

National Mental Health Association.
Suicide Prevention Action Network USA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday March 2, 2005, I was unable to cast my vote on H.R. 27, the Job Training Improvement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 46, the Scott of Virginia amendment and "nay" on rollcall 48, the final passage of H.R. 27. I also would have voted "yea" on rollcall 43, 44, 45, and 47 and "nay" on rollcall 42.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
WEBB COUNTY COMMISSIONER
JUDITH GUTIERREZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important achievements of Judith G. Gutierrez in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

Judith G. Gutierrez (Pct. 2) was elected in 1986, she held the office for two consecutive terms. Re-elected in 1999 and again in 2002, she will begin her fourth term of office in January 2003. Throughout her tenure, Gutierrez has taken a hands-on approach to colonia issues.

Former Attorney General Dan Morales appointed Commissioner Gutierrez to the state's Colonia Task Force. Former Governor Ann Richards selected Gutierrez to chair the Regional Review Committee for scoring federally funded projects such as Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and colonia set-aside funds. She served in this capacity for four years.

Commissioner Gutierrez worked with State legislators in 1989 to pass Senate Bill 2, which created the first colonia legislation, implementing rules to limit unscrupulous development. Senate Bill 2 also authorized the mechanism needed to provide funding for water and sewer improvements. To ensure regulatory enforcement at the local level, she created the Webb County's first Planning Department. This department has been recognized by the Texas Attorney General's office under Generals Morales and Cornyn as the model for colonia regulation and enforcement.

Total grant funds for projects initiated in Webb County during Gutierrez' term in office exceeds \$100 million. Since 1992, Commissioner Gutierrez has secured more than \$25 million in colonia improvement funds for her precinct alone. Projects have ranged from infrastructure—water, storm drainage, and community centers to educational and health initiatives.

In 1994, Commissioner Gutierrez was Governor Ann Richards' appointee to the South

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Texas Regional Prosperity Plan and also served on the Environmental Transition Team organized to consolidate the Texas Air Quality Control Board, the Water Commission and selected divisions of the Texas Health Department. In 2003 Governor Rick Perry appointed Commissioner Judith Gutierrez to the South Texas Regional Review Committee.

She is a past President of the South Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association and currently serves as trustee for the Texas Association of Counties Health and Employees Benefits Pool. She has the distinction of being the only commissioner from Webb County to have ever served on the Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee for the National Association of Counties, based in Washington, D.C.

She is the Secretary for the Texas Council Board of Directors and serves on the board of the Texas Council of Community Mental Health Retardation Centers, Inc. (MHMR). She chairs the County's Villa Antigua Committee, a historical preservation project, as well as the Committee to create the new Webb County Morgue. She was appointed by Judge Mercurio Martinez to serve on the Purchasing Board and to chair an Art Committee for the New Administration Building. She has also been elected in the year 2002 to be President of the Webb County HFC. Commissioner Gutierrez also serves on the Board of Texas Association of Counties 2003 and on the Texas Association of Counties Health and Employee Benefits Pool since 2001. She was recognized as one of the 2003 Tiger Legends for Martin High School. She was recently asked to join the Mercy Health Center Advisory Board for 2003 as well as the Border Area Nutrition Council.

Judith G. Gutierrez was born in Laredo, Texas to Sabino and Olga Garza. She attended Laredo schools and holds an Associate of Arts degree from Laredo Junior College. A successful businesswoman, for more than a decade Gutierrez owned and operated La Hacienda Mexican Restaurant. Commissioner Gutierrez has her Real Estate license and is in the process of securing a Real Estate Brokers license. She is the mother of four and has two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize Webb County Commissioner Judith Gutierrez.

REINTRODUCING "HOLLY'S LAW"

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reintroducing "Holly's Law"—a bill that would suspend FDA approval of the drug RU-486. This bill has been introduced with 48 cosponsors. Senator JIM DEMINT has reintroduced Holly's Law in the Senate.

Holly's Law is named in memory of Holly Patterson, an 18-year-old Californian who died after taking the drug in 2003. When I tell people that the FDA approved a drug to treat a life-threatening illness that has killed three pregnant women and seriously injured dozens

March 3, 2005

of other pregnant women in the United States, they're shocked. They want to know why the FDA and Congress would allow a drug that kills and injures young women to stay on the market. RU-486 is a drug that always kills babies and sometimes kills and seriously injures healthy young women.

I urge my colleagues to support Holly's Law to take the dangerous and unsafe drug RU-486 off the market.

TRIBUTE TO AM 1490 WMBM,
SOUTH FLORIDA'S FIRST BLACK-
OWNED AND OPERATED RADIO
STATION—NEW BIRTH BROAD-
CASTING CORPORATION CELE-
BRATES 10 YEARS IN RADIO

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to Bishop Victor T. Curry, D.D., Min, President and CEO, and to everyone at the New Birth Broadcasting Corporation as they celebrate their 10th year in radio.

Celebratory events will begin with a community worship service at 7 p.m. on March 9th and will feature Pastor Jeffrey A. Johnson, Sr. of the Eastern Star Church of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Since the purchase of AM 1490 WMBM, the landscape of gospel radio has changed dramatically. WMBM has received local as well as national recognition for its contribution to our local community, for it not only plays the best in gospel music, but it also provides its listeners with late-breaking news and inspirational, life-changing programming. WMBM, the first black-owned and operated station in South Florida, is one of the first radio stations to stream its broadcast via the internet. WMBM also publishes a quarterly nationally distributed magazine and an annual directory of black-owned and supported businesses.

I want to extend my warmest congratulations to Bishop Curry and his staff for doing such an important job so well, and my best wishes for another outstanding decade in broadcasting.

TAIWAN STRAIT RELATIONS

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, On December 29 of last year, the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress took a highly provocative action when it voted to submit an "Anti-Secession Law" to the full Congress which convenes on March 5.

The text of this proposed law was not made public, but there can be no doubt about its intent. It is intended to create in China's national law the legal justification for a military attack against Taiwan.

The law would spell out a range of activities which, if taken by the Taiwanese people and

their democratically elected leaders, would legally constitute secession. Many of these activities, such as Constitutional reform and popular referenda, are the mainstay of any democracy. Yet the Chinese would use them as a legal excuse for a military attack.

Mr. Speaker, this proposed "anti-secession" legislation which the National People's Congress plans to take up in March, is a significant and dangerous development. It goes far beyond the usual bellicose verbal threats of Chinese leaders. It would use Chinese national law as a rationale for military aggression against its democratic neighbor.

The United States, for more than 25 years since the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act, has made clear its determination that the future of Taiwan must be decided only by peaceful means, not by force of arms, and that any final determination must be in accord with the wishes of the people of Taiwan.

These are the fundamental building blocks upon which the future of the Taiwan Strait must rest: peace, and mutual consent between both sides. I urge the leadership of the PRC to put aside this ill-considered law as inimical to both peace and goodwill.

ADMINISTRATION'S BUDGET CUTS
TO AMTRAK

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to discuss the Administration's proposed budget cuts to Amtrak.

I want to be clear from the very beginning: if the Administration's proposed cuts go into effect, Amtrak will not survive. And, in many cases, the millions of people who depend on Amtrak's services will be left with no reliable means of rail transportation. This would result in a serious problem for rail passengers, and represents a tremendous misjudgment by this Administration.

The Administration has made clear its position on Amtrak. The result of their cuts to Amtrak would "lead to the elimination of operations." I am concerned that the "elimination of operations" would result in a significant hardship for the people of southern West Virginia, and Amtrak riders everywhere.

Practically speaking, the millions of passengers who depend on Amtrak's services would be stranded. Those who can afford a car or plane ticket would descend on our already heavily congested roads and airports. Those without the means to purchase an airline ticket or pay for the ever-increasing price of gasoline—and those in rural communities without direct access to airline or highway travel—would be left twisting in the wind.

In West Virginia alone, Amtrak served nearly 51,000 passengers in 2004. Two of the largest cities in the 3rd Congressional District, Huntington and Hinton, represent nearly half that total with nearly 24,000 riders. In addition, Amtrak pumped \$3.7 million into the state's economy—which helped foster job creation and economic development opportunities for West Virginians. The economic impact of Am-

trak on my state, and states throughout the country, cannot be overlooked.

Importantly, Amtrak is making great strides to improve itself from within. Capital investment is up substantially; a new and detailed five-year plan has been developed; unprofitable services have been eliminated; and significant overhauls and needed maintenance operations have been undertaken. And Amtrak's ridership has, and continues to, increase.

I urge this House, this Congress and this Administration to recognize the improvements Amtrak is making, the need Amtrak fills for millions of Americans and the importance of Amtrak on America's transportation infrastructure.

IN MEMORY OF MAGDALENO
DUENAS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Magdaleno Duenas, a World War II military hero who passed away on February 27 at the age of 90.

We honor and thank him for his courageous military service and the sacrifices he made for our nation, as well as his lifelong struggle on behalf of Filipino veterans of World War II. His life is a symbol of the struggle for total recognition of Filipino veterans and a sad reminder of a shameful page in the history of our nation.

Born and raised in the Philippines, Mr. Duenas joined the 101st Infantry in 1941. In 1943, he joined the guerilla forces in the mountains and was captured by the Japanese while procuring food for American soldiers. Under questioning, Mr. Duenas denied any knowledge of the whereabouts of the American soldiers. He escaped, and helped 10 U.S. soldiers escape the Japanese POW camp.

Mr. Duenas came to the United States to claim his U.S. citizenship and military benefits, and fell into the hands of an abusive landlord in Richmond, Calif. He and 16 other veterans were held in captivity, beaten, chained and fed dog food, while their landlord kept their monthly government checks.

After being rescued, his experience received news coverage. It brought public attention to the plight of elderly Filipino veterans who came to America expecting to receive previously promised veterans' pensions for their honorable U.S. military service, but instead learned that Congress had stripped them of those benefits and recognition.

Thousands of Filipino veterans came to the U.S. seeking equity and have waited 60 years for the promise to be honored. After fighting for more than half a century for their right to U.S. citizenship, other issues related to their health and recognition remain to be addressed. Many live alone in poverty. It is a national tragedy to see our veterans suffer from neglect, despair and hopelessness.

Mr. Duenas moved to San Francisco's Tenderloin district in 1993, where he was vibrant member of our community. This diminutive,

gentle man worked tirelessly to improve the experience of Filipino Veterans in the Bay Area.

All these years, he waited for the recognition of the U.S. Government for the services he rendered during WWII. He was featured in two documentaries: Tears of Old and Second Class Citizens. He died still waiting for the full equity bill to be passed by the U.S. Congress. We will not rest until the equity bill becomes law.

Mr. Speaker, we will never forget his struggle on the frontlines of the battlefield and on the frontlines of the fight for equity for Filipino veterans. Mr. Duenas' courage and resolve moves all of us to continue the fight for justice in our country for all people.

We will never forget the sacrifices Mr. Duenas and other Filipino veterans made for our freedom. We must dedicate ourselves as a nation to ensure that America fulfills its moral obligation to those who pay the high price for our freedom.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE
JESUS GARZA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Judge Jesus Garza in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

Judge Jesus Garza was born and raised in Laredo. He is a product of LISD and graduated from J.W. Nixon High School in 1977. Upon graduation he enrolled at the University of Texas and earned a Bachelor of Journalism in 1981. In 1984 he received his Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston and was licensed to practice law in the State of Texas in 1985.

Judge Garza was appointed Associate Municipal Court Judge in 1984 and served until 1985 at which time he decided to run for Justice of the Peace. He ran a successful campaign and took office in 1986 and served for 6 years.

In 1993 Judge Garza, "Chuy" as he is known to his friends, was voted into the newly created Webb County County Court at Law #2 and is presently presiding over his second term.

In 1994 Mayor Saul Ramirez appointed Judge Garza to the Economic Advisory Council and selected Co-Chairman by its members.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize County Court of Law Judge Jesus Garza.

IN HONOR OF MARIA PLASENCIA

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Ms. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Maria Plascencia, a