

A RUSH TO DEATH IS NEVER
NECESSARY

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Gary Graham (Shaka Sankofa) was exterminated by the State of Texas yesterday, June 22, 2000. He was killed with a lethal injection despite that fact that there are many reasons to doubt the guilty verdict which placed him on death row. Gary Graham clearly deserved more time alive to investigate fully all of the irregularities surrounding his trial. Since death is irreversible and human life is sacred, time should not have been rushed. The American people and their powerful State Governors should fully note recent developments which indicate that a large percentage of the people on death row are probably not guilty. Gross inadequacies in the criminal justice system are generating deadly mistakes. In my opinion there are too many people who approve of the death penalty as a just punishment for certain crimes. At the same time almost no American citizens approve of the execution of innocent victims. Gary Graham was the 222nd person executed in Texas since the state resumed capital punishment in 1982. He was the 135th person executed during the present Governor's tenure. Mr. Speaker, the Rap poem below summarizes this disgracefully sad situation.

CREDO OF THE EXECUTIONER

When in doubt
Just let them die
Ambitious Governors
Never cry
Witness eyes
Never lie
Bargain basement lawyers
Refuse to pry
Treat the truth
Like a spy
Voters yell for blood
Compassion is swept away
In a primitive flood
Savages satisfied
Delighted that so many
In great Texas
Have already died
When in doubt
Kill them first
Then publicly pray
Moral indignation
Soon fades away.

RECOGNIZING THE CHINATOWN
HEALTH CLINIC

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great honor to recognize the achievements of an outstanding organization that provides excellent services in New York's 12th Congressional District. The Chinatown Health Clinic (CHC), located in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, was selected as one of the winners of this year's "Models That Work" competition sponsored by the U.S. Department of

Health and Human Services, for their Primary Care Mental Health Bridge Program (PCMH).

The Chinatown Health Clinic is a non-profit, community based health care facility established in 1971 to provide health care services to the New York City Asian community. CHC provide access to quality and culturally sensitive health care and health education services. It advocates on behalf of the Asian community who, due to cultural, language, education or financial barriers, may not have access to basic health care services or health education activities.

The Bridge Program was created by the Chinatown Health Clinic in response to the significant barriers to delivering mental health to the Asian American community. CHC has a 27 year history of providing bilingual and bicultural outpatient primary care services and it contributes to the Bridge Program by conducting educational outreach activities in the community about mental health, substance abuse, and providing concrete services to patients who may need financial assistance or social services.

As you can see, the recognition made to the Bridge Program by the Department of Health and Human Services is indeed well deserved. I commend the Chinatown Health Clinic for its hard work and continuous commitment with the Asian community and would like to personally congratulate them on this significant achievement.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO
DANIEL AND BERNITA O'CONNOR

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, throughout our lives we receive countless blessings and among these, the greatest gift is that of love. Today, I am proud to be able to pay tribute to two people who have cherished this gift and demonstrated their love and devotion to one another each and every day over the past fifty years.

On June 24th, two extraordinary people, Daniel and Bernita O'Conner are celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. Together with their children Patrick, Daniel and Erin, their grandchildren Danielle, Caitlin and Meaghan, and a number of friends that their years of work and community involvement have brought them, they will celebrate this most special of days.

After meeting at Sacred Heart Church in Kawkawlin, Michigan, these two young people soon fell in love. They were married on June 24, 1950 in Essexville, Michigan, and ever since that day, Daniel and Bernita have shared a wonderful life together. They have found happiness as lifelong companions. As nurturing parents, tireless workers, selfless community leaders and lifelong Democrats, the O'Connors truly represent all that is right in this country.

Daniel and Bernita are not only dedicated to each other and their family, but they are also dedicated to their church. They have always been active in the Catholic Church, including

several parishes in my district. Holy Trinity in Bay City, St. John the Evangelist in Essexville and Sacred Heart in Kawkawlin, have been fortunate to have the O'Connors as members. Their commitment to their faith and strong family values makes them excellent role models for everyone who crosses their paths.

Mr. Speaker, in these days of disintegrating families, it is reassuring to see a strong, stable marriage built on love, respect and trust. Their lives together have been a blessing to each other, and an inspiration for those of us fortunate enough to know them. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Daniel and Bernita O'Conner the happiest of anniversaries, on this their fiftieth, and many more to come. May God's continued blessing be upon them and their beautiful family.

TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR
ROBERT LAMUTT'S WORK ON E-
SIGNATURE LEGISLATION

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor a leader from the Seventh District of Georgia State Senator Robert Lamutt. Senator Lamutt is a true leader in providing state regulations on electronic commerce, commonly known as "e-commerce."

The Internet has experienced phenomenal growth since its inception. It has become a tool with which millions daily access more information than in any single library, communicate with friends, or purchase goods from retailers located all over the world. As e-commerce continues to boom, it has become imperative to enact federal and state legislation that will enable, enhance, and protect future Internet users.

The greatest barrier to regulating electronic transactions has been the lack of consistent rules governing the use of electronic signatures ("e-signatures"). For the past two years, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Law, an organization comprised of e-commerce experts, has been working to develop a uniform system for the use of e-signatures for all 50 states. Their product, the Uniform Electronic Transaction Act, is in the final stages of review. When the UETA is completed, it will be used by state legislatures to enact the legislation and establish the uniformity necessary for the interstate use of e-signatures.

As a Georgian, I am proud these new standards were in part crafted from Georgia Senate Bill 62, signed into law by our Governor on April 19, 2000. This legislation grants "e-transactions" the legitimacy of traditional, paper-based transactions. Senator Robert Lamutt, R-Marietta, was the bill's primary sponsor. Senator Lamutt's insight and understanding helped define one of the more difficult aspects of the bill. Instead of focusing on limiting the scope of competitive solutions, the Georgia bill looked at defining e-signatures from a minimalist perspective. The language clarifies that just because something is done electronically, it is still legally binding. It was