

ACTION ON SEX ED

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I've seen my home state of California struggle with the Nation's highest teen pregnancy rate—the sad result being thousands of young women dealing with the catastrophic effects pregnancy can impose on their lives. They often lose out on the opportunity to obtain a high school diploma, a college degree or a promising career. For too many, dreams like these are lost at an early age.

In the early 1990s, California took on the challenge to fight this epidemic and focused hard on prevention. After a decade of implementing robust initiatives, the state had lowered the rate by nearly 40 percent. Much of the success is credited to better and more accurate comprehensive sex education.

Results like this are worth fighting for and this is why initiatives like Planned Parenthood's campaign—Sex Ed Week of Action—is vital to raise awareness about safe practices within our communities. These are tough, personal issues for all parents and families but as a mother and grandmother, I agree that they must be addressed.

California is making strides, but there is much more to be done nationwide. As a long-time champion of comprehensive sex education, I've voiced my opposition against unproven abstinence-only education here in Congress. It is an outrage that since 1996, the Federal Government has pursued an ideological and myopic path, investing more than a \$1 billion in abstinence-only programs. This has been a huge waste—and the studies prove it.

A report commissioned by the Department of Health and Human Services concludes that students receiving abstinence-only education are no more likely to abstain or delay sexual activity than students not receiving such instruction.

California also recognized that this is a bad investment for our teens and took a commendable step forward by rejecting these funds from the Federal Government. The medical community agrees too. According to the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association and the American School Health Association, scientifically sound comprehensive sex education is the only approach that produces results—not more unwanted pregnancies.

Empowering teens to make smart choices requires education that is proven to work—logical, right? The evidence is clear, comprehensive sex education is the best path to reducing unintended pregnancy, which is the goal we all share. We can't fail our teens by letting politics and ideology interfere with this basic right to information.

HONORING HOWARD BAKER

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, on September 24th I was pleased to attend a ceremony sponsored by the U.S. Capitol Historical Society at which the 2008 Freedom Award was presented to former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, who served in the United States Senate for 18 years. Each year the Society presents this prestigious award to recognize the work that is done under the Capitol dome to defend freedom and preserve the institution of Congress as a representative body. At the start of each Congress, all of us as Members of Congress take an oath to support and defend the Constitution in our role, as the Founders intended, as defenders of the peoples' freedom. As a means of reminding the Congress of this solemn responsibility, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society bestows the Freedom Award annually upon a Member who personifies this spirit and who has demonstrated throughout his or her career a dedication to the institution of Congress and to the cause of freedom. Senator Baker's remarks at the ceremony were particularly relevant and moving, and I would like to take this opportunity to share his speech with my colleagues by entering his remarks into the RECORD:

REMARKS OF HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., U.S. CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY FREEDOM AWARD, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

It is a great honor to be with you this evening, and it is an especially great honor to have been introduced by my dear friend and former colleague Bob Byrd.

In an unusual—perhaps even unprecedented—set of circumstances, Senator Byrd and I served as each other's majority and minority leaders for 8 very eventful years in the late 1970s and early 80s.

And while there are some things Senator Byrd and I disagree on, one thing on which we're in absolute agreement is that being majority leader is better.

My service in the Senate leadership was the culmination of three terms in the United States Senate. For much of my adult career I have served in Congress, or my family has, so some would describe me as a congressional brat—if so I am proud of it.

Having walked the halls of Congress with so many of its legendary figures—most definitely including Robert C. Byrd—and having worked on so many momentous issues with them, I have a special appreciation for the history of the Capitol that this Society does so much to preserve and protect and disseminate to an interested public.

And so it is particularly meaningful to me to be honored by the Capitol Historical Society this evening.

President Lincoln—who also served in Congress, though not, as you may suspect, with me—once wrote in a Message to Congress in the depths of the Civil War, “We cannot escape history. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down in honor or dishonor to the last generation.”

The genius of our system of government is not that it requires a race of supermen to run it but that ordinary people can do extraordinary things for their fellow citizens when they have to. This very week, the Congress, in particular must face a new chal-

lenge on policy and legislation to stabilize and rescue our country's economic system.

To succeed it must be in the finest traditions of our legislative process, worthy of Webster and Clay, Johnson and Dirksen, Kennedy and Kassebaum, maybe even Baker and Byrd.

In earlier times, we dealt with Vietnam, Watergate, civil rights, the first environmental protection laws, Social Security reform, the cold war and much else on similar terms and with ultimate success.

I am sure that the men and women of the 110th Congress—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—will rise to the challenge of the moment and validate our powerful claim to the value of bipartisanship when it must serve the public interest.

Senator Byrd and I engaged in partisan warfare more than either of us would like to acknowledge today, but even in the midst of such warfare, we knew we were serving an important political purpose: giving voice to the full range of public opinion on matters of national importance.

That is the basis for the Senate's claim to being the “world's greatest deliberative body.” America's Founders did not design the Senate as a model of efficiency but as a vessel of democracy, into which the Nation's passions could be poured to cool, and from which the Nation's collective wisdom could be discerned.

The two-party system, which the Founders did not design and from which many of them would have recoiled, has had a similarly steadying influence on our national life.

Two broad-based political parties have over the centuries become very effective means of communicating the public's views to their government, particularly through the legislative branch.

Partisanship has its place—and it is an honorable and useful place—in public life, and those who disdain it often do not understand its value in venting the full expression of our citizens' demands and dissents.

But the greatest of America's Founders—George Washington—feared “factions” above all, and I share his fear that political hostility can overcome the better angels of our nature in some future hour of national peril.

Too often in today's Washington, I see a refusal to hear, much less respect, a differing point of view. I see a refusal to even try to understand the other person's argument. This is new, in my experience, and it is not healthy.

Robert Kennedy was a young lawyer who served as minority council in the Army-McCarthy hearings. I was chosen by Ray Jenkins, a great Tennessee trial lawyer, to assist him in the hearings. By the way, my principal responsibility was reading the daily transcripts! Robert Kennedy and I became quick friends because we had much in common—we were within days of each other in age, had World War II experience, and we shared an enthusiasm for convertibles, although his Cadillac put my Ford to shame.

When we returned to Washington years later as Senators ourselves, just after the assassination of President Kennedy and in the early years of the Vietnam war, we and our colleagues—including Bob Byrd—knew that some things were more important than partisanship.

Having served in the waning days of World War II, we knew that the capacity for calamity in human affairs was almost limitless—and we knew how much the rest of the world looked to the United States for leadership and example.

The men and women of today's Congress know about war, and terror, and now you

know how quickly a strong economy can spiral out of control without constant vigilance.

These are sobering events in momentous times, and it is useful for the ordinary men and women serving in this Capitol today to know that others before them rose to similar extraordinary challenges and rescued their country from harm.

"What is past is prologue," the National Archives reminds us. "Study the past." That is what the United States Capitol Historical Society has been encouraging us and enabling us to do for many years.

I thank you for that valuable service. I am humbled by your tribute. And I am honored to be in your company tonight.

HONORING LOUIS DE LA PARTE

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise the lifetime achievements of distinguished Tampa lawyer and Florida legislator Louis de la Parte. Mr. de la Parte was honored for his unselfish compassion and courage to voice his beliefs on causes, even against popular opposition. He was a noble public servant and lived to help his family, friends, and community.

Mr. de la Parte was born in Ybor City, Tampa, and grew up with his mother, a homemaker, and his father, who ran a men's clothing store, whom Louis helped out during the summer. His grandmother lived in public housing in Tampa, and his large family came from a modest background. He used his experience growing up around people less fortunate than he to help out his community and voice the opinions of those who could not be heard. He graduated from Jesuit High School in Tampa in 1946 and received his bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Emory University in 1950. His articulate leadership and natural ability for persuasion led him to earn his juris doctor from the University of Florida.

After law school he joined the Air Force and started a family. He worked as a prosecutor but soon discovered that many of the problems that he was prosecuting could be avoided through science and the more effective delivery of mental health services. This revelation led Mr. de la Parte to run for public office. He served as a Democratic member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1962 through 1966 and the Senate from 1966 through 1974. He served his final year in the legislature as senate president.

During his time in office, he built the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services to assist the poor, mentally disabled, elderly, and sick. He avidly promoted environmental legislation and educational programs in prisons.

A dedicated family man, Mr. de la Parte was deeply loved by his family. His wife and two children would follow him to work sometimes, carrying his briefcase for him. Mr. de la Parte loved to have big family dinners on Sundays, and to take his family on travels all around the world, particularly to those places he had been while serving in the Air Force. The de la Parte family is a Tampa treasure.

Mr. de la Parte worked in private practice with his son for 4 years. He retired in 1990, when he began to develop the early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. To congratulate his dedication to progress in the area of mental health, in 1996 the Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida was named after Mr. de la Parte.

Madam Speaker, Louis de la Parte was a man of the highest regard who dedicated his life to the public good. He will be greatly missed by the State of Florida. My thoughts are with his wife, Helen, his children, Peggy and L. David, and the entire de la Parte family.

HONORING THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ASTORIA—LONG ISLAND CITY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to the Kiwanis of Astoria—Long Island City for its outstanding work in supporting philanthropic and community organizations serving the people of western Queens.

This year, the Kiwanis Club named as its Man of the Year Panagiotis Manolas, M.D., Chief of Surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens. Born and educated in Greece, Dr. Manolas immigrated to America to complete his studies. Certified by the American Board of Surgery, he has developed a highly successful multi-specialty practice in general, breast and laparoscopic surgery. Named a "New York Super Doctor" and one of the "Best Doctors in New York", he is devoted to his patients, often providing his services pro bono or on a sliding scale.

The Kiwanis Club is naming as its Women of the Year several deserving honorees. These include: Rose Anne Alafogiannis, past president of the Kiwanis Club and member of Queens Community Board #1, the Astoria Civic Association, SHAREing & CAREing, and a Lector for the Immaculate Conception parish;

Donna Furey, an Astoria native, Kiwanis Club member, and attorney specializing in elder law who who serves as a member of the board of St. John's University School of Law Alumni Association and the Queens County Women's Bar Association and who has dedicated herself to helping local seniors;

Roberta Gualtieri, a life-long Astoria resident who has served countless hours as a volunteer at the Steinway Senior Center, the Kiwanis Club, the 114th Police Precinct, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Roman Catholic Church, St. John's Hospital emergency room, and with literacy programs for underprivileged youth;

Laura Jean Hawkins, a longtime community activist and lecturer who served for many years as Chief of Staff to former Assemblyman Denis Butler and advocate for non-profit groups like SHAREing & CAREing, a breast and ovarian cancer support group;

Teresa Jarnich, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Astoria—Long Island City and a volunteer with its Christmas Auction and Anti-Crime programs;

Christine Lolos, an Athens native who immigrated to the U.S. to launch her career in the banking industry. She is active in the Kiwanis Club, the 30th Avenue Business Association, and serves on the Advisory Board of SHAREing & CAREing;

Anna Kril, the founder of SHAREing & CAREing, Inc. She serves on the Board of Directors of the New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation, on the Executive Board of the Community Advisory Board of Elmhurst Hospital Center, as Chairperson of the Health Committee of Queens Community Board #1 in Queens, and as a member of the Kiwanis Club;

Vera Martucci, who, although widowed at an early age, still devoted herself to serving others by volunteering to assist immigrants through the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and at St. John's Hospital's emergency department, the Steinway Senior Center, and P.S. 7 and P.S. 126;

Charlene Perno, a Registered Nurse who serves on the Board of SHAREing & CAREing, as coordinator of New York Hospital of Queens' health fair, and who provides health education to local high schools;

Linda Ann Vinci-Perno, an Astoria native who has volunteered for the Boy's Club of Queens, Ladies Auxiliary, President of St. Margaret Mary Rosary Society, and the Long Island chapter of Cancer Care; and

Eartha Washington, who serves as Chair of the Board of Elmhurst Hospital and is active with the New York City Department for the Aging Advisory Board, SHAREing & CAREing, the Kiwanis Club, and the Astoria Civic Association.

I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to these outstanding individuals for their extraordinary commitment to serving others.

HONORING DR. JAMES P. COMER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and honor that I take this time to recognize one of the most influential and renowned individuals to emerge from Northwest Indiana. Dr. James P. Comer, M.D., M.P.H., has made many distinguished contributions to the field of child psychiatry throughout his prestigious career, and I take this time to welcome him back to Northwest Indiana, where he will serve as the keynote speaker for the 2008 Parent University on Saturday, October 11, 2008, at East Chicago Central High School in East Chicago, Indiana. This extraordinary event is sponsored by the School City of East Chicago, the City of East Chicago, the Lake Shore Chamber of Commerce, and Purdue University.

Dr. Comer was born in East Chicago, Indiana. In 1956, he completed his studies at Indiana University and went on to receive his M.D. in 1960 from Howard University College of Medicine. From there, he went on to complete his M.P.H. degree from the University of Michigan School of Public Health in 1964. Following this, he went on to Yale University,