

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I unavoidably missed votes on November 6, 2001 because I was in my congressional district on official business. I would like the record to reflect that had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall votes 426, 427, and 428.

LEADERS TAKING ACTION FOR INCLUSION

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Worcester County and The National Conference for Community and Justice in honoring four individuals for their promotion of understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures. John S. Hamilton, Dr. Ogretta V. McNeil, Most Rev. Daniel P. Reilly, and Albert M. Toney III, dedicated themselves to fighting bias, bigotry and racism in America and making the nation a better place for all of us.

Mr. Hamilton put into action his belief that small, culturally diverse businesses make the difference in the economic viability of their communities. He has been a strong advocate for under-served populations, especially minority and women owned small businesses. Active with Centro Las Americas and the Business Inclusion Council, and the Martin Luther King Business Empowerment Center, he was named Massachusetts Financial Services Advocate of the Year (1999) by the US Small Business Administration. Mr. Hamilton was the driving force behind obtaining funding for the establishment of the Martin Luther King Business Empowerment Center. He was instrumental in Bay State Savings Bank sponsorship of the successful grant application for the renovation of the Odd Fellows Hall on Main Street, which will provide low income housing for families in Worcester. In 1995 and 1996, under Mr. Hamilton's leadership, Bay State Savings Bank was one of the top 5 SBA lenders to minority-owned businesses in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Mr. Hamilton was recently appointed President of Medway Cooperative Savings Bank.

Dr. McNeil came to Worcester in 1956 to attend graduate school at Clark University; she never left and has made the City of Worcester her home. Dr. McNeil has served on the faculty of Assumption College, Anna Maria College, and the College of the Holy Cross. During the course of her 27-year career at the College of the Holy Cross, she served as Chairwoman of the Department of Psychology, Director of African American Studies, and Assistant Dean. Her election as the President of the New England Psychological Association symbolized her professional achievement. In 1998 Dr. McNeil was elected to the Worcester school committee where she has worked to

foster equity of education for all students. Dr. McNeil's volunteer activities include serving as a board member for the Alliance for Education, the Age Center of Worcester, the EcoTarium, and a member of the Distribution Committee of the Health Foundation of Central Mass. She is also a board member of Greater Worcester Community Foundation, Family Services and the Worcester Art Museum.

Bishop Daniel Patrick Reilly, installed as the fourth Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester in December 1994, is a beloved leader. His efforts in Worcester resulted in the formation of the covenant with the New England Synod (Lutheran), the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester and Springfield. He was one of the essential leaders in the aftermath of the loss of six Worcester fire fighters in December of 1999. He studied for the priesthood at Our Lady of Providence Minors Seminary, Warwick, RI and ordained to the priesthood on May 30, 1953 after five years of philosophical and theological study at the Grand Seminaire in Saint Brieux, France. Following his ordination, Bishop Reilly served at SS. Peter & Paul Cathedral Parish, Providence as an associate pastor. He also pursued graduate studies in Business Administration at Boston College and Harvard University. He served 22 years as a priest in the Diocese of Providence. In June 1975, Pope Paul VI named him Bishop of the Diocese of Norwich, CT, where he served until being named the Bishop of Worcester. Bishop Reilly has held many posts in the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB); he currently sits on the NCCB's Committee on Pastoral Practices. He rendered great support and assistance to Haiti and to India and their people. Currently he is a member of the boards of trustees at The Catholic Near East Welfare Association, Assumption College, and Saint Vincent Hospital. He holds Honorary doctoral degrees from Anna Maria College, Assumption College, and the College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester.

Mr. Al Toney's life work is the elimination of homophobia and racism. As a self-identified gay African American male, he has experienced homophobia and racism first hand. A former Worcester Police Officer, Mr. Toney has served in leadership position for the Gay Officers Action League of New England, the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Central Mass., and the City of Worcester Human Rights Commission. In 1997, he founded the Safe Homes of Central Massachusetts, an organization that provides mentoring programs, consulting services for alternative foster parenting programs, and a drop in recreation and resource center. Beginning as a group of concerned citizens, with Mr. Toney's leadership this program was recently adopted as a formal program of The Bridge of Central Massachusetts. As early as 1984 when he started college with a major in urban studies, he was concerned with creating safe, inclusive communities for all people. His focus was initially directed to enforcement through course work in Criminal Justice and service as a police officer (March 1987-April 1995). After the tragic death of his life partner, Mr. Toney's energies shifted to a new focus, homophobia. Mr. Toney has worked as a consultant and program director for AIDS Project

Worcester, AIDS Action Committee (Boston), Healthy Boston Coalition for GLBT Youth, Massachusetts Prevention Center, Massachusetts Department of Education, and Massachusetts Department of Social Services. He served as member of the City of Worcester Human Rights Commission from 1997-2000. He is currently a member of the Arts Worcester Board of Directors. Mr. Toney, his partner, and his daughter are currently working on a book for children, which truly reflects all aspects of diversity.

HONORING RANDY KEVORKIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Randy Kevorkian for receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the California Department of Corrections. The California Department of Corrections presents the award annually to employees who go above and beyond the call of duty.

Randy Kevorkian is a Parole Agent III. He has been an agent since 1988 and has worked in numerous assignments in the Visalia and Fresno parole offices. Kevorkian organized the "Another Way" program, a juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention program in the Central Valley. The program allows parole agents and parolees to speak with at-risk kids about the dangers of drugs and gangs.

Over the past 13 years, Kevorkian has addressed more than 85,000 young people and made more than 1,200 presentations at junior and senior high schools, local juvenile halls and group homes.

The Distinguished Service Medal is awarded for an employee's exemplary work conduct with the department for a period of months or years, or involvement in a specific assignment of unusual benefit to the department.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Randy Kevorkian for earning the Distinguished Service Award from the California Department of Corrections. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Kevorkian many more years of continued success.

HONORING OUR DEFENDERS OF DEMOCRACY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the tragic events of September 11th make the observance of Veterans Day particularly poignant this year. Engaged in a battle, different from any other in our nation's history, we are once again calling upon the brave members of the U.S. Armed Forces to defend democracy and freedom. Since we began the tradition of honoring American veterans after World War I, Veterans Day has passed with varying degrees of observance. This year

however, perhaps more than ever before, we understand what our nation's armed forces have given to preserve our freedom and security.

On October 8th, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower redesignated Armistice Day as "Veterans Day" for the millions of veterans who honorably served this nation. President Eisenhower also issued the first 'Veterans Day Proclamation' to "help preserve in the hearts and lives of all our citizens the spirit of patriotism, the love of country and the willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good symbolized by this very special day."

And so, in honor of those who served in the military and those who are now stationed around the world protecting our national interests, and promoting peace and security, it is my earnest hope, that all Americans, join hands to insure the proper and widespread observance of this day. While the effect our veterans have had on world history is great, they are not distant historical footnotes, but are as close as a father or mother, brother or sister, grandfather or grandmother, friend and neighbor, and co-workers. Let us, as a grateful nation, pay the appropriate homage to our veterans who have contributed so much to the preservation of this country.

While we all desire peace, when war could not be avoided, our veterans put their lives on the line, many paying the ultimate sacrifice. To all those who wore the uniform, or may have seen their comrades die around them, or possibly suffered injuries that continue to affect them today. We honor and thank you.

VETERANS DAY, THE PRICE OF
FREEDOM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this Veterans Day to pay tribute to our nation's heroes. The veterans of this country have given so much to protect and secure our way of life. Now more than ever, it is our duty to commemorate their actions, and to commend their commitment.

I rise to thank our veterans for having the courage and strength to fight for American values. Though we are saddened by recent events, we can look to the valiant history of our nation's bravest for comfort. We can rest assured that the dream of America is worth fighting, dying, and living for. We know because from every corner of the earth, the down trodden, the disenfranchised, and the oppressed come to seek out this dream. We know America is the beacon of hope and change, we can see it in the diversity of our citizenry.

On September 11, 2001, a generation blanketed by the quilt of peace and tranquility was awakened. This quilt of peace, stitched with the blood, sweat, and tears of brave American soldiers, was torn in a manner unimaginable only two months ago. Today, a generation comforted by a freedom so deep, so common, so prevalent, and so easily taken for granted, can more easily identify the price for which it was paid.

This generation is reminded that the sacrifice of Americans made our way of life possible. Young Americans with dreams in their eyes and hope in their hearts, bought our freedom. The tears of families who lost loved ones were exchanged for our security. The peace that we have come to know, was purchased by men and women that so loved our country that they risked and often gave their lives—ensuring that freedom is not only a concept that we dream about, but a reality that we live.

So it is with gratitude and the utmost respect that we remember those who fought, and those who were lost for the love of our nation. We move forward more vigilant, more aware, and more determined. As we pay tribute to our nation's freedom fighters, we stand with a new pride in America. Our hopes and prayers go out to those who are deployed, even now, to carry the torch in the fight for freedom. At the dawning of a new day of uncertainty, we can look to the American values of freedom, justice, and equality to lead us to peace. We thank the countless heroes, our veterans, for giving their freedom and their lives, so that we may live free.

HONORING THE MARIAN MEDICAL
CENTER WEST

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to the most recent addition of the Marian Medical Center, the Marian Medical Center West.

Since its inception on May 20, 1940, the Marian Medical establishment has found the perpetual need to keep expanding in order to better serve the growing community of Santa Maria, California. In 1940, eight Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity were assigned to Santa Maria to manage and staff a hospital for the growing community of approximately 8,000 people. The new facility was named Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hospital, by its first administrator, Sister Noella Dieringer.

Three years later, in 1943, the 1000th baby was born at the hospital, and it became apparent that the Santa Maria community was growing fast. Sister Marilyn Ingram worked hard to secure land in the Santa Maria area, and, through the generosity of Captain and Mrs. Allan Hancock, a new facility, Marian Hospital, was able to open its doors in 1967.

Today, the Marian Medical Center has expanded to include a 130 bed acute care hospital, a 95 bed extended care center, a dialysis unit, a home health agency, infusion services, a hospice program, and outpatient healthcare services. Yet as the Santa Maria community continues to grow, the medical center must expand as well. The addition of the Marian Medical Center West will help alleviate overcrowding in the hospital's main facility by providing 36 inpatient beds and expanded outpatient facilities.

The Marian Medical Center has provided services to thousands of Santa Maria residents over the last 60 years and with the addi-

tion of the new center thousands of more citizens can be served in the future. I am honored to have the opportunity of recognizing the Marian Medical Center West on its grand opening, and it pleases me that this facility continues to prosper.

HONORING JAMES KRAMER AND
BRIAN COTTER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, all Americans have been going through very trying times since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Despite our struggle, we have pulled together and become a stronger nation due to the resolve of our citizens. Today, I would like to recognize two patriots from Pueblo, Colorado who have made significant contributions to our nation's recovery efforts.

Pueblo County Coroner James Kramer, and Brian Cotter, a mortician, were members of the Disaster Mortuary Response Team that went to New York City to aid in the recovery effort at the World Trade Center disaster site. They were at ground zero with other forensic pathologists helping to recover and identify the individuals who we lost in the disaster.

Mr. Speaker, James Kramer and Brian Cotter committed their expertise to our country during an overwhelming time of need. Just as we have seen with the rest of the country, both James and Brian provided some stability to our nation at a time of crisis. I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize these outstanding individuals for their significant contributions to the recovery and relief effort in New York City following the World Trade Center disaster. James Kramer and Brian Cotter deserve our recognition and praise.

TRIBUTE TO STUDENTS OF NORTH
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN
TAYLORVILLE, IL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students of North Elementary School in Taylorville, Illinois, and their important and heartwarming efforts to help those affected by terrorism.

On October 11th, 2001, President Bush made a request of the children of America. He challenged each of them to earn and send in one dollar. This money, sent by the kindness of the children of the United States, will be used to reach out to the unfortunate children in far off Afghanistan.

The students of North Elementary School heard and met that challenge. I recently received a check for \$348.00, made out to America's Fund for Afghan Children—that's one dollar for each student in North Elementary. But this was only a part of the total money the students raised. In fact, through a