

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2009

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in enthusiastic support for H. Res. 194 a resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day. For the last century March 8th has been a day for people to unite in their commitment to honor the women who courageously fight for gender equality and women's rights across the globe.

The course of women's history through the 20th and 21st centuries has been on an upward trajectory, and while we celebrate how far we have come, it is important to pause and reflect on the reality that women continue to face political and economic obstacles, discrimination, and violence all over the world.

While there are many who deserve our appreciation, I would like to recognize the women of Afghanistan who have begun to steadily chip at the steel grasp of patriarchy, and begun to fight for safety and justice.

Before 2003 the idea of a women's shelter in Afghanistan was unheard of, and domestic abuse victims who did seek protection from law enforcement were often thrown in jail or returned to their husbands, perpetuating a culture of silence around the practices of beating, torture, and forced marriage.

Now, shelters like the Women for Afghan Women in Kabul and the Afghan Women Skills Development Center provide protection, treatment, and legal services to women who might otherwise have resigned themselves to a life of quiet misery, or resorted to suicide.

These shelters, like others around the world, provide solace and safety for women with nowhere else to turn. They provide the basic hope of possibilities for those seeking a safe haven from abuse. Before these shelters existed many Afghan women could only dream of a life in their own control, and now they have hope.

I would like to thank my colleague Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY for sponsoring this important resolution which allows us to stand and celebrate our common ideals with the 3 billion women across the globe in dignity and certitude that one day women will live free of discrimination and violence no matter where they were born.

IN HONOR OF FATHER JOHN J.
CREGAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Chaplain Father John J.

Cregan, as he is being honored by the Retired Irish Police Society with the "2009 James P. Sweeney—Man of the Year Award." Father Cregan's service to police officers and firefighters who bravely serve our community continues to be an invaluable source of support, kindness and guidance for the women and men who bravely serve in the line of duty.

At a very young age, Father Cregan and his four sisters, Sister Theresine, Rita, Florence and the late Margaret were taught the importance of family, faith, heritage and service. Father Cregan's grandfather, born in Ireland, was a Cleveland police sergeant. His father, Joseph Cregan, served for many years as a Cleveland Police Lieutenant, and two of his nephews currently serve as Cleveland police officers. Father Cregan's mother, Florence Cregan, was a critical influence in shaping his wonderful sense of humor, his faith and his sense of compassion for others.

Father Cregan has served in parishes throughout our community, including Blessed Sacrament, St. Joseph's Church, St. Thomas More and Our Lady of Angels, where he was appointed Pastor in 1987 and where he continues to serve today. Moreover, Father Cregan continues to serve as the Chaplain for the Cleveland Police and Fire, Greater Cleveland Police and Fire, Holy Name Society, Cleveland Office of the FBI, the Greater Cleveland Police Emerald Society and the Anchor Club—roles he has held for more than forty years. He has also served as the Chaplain for the Retired Irish Police Society since 1988.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Chaplain Father John J. Cregan, as he is named the 2009 John P. Sweeney "Man of the Year" by the Retired Irish Police Society. Father Cregan's warmth, concern, support and guidance continues to impact the lives of police officers and firefighters throughout our community. As he has for forty years, Father Cregan has been there with our safety forces to celebrate the happiest of times, and most significantly, he has stood with them in the most trying of times, offering strength, hope and faith to officers and their loved ones. Father Cregan continues to lift the lives of countless individuals and families throughout Greater Cleveland and today, we stand in gratitude and honor.

TRIBUTE TO MS. LUCILLE HART

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the one-hundredth birthday of Ms. Lucille Hart of Le Roy, Illinois. Ms. Hart joins the rank of centenarians after a fulfilling career in education and with the postal service. For fifteen years, she taught in Delavan, Illinois. She then became the school treasurer, a position she held for thirty more years. After

brief positions held at Caterpillar and the local post office, she retired and became an avid gardener. She continues to tend to her flowers and plants indoors during Illinois' harsh winters. Today, she is joined by her closest friends and family to celebrate.

In the last one hundred years, Ms. Hart has seen women granted the right to vote. She witnessed the United States in World War II. She watched a man walk on the moon. She can recall the civil rights movement and Dr. Martin Luther King's speeches. She was born during the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt and has seen the White House change hands eighteen times. Ms. Hart knows what life was like before Blackberries, cell phones, the internet, computers, color television, microwaves, traffic lights, and bubble gum. In one hundred years, American life has changed drastically right before Ms. Hart's eyes.

Ms. Lucille Hart is an inspiration to us all. It is my honor to congratulate Ms. Hart's long life of achievement. May her health remain good and may she continue to inspire.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEXAS PYTHIAN HOME

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Texas Pythian Home. The Home, called the "Castle on the Hill," is located in my district in the city of Weatherford, Texas.

The Texas Pythian Home began on March 1, 1909, as a home for widows and orphans of Knights of Pythias members. The Pythians, a fraternal order, made the decision to build the home in Weatherford following a donation of three hundred acres of land.

The main building housed orphaned children on the second floor. The basement was divided into apartments for widows with children. There were soon so many boys that it became necessary to build a boys-only dorm. The boys moved into their new dorm in 1914. In 1925, a girls-only dorm was built. In the early 1970s, widows moved to the completed retirement home in Greenville, Texas.

The Pythian Home School was designated an independent school district on August 1, 1910 and continued until 1972. In 1937, the last high school graduating class walked across the Pythian auditorium stage. It had been decided to send grades 6–12 to Weatherford Independent School District. Grades 1–5 continued to have classes at the Pythian Home until 1972.

As part of its effort to be self-sufficient, the Home had a large dairy operation for many years. Animals were raised to provide meat.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The Home also had its own garden and orchard. The staff and children kept busy maintaining all of the operations. A change in government regulations in 1972 limited these operations, so the dairy closed in 1976.

There were many changes through the years. The Texas Pythian Home is now the last one in existence. The Home, located on 164 acres, can house up to 62 children. The number of children in residence changes as the economy and family circumstances change.

The Pythian principles of friendship, charity, and benevolence continue to be the driving force behind the organization. The Home is here because it reaches out to those in need.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Texas Pythian Home on the 100th anniversary of its founding and to offer my sincere appreciation for the many contributions that its residents have made and continue to make to the city of Weatherford and the state of Texas.

REMEMBERING THE SLAUGHTER IN IRAQI KURDISTAN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, Twenty one years ago, on March 16, 1988, the Saddam Hussein regime committed one of modern history's most horrific crimes. The indiscriminate use of chemical weapons to destroy the town of Halabja in Iraqi Kurdistan led to the brutal slaughter of thousands of innocent men, women, and children and permanently debilitated many more. More than two decades after the massacre, the people of Halabja still suffer from the effects of that barbaric attack. Long-term effects include cancers, birth defects, neurological problems, miscarriages, infertility, and congenital malformations in children—all of which are disproportionately prevalent in the Halabja area—as well as irreparable damage to the environment. These serious medical and environmental problems continue to hinder the well-being and overall progress of those living in Halabja and the surrounding area.

Tragically, Halabja was not the only instance in which the former Iraqi regime used chemical weapons. Rather, it was but one event in a deliberate, large-scale campaign called the Anfal to exterminate the predominantly Kurdish inhabitants of Iraqi Kurdistan. The 1988 Anfal campaign resulted in the deaths of as many as 180,000 people. Iraqi forces used chemical and biological weapons against over 250 population centers from April 1987 to August 1988. Studies indicate that more than half of current inhabitants of Halabja were exposed to toxic chemical agents at the time of the attack.

On December 30, 2006, Saddam Hussein was hanged for the murder of 148 Shiite Arab citizens of Dujail, which is located in south-central Iraq. That case was taken up before the Anfal case, and it resulted in a death sentence. Because Iraqi law requires that a death sentence be carried out nearly immediately, Saddam's other crimes, including the Anfal genocide, never came to trial. The swiftness of Saddam's execution was an injustice to those that were brutally killed, maimed, or otherwise

damaged in the Anfal; put simply, these victims were denied their day in court. Many Kurds now fear that the world will never hear of the true extent of the Halabja atrocities—widely considered the heaviest use of chemical weapons against civilians in modern times. It is therefore imperative that the Anfal campaign, and the massacre of Halabja, be documented and remembered—and internationally recognized as a crime of genocide against the Kurdish people. But we should also do more. On the tragic anniversary of Halabja 1988, the world must not only remember the individuals who perished but also provide help to those that continue to suffer today. That would be an appropriate way for the world to bear witness to crimes that are among the ugliest the world has seen.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANNUAL WORLD GLAUCOMA DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to recognize the importance of World Glaucoma Day, a global initiative created by the World Glaucoma Association and the World Glaucoma Patient Association to underscore the importance of getting screened for glaucoma, one of the leading causes of blindness worldwide. The day will be marked by awareness and educational events organized by eye care institutions and local patient support groups around the world.

Glaucoma afflicts 3 million Americans and some 75 million people worldwide. Glaucoma can strike anyone of any age. It affects all age groups, including infants, children, and the elderly. Congenital glaucoma and childhood glaucoma are serious pediatric medical problems. With early diagnosis and treatment, 90 percent of the blindness from glaucoma could have been avoided. World Glaucoma Day encourages all individuals, especially those with a high risk for developing the disease, to get regular comprehensive eye examinations.

In my district, on March 11, 2009 Dr. Robert Ritch and a dozen eye specialists from the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary (NYEE) were at the United Nations (UN) headquarters building screening UN officials such as the Secretary General, as well as ambassadors and deputy ambassadors from over 192 countries for glaucoma. Hopefully, publicity from this effort will help to prompt people around the world to get screened for glaucoma.

Early diagnosis and proper treatment of glaucoma can help people keep the precious gift of sight. Glaucoma has no symptoms and is characterized by painless, progressive loss of vision, so that detection depends upon periodic eye examinations that include evaluation of the optic nerve and measurement of eye pressure. If undetected and untreated, glaucoma will gradually claim all peripheral vision and ultimately cause total blindness. While treatment can halt the progress of the disease, nothing can reverse damage that has been done, making early detection critical.

People at high risk for glaucoma should have their eyes examined for the disease at least every two years. High-risk individuals include people with a family history of glau-

coma, African Americans over the age of 40, people who are very nearsighted or farsighted and all persons over the age of 60.

The NYEE has been a driving force in combating glaucoma in increasing the number of New Yorkers who are screened. Founded in 1820, NYEE is the oldest specialty hospital in the Western Hemisphere. The NYEE has a long tradition of community outreach, medical education, and cutting-edge scientific research. It is home to many glaucoma specialists, including world-renowned glaucoma specialist Dr. Robert Ritch. Dr. Ritch is a co-founder of the World Glaucoma Patient Association, an umbrella organization which supports glaucoma associations and networks worldwide in their efforts to educate and support their members so that all people with glaucoma can understand and better manage their disease. Dr. Ritch is also a member of the World Glaucoma Day committee for the World Glaucoma Association.

I also ask my colleagues to recognize another World Glaucoma Day sponsor, the Friends of the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus, a non-partisan organization whose purpose is to educate all communities about the risks of glaucoma and other blindness-causing eye diseases, and to provide diagnostic screening opportunities for high-risk population groups across the nations.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in recognizing World Glaucoma Day, and the urgent need to ensure that everyone is regularly screened for glaucoma.

EARMARK DECLARATIONS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2009

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Project Name: Mobile Harbor Turning Basin.
Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT ADERHOLT.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction General Account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alabama State Port Authority.

Address of Requesting Entity: 250 North Water Street, Suite 300, Mobile, AL 36602.

Description of Request: Provide \$4.785 million to construct the Mobile Harbor Turning Basin project as authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (PL99-662 Ninety-ninth Congress, Second Session) under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Construction General Account. Initial project request anticipated expenditures of .04 percent will be used for land; .11 percent will be used for navigation aids; .11 percent for removal of existing concrete debris; 3.97 percent for mobilization, preparation and demobilization of a 26 CY Bucket Dredge; 4.20 percent for mobilization, preparation and demobilization of a 30 inch Pipeline Dredge; 67 percent for the removal of and placement in designated dredge disposal areas approx.