

Rotarians launched the PolioPlus program to protect children against the disease. Rotary, along with groups such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and various governments throughout the world, has achieved a 99 percent reduction in the number of polio cases worldwide.

Their work and generosity has benefited youth, seniors, the impoverished, the disabled, the disheartened, and those devastated by disease, tragedy and natural disaster. I am proud to be a Rotarian and proud of the work that Rotary clubs throughout my district do on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to share with my colleagues the generosity and spirit of service that is exemplified by the members of Rotary. May those of us in the Congress pay special attention to the motto of this organization and conduct ourselves here in a manner of "Service Before Self."

INTRODUCTION OF THE "PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING OF TSUNAMI ORPHANS ACT"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with Representatives CHARLES RANGEL, CHARLES GONZALEZ, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and ROBERT WEXLER, introduce legislation, the "Prevention of Trafficking of Tsunami Orphans Act," which would authorize critical assistance to the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development to support programs that are being carried out by nongovernmental organizations to protect children who are homeless or orphaned as a result of the Indian Ocean tsunamis in December 2004.

According to the June 2004 Trafficking in Persons Report released by the Department of State, approximately 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders each year. Instead of dreams of better jobs and better lives, they are trapped into a nightmare of coercion, violence, and disease. This legislation will help to prevent the children left orphaned or homeless by the Indian Ocean tsunamis from suffering a similar fate.

TRUTH COMMISSION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation calling on the Administration to expose and explain their involvement in Haiti's 33rd coup d'etat.

My legislation will create a TRUTH Commission, which stands for The Responsibility for Uncovering the TRUTH about Haiti. This independent commission will be bipartisan and

work to uncover the Bush Administration's role in Haiti prior to President Aristide's exile.

I believe the Bush Administration undercut the potential for a diplomatic solution for peaceful democratic elections, any potential for a cease-fire and an end to violence.

It bears primary responsibility; therefore, for Aristide's unwilling departure as well as for the sacrifice of the democratic process in Haiti.

As Members of Congress find out more about the events leading up to President Aristide's departure, the twilight activities of his alleged resignation, the current unconstitutional government, and the ongoing turmoil, fear, and misinformation that is still flowing out of Haiti.

We want answers, Mr. Speaker and an independent commission is one of many tools that we intend on exercising.

I have several pressing questions that I hope this commission will find the answers for.

1. Did the U.S. Government impede democracy and contribute to the overthrow of the Aristide government?

2. Under what circumstances did President Jean-Bertrand Aristide resign and what was the role of the United States Government in bringing about his departure?

3. To what extent did the U.S. impede efforts by the international community, particularly the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries, to prevent the overthrow of the democratically-elected Government of Haiti?

4. What was the role of the United States in influencing decisions regarding Haiti at the United Nations Security Council and in discussions between Haiti and other countries that were willing to assist in the preservation of the democratically-elected Government of Haiti by sending security forces to Haiti?

5. Was U.S. assistance provided or were U.S. personnel involved in supporting, directly or indirectly, the forces and opposed to the government of President Aristide? Was United States bilateral assistance channeled through nongovernmental organizations that were directly or indirectly associated with political groups actively involved in fomenting hostilities or violence toward the government of President Aristide?

6. Was any U.S. bilateral assistance channeled through nongovernmental organizations that were directly or indirectly involved in fomenting hostilities or violence toward the Aristide government?

And there are more questions about the long-term origins of Haiti's current crisis and the long-term impact on the region as a result of the Administration's policies.

This was regime change by other means.

We do not teach people to violently overthrow our U.S. government, and we must not teach other people in the international community, particularly Haiti, to participate in activities that taint the hope for democracy by use of violence.

I stand here today because the Haitian community stands for democracy and not for political maneuvering by the Bush Administration. This is an issue of democracy.

The United States must stand firm in its support of Democracy and not allow a nascent democracy like Haiti, fall victim to regime change and an international "racist" foreign policy.

I commend all of my colleagues to join in support of this commission and ask for its timely passage.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO EDWIN E. SEARCY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Edwin E. Searcy, M.D. Family Practitioner of Bolivar County. Dr. Searcy is a member of the hospital staff at Bolivar Medical Center in Cleveland, Mississippi.

Dr. Searcy is a native of Cleveland, MS and received his undergraduate degree from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and his medical degree from The University of Mississippi Medical School in Jackson, MS. Dr. Searcy completed a residency in Family Practice at The University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS. He is the son of the late Dr. Rupert T. Searcy and Mrs. E.W. Searcy and has served as a physician for the past twenty-eight years.

Dr. Searcy is a member of the Mississippi State Medical Association Board. He was also selected by the Governor of the State of Mississippi to serve as a member on The State Board of Physical Therapy.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE TORTURE OUTSOURCING PREVENTION ACT"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce legislation that would prohibit the outsourcing of torture by the United States Government.

The practice of extraordinary rendition, the extra-judicial transfer of people in U.S. custody