, tripled its financial resources, and managed the club's monthly newsletter. More importantly, Mr. Mills has led the club's major civic efforts—including the successful election of candidates and the mobilization of major tenant protests against plans to abolish the city's rent control laws. In short, Ken Mills, aided by Niki Stern, the club's Executive Vice President, and all the club's members, has revitalized the Lex Club and returned it to its place as one of the most prestigious civic organizations in the city.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the Lexington Democratic Club of Manhattan and I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing the great contributions of the club's membership to the New York community and to our democracy.

RECOGNIZING THE WINNERS OF THE SECOND NEW HAMPSHIRE INTERNET AWARDS, HELD APRIL 20, 2000

**HON. CHARLES F. BASS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 8, 2000

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, whereas the Internet has and will continue to play an instrumental role in improving the quality of life for citizens of New Hampshire and the Nation generally;

Whereas educational opportunity abounds for New Hampshire students, formal and lifelong, due to the global nature of the medium;

Whereas New Hampshire's economy has grown substantially because of its attractiveness to high technology entrepreneurs and innovators;

Whereas the Internet has dramatically improved access to New Hampshire's government services and elected officials;

Whereas the Internet has provided individuals with an unparalleled resource for information, goods, and services;

Whereas New Hampshire residents are among the leaders nationally in rates of computer use and Internet access;

Therefore, be it proclaimed to my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives that the following were recognized and applauded at the Second New Hampshire Internet Awards, held April 20, 2000:

Best E-Commerce Site 1st place—Kitchen Etc. ([www.kitchenetc.com](http://www.kitchenetc.com)) 2nd place—PC Connection ([www.pcconnection.com](http://www.pcconnection.com)) 3rd place—Navtronics ([www.navtronics.com](http://www.navtronics.com)).