

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WORLD ASTHMA DAY 2000

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, May 3, 2000 is World Asthma Day. Many of my Colleagues and I are strong supporters of federal, state, and local efforts to create and enhance awareness of asthma and to improve asthma care throughout this country and indeed throughout the world. I would also like to extend sincere thanks to the many thousands of Americans and others who work day after day to try to improve the way asthma is diagnosed and treated.

In the last 15 years, the prevalence of asthma has doubled throughout the world. More than 10 percent of children have asthma symptoms, and in some countries, as many as 30 percent are affected. In this country, asthma ranks among the most common chronic conditions, affecting more than 15 million Americans, including 4 million children, and causing more than 1.5 million emergency department visits, approximately 500,000 hospitalizations, and more than 5,500 deaths. The estimated direct and indirect monetary costs for this disease totaled \$11.3 billion in 1998, in the United States alone.

World Asthma Day 2000 is being marked by more than 80 countries throughout the world. It is a partnership between health care groups and asthma educators organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), which is a collaboration between the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health and the World Health Organization. On this day, thousands of people throughout the world will work together to create greater awareness of the need for every person with asthma to obtain a timely diagnosis, receive appropriate treatment, learn to manage their asthma in partnership with a health professional, and reduce exposure to environmental factors that make their asthma worse.

Among those participating in World Asthma Day, via a special World Asthma Day Internet site (www.Webvention.org), will be Dr. David Satcher, Surgeon General of the U.S., and Mr. Nelson Mandela, former President of the Republic of South Africa and currently Chairman of the South African National Asthma Campaign. Ministers of Health from Japan, Turkey, Malaysia and other countries will also be available on the Internet to answer questions about how the implementation of international asthma treatment guidelines can benefit patients and reduce health care costs.

In the U.S., local World Asthma Day activities are being coordinated by the NHLBI's National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) and are listed on its Web site (www.nhlbi.nih.gov). These activities range from local press conferences to school poster contests, and health fairs to science museum education programs.

The NAEPP, along with the National Library of Medicine (NLM), Howard University, the Office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the American Lung Association of the District of Columbia, and the D.C. public school system, will hold the official U.S. press conference to report on the state of asthma in the U.S. and what is being done to combat the problem. Invited guests include members of Congress; Olympians who have achieved their titles despite their asthma; Washington, D.C. elementary school students who have asthma; and representatives of selected community-based asthma coalitions from across the country. The press conference will be Webcast and shown on the World Asthma Day Web site.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that our colleagues will join in paying tribute to World Asthma Day and to those who suffer from this condition and those who are working to help them. It is hoped that with the continued support of the Congress, additional progress can be made in the efforts to prevent asthma, as well as to improve its diagnosis and treatment.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS NATIONAL FOOD DRIVE DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. Gilman. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly commend the National Association of Letter Carriers [NALC] for the good work they are doing nationwide and grant them well-deserved recognition and appreciation for their genuine humanitarian acts and for their good will.

As Americans, we enjoy one of the highest living standards in the world. Nevertheless, many people within our borders do not benefit from our Nation's great prosperity. In fact, many more Americans are hungry and malnourished than most people realize. Hunger is a serious problem that deserves national attention.

The NALC has undertaken a tremendous amount of initiative in solving this problem by planning their eighth annual national food drive day on May 13, 2000, which will be the largest one-day food drive in the country. Last year more than 1,500 NALC branches in all fifty states and U.S. jurisdictions collected 58.4 million pounds of food, and we are hopeful this record will be exceeded in the year 2000.

I considered it a privilege to have had the opportunity to participate in the "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive kickoff. The NALC branches in Westchester, Newburgh and Middletown honored me with the opportunity to assist them in their efforts to improve the lives of less fortunate individuals. Both NALC branches appear to be well on their way to another record-breaking food drive and I wish them success and the best of luck.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend the NALC on their continued generosity and good

will. Their kind spirit and genuine care for less privileged individuals embody the values of brotherhood upon which this great nation was founded. I urge them to stay motivated and my best wishes are with them in all of their future endeavors.

I urge my colleagues to encourage people and organizations within their respective districts to follow the lead of the NALC and support those people who take personal initiative in making America a better place in which to live.

TRIBUTE TO M. DAVID COHEN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. Sherman. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to M. David Cohen, one of the most dedicated and committed individuals in our country for his humanitarian service throughout the world. Mr. Cohen's vision, expertise and active participation to serve those in need is legendary.

David's father, Hyman Louis Cohen, emigrated to the United States from Russia in 1923, settled in Chelsea, Massachusetts, and graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 1936. His mother, Jean Goldberg Cohen, was born in Boston; his parents married in 1941. They were among the most active in their community, setting the example David was to emulate. At the age of 12, when David's mother suffered a massive heart attack and stroke, he stepped into her role and became chairperson of the Everett Leukemia Fund Drive. He organized youth groups, schools, churches, synagogues and public and private sector employees to raise the most money ever raised by that city in any charity drive.

David served in the United States Air Force as an Acting Jewish Chaplain in France, Spain, Morocco and Libya. He organized programs on and off base for the military and civilian population and served as a coordinator with the Joint Distribution Committee in Paris, resettling displaced persons from behind the Iron Curtain. He created a food service gathering and distribution program for the Little Sisters of the Poor which has continued successfully since 1962, and was a basis for what we now know as the "meals on wheels" programs. Upon being honorably discharged, he returned to Boston College to complete his studies.

Serving on many boards of directors of charitable and community organizations, Mr. Cohen's 44 years of volunteer work include International Special Olympics, Adam Walsh Child Resource Centers (missing and exploited children), American Youth Soccer (ATSO), Lokrantz School (M.O.V.E.), Presidents' Summit on America's Future, Jewish Home for the Aging and Elizabeth Kubler-Ross Foundation. Current service includes the

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University of Judaism, King Solomon Education Foundation (tuition reduction), Healing Hands Project (reconstructive surgery), Club SODA (after school safe haven for middle and high school students), Shomrei Torah Synagogue, Blue Eagle Foundation (community sports and education facility), St. Joseph Center and General Colin Powell's America's Promise. In addition, David is very proud of his many years of imaginative pro-bono support of and active participation with the Stephen S. Wise Temple and its Schools, the largest Reform Jewish Temple in the United States. He created and now chairs the first Stephen S. Wise Temple Corporate Resources Division.

David is frequently heard commenting, "My greatest accomplishment is my daughter, Danielle Elizabeth, who at 13 has learned, embraced and implements every day the very best of what concerned citizenship is all about. I know that as my parents set the example for me, Danielle will lead her generation and those who follow to make a significant difference in our community, our country and the world. As she always says, 'One can count'".

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Mr. M. David Cohen as he continues his extraordinary commitment to the community and our country. He has earned and deserves our recognition, praise and respect.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Tuesday, May 2, 2000, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 131 and 132. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call vote 131 and "yes" on rollcall vote 132.

IN HONOR OF AYHAN HASSAN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Ayhan Hassan who will be honored by the Residents For A More Beautiful Port Washington at its Annual Spring Gala on May 7th.

Ayhan Hassan truly exemplifies a person who has achieved the American dream. He was born in the Turkish portion of Cyprus, and became a citizen of the United States in 1982. During that year, Mr. Hassan opened Shish Kabab, one of the most successful restaurants in Port Washington and on Long Island. In 1995, Mr. Hassan's Fish Kebab restaurant debuted across the street and in 1995 he created a third successful business in downtown Port Washington, the Mediterranean Marketplace.

In addition to being a prominent restaurateur, Mr. Hassan has been a major contributor to the beautification of downtown Port Washington. Ayhan Hassan has incorporated the beauty of the natural environment

within his restaurants by using the trees, shrubs and flowers of Port Washington into the decorum of these properties.

Mr. Hassan has invested his time and also has used his own money to restore many of the old buildings in downtown Port Washington to play host to his three businesses. He has consulted many times with the members of the Residents For A More Beautiful Port Washington to inquire about how they would effectively make Port Washington a more enjoyable place to shop, eat and live. Ayhan Hassan is indeed a man dedicated to improving the quality of life for his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in honoring Ayhan Hassan for his many years of active service to Port Washington and in wishing him many more to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 2, 2000, I was in North Carolina participating in my state's primary election and was unavoidably absent for rollcall votes 131 and 132. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 131, and "yes" on rollcall vote 132.

HMONG VETERANS'
NATURALIZATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 371, the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act of 2000. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this important legislation.

This legislation is long overdue. For too many years, the contributions made by our courageous Hmong allies during the Vietnam war went largely unrecognized. As we commemorate the 25th anniversary of the ignoble end to the Vietnam war, it is befitting that this bill has come to the House floor for consideration.

The Hmong veterans were an invaluable, staunch ally to the U.S. war effort in Southeast Asia. Throughout the Vietnam conflict, Hmong guerrilla units, operating out of their native Laos, collected vital intelligence, protected key American installations in remote mountain locations, and rescued downed American pilots. In a statement submitted to the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims in the 105th Congress, a former CIA intelligence officer estimated that Hmong operations out of Laos tied down 50,000 North Vietnamese troops in that country.

It is important to note that the Hmong veterans performed their invaluable guerrilla role at great peril to themselves and to their families. Moreover, many of them suffered dearly at the hands of the Communist North Vietnamese and Laotian forces after the U.S. withdrawal from Southeast Asia in 1972.

H.R. 371 provides special relief and consideration for those Hmong veterans who have sought to emigrate to the United States. It recognizes the fact that many of the Hmong face unique language problems that would normally disqualify them for U.S. citizenship. These problems stem from the Natural Cultural Barriers that exist between Asian and Western societies, as well as the distinct issue of an underdeveloped and underutilized Hmong written language.

H.R. 371 addresses this unique problem by waiving the English language requirement and provides special consideration for the civics requirement associated with naturalization. The bill was amended in subcommittee to address concerns over the potential for fraud by clearly outlining steps that needed to be taken to determine a veteran's eligibility, and limiting the total number of potential beneficiaries to 45,000.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate that this legislation is long overdue. I visited Hmong Commanding General Vang-Pao at his field headquarters in Central Laos in 1973. At that time, I was deeply impressed at how these people were willing to place their own lives and welfare on the line to not only fight for their freedom, but also to assist our American war effort and to save American lives. To paraphrase the author of this legislation, their actions during the Vietnam war demonstrates that the Hmong have already passed the most important test of all, risking their lives to defend freedom and save American personnel.

Accordingly, for this, we owe them our gratitude. This legislation corrects a long overdue problem, and is a significant step on the road to repaying the debt we as a Nation owe the Hmong veterans.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID RICHARD
PRESTON

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dr. David Richard Preston, an educator and management consultant who founded the Department of Organizational Behavior at Phillips Graduate Institute. In his capacity as Executive Director of this master's degree program, Dr. Preston teaches and guides the research of professional students who are learning how to make organizations more successful and humane.

Albert Einstein once wrote, "Try not to become a man of success, but rather a man of value." David Preston has spearheaded programs designed to promote personal, professional and organizational values for the past fifteen years. His efforts began as a high school student, when he developed and implemented events in which student leaders and public officials engaged in dialogue about policy, to the benefit of disabled students. Dr. Preston has maintained his ties to public education, through training teachers at UCLA and by volunteering in such programs as Students Run Los Angeles, in which he participated in the Los Angeles Marathon alongside students from Haddon Avenue Elementary School in Pacoima, California.

Dr. Preston's teaching expertise has been recognized locally and nationally. Over the