

memorabilia are highly prized and can reach into the thousands of dollars depending on the particular item, those determined to make a dishonest dollar, can easily replicate an original item, or worse, produce an item that is a pure fantasy piece—an artifact that never existed during the Civil War.

While this legislation will not end the trafficking in fake Civil War items, it will provide sanctions through the Federal Trade Commission for manufacturers who purport to offer authentic Civil War relics and artifacts, when they are in fact fake junk.

I know that the House will adjourn soon, and I have little expectation this bill will be considered. It is my hope that bill will serve as a marker and a starting point for what the House may consider next session and these artifacts and memorabilia of the Civil War era will retain their historic importance for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON & JOHNSON
AND TIBOTEC THERAPEUTICS
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
NEW DRUG FOR HIV/AIDS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Johnson & Johnson and Tibotec Therapeutics on its entry into the HIV/AIDS market with the launch of Prezista. On June 23, 2006 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted accelerated approval to the anti-HIV medication Prezista™ (darunavir) tablets. Prezista, a protease inhibitor previously known as TMC114, was developed by Tibotec Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and will be marketed in the U.S. by Tibotec Therapeutics. Prezista is indicated for treatment-experienced adult patients, such as those with HIV-1 strains resistant to more than one protease inhibitor.

I am pleased that a company in my home state of New Jersey has responded to the HIV/AIDS crisis in a time when new innovations are essential in order to provide life saving medications to HIV/AIDS patients.

Mr. Speaker, as you may know, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, FDA, has granted accelerated approval to the anti-HIV medication Prezista™ (darunavir) tablets. Prezista, which is a protease inhibitor previously known as TMC114 was developed, by Tibotec Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

The FDA accelerated approval procedures allow for earlier approval of drugs that provide a meaningful therapeutic advantage over existing treatment for serious or life-threatening diseases. This approval is based on the 24-week analysis of HIV viral load and CD4+ cell counts from the pooled analysis of the TMC114-C213, POWER 1, and TMC114-C202, POWER 2, studies.

One of the most challenging obstacles in the care for HIV is finding proper therapies for treatment-experienced patients. Prezista is an important new option for the thousands of people with HIV in the United States who are resistant to more than one protease inhibitor.

Additionally, the Fair Pricing Coalition believes that Tibotec Therapeutics has priced Prezista responsibly. This is a particularly

thoughtful move on the company's part since it recognizes the crisis of federal funding constraints faced by payers in and out of government and the health care system. I am pleased to see that the spirit of philanthropy has not eluded the makers of this much needed drug by putting the needs of patients first.

Johnson & Johnson recognizes the unparalleled global challenge posed by the AIDS epidemic and our response to collaborate in the international response to HIV, particularly through providing access to our HIV medications. For sub-Saharan Africa and Least Developed countries, Johnson & Johnson is actively pursuing licensing and technology agreements in order to enhance the affordability of Prezista. They are in negotiations with generic manufacturers and anticipate that by working with generic manufacturers, Prezista/darunavir can be offered at substantially reduced prices.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the makers of this drug and encourage more companies to follow in their footsteps.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 4830, BORDER TUNNEL
PREVENTION ACT OF 2006; FOR
CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6094,
COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT
OF 2006; AND FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 6095, IMMIGRATION
LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT
OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, our Nation desperately needs comprehensive immigration reform, but the Republican majority is more interested in playing politics with this issue than working towards a true solution.

We need to make sure that we have control of our borders. That is why I support H.R. 4830, the Border Tunnel Prevention Act, and why I have previously supported other efforts to secure our border including the expansion of physical barriers and fencing in key areas.

H.R. 4830 supports the sound policy of amending the federal criminal code to prohibit the construction or financing of an unauthorized tunnel under our border and we are right to ensure strict penalties for anyone who does this.

However, if the Republican leadership was truly serious about securing our borders and preventing the entry of undocumented immigrants, they would fully fund the additional 10,000 border agents that we authorized when we passed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, Public Law 108-458, last year. The addition of these agents, which had broad bipartisan support, was a provision that would have a direct impact on securing both our Southern and Northern borders and had broad bipartisan support. However, when it comes time to fund these additional agents, Congress consistently comes up short.

There are two other provisions that we are considering that I do not support—H.R. 6094, the so-called Community Protection Act and H.R. 6095, the so-called Immigration Law Enforcement Act.

I oppose H.R. 6094, the so-called Community Protection Act, because it would overturn two Supreme Court decisions that currently prevent unlawful indefinite detention of non-citizens. If passed, it would permit the indefinite and perhaps permanent detention of non-citizens who cannot be deported due to no fault of their own.

The severe curtailment of Due Process in this provision will lead to erroneous removal of people who should not have been deported, such as U.S. citizens who could not quickly provide proof of their U.S. citizenship, or an abused spouse or child who could not quickly show their eligibility for relief under VAWA or someone who was not in fact inadmissible due to a criminal ground of inadmissibility but could not timely hire a lawyer who knew the complex case law that governed his or her admissibility.

I oppose H.R. 6095, the so-called Immigration Law Enforcement Act, which would harm the relationship between the police and immigrants and citizens. It will obstruct police in their mission of keeping our streets safe. Essentially the bill is asking the State and local police to pick up the slack for the Federal Government.

That is why it is opposed by scores of professional law enforcement associations including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Major Cities Chiefs Association. They know this is a bad idea and I urge my colleagues to join them in opposition to this bill.

Finally, I want to reiterate my support for comprehensive immigration reform. Not only do these bills fail to adequately address that need, but they could actually make our system more dysfunctional. These bills do not significantly enhance border security or address undocumented immigration; rather, they would limit the basic rights and protections this nation were founded upon.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the Republican majority is more interested in looking like they are doing something, than actually solving the problem. The American people know better and they know political maneuvering and inaction when they see it.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTI-SLAVE TRADE ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, next year will be the 200th anniversary of the ending of the transatlantic trade by Great Britain, the beginning of the end of what was perhaps the greatest human tragedy in history.

I join the members of the British Parliament and the African Diaspora across the globe in anticipation of the 200th anniversary of the passage of the Anti-Slave Trade Act by the British Parliament in 1807.

For four and a half decades, hundreds of millions of Africans were bought and sold into slavery as part of the transatlantic slave trade while many others lost their lives during the Middle Passage. I believe this anniversary presents America with an opportunity to reflect on this dark part of our history and speak out

against the continued conditions of slavery that millions still face across the globe.

Indeed, as America continues to mourn and regret its involvement in the human rights violations of that time, we must not forget the wonderful legacy of African-American abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and many others. It was through their courage and determination that slavery ended in the United States.

We must continue to meet the challenge of repairing the harm done to black Americans by the legacy of slavery in this Nation. By so doing, let us remember the connection between policymaking and the need for a more equitable society. Congress must continue to pass legislation which allows for broader access to education, health care, and jobs for minority groups across the country. Much like the fight against slavery, we must strengthen our resolve to fight poverty, crime, and other conditions that many face in the U.S.

This is also a time for us to show a renewed commitment to the African continent, recognizing it as the ancestral home to the Diaspora across the globe. We must remember that millions of people were ripped from their homes, taken on a perilous journey across the Atlantic, and stripped of their culture and language. As a result, the loss of life and potential that Africa endured was a contributing factor to the under-development the continent faces today. We must show our commitment through trade, education, the fight against HIV/AIDS, and poverty in general.

It is my hope that this 200th anniversary will be a way of bringing education and awareness about the rich heritage and culture of Africa embedded in America and the Caribbean through the Diaspora. I look forward to next year's anniversary. It is my hope that in remembering slavery we are reminded that we must never allow that dark history to repeat itself.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN LATINO HERITAGE ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support tonight of H.R. 2134—the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino Community Act.

I would like to commend Chairman POMBO for his leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor, as well as the bill's author Congressman XAVIER BECERRA for his support.

As the Republican lead of this legislation, I am pleased that this bill would take the next step toward ensuring that our premier institutions for the arts and humanities include a greater representation of Hispanic-American cultural contributions.

The commission created by this bill would have the responsibility of examining and re-

porting to Congress and the President a plan to establish a new museum dedicated to the art, history, and culture of the Hispanic-American community.

There are nearly 40 million United States residents who share a cultural heritage which is not fully represented by any of the permanent exhibits in Washington museums.

It is only fitting that this bill is brought to the floor of this body during Hispanic Heritage Month.

As the first Hispanic-American woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress, I have been proud to represent my diverse South Florida constituency for over 16 years.

Americans of Hispanic heritage are a youthful population and are projected to play an increasing role in the Nation's economy and workforce.

As Hispanic-Americans, we have come a long way.

We are contributing in record numbers in the fields of business, education, healthcare, and at all levels of government service.

As a legislative body, Congress is committed to continue to propel thousands of Hispanic-Americans across the nation into the realization of the American dream.

A stronger, healthier, and more educated Hispanic American population contributes to the greatness of this wonderful nation making us competitive in the global market.

The Hispanic-American community is one of America's largest growing populations. Congress should continue to provide opportunities for the Hispanic-American community to continue succeeding and to showcase the wealth of talent that abounds.

A museum for the Hispanic-American community would honor all Americans.

The great diversity of ethnicities and nationalities of the people in the United States is a testament to the power of America's great tradition as a Nation that embraces all walks of life.

This National Museum will symbolize our country's commitment to proudly display America's rich cultural diversity.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation to ensure that visitors to our nation's capital gain a more complete understanding of who we are as Americans.

FURTHER THANKS TO SUBHASRI RAMANATHAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, years before Sue Ramanathan became Democratic Chief Counsel and Deputy Staff Director on the Committee on Homeland Security, I had the pleasure of having due on my personal staff for 5 years as Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor on immigration, trade, tax, and many other issues.

On my staff, Sue was always ready and willing to use her keen understanding of immigration policy to work with me on several pieces of immigration related legislation, knowledge

and experience she used so well in her tenure on the Homeland Security Committee. In fact, Sue became known as one of a select few staff members in the House of Representatives with a deep knowledge of immigration policy. In other words, Sue was the "go-to" staff member on immigration.

While Sue demonstrated a strong expertise in immigration policy both on my staff and as Chief Counsel on Homeland Security, Sue also had a passion and interest in other policy areas. From technology and trade to tax and foreign policy, Sue always had a powerful grasp of the issues.

After almost 10 years as a staff member in the House of Representatives, Sue has now moved onto the General Accountability Office. Congress has lost a valuable staff member, but the GAO has gained a tremendous asset. I am proud that Sue was once a member of my staff, and grateful that she served the Congress as a whole on the staff of the Homeland Security Committee. I wish her the best in her new position at the GAO.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF DONALD AND MARGARET MERGLER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize a very significant occasion. I am proud to represent two people who have lived a full life of love and happiness. Donald and Margaret Mergler celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary on September 4, 2006.

The Merglers are believed to be the oldest living married couple in the United States. In the world we live in today, marriages sometimes don't last more than a year let alone 80. This couple is truly worthy of recognition for such a joyous occasion.

The 98-year-olds have known each other since grade school. They were both born and raised in Havre de Grace, Maryland. As children in grade school the couple knew each other, but it wasn't until Donald offered Margaret a ride home from their church's Christmas pageant, the two became a couple.

After the Merglers were married, Mr. Mergler's career took them on a tour of Maryland's neighboring states. Mr. Mergler was a jockey at the race tracks for many years. After he hung up his reins, Mr. Mergler relocated the family back to the Havre de Grace area where he worked as an assemblyman for the company now referred to as Lockheed Martin. The couple remained here for the rest of their working years. While Mr. Mergler put together helicopters for Boeing, Mrs. Mergler chauffeured military persons and supervised mail distribution at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me to commemorate the union of Donald and Margaret Mergler. Much can be learned from the 98-year-old couple about love, life, and happiness. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to them for reaching their 80th wedding anniversary.