

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF IRENE GENEVIEVE STRANGIO

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of an extraordinary woman, Irene Genevieve Strangio, who died at the age of 89 in Mountain View, California, on October 21, 2013. Her beloved Mountain View community was the beneficiary of so much of her brilliance and activism, and our world is a better place because she graced it.

Irene Strangio was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Robert and Irene Thornton and was the eldest of seven siblings. Irene made Mountain View her home and gave it her all. Known for her generous heart, she often shared with family and friends her artistic talents, knack for journalism, and popular kitchen abilities. As a trained R.N. she dispensed professionalism mixed with caring, and her work ethic shined through anything she set her mind to.

Irene was the loving mother of five children: Marie, Jes, Elizabeth, Michael, and Janis, and the devoted grandmother and great-grandmother to many. She leaves behind countless friends and I feel privileged to count myself among them. Irene, her husband John who predeceased her, and their family have been my friends since 1966.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our condolences to the entire Strangio family who mourn the passing of this great and good woman. I'm deeply grateful to have known Irene and even prouder to call her my friend. Through her integrity, decency and wisdom, she strengthened each of us and made our community and our country better.

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize November as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. Palliative care focuses on relieving the pain, stress and symptoms of a serious illness while hospice focuses on caring for a patient based on his or her own unique needs and wishes. In 2012, an estimated 1.6 million individuals received hospice services including home based care, continuous home care, general inpatient care for pain control or complex symptom management or inpatient respite care.

Unlike care delivered at a hospital, the hospice team consists of a group of individuals

whose goal is to provide support for both the patient and the patient's family. As the Safe Haven Hospice in Lincoln, Illinois says "hospice is about adding life to [one's] days."

The U.S. hospice movement was founded by volunteers who play an instrumental role in hospice care. In 2012, an estimated 400,000 hospice volunteers provided 19 million hours of service. One of those volunteers is a constituent of mine who became involved following the unexpected death of her son.

Hospice volunteers like this individual support and enhance the hospice care team. In fact, hospice is the only provider whose Medicare Conditions of Participation requires volunteers to provide at least 5 percent of total patient care hours.

I urge my colleagues to recognize the important work of hospice and palliative care providers and volunteers in their communities during National Hospice and Palliative Month.

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 ARTS COUNCIL OF FAIRFAX COUNTY ARTS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2013 Arts Awards presented by the Arts Council of Fairfax County. These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of artists and arts organizations, as well as the individuals and businesses in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church that support the arts in our community.

Founded in 1964, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, Inc. is a non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency to promote all forms of art. The Arts Council operates programs and initiatives that include grants, arts advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for artists and arts organizations. In FY13, the Arts Council awarded grants to 62 organizations and 3 artists, funded more than 2,600 performances and activities, which were attended by more than 1.2 million people. In addition, The Arts Council of Fairfax County has been a strong supporter and sponsor of the 11th Congressional District High School Arts Competition and has been instrumental in making this program one of the most successful in the nation.

The Arts Awards honor supporters of the arts in four categories: the Jinx Hazel Arts Citizen of the Year Award, the Arts Achievement Award, the Emerging Arts Award, and the Arts Philanthropy Award. It is my honor to enter the following names of the 2013 Arts Awards Recipients into the Congressional Record:

The Jinx Hazel Arts Citizen of the Year Award is presented to The Fairfax County

Economic Development Authority, FCEDA, for its outstanding leadership and service to civic life and leadership in the arts and culture in Fairfax County. FCEDA highlights Fairfax County's rich cultural life and cosmopolitan environment through its international marketing campaigns, web site, and the presentation of opportunities in the arts to its many business prospects. FCEDA believes it is important to support organizations that enhance the overall quality of life for the residents of Fairfax County.

The Arts Achievement Award is presented to Ms. Kathryn Fredgren in recognition of 32 years of vision and leadership in bringing the highest quality dance performances of classical ballet, contemporary and modern dance, jazz, and tap dance to thousands of children and adults in Northern Virginia. Together with her husband Ken, Ms. Fredgren founded The Center Dance Company in 1981. Re-named BalletNova Center for Dance in 2009, the organization continues to be one of the most widely respected dance training centers in Northern Virginia. Upon her retirement as artistic director of BalletNova, Ms. Fredgren brought her love of children and innovative teaching to her position as dance artist-in-residence at Hunter Woods Elementary School in Reston from 2005 to 2011. She currently serves on BalletNova's board of directors.

Riverbend Opera Company, one of the two professional opera companies in Fairfax County, is the recipient of the Emerging Arts Award for its entrepreneurial and high quality arts programming. Founded in 2009, Riverbend Opera Company brings professional opera productions to Northern Virginia and provides performance opportunities to established and emerging music professionals. Through a partnership with Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Riverbend provides students with opportunities to work with music professionals, learn the background and history of operatic works, study the music in depth, and join in as chorus members during the Company's performances.

The Art Philanthropy Award is presented to Cityline Partners LLC for its outstanding support and leadership to the arts. Cityline owns, manages, and develops transit-oriented real estate holdings in Tysons and the D.C. metropolitan region. Continuing a strong tradition of philanthropy to the arts in Fairfax County, Cityline offers in-kind facility services to Traveling Players Ensemble and sponsors Celebrate Fairfax, the McLean Orchestra, and Youth Orchestra.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2013 Arts Awards and in recognizing and thanking the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

• 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.

LAWSUIT ABUSE REDUCTION ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2655, the misleadingly-named "Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act." This legislation would amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to reinstate a previous, failed version of the rule that was in place from 1983–1993.

Rule 11 allows for the imposition of sanctions on the plaintiff in a civil case if it is determined that a claim lacks sufficient evidence. Currently, Rule 11 allows judges to exercise discretion in determining when to impose these sanctions. This bill, H.R. 2655, mirrors the policy from 1983–1993, when Rule 11 was amended to mandate that sanctions be automatically applied regardless of the specific circumstance of a Rule 11 violation. This policy erodes judicial discretion by forcing judges to apply sanctions in every instance of a violation regardless of the merits. The effect of this change was—and would be under H.R. 2655—disastrous for our judicial system and victims alike. For this reason, the Judicial Conference, the American Bar Association, and the American Association for Justice all strongly oppose this legislation.

As the Judicial Conference Chairs wrote to Judiciary Committee Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS, Jr. in July, from 1983–1993, the "... mandatory sanctions provision quickly became a tool of abuse in civil litigation. Seeking to use mandatory sanctions to their advantage, aggressive lawyers filed motions for Rule 11 sanctions in response to virtually every filing in a civil case. Much time and money was spent in Rule 11 battles that had everything to do with strategic gamesmanship and little to do with underlying claims." The Judicial Conference also points out that the 1993 rule changes that corrected this misguided policy "... followed years of examination and were made on the Judicial Conference's strong recommendation, with the Supreme Court's approval, and after congressional review."

Unfortunately, we are wasting precious legislative days in this Congress re-litigating this already-solved issue. All empirical evidence from the 1983–1993 existence of the mandatory sanctions points to increased litigation costs and a distraction from the administering of justice.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 2655.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of October 28, 2013. If I were present, I would have voted on the following—

Rollcall #561: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R.2189, "yea";

Rollcall #562: On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2011, "yea";

Rollcall #563: On ordering the Previous Question and Providing for consideration of H.R. 992, the Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act and H.R. 2347, the Retail Investor Protection Act, "nay";

Rollcall #564: On agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 992, the Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act and H.R. 2347, the Retail Investor Protection Act, "no";

Rollcall #565: On agreeing to the amendment on H.R. 2347 offered by George Miller of California, "nay";

Rollcall #566: On Motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 2347, "aye";

Rollcall #567: On passage of H.R. 2347, "aye";

Rollcall #568: On Motion to Recommit with Instructions on H.R. 992, "yea";

Rollcall #569: On Passage of H.R. 992, "aye";

Rollcall #570 On passage of H.J. Res. 99, "nay."

THE PERSECUTION OF BAHAI COMMUNITY IN IRAN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the passing of Mr. Ataollah Rezvani, a Baha'i community leader in the port city of Bandar Abbas, Iran. In late August, Mr. Rezvani was found murdered in his car on the outskirts of the city, a gunshot to the back of his head. Before his death, he was subject to persistent threats and intimidation from agents of the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence. And ultimately, his steadfast refusal to submit or cower in the face of this oppression resulted in the loss of his livelihood and his life. His only crime was the practice of his faith.

Over the last several months, the Iranian regime has taken a new and welcome posture toward the resolution of the nuclear issue. While the talks between Iran and the P5-plus-1 have not yielded an agreement, we are in a better position to come to a sustainable agreement than ever before. These efforts are welcome. However, Iran's steps toward reconciling with the global community must be paired with progress on human rights at home, and an end to religious-based persecution of Iran's Baha'i and other minority communities.

Although the Iranian authorities released 91 political prisoners in recent months, not a single Baha'i was among them. Instead, 115 Baha'is remain imprisoned, solely because of their faith, including the leadership of the "Yaran-i-Iran," or "Friends in Iran." The seven leaders of this group, which oversaw the welfare of the Iranian Baha'i community, have now each served five years of their 20-year sentences—the longest sentences given to any prisoner of conscience in Iran.

Dating back to the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Iranian government has implemented a program of active, systematic discrimination against the Baha'i community. As a result, the Baha'i have been reduced to second-class citizens within their own country, stripped of their property, denied access to an education, and deprived of the freedom to worship. All human beings are entitled to these liberties, not simply because of a statute or a constitution.

Rather, these are the basic human rights of every person, regardless of race, color, or creed, by virtue of our very humanity.

It is my fervent hope that Iran's leadership will move forward towards rapprochement with the international community, but we must also see progress toward internal reform, and a restitution of rights to all minority communities and the Baha'i citizens of Iran particularly.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY, EQUALITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY IN COLLEGE AND HIGHER EDUCATION (TEACH) ACT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Technology, Equality, and Accessibility in College and Higher Education (TEACH) Act to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to the benefits of electronic instructional materials used in today's colleges and universities.

Colleges and universities across the country are using a wide array of new technologies and instructional materials in the classroom. While the use of these new technologies is a positive development, it can also pose a challenge for accessibility. We have an obligation to ensure that students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to obtain a quality education.

The bill would require that any instructional technology, such as digital content, tablets, online platforms, interactive computer software, etc., used by a postsecondary school either be accessible to students with disabilities or that the school provide accommodations or modifications so that the ease-of-use and benefits of the technology for students with disabilities is on par with other students.

These requirements are consistent with joint guidance issued in 2010 by the Departments of Education and Justice regarding the use of new technologies in the classroom and the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The guidance was issued in response to the use of electronic book readers by some colleges and universities that were not fully accessible to visually impaired students.

To help schools meet these requirements, the TEACH Act directs the Access Board, an independent federal agency, to develop guidelines for electronic instructional materials used by institutions of higher education. Schools would not be limited to using materials or technologies that are consistent with the guidelines, but those materials that do conform to the guidelines would automatically be considered to be accessible under the law.

In 2008, the Higher Education Opportunity Act created the Advisory Commission on Accessible Instructional Materials in Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities, otherwise known as the AIM Commission. One of the commission's recommendations was that the Access Board be directed by Congress to develop guidelines to help guide the development of accessible instructional materials in the marketplace. This bill would implement that recommendation.

For decades, schools have been required to provide equal access to all students. What this