

Linda's Global Family Day initiatives were supported by the Congress and United Nations. In 2000, the 106th Congress unanimously passed S. Con. Res. 138 and in 2006, the 109th Congress unanimously passed H. Con. Res. 317 and S. Res. 582. These Congressional resolutions urged the President of the United States to issue an annual proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe Global Family Day. In 1999 and 2001, United Nations General Assembly resolutions, UNRes54/29 and UNRes56/2, were passed, recognizing a day of peace on January 1st and encouraging Member states to observe the global holiday.

This Congress, I introduced another Global Family Day resolution, H. Con. Res. 221. In this purpose, I was joined by Representative DENNIS KUCINICH and Senators HARRY REID and DANIEL INOUE. It was Linda's hope, as well as ours, that there finally be a proclamation issued by the President asking that the citizens of the United States celebrate Global Family Day, thereby resulting in the Day's widespread observance.

In advancing Linda Grover's legacy, we will continue to pursue this proclamation and recognize Global Family Day every January 1st. Just as Ms. Grover believed, I think that, despite our differences, each of us has an interest in pursuing peaceful solutions to many of our contemporary world problems. A better appreciation for one another, practiced at the start of a new year, can only lead to the eradication of human suffering that results from violence, hunger, poverty, and other social ills.

Even in the weeks right before she died, Linda worked diligently to spread the Global Family Day message. Linda said, "it's [Global Family Day] is going to improve our global attitude and give us a slightly better chance to overcome all these global crises that are demanding global solutions. Economy, Environment, Energy, Ethnic Enmity, Education, Employment, Epidemics—and those are just the ones that start with the letter E."

Linda's fight and determination to spread the message of peace and sharing through Global Family Day will be missed. However, I will work to make sure that the message is not forgotten. Linda is survived by three children, who I understand will continue their mother's work to champion Global Family Day, and I will join them in this effort. We must all understand, as Linda did, that by working together as one global family, we can better meet the challenges humanity will face in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker. I was unable to be present for votes on Monday, February 22, 2010. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall Vote No. 49 and Rollcall Vote No. 50.

NEXT GENERATION CHOICES FOUNDATION: WORKING TO LESSEN CANCER

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, like so many Americans, my family and I have been touched by cancer. I have worked over the years in Congress as a member of the Congressional Cancer Caucus as well as my service on the Appropriations Committee to support measures to help fight cancer, including historic increases in research funding for the National Institutes of Health, NIH. I have always believed that ensuring adequate funding for medical research on diseases such as cancer is an important priority for the federal government.

There is another important component in the fight against cancer being lead today, Madam Speaker, by Bill Couzens, one of my constituents from Middleburg, Virginia. He heads a grassroots nonprofit organization—the Next Generation Choices Foundation—that he founded over 6 years ago, to build awareness for cancer prevention by reducing environmental exposures both known and suspected to be linked with cancer. After the loss of his sister Anne, mother Joan and several close friends, he felt the need to create an organization that would focus on the root causes of the worldwide cancer epidemic and increase awareness on ways to reduce exposures and choices linked with human health and the environment. He says he learned that there are healthy choices that can be made by individuals and communities to work toward a world with less cancer, including nutritional food options for families.

Next Generation Choices in turn has formed the Less Cancer Campaign, which has grown to become a worldwide leader in cancer prevention awareness, with over 10,000 members, friends, and fans on Facebook. The reach of the Less Cancer Campaign has been wide; numerous other organizations have followed its lead and collaborated to fan the flame for cancer prevention around the globe. These combined efforts have raised awareness for Less Cancer, not just here in America, but around the world.

The Less Cancer and new Healthy Town campaigns are working to help guide communities and individuals on understanding the importance of making strong choices, and providing information on options and resources available to assist them in making healthy decisions. While most often pointing to options for the consumer, the organization in some rare cases has provided food cards, information for healthy food choices, and even shoes for children who need to get out and move, run and play.

While Mr. Couzens' personal experience inspired his passion to help lessen the grip of cancer on society, he also understood the importance of working with scientists and physicians who have a depth of work in evidenced-based science. Next Generation Choices board of directors includes Ronald B. Herberman, M.D., founding director of the Uni-

versity of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, associate vice chancellor for cancer research, Hillman professor of oncology, and professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Herberman is an internationally recognized tumor immunologist who has made major discoveries in his field and has fostered the application of this information to novel approaches in cancer therapy, diagnosis and prevention. The phenomenon of natural killer, NK, cell-mediated cytotoxicity against tumors was first discovered in Dr. Herberman's laboratory at the National Cancer Institute in the early 1970s. In addition to his pioneering investigation of NK cells, Dr. Herberman has played a leading role in multiple areas of tumor immunology.

Other leaders in science and medicine on the board are Maryann Donovan, Ph.D., the director of the Center for Environmental Oncology at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, and Thomas M. Sherman, M.D., a gastroenterologist. The board also includes professionals in industry and business. Greg Lam and John Couzens both contribute from their years in business and nonprofit management. Miles M. O'Brien is a 26-year broadcast news veteran. Based in New York City, he owns a production company that creates, produces, and distributes original content across all media platforms. For nearly 17 years he worked as a correspondent, anchor, and producer for CNN based in Atlanta and New York. At various times he was CNN's science, space, aviation, technology, and environment correspondent. Also on the board is Veronique Pittman, a trustee of The Rainforest Foundation and Round Hill Hotels and Villas, and a partner with Rainforest Native, which imports fair-trade ecological products from the Amazon rain forest. In addition, she sits on the Leadership Council of the Green Schools Alliance and is an Advisory Board member of the Sustainable Acai Project and Global Goods Partners.

Next Generation Choices, Less Cancer, and Healthy Town are closely associated with cancer prevention, but also work to reduce all illnesses associated with human health and the environment. As Mr. Couzens has said, "When communities and individuals work to make healthier choices, great strides toward preventing cancer and other illnesses including heart disease, diabetes, and obesity can be made. By educating people and unifying individuals and programs—transformation will occur for the next generation."

Madam Speaker, the battle against cancer will take the work of individuals, communities, businesses and governments, and we salute the effort of Bill Couzens and Next Generation Choices as they raise awareness on ways we can all be involved in this fight.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. KELLY REFFETT'S YEARS OF SERVICE TO ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITIES

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Ms. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Kelly Reffett's years of work

in community service and disaster relief and to wish her well as she retires from her role as President of the Illinois Valley Federation of Labor.

Ms. Reffett began her career in 1979 as an operator for Ameritech in Canton, IL. After working for Ameritech for twenty years, Kelly joined the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago as Director of Partner Relations and AFL-CIO Labor Participation. For ten years, Kelly worked to expand preparedness education opportunities to diverse populations, served disaster stricken communities, and broadened partnerships with corporations and community organizations.

In this position, she directed teams of nearly 100 people at 23 locations, providing executive guidance and program assistance to on-site supervisors and Volunteer in Service to America members. She also served as Partner Services Manager/Officer and Labor Liaison on 25 national relief operations including Hurricane Katrina and World Trade Center 9/11 operations. She co-developed the AFL-CIO's 2009 handbook outlining guidelines and policies for volunteer disaster relief operations. These accomplishments are only a small sampling of Kelly's impressive career.

In addition to her national service, Kelly was also selected to serve at the state and county level. Since 2003, Kelly has served as a commissioner on the Illinois State Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. In 2008, she was appointed to serve on the LaSalle County Board. Shortly thereafter, she was elected to that office.

Throughout her long career, Ms. Reffett has also remained dedicated to the cause of working families. Serving as President of the Illinois Valley Federation of Labor for over two decades, she always put the best interests of Illinois Valley workers first.

Ms. Kelly Reffett has had a long and proud career, one that is not ending as she retires from the presidency of the Illinois Valley Federation of Labor. Having worked with her over the years, I am sure she will continue to work to improve her community, as she has done over and throughout her long and successful career.

CONGRATULATING THE TRANSPORTATION TRADES DEPARTMENT ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO as this strong voice for transportation workers marks its 20th anniversary.

Transportation is at the core of our daily lives and our economy. From ancient civilization through the present day, the quality of transportation serves as a true measure of a society. How well do people live their daily lives? How quickly and efficiently can people and goods get from one place to another? Does the quality of transportation strengthen or weaken an economy?

As we map the vision for our future, we must keep asking these questions. Are we doing all we can to invest in modern, safe, and efficient transportation? Are the workers in this industry as well-trained, experienced, and prepared as possible? Are they treated with respect and dignity? Are they trusted and empowered? Do their wages and working conditions help—or hurt—the ability to attract and retain good men and women for these jobs?

The work of the Transportation Trades Department (TTD), of the AFL-CIO lies at the heart of these questions. In every major transportation policy debate in Washington over the past 20 years, TTD has been front and center, providing an honest, substantive, and respected voice on behalf of millions of transportation workers. TTD brings their voices to those in public office, helping forge far better policy and decision-making than if the organization did not exist.

TTD has always had the courage and conviction to demand accountability, to make sure that public and private sector transportation leaders are truly placing safety and our national transportation network's true needs ahead of ideology and profit. In an industry—and world—that has been so turbulent in recent years, the value of TTD's vigilant watchdog role is priceless.

As the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I can count on TTD to bring integrity, intellectual depth, and refreshing clarity to my Committee and the entire Congress. I have long valued TTD as a trusted friend and ally, and its substantive, bipartisan approach has often been helpful in bringing about consensus on important issues.

As my committee has engaged in enacting critical legislation—from the surface transportation bill to the FAA reauthorization bill, from the Coast Guard reauthorization to Amtrak and rail safety reauthorization—TTD has been a comprehensive and credible resource. Its member unions are on the front lines of our transportation network—whether on the ground, in the air or at sea.

The accomplishments of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO are far too many to enumerate. But to me, ensuring that transportation workers have a seat at the table, and a voice that is heard in key policy debates, has been the organization's greatest contribution to our nation. I congratulate TTD on 20 outstanding years, and look forward to many more.

HONORING MATTIE MEYERS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mattie Meyers upon being honored with the "Trail Blazers Award" by the African American Museum. Mrs. Meyers will be honored at the African American History Month Celebration and Banquet on Saturday, February 6th, 2010 in Fresno, California.

Mrs. Mattie Meyers was born and raised in Durham, North Carolina. She earned her

Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and mathematics from North Carolina College at Durham (now known as North Carolina Central University) in 1947. Shortly after completing her education, Mrs. Meyers met a young doctor named Earl Meyers, during his residency at Durham's Lincoln Hospital. Mr. Meyers was from a prominent black family in Fresno, California. When Earl and Mattie married, they moved to Fresno.

Upon arriving in Fresno, Dr. Meyers established a medical practice to serve the nonwhite community of Fresno, which did not have medical services that were readily accessible to whites. Mrs. Meyers was the business manager and together they built the first black owned medical center in Fresno, which contained a clinical laboratory, pharmacy, housed an x-ray facility and was home to several African American physicians. Dr. Meyers served as a catalyst in bringing a number of young black physicians to the Fresno area, providing a higher standard of medical care available to African Americans.

While Dr. Meyers continued to focus on the medical disparities, Mrs. Meyers began to recognize different disparities such as segregation within the schools. She joined with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and eventually Fresno schools adopted an "open enrollment policy" which made it possible for African American children to attend schools outside of West Fresno. Mrs. Meyers' children were among the first to take advantage of the new policy. Her involvement with the NAACP did not end there; she also served as the President of the Fresno Chapter.

During Mrs. Meyers' term as President of the Fresno Chapter of the NAACP, she was able to orchestrate many achievements and milestones for the growing organization. She served during the early 1960s. She was able to bring Andrew Hatcher, the associate press secretary to President John Kennedy, to Fresno as a featured speaker at the NAACP's second annual banquet. Mr. Hatcher was one of the most influential African Americans in the country at that time. Later, Mrs. Meyers was instrumental in bringing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Fresno to spearhead a civil rights demonstration and march to Ratcliff Stadium.

Beyond her efforts with the NAACP, Mrs. Meyers was the first African American, and the first woman, to seek election as the Mayor of Fresno. She was not only active in local politics and local civil rights activities; she was also involved with movements around the nation. Mrs. Meyers was influential in the southern United States. She is a founding member of a number of black organizations, including Iota Phi Lambda Sorority.

Mrs. Meyers is the mother of five successful children and grandmother to nine. She is a member of the Westside Seventh Day Adventist Church, lifetime member of the NAACP, charter member of Iota Phi Lambda, a founding member of the Fresno Black Educators Association.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mattie Meyers upon being honored with the "Trail Blazers Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Meyers many years of continued success.