

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, on June 6th and part of June 7, 2000, due to a death in my family, I missed the following votes:

Had I been present on June 6th, on Rollcall votes 234, 235, 236, and 237, I would have voted "aye" on all four votes.

Had I been present on June 7th, on Rollcall votes 238, 239, and 240, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DOCTOR
DENNIS ALAN VIDMAR ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
AFTER TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS
OF SERVICE IN THE UNITED
STATES NAVY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding member of our armed forces. Tomorrow, Friday, June 9, 2000, Dr. Dennis Alan Vidmar will conclude his illustrious twenty-eight year career of service in the United States Navy.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis Vidmar was born in Cleveland, Ohio in August of 1950. He attended Case Western Reserve University and received his Bachelor of Science and MD degrees from the Ohio State University. In 1972, Dr. Vidmar began his military service as a First Division Officer aboard the U.S.S. *Detroit*. For the next twenty-eight years, Dr. Vidmar would devote his energy and talents to the field of medicine and to the service of his nation.

Currently, Dr. Vidmar serves as a Captain in the United States Navy Medical Corps in the Dermatology Department at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. In addition, Dr. Vidmar is a Professor of Military Medicine and Dermatology in the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Dennis Vidmar has truly been an asset to the profession of medicine and to the United States Navy. His excellent care and unselfish dedication in directing the Dermatology Department have proven invaluable in the treatment of his patients. Dr. Vidmar has been published more than thirty times in various military and medical journals. Clearly, Dr. Vidmar's work has been outstanding and his efforts admirable. To honor his service, he has been awarded the Navy Achievement Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal.

Mr. Speaker, it is often said that success of America is due in part to the dedicated efforts of her sons and daughters. Dr. Dennis Vidmar has spent a large part of his life furthering the profession of medicine and honorably serving his nation in the United States Navy. While his work will be sorely missed, we wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors. At this

time, I would urge my colleagues of the 106th Congress to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Dr. Dennis Vidmar—an outstanding doctor, a dedicated Naval officer, and a true American hero.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY PETRO

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Petro as she is honored by the Jefferson Democratic Club of Flushing for her many years of dedicated service as a District Leader.

The Jefferson Club is one of the oldest Democratic clubs in Queens County, New York. Mary Petro served valiantly and with great distinction as a District Leader from 1976 until she stepped down last year. In this capacity, Mary played an instrumental role in local New York City politics for nearly a quarter of a century, through devoted service to her community, to the Borough of Queens, to the Jefferson Club and to the Queens County Democratic Organization. Mary's service to her community and her involvement in civic affairs are legendary in the Borough of Queens.

In 1968, Mary moved to Flushing, and immediately became an active member of the community. Mary has volunteered her time and her energies to countless community organizations and charitable endeavors, pre-eminently among them the Police Athletic League. For her work as the chief PAL fundraiser for the 109th Precinct, and as an officer of the 109th Precinct's Community Council, Mary was named a "Civilian Patrolman of the Month."

Despite her tireless community service, Mary Petro has been a faithful employee of Con Edison for more than four decades, and a caring and devoted wife to her husband, Jimmy, for more than 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the pleasure of knowing Mary Petro for a quarter of a century. I have been constantly amazed by her boundless energy, and her innumerable good works done on behalf of her community and her party.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in extending our thanks and appreciation to Mary Petro as she is honored by the Jefferson Democratic Club of Flushing for her many years of service to the people of Queens County.

REPRESENTATIVE LEE: POLITICIAN WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. It aptly describes my good friend and colleague, Representative BARBARA LEE, as someone who makes a difference because she thinks globally and acts locally. Her

compassion for those who are less fortunate is matched by her legislative skill. We are most fortunate to have her as part of the Bay Area delegation.

[From the Oakland Tribune]

REP. LEE: POLITICIAN WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE

(By Paul Cobb)

Congresswoman Barbara Lee is one woman who does make a difference because she acts and thinks globally and locally simultaneously.

During her young career in the United States Congress as a member of the powerful Banking and International Relations committees, she has often stood alone with her "votes of conscience" on Kosovo, Cuba, Colombia and Banking legislation.

CONNECT THE DOTS

She has often disagreed with President Clinton, her own party and members of the Republican Party. Yet, she has won their respect by making them realize they need her because she knows how to meld pressing social and moral issues with practical, vital, economic and security interests.

Schooled by the likes of Ron Dellums, former Oakland mayor Lionel J. Wilson, Willie Brown, John George, Gus Newport, Maudelle Shirek, Hazaiah Williams and Bishop Will Herzfeld, Congresswoman Lee knows how to "connect the dots."

She matches money to needs.

Knowing that money, economic and financial interests are the mother's milk of politics, Lee has managed to stand alone in the fiery furnace of opposition to votes on the White House's agenda and still bring home the bread and bacon to her district. Oakland's port, schools, housing community development and health programs, such as AIDs funding have increased during her tenure.

Even though she doesn't sound her own trumpet or spend excessive time raising funds for her own campaign coffers, she's not about to allow the vital concerns of her constituents to be drowned out by the noisy symbolism of political rhetoric.

Last week the Leach/Lee World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act (H.R. 3519) passed the House by a unanimous voice vote.

Lee has surprised and floored her fellow congresspersons and watchers with the passage of H.R. 3519 because she put together a bi-partisan effort around an explosive and contentious issue. And, what is more, she astounded legislative leaders on both sides of the aisle by expanding the understanding of the global AIDS crisis. By skillfully demonstrating that the AIDS scourge threatens our national security and financial institutions, she connected needs to resources.

Lee garnered the support of Republican committee chair James Leach and thanked and acknowledged the leadership of former Congressman Dellums, now serving as chair of the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) and a leader of the Constituency of Africa, for being "my mentor and inspiration."

SECURITY INTERESTS

Lee utilized her membership on the Domestic and International Monetary Policy Subcommittee to talk with the President, Secretary of Treasury, United Nations officials, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other financial institutions to develop her plan to commit the U.S. to \$500 million in seed money. The funds would then be leveraged 9:1 from funds donated by other G-7 nations and the private sector.

"If the moral and health arguments don't work, then the economic and security interests will," said Lee as she pointed to photos