

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-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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