

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY RESOLUTION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today, Mr. McGOVERN and I introduced a resolution to help draw attention to the 33 million hungry Americans. The resolution recognizes organizations such as America's Second Harvest that provide emergency food assistance to hungry people in the United States, and encourages all Americans to provide volunteer services and other support for local anti-hunger advocacy efforts and hunger relief charities, including food banks, food rescue organizations, food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters.

On National Hunger Awareness Day I have mixed emotions. I am proud of the armies of compassion that are represented by organizations such as America's Second Harvest. But I'm also sad because its been nearly 40 years since President Johnson declared war on poverty and hunger and yet, today, 13 million kids STILL live in households that do not have an adequate supply of food. (USDA)

In 2001, there were 33.6 million Americans—20 million adults and 13 million children—who were hungry or at risk of hunger. (USDA) In Matthew 25, Jesus talks about the obligation to feed the hungry. In a world, and especially a nation, as plentiful as ours, it is tragic that even one child is hungry.

My state of Virginia is better off than many states. We are below the national average poverty rate of 11.6 percent. We have fewer people who don't have food—7.6 percent versus the national average of 10.4 percent.

Yet, hunger is still rampant here. 294,434 children, or 43.4 percent, received free or reduced-price meals.

Substantial progress has been made to feed the hungry in the United States, yet too many Americans still go to bed hungry and feel the effects of food deprivation. Federal programs like the Food Stamp Program, child nutrition programs, and food donation programs, provide essential nutritional support to millions of low-income people, but the need remains. Thankfully, community- and faith-based institutions are providing assistance to hungry people across the country.

The armies of compassion are working hard, but we each must do our part to join in and support them. Barriers need to be eliminated to allow businesses to do the morally conscionable thing and donate their surplus food. It's outrageous that it is more "cost effective" for a business to throw out or destroy surplus food rather than donate it to a local soup kitchen. A White House conference on hunger, like the one my colleague Senator DOLE called for just this morning, would be an ideal venue to discuss these important issues.

I hope that in the midst of the facts and statistics, no one misses the REAL point of Na-

tional Hunger Awareness Day—that in a land of plenty, 13 million children still go to bed hungry. A country which is as blessed as ours needs to do better.

RECOGNIZING DIARIO LAS AMERICAS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2003

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I wish to recognize the extraordinary achievements of a newspaper that will commemorate the 50th anniversary of its founding on July 4th, the day this Nation celebrates its independence.

Diario Las Americas is a nationally and internationally distributed newspaper that has always served its community, its Nation and the principles of freedom and democracy that we all embrace.

Dr. Horacio Aguirre, its founder and director, was born in New Orleans of Nicaraguan parents. He commenced his career in journalism early in life after having graduated from the University of Panama with a degree in Law and Political Sciences.

Since 1984, he has presided over the International Affairs Committee of the Inter-American Press Association, Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa, SIP, an organization that groups some 1,300 newspapers from this hemisphere. He is also a member of the World Association of Newspapers, WAN, whose headquarters is in Paris, and of the World Press Freedom Committee, of Washington, DC.

Dr. Aguirre has received, among many distinctions and honors, the Gran Cruz del Mérito Civil de España, bestowed in 1991 by His Majesty, King Juan Carlos I; the Orden de Caballero de San Gregorio bestowed by the Vatican in 1984; the Presidential Award of the Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa, SIP in 1999; and degrees honoris causa from Barry University, Miami-Dade Community College and Florida International University.

As the 50th anniversary of its founding approaches, I wish to acknowledge Diario Las Americas, Dr. Horacio Aguirre, his family and collaborators in their abiding stand in defense of moral and democratic values.

CONDEMNING THE CRACKDOWN OF THE OPPOSITION IN BURMA AND THE DETENTION OF DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to deplore in the strongest possible terms this past weekend's nationwide crackdown in

Burma. The attack by armed goons supported by Burma's military regime on 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Aung San Suu Kyi is an insult and an offense to all freedom loving peoples around the world. Even worse, it is reported that several of her supporters have been brutally killed.

When I traveled to Burma to meet with Aung San Suu Kyi, I was immediately impressed by her staunch commitment to freedom and her refusal to yield to unrelenting government pressure.

I was proud to hear that Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a man I know and admire, has called for the international community to immediately impose sanctions on Burma's regime. I urge that the United States cooperate promptly in this regard; failure to act decisively would be to miss an opportunity to reaffirm our support for liberty and justice in Burma.

TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN GIOMI

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of an outstanding young woman with a desire to serve her country. Kathryn Giomi planned to spend her life in the service of her nation, but her life was tragically taken in an auto accident before she could live her dream. As her loved ones mourn her passing, I would like to pay tribute to her memory.

Kathryn, who enjoyed cooking, listening to big band music, and dancing, was born in San Jose, California where she graduated from high school three years ago. Last year, Kathryn moved to Colorado where she worked in a restaurant and theater while she waited for her chance to serve in the United States Air Force as a military police officer. Kathryn was proficient in Spanish, spoke some Italian and Farsi, and hoped for an assignment at Aviano Air Force Base in Italy, where she could improve the Italian language skills she learned from her family. Kathryn was slated to leave for basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio in June.

Kathryn is survived by her mother Marguerite Ellen Rose, her father Ron Giomi, her sister Heather Giomi-Beck, her brothers Ryan and Vincent Giomi, two nephews and a niece. Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, it is people like Kathryn, who understand the price of freedom and have answered the call to service, who have helped to make America what it is today. Kathryn would have made a fantastic member of our armed forces, and our nation is appreciative of her willingness to serve. She will be missed by her family, friends, and her country.

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