

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AMANDA SAPIR'S VISION FOR
AMERICA

HON. GERRY E. STUDDS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 1995

Mr. STUDDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding young woman from my congressional district, Amanda Sapir of Kingston, MA. This week she won the national Voice of Democracy Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars for an essay she wrote and recorded on her vision for America.

Amanda, an 18-year-old senior at Silver Lake Regional High School, is the first Massachusetts student to win the award in the 48-year history of the Voice of Democracy Program. She prevailed over 125,000 other students from across the country to win the \$20,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship Award, sponsored by the VFW and its ladies auxiliary. I was informed of the award by proud local veterans who visited with me this week.

But more important than Amanda's winning a contest, or even the scholarship, is the vision she conveyed: that diversity is America's greatest strength and that our Nation's long journey toward justice and equality for all citizens is not complete.

Amanda's words are so eloquent, her message so timely, that I wanted to include them in the RECORD as a reminder of how far we've come and how far we have to go.

MY VISION FOR AMERICA

(By Amanda Sapir)

The air was thick and sweet smelling. Traffic was bumper-to-bumper as usual. It seemed like there were people everywhere; people walking up and down the sidewalks, shoppers peering hopefully into store windows, tourists searching aimlessly for the nearest landmark, and the homeless sitting in the warmth of a typical hustle and bustle summer in Washington, D.C. It was just another day when I was among the eternally lost sightseers and Helen among the homeless.

"Where's Wisconsin Ave.?" I asked a gentleman who responded, "Isn't that near O street?" "Hmm, where's O Street?" "Beats me. Do you know where Pennsylvania Ave. is?" By the end of the conversation we were both, if you can believe it, even more confused than when we started. This is when I spotted another homeless looking woman sitting on the sidewalk clasping her most precious belongings. On one of her bags was a sticker that read, "Helen." I figured she would know her way around this maze they call Washington.

"Excuse me, ma'am, do you know where Wisconsin Avenue is?" She was looking straight ahead with an empty gaze, not acknowledging me for quite a few seconds. After waiting patiently, I was startled when she jerked her head towards me and staring with intensely fierce brown eyes asked, "What do you see?" as she pointed to a perfectly maintained photograph. Surprised, yet curious by her question, I answered, "Well,

there's an average looking older Asian woman, a middle-aged rather dirty looking white man, and a young well-dressed black woman all standing side by side." Apparently displeased by my answer, she yelled, "No, no, no!" Wondering where I went wrong, I asked, "Why what do you see?" She looked at me with those eyes and without hesitation said, "Three people. Keep walking up this street and you'll find Wisconsin Avenue."

I was stunned by her response, but learned that in Helen's answer was a translucently clear message that now typifies my vision for America, a nation where its citizens continue to make great strides toward demolishing discrimination by understanding that it is our differences which makes us similar. Although we may wear different clothes, earn different amounts of money, walk or talk differently, we are all just people with fears and hopes, struggles and joys. I feel that with this ideal in mind we as a nation can knock on the door to the next century with confidence, knowing that we will handle all changes and all challenges that will arise. However, this confidence is only achievable if all Americans feel included and worthy, without fearing discrimination.

As I continued on my walk, I learned how this could actually happen. Looking at museums, the White House, the Supreme Court and the Mall, I saw why the United States is the only global Superpower remaining. We rely on creative solutions, which are the result of educating and acting. My vision for a unified America necessitates effort. In order for compassion to prevail over discrimination, the nation must first call on our educators to teach about different places and different cultures. We need our nation's youth to further understand that we are all different, but that diversity is our greatest strength not only in problem solving but in fighting ignorance. Knowledge has a funny way of operating minds, and in the future, bright open minds will be quintessential in fighting prejudice. This knowledge is only useful if put into practice. My vision relies on Americans to act with the same moral impetus it took for civil rights to speak up and for American soldiers to leave their families to fight for our nation, we must also speak up and fight for equal treatment for everyone. As a country, we have already made leaping bounds in the name of equality, but there is more struggling to do, whether we are employees helping a co-worker cope with discrimination or an employer concentrating on having qualified diverse employees. We must act until minorities, disabled and abled are all viewed as people.

America is only as strong as its weakest link, and those links are tested by the way in which we treat people, be they friends or strangers. As this country enters a new millennia, progress will present many opportunities as well as obstacles. My vision is that on December 31, when the clock ticks the past century away, Americans, no matter what ethnicity or sociopolitical or economic status, together will unlock this potential of the 21st century with optimism and a renewed sincere commitment to educating and acting against discrimination and for open-mindedness and unity, so that when any American is asked, "What do you see?" the answer will be without hesitation, "People."

NATIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 1995

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, a controversy has arisen recently over a protest staged by ACORN, a membership and advocacy group for low- and moderate-income families. The Washington Times, in a March 7 editorial, asserted that AmeriCorps members—whose stipends are subsidized by the Federal Government—may have worked for ACORN and therefore participated in the protest. Unfortunately, the newspaper got its facts wrong.

No AmeriCorps members work for ACORN, and none took part in the protest. Rather, 42 AmeriCorps members are serving with ACORN Housing Corporation, an entirely different organization that helps working families find homes.

Eli Segal, the CEO of the National Service Corporation, clarified the facts in his March 7 letter to the Washington Times. I have submitted his letter to set the record straight. I would like to express my disappointment that members of the press and of this body would spread misinformation to discredit a program as innovative, productive, and important as AmeriCorps.

AMERICORPS NATIONAL SERVICE,

Washington, DC, March 7, 1995.

TOD LINDBERG,

Editor of the Editorial Page,
Washington Times.

DEAR MR. LINDBERG: In your editorial today (Federally funded Newt-bashing), you asked whether AmeriCorps Members participated in the disruption of Monday's NACO luncheon, which prevented Speaker Gingrich from addressing the gathering. There is a simple answer: Absolutely not.

AmeriCorps doesn't support advocacy. Our statute and Regulations clearly prohibit it. Advocacy aims to make change through politics, and is therefore inherently a process of winners and losers. National service brings about positive change by helping local communities solve common problems through collective effort—where everyone ends up benefiting.

This is much more than rhetoric. Advocacy organizations were furious when our Regulations came out, but we didn't budge. We have also made it clear to all of our grantees that this is a matter of principle, not technicality. We will cut off funding to programs that do not comply. I have reminded all of our programs of these matters, today, in writing. AmeriCorps aims to re-kit community. That can't happen when basic freedoms of speech are trampled. In the wake of yesterday's disruption, we immediately investigated. Here's what we learned: No AmeriCorps Members participated in the incident (written conformation attached). In fact, the protesting organization is an entirely separate organization from our grantee—legally, and in Board, budget, staff and mission.

• 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.

AmeriCorps Members serve not with ACORN, but with ACORN Housing Corporation. The latter is not an advocacy organization, but an entirely separate non-profit helping working families find housing—especially buying their own homes. In the three months our AmeriCorps program has been operating, AmeriCorps Members have already assisted hundreds of families interested in home ownership—and 84 families now have secured mortgages for their first homes.

This is the AmeriCorps mission: getting things done. And this is the American Dream: helping working families afford a home.

We agree with the Washington Times that federal funds must not be abused, and that service must be distinct from advocacy. AmeriCorps is proud of its record—and unshakable in its adherence to these principles.

Sincerely,

ELI J. SEGAL,
Chief Executive Officer.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE
CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE
GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP
BOX DERBY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 1995

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution which authorizes the use of Constitution Avenue, NE., between Delaware and Third, for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby. The resolution also authorizes the Architect of the Capitol and the Sergeant at Arms, to negotiate the necessary arrangements for carrying out this event in complete compliance with rules and regulations governing the use of Capitol Grounds. The Soap Box Derby has run on the Capitol Grounds for the last 4 years.

This year marks the 54th running of the Greater Washington Area Soap Box Derby, and the race is slated for July 15, 1995. Participants ranging from ages 9 to 16 are expected to compete in the early summer race. They hail from Washington, DC and the surrounding communities of northern Virginia and Maryland. The winners of this local event will represent the Washington, DC area in the national race which will be held in Arkon, OH later this year.

The Soap Box Derby provides our young people with an opportunity to gain valuable skills such as engineering and aerodynamics. Furthermore, the derby promotes team work, a strong sense of accomplishment, sportsmanship, leadership, and responsibility. As we all know, these are all positive attributes which these young people can carry into adulthood.

Again, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM K. VAN
PELT

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 1995

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to former U.S. Representative William K. Van

Pelt of Fond du Lac, WI, on the occasion of his 90th birthday today.

A popular Member of Congress who was known for his quiet common sense and integrity, Bill served Wisconsin's Sixth District from 1951 through 1964, winning seven consecutive terms with little serious opposition.

Respected by colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Bill was proud of his record of service to his constituents and of his committee work. When he left office, Bill was the second ranking Republican member of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, which handled all conservation issues coming before the House. He was also a senior member of the Committee on Science and Astronautics, whose jurisdiction included policymaking and oversight of various facets of America's evolving space program.

Bill's first term in Congress came after he won an upset victory in a four-way Republican primary in 1950 in his first bid for public office. Before that time, Bill was in business for himself as owner and operator of City Fuel Co. of Fond du Lac and was an active participant in Republican Party politics on the local level, serving as chairman of the Fond du Lac County Republican Party from 1944 to 1950.

Throughout his tenure of office, Bill remained true to his roots as a businessman and advocate of Republican Party principles. He was a strong believer in the free enterprise system and in the need for a limited Federal Government dedicated to fiscal responsibility and a balanced Federal budget. He was not afraid to take unpopular stands, and was called on the carpet by his political opponents for daring to question the expenditure of Federal conservation dollars on a Wisconsin project he and many others deemed to be of dubious value.

In 1964, Bill Van Pelt was quoted as saying, "The Federal Government does not have to be a partner in a program to ensure its ultimate success." Thirty years later, I think Bill would have felt right at home in the current congressional climate, working to advance the tenets of the Contract With America.

Bill would probably be less comfortable, however, with the prevailing practices of political campaigning. A gentleman known for his unpretentious manner and low-key sense of humor, Bill prided himself on conducting campaigns free of personal attacks and disparagement. "I might say that I don't indulge in personalities," he said. "Never in eight campaigns have I felt it necessary to go to name-calling."

On this his 90th birthday, I want to congratulate Bill Van Pelt and to wish him continued health and happiness. In addition, on behalf of the people of the Sixth Congressional District, I want to thank him for his 14 years of service in the House of Representatives and for his legacy of integrity and common-sense leadership.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL
AMENDING THE RAILWAY LABOR
ACT TO CLARIFY ITS APPLICABILITY
TO WORK PERFORMED BY
FLIGHT CREW MEMBERS OF
U.S. CARRIERS ENGAGED IN
FOREIGN FLYING

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 1995

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my distinguished colleagues, Representative JAMES OBERSTAR of Minnesota and Representative DON YOUNG of Alaska, I have re-introduced legislation to protect the public interest in uninterrupted international air service, and the stability of collective bargaining relationships between U.S. air carriers and their flight crew employees—flight deck crew members and flight cabin crew members. It does so by confirming and clarifying that the Railway Labor Act applies to the U.S. air carriers and their flight crew employees while operating to, from, or between points outside the United States.

Historically, air carriers and labor organizations have understood title II of the Railway Labor Act [RLA] to apply to U.S. air carriers and their flight crews when engaged in operations between the United States and foreign nations, and the terms of the act appear to cover these operations.

Such carriers are increasingly engaged in providing service to additional points outside the United States by engaging in beyond operations from one foreign destination to another. For this and other reasons, the status of negotiated contractual work rules applicable to the overseas flight operations of U.S. air carriers, and the statutory scheme applicable to labor relations during such operations, need to be clarified.

Recent court decisions are troubling because they have decided questions about the reach of the RLA by relying upon a presumption against extra-territoriality as well as the uncertain terms of the statute itself. But this approach does not effectively guide the courts or the parties in dealing with overseas flight operations of a U.S. carrier, which are essentially extensions of the carrier's domestic operations and are conducted by flight crews who operate interchangeably throughout the system. As a result, neither the public nor the parties can be certain that the industrial stability fostered by the RLA will protect the public while traveling in the foreign operations of U.S. carriers.

It is the reluctance to fully apply title II of the RLA as it should be applied and as we have understood its application for many years, that has brought us to where we stand today in introducing this legislation. We hope to amend the act so as to effectively guide the parties concerned in dealing with overseas flight operations of U.S. carriers.

Identical legislation (H.R. 4957) was introduced last year, and hearings were held in October, 1994 by the House Aviation Subcommittee, then chaired by the able Representative JAMES OBERSTAR, who joins me as an original cosponsor of today's bill.

This bill, as introduced, preserves the RLA's preference for systemwide collective bargaining agreements and permits such agreements