

October 30, 2001

WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS
WEEK

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, rapid population growth and urbanization have become catalysts for many serious environmental problems and are applying substantial pressures on infrastructure, manifested especially in pollution, transportation, health, sanitation, and public safety problems; making urbanization an issue cannot afford to ignore. Cities and urban areas today occupy only 2 percent of the Earth's land, but contain half of the world's population and consume 75 percent of its resources.

It is therefore important for us to recognize the problems associated with rapid population growth and urbanization. Governor Kitzhaber has proclaimed the week of October 21–27 of this year as World Population Awareness Week in the great State of Oregon, and I would like to support the Governor in this effort by entering his proclamation into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas: world population today exceeds six billion and continues to increase by one billion every 13 years; and

Whereas: the most significant feature of the 20th century phenomenon of unprecedented world population growth was rapid urbanization; and

Whereas: cities and urban areas today occupy only two percent of the earth's land, but contain 50 percent of its population and consume 75 percent of its resources; and

Whereas: the most rapid urban growth over the next two decades is expected in cities with populations ranging from 250,000 to one million; and

Whereas: along with advantages and amenities, the rapid growth of cities leads to substantial pressure on their infrastructure, manifested in sanitary, health and crime problems, as well as deterring the provision of basic social services; and

Whereas: in the interest of national and environmental security, nations must redouble voluntary and humanitarian efforts to stabilize their population growth at sustainable levels, while at all times respecting the cultural and religious beliefs and values of its citizens; and

Whereas: the theme of World Population Awareness Week in 2001 is "Population and the Urban Future."

Now, therefore, I, John A. Kitzhaber, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim October 21–28, 2001 to be World Population Awareness Week in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

DEATH OF AN INNOCENT AUTHOR
UNKNOWN

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I recently submitted to you a poem entitled Death of an In-

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nocent. One of my constituents, Elisabeth Cercek from Ocala, FL, was nice enough to get this across my desk in hopes that it would bring awareness to the problem of drinking and driving. I wanted to correct my previous statement which named Elisabeth as the author. The writer of Death of an Innocent is unknown.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN T. BYRNE

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding individual, Mr. Kevin T. Byrne who will be receiving the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award for all his years of dedication and service. This year's Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award is dedicated in memory to Joseph DeMaria for his years of contribution to the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee and for his community involvement with young adults.

Mr. Byrne's service to Central Massachusetts is truly remarkable. He is an excellent example of all the devoted, hardworking men and women who serve their communities daily. Mr. Byrne has been active in the town of Shrewsbury for over thirty years, currently serving as the vice chair of the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee and as the Town Moderator.

Mr. Byrne, in addition to serving the people of Shrewsbury politically, is an active member of the community. In the past he served as the President of the National Council on Alcoholism in Greater Worcester. Mr. Byrne is also on the Board of Directors of many groups, which include the Audio Journal of Worcester, the Bach Society of Worcester, EntrActors Guild of Worcester, and the Worcester Forum Theater.

Kevin Byrne is engaged fully in his church. He is a past President of the St. Mary's Parents Association, and a past member of both the St. Mary's Parish Council, and the Worcester Diocese Senate of Laity.

In addition to all of the other great work Mr. Byrne has accomplished for the community, he has been an active member in the Massachusetts legal world. For five years Mr. Byrne was a Trustee and Treasurer of the Massachusetts Bar Association. He is a past President of the Worcester County Bar Association. He also hosts, and serves as the moderator on the Worcester Weekly cablevision program, "The Law Review."

Mr. Byrne, and his wife Virginia, are the proud parents of three, Melissa, Christopher, and Jennifer.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Kevin T. Byrne for his remarkable commitment to the people of Central Massachusetts and the United States of America. He is truly an example of an outstanding individual who has accomplished many great things and who will leave a long lasting legacy behind him.

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PROCLAMATION FOR JAMES A
RUCK

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding educators, James A. Ruck, who has received the Golden Apple Award from his peers and the Suffolk County Council in recognition of his achievements.

The Golden Apple Award is presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. Receiving the Golden Apple Award is an extraordinary achievement with which only the finest educators are honored.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Ruck, as his activities are indeed worthy of praise. His leadership benefits our community and he serves as a role model for our youth.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of James Ruck and bring the attention of Congress to this successful educator on his day of recognition. Congratulations to you and your family.

GRATITUDE TO THE PEOPLE OF
CANADA

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in an expression of gratitude to the people of Canada, and the people of Newfoundland in particular, for the invaluable support they offered our citizens shortly after the September 11th terrorist attacks. As a sign of appreciation, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Canadians for their warm, heartfelt actions during that time of crisis.

Canada stood firmly by our side in dealing with the immediate consequences of the terrorist strikes. When all U.S. air space had to be cleared, hundreds of flights were diverted to Canadian airports, mainly in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. During the following days, the Canadian government and local authorities did everything in their power to help the thousands of travelers that were unable to return to their homes. Furthermore, demonstrating their solidarity to the American people, many ordinary citizens showed up at the airports and volunteered to give shelter to the confused travelers.

I recently received a letter from a constituent who was one of those travelers. Michael Rollins of Safety Harbor, Florida, felt the need to utter his sincerest and deepest thanks to a community of people who have forever touched the lives of thousands of U.S.-bound air travelers stranded in Canada.

After de-boarding the plane in St. John, Newfoundland, Mr. Rollins and all other passengers and crew found instant assistance and accommodations from the local population. These caring individuals opened their

homes and hearts. Total strangers provided groceries, clothes, towels, sheets and countless other items in a selfless display of love and compassion. St. John's Citadel Corps took care of more than 300 people for over five days. The same outpouring of warmth and comfort took place in the town of Gander, where other flights were rerouted. There too, passengers experienced the benevolence of strangers, and the nurturing and loving capacity of the human heart.

The altruism, compassion and generosity of Newfoundland's residents did not go unnoticed. These sentiments show how much we share with the people of Canada, how many basic human values we both hold dear. As America moves forward, determined to protect our freedom and our way of life from any terrorist threat, we feel proud to have Canadians as neighbors, and more importantly, as friends.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND
RECOVERY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3090. This is simply the wrong way to approach a short term economic stimulus bill. It is not temporary, and instead of addressing the needs of laid off workers, the Republican bill is a give away to the wealthiest Americans and corporations. Even Treasury Secretary O'Neill has said the bill is misguided. The country would be much better served by considering the comprehensive aviation security bill I introduced with other Democrats on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. This should have been one of our top priorities in the days after September 11, but six weeks later we have not seen floor action.

There are numerous problems with the Republican bill, but I am particularly troubled by a provision that will allow multi-national corporations to avoid paying U.S. taxes by taking profits out of this country. How does this stimulate our economy? Some of the business provisions in this bill are retroactive all the way back to 1986. In addition, the Republicans provide no immediate federal support for unemployment insurance or health care benefits for laid off workers, but instead make benefits dependent on later actions by the states. We need to get money directly to middle and low-income workers to get that money back into the economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this outrageous Republican bill, and then let us move quickly to consider aviation security legislation. We have already waited far too long.

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CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2217,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Interior Appropriations bill. It is far from perfect, but it is thankfully free of the most objectionable provisions we have seen the last several years.

I want to take special note of the modest increase once again granted to the National Endowment for the Arts, Challenge America Grant. This is a very important program that helps bring the arts to areas of this country that have traditionally been under-served. I'm happy to see this vital program continuing to be supported.

At the same time, however, I can't help but be disappointed that the other activities of the NEA will continue to receive flat funding. After years of contentious debate, I suppose we could be thankful that at least it's not a cut. But in reality, it is a cut. Level funding means that the resources that the NEA needs to do its job get stretched thinner year after year.

I appreciate the hard work of the appropriators, but I hope that in the future we can work to increase the NEA's budget to a level that would enable it to fulfill its core mission of nurturing work that would not, on its own, receive popular support. At times, this may mean supporting forms of expression that we ourselves may not agree with. But that is one way we promote a free society.

A true National Endowment for the Arts would play a vital role in nursing back to health the devastated arts community of New York in the wake of the September 11th attacks. Broadway may be rebounding, but the performance artists and the small art galleries, who have no marketing campaign behind them, are suffering. A fully funded NEA could be the key to restoring this once thriving arts community and drive the economic recovery of New York. But unless we make a commitment to dramatically increase its budget, it will not have the ability to lead these efforts.

However, the arts are not just an economic engine. They also provide the emotional and spiritual lift that we have all needed this past month. In the wake of the attacks, music halls around the country were packed. A crying nation flocked to the theater to laugh again. People went to dance concerts and museums for a sense of community and emotional release. In times of crisis, the arts can provide comfort in a frightening world.

I salute the appropriators for supporting Challenge America. But I caution, if we do not support the other vital elements of the NEA, the flourishing arts communities we have turned to in recent weeks will surely wither away.

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TRIBUTE TO DONNA LARGESS
O'CONNOR

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donna Largess O'Connor. Her political commitment to the ideals of the Democratic Party, as well as her contributions to civic and charitable causes deserves commendation and respect.

A life long resident of Shrewsbury, Mrs. O'Connor graduated from Shrewsbury High School, Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, and Worcester State College. She has been employed since 1973 at the Memorial Campus of UMass Memorial Medical Center, currently as Unit Manager of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

While contributing to the care of newborns, Mrs. O'Connor also played a special role in the town. She was elected to the board of selectmen, serving as Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk during her twelve-year tenure. She was a Board member of the Massachusetts Municipal Association; the Massachusetts Selectman's Association, Women Elected to Municipal Office, and the Worcester County Selectman's Association. Additionally, she served as Chair of the Coolidge School Renovation Project, the Town of Shrewsbury Growth Study Committee, and the Worcester County Advisory Board. Currently, she is a member of the Town of Shrewsbury Finance Committee, Town Meeting Member, and a member of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses.

Somehow, Mrs. O'Connor found time for political volunteering as well. She served as the Co-Chair with her cousin Linda Parmakian for the Committee to Elect Congressman Jim McGovern, member of the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee, and delegate to many Democratic State Conventions. A tireless campaigner, Mrs. O'Connor works hard to secure an election.

However, despite her involvement with her community, her priority has always been her family. Mrs. O'Connor has been a familiar sight on the playing fields of Shrewsbury. She and her husband John have three sons, John, Kevin, and Brian.

It is a pleasure to present the 2001 Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award to a woman whose devotion to community and family exemplifies the values of Eleanor Roosevelt.

INTRODUCING MEDICARE CHRONIC
CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I join with several colleagues to introduce the Medicare Chronic Care Improvement Act of 2001. This comprehensive piece of legislation would update and improve the Medicare healthcare delivery system to better meet the needs of people with serious and disabling chronic health conditions.