

HUD must have better oversight to make sure that the would-be home buyer is ready as well as the appraisal process needs to be closely monitored. HUD contracts out for the appraisal process which has led to unrealistically high appraisals, which then creates bad loans given by these "lenders of last resort." As you can see this process continues on a vicious downward spiral.

The buyers of these home loans often are single mothers with low-wage jobs who end up defaulting on the mortgages. In cases where FHA insures the loans, the agency pays off the lender and takes title to the house.

Once HUD pays off the lender and acquires title to a property after foreclosure, the house often sits vacant for months—depreciating the value not just of that property but of the neighborhood. HUD then sells the house on an "as-is" basis. Often they are in poor shape and unattractive to potential homeowners. Which, as a result leads to yet another phenomenon—they frequently are sold to unscrupulous speculators who quickly "flip" them for a huge markup—sometimes marking the homes up to 100% of what they were originally purchased for.

WE MUST REPAIR THE DAMAGE TO THESE NEIGHBORHOODS

I hope that a HUD Task Force on Predatory Lending will find solutions to this problem.

However, we now must also identify, fund and implement programs to repair the damage done to these communities and hold the speculators accountable for their illegal actions. HUD, local governments, and non profit housing organizations must begin working together now!

HONORING DR. GERALD AND MARILYN FISHBONE FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2000

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, each year the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International of Greater New Haven Chapter presents an individual or individuals with the "Living and Giving Award," recognizing outstanding contributions to diabetes research and education. It gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor two of New Haven's outstanding citizens, my good friends Gerald and Marilyn Fishbone, this year's recipients of this prestigious award. The Fishbones have been leading advocates in the fight against diabetes for twenty-five years and I cannot think of a more appropriate way for the people of New Haven to express our thanks and appreciation.

Diabetes is the leading cause of new adult blindness, kidney failure, and premature death. The volunteer efforts of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation to fund research is an essential part of our national effort to find a cure. It is the dedication and commitment of people like Gerry and Marilyn that has fueled the national movement to eliminate this devastating disease. With unparalleled motivation and spirit, they have built an impressive record of service to this organization. They are truly an inspiration to us all.

They are both founding members of the Greater New Haven Chapter of the Juvenile

Diabetes Foundation, and have both devoted extraordinary time and energy to this critical endeavor. Gerry is past chairman of the JDF International Board of Directors and continues to serve on the board of chancellors. As the chair of the editorial committee, he oversees the publication of the organization's magazine, COUNTDOWN, which carries the latest news of research and progress across the country.

Marilyn was president of the Greater New Haven Chapter of JDF for 7 years and has been a board member since the organization's inception 25 years ago. Testifying before the State Senate, she helped to establish two Centers for Children with Diabetes—bringing statewide awareness of the need for continued funding for research and education. Marilyn is the former director of fundraising for the Greater New Haven Chapter of JDF. Under her direction the chapter raised more dollars per capita than any other chapter across the nation—truly one of her greatest achievements. Drawing on her own personal experiences with the disease, Marilyn counsels patients and their families, extending a comforting hand as they face the challenges of the disease. Through their work, Gerry and Marilyn have been instrumental in the development and success of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

It is rare to find individuals with the same spirit of giving as we have found in Gerry and Marilyn. Their hard work has enriched the organization—making a real difference in the lives of countless children and families. I am proud to join their children, Scott and Lisa, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation of Greater New Haven, friends and supporters, as Gerry and Marilyn are presented with the "Living and Giving Award." Words cannot express our gratitude for their many contributions.

RELEASING FOUR KURDISH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2000

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am supporting a resolution introduced today calling for the immediate release from prison of four Kurdish members of the Parliament of the Republic of Turkey. I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) for sponsoring this resolution of which I am a proud co-sponsor.

Currently, four Turkish parliamentarians of the now banned Kurdish based Democracy Party [DEP], Leyla Zana, Hatip Dicle, Orhan Dogan, and Selim Sadak, are serving prison sentences simply because they are Kurds. Leyla Zana, the first Kurdish woman ever elected to the Turkish Parliament, was chosen to represent the city of Diyarbakir by an overwhelming majority in October in 1991. In 1993, she travel to the United States to speak to officials about human rights abuses against the Kurdish minority in Turkey and to testify before the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. She was arrested on March 2, 1994 in the Parliament building and subsequently prosecuted for a so-called "separatist speech." Ever since then Ms. Zana, along with Hatip Dicle, Orhan Dogan, and Selim Sadak have been jailed for the simple act of speaking out for their peo-

ple—the Kurds—the very people by whom they were elected.

Turkey is a country which claims to be a democracy and is continuously taking steps to be accepted as a western partner, as seen with its current European Union candidacy. However, its recent actions do not show any concrete effort to abide by international human rights standards. In the last week, it has been reported that the Turkish military has been massing troops and tanks along the Iraqi border in an apparent pending offense against the Kurds. Equally as disturbing is the re-arrest of Turkey's most prominent human rights figure, Akin Birdal, for a speech he made in 1996 calling for a peaceful resolution to the conflict between the Turkish state and the Kurdish Workers' Party [PKK].

If Turkey wants to be treated as an equal partner with the west, it is time for it to treat all of its citizens with equal rights and a general respect for human rights. The time has come for Turkey to allow the Kurdish people the right to speak their language and practice their culture. Releasing these parliamentarians would show Turkey and the world that Turkey is ready to respect the human rights of all its citizens and that it is on the right path to be accepted by the international community.

We must not continue to ignore or apologize for Turkey's outrageous behavior. Six years is far too long for these parliamentarians to be in jail, for speaking out for rights which are guaranteed under the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. We must speak out strongly against these attacks and unfair acts and demand that Turkey end this lawless assault.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2000

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 105, I was unavoidably detained on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE STATE CHAMPION MINNECHAUG REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate the 1999–2000 Minnechaug Regional High School girls' basketball team. On March 18, 2000, the Falcons captured their third Massachusetts Division I state championship in the past four years at the Worcester Centrum, defeating Brockton High School by a score of 68–61 in a memorable final contest.

The final contest was not an easy one for the Falcons. Minnechaug trailed by as many as 14 points in the first half, and took its first lead in the contest with only 1:32 remaining. The comeback was led by senior Melissa Kowalski, who scored 22 of her 28 points during the final 10 minutes of the game.

Kowalski's efforts, along with the play of seniors Maureen Leahy and Christal Murphy accounted for all of Minnechaug's 42 second half points.

A final win in the state championship, as if not impressive enough, capped off a perfect season of 25 wins and no losses for the Falcons. The final game was a battle of the undefeated as Brockton also headed into the final contest with a record of 24 wins and no losses. Minnechaug arrived at the final games as the Western Massachusetts champions for the fourth straight year.

Under the leadership and direction of Coach Dave Yelle, Minnechaug has dominated their competition from around the state. Over the past four seasons, the Falcons have compiled an outstanding total of 91 wins, including 18 wins in the postseason. Defense had been their greatest strength, holding opponents to an average of 32 points for the two playoff contests before the final.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to recognize the Minnechaug Regional High School girls' basketball team. The seniors are Melissa Kowalski, Christal Murphy, Abigail Lipinski and Maureen Leahy. Underclasswomen include Christina Conway, Cheri Murphy, Laura Mulcahy, Erica Bacon, Katie Clark, Sara McCarthy, Marybeth Maziarz and Julie Sullivan. The team is coached by Dave Yelle, and he is assisted by Pete Kowalski, Jason Fenlason and Elizabeth Ouellette. The Falcons are managed by Amy Gregorius, Tom Loper and Meghan Mitchell and the team trainer is Jason Patterson.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to extend my congratulations to the 1999–2000 Minnechaug Regional High School girls' basketball team. Their consistent record of dominance and excellence is certainly worthy of the attention of this Chamber. I wish Coach Yelle and the state champion Falcons the best of luck in defending their title next season.

IN SUPPORT OF H. CON. RES. 282  
AND H. CON. RES. 228

### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 10, 2000*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am supporting H. Con. Res. 282, The GI As Person of the Century Act, and H. Con. Res. 228, Honor Vietnam-era Armed Forces Act. These important bills recognize the sacrifices endured by our men and women who fought to protect the freedom we cherish.

Throughout our distinguished history, we have been blessed with the courage and determination of brave Americans who were willing to preserve democratic beliefs with their lives. From the gas-filled trenches of World War I to the flaming deserts of the Gulf War, our veterans wrote much of the history that transformed the United States from a young and naive country into a world leader and global superpower. It's a history lesson that makes you proud to be an American and respect those who fought for the freedoms we cherish.

Each regional conflict the United States entered there was always one consistent factor—a brave American in the trenches fighting to stop aggression. These brave men and

women defended the most basic of the beliefs on which our Nation was created—that freedom is worth putting our lives in harms way to preserve. We owe them a great deal of gratitude and respect.

That is why I support legislation that designated the "American GI" as the "Person of the Century". We honor them because it was their blood, their resolution, and their love of country that became infectious and spread from one generation to another.

Lastly, we should never forget those brave men and women who never returned home from fighting to protect what our flag symbolizes. Many were either captured or killed. In Vietnam there are still over 2,000 soldiers classified either Prisoners of War or Missing in Action. The anguish they suffer, as well as their families, is indescribable.

The Honor Vietnam-era Armed Forces Act recognizes the service and sacrifices by members of the Armed Forces and federal civilian employees who, during the Vietnam era, served proudly to protect those in need. This measure also honors the sacrifices and hardships endured by the families of individuals who lost their lives or remain unaccounted during this tumultuous era.

Vietnam veterans, like their fallen brethren before them, exemplify a spirit of nationality and patriotism that continues to thrive today.

Veterans are the unsung heroes who define our American heritage. They are ordinary citizens who answered their call to duty and fought for something they believed in. They remember the places they were stationed, their training, and they certainly remember their days in combat. It is an experience the rest of us can only read about and marvel at. Although we can never adequately express our thanks to those who could not return to us, we remember them by supporting the legislation before us today.

IN HONOR OF THE SIMON  
WIESENTHAL CENTER LIBRARY  
AND ARCHIVES

### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 10, 2000*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to recognize the Simon Wiesenthal Center—Museum of Tolerance Library and Archives, an extraordinary institution in the 29th District of California, which I represent, that is dedicated to teaching the importance of Holocaust remembrance and the defense of human rights. The Library and Archives is being honored this week in conjunction with National Library Week; chosen by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) as one of four libraries, nationwide, to receive the first annual National Award for Library Services.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives' broad collections document the Holocaust in Nazi Germany and the many other tragic genocides of the 20th century. The library holdings of over 30,000 books and periodicals document antisemitism, racism, and related issues, and are available to researchers, media, students and the public. The archives, containing an extensive array of original documents, manuscripts, personal narratives, diaries, artifacts, photographs, maga-

zines, newspaper, maps, and original artwork, have evolved into a primary research depository for materials dealing with the Holocaust and the pre-World War II Jewish experience.

In partnership with the Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance, the Library and Archives maintains a number of excellent education programs to fulfill its mission of teaching the dangers of bigotry and the importance of tolerance. In addition to answering over 500 inquiries a week, hosts numerous visiting authors, scholars and civic leaders to bring its message to the community. The Library and Archives also sponsors a dynamic "Contact a Survivor" program of direct, electronic, eye-witness discussions between Holocaust survivors and students.

The IMLS award is a tribute to the power of libraries to reach families and communities across America and around the world, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives is a deserving recipient. Under the leadership of Adaire Klein, it continues to make a tremendous contribution to preserving the lessons of the Holocaust and the legacy of its victims for future generations. We owe the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Ms. Klein and her staff a debt of gratitude for this distinguished record of accomplishment. I thank them for the devoted service and extend my best wishes for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD  
LUCK TO SHEREKA WRIGHT

### HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 10, 2000*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate a great high school student and basketball player from my Texas congressional district—Shereka Wright—on her selection as the 1999–2000 Gatorade National High School Girls Basketball Champion. Shereka was chosen for this honor out of the 454,000 high school girls basketball players across the country. Past winners of this award include Emmitt Smith, Lisa Leslie, Chris Webber, Peyton Manning, Tim Couch, Kobe Bryant, and Alex Rodriguez.

Shereka Wright will graduate from Copperas Cove High School in Copperas Cove, Texas, next month after four tremendous years as a basketball player. Her long list of achievements already rivals many professional basketball players.

Just this season, Shereka has averaged 25 points, 10 rebounds, four assists, three steals, and two blocks per game. Over the course of her career, she has scored over 3,000 points. That feat places her in the top-25 scorers of all-time. She has been selected as the Most Valuable Player of the Nike Tournament of Champions in California twice. She has also been named to the Conference AAAAA 1st Team All-State in Texas for four consecutive years.

Shereka's commitment to success off the court is equally impressive. She truly is a student athlete and has maintained a 3.6 grade point average. She has also volunteered her time working with the Youth Teen Summit and summer youth basketball camps.

Shereka will attend Purdue University in the fall. I feel certain she will continue to be an