

difficult at best to fully do justice to the headway he made in exploring unknown parts of the world. Today, both he and the original plane he flew reside in my district in Northwest Florida, and I am proud to have him as a contributor to the area's rich heritage of aviation history.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to commemorate the vast contribution of LCDR Conrad "Gus" Shinn to polar exploration and the 50th anniversary of his successful landing at the South Pole.

**McGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL
FOOD AND EDUCATION AND
CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the gentleman from Massachusetts, my good friend, in introducing this bill to reauthorize the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. I first want to thank the gentleman for doing such a tremendous job in leading the charge on this particular program today and for spearheading efforts to increase discretionary funding for the Program year after year. This is a very important program for all of the children in the world who do not have access to nutritional meals.

This legislation, quite frankly, is a win-win for the American people, and it is a win-win for children all over the world who desperately need food assistance and who need an education. We all know, so very well, that our country is currently engaged in daily battles with individuals who want to harm Americans. However, we are also engaged in the daily battle for the hearts and minds of the "man on the street" in under-developed countries. It is in this battle that the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program holds great potential.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that we should know well: 120 million children worldwide are not enrolled in school. This fact is attributable in large part to hunger and lack of access to a nutritious meal. We share a common desire to try to help as many people as we can all over the world. The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program provides these needed meals using American commodities, but it can do more. The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education currently feeds millions while increasing school enrollment, particularly for girls. The legislation we introduce today would provide a more reliable source of funding, allowing USDA to reliably implement the program in countries for multiple years. Making multiple-year commitments is important. During a school feeding program's first year, average enrollment increases by 28 percent for girls and 22 percent for boys. In schools with feeding programs operating for more than one year, attendance for boys and girls increased to 93 percent.

I cannot think of anything more important for us to do as a nation. Senator McGovern stated it best when he said we had a moral responsibility as a country with rich and valuable natural resources and an abundant, safe food supply to help people who cannot help them-

selves. Increased funding for the program, which is included in this bill, would not only allow our partner organizations to reach more students, but would also allow the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program to expand and to begin providing resources for organizations which provide assistance to mothers with children under the age of 5 years. America needs friends, not just in the capital cities around the world, but on the streets in the poorest areas of the countries. This is one program that lets the world's poor observe our values first hand.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to note that food aid provided through the McGovern-Dole program also spurs economic activity in the United States. The domestic beneficiaries of U.S. food aid exports include our agricultural producers and suppliers, our processors, our millers, edible oil refiners, packaging, manufacturing, rail and motor transportation lines; I could go on and on and on. Most every State in the Nation benefits from food aid exports.

I would be particularly remiss if I did not acknowledge the vision of former Senators George McGovern and Senator Bob Dole who really led the charge early in this fight against hunger, many years ago when they were both serving in the Senate. This issue is also a very important issue for me, because my late husband Bill was so very instrumental in bringing the issue of hunger, both domestic and international, into the Congress where he worked so closely with his friend, the late Congressman Mickey Leland. I think that we must do everything possible to help the world's hungry children. When my late husband Bill came back from a trip to the Sudan, when he came back from various trips to Ethiopia and other countries, it was a very, very sad experience. He would hold dying children in his arms, children who were 12 years old and 13 years old, who were about the size of a 3-year-old or 4-year-old, who did not weigh anything, who had no opportunity to go to school.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program reflects the humanitarian values Americans share, it reflects the value Americans place on an education—regardless of sex or race, the program utilizes American resources, benefiting the American economy and it makes us safer. The McGovern-Dole Program deserves not only to be reauthorized but expanded.

**TRIBUTE TO THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FAMILY EMERGENCY
SHELTER COALITION**

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 20th anniversary of the Family Emergency Shelter Coalition (FESCO) in Hayward, California. In 1986 a group of Eden Area churches and businesses came together, through their mutual concern for homeless families, to form FESCO.

FESCO incorporated in 1986 and in 1987 purchased and rehabilitated a 2,200 square foot two-story house (built in 1917) near downtown Hayward and began serving homeless families in 1998. The shelter, later named Les

Marquis House, accommodates eight to ten families at a time, with most staying an average of forty-two days before moving into permanent housing.

Over time programs have been developed at FESCO to compliment their provision of basic food, shelter and clothing. FESCO's professional counseling, life skills training, children's programs, resettlement, employment and housing services have all been structured to meet the needs of homeless families to enable them to become self-sufficient.

Volunteers also play a vital role in providing services to families at FESCO. They provide moral support, and donate their time and resources for fundraising activities and assistance with programs, such as Aftercare.

Aftercare programs include Back-to-School backpack distribution, Thanksgiving food boxes, and a Holiday Adopt-a-Family program. Many in-kind donations from individuals and corporate donors support the Aftercare program.

In 1999, 3rd Street Transitional Housing, a four-unit apartment next door to the Shelter, opened to serve 4 families for longer-term stays of eighteen to twenty-four months. This facility provides independent living with a professional counseling safety net.

In 2002, FESCO purchased, rebuilt and opened an 8 unit transitional co-housing facility. Banyan House provides food, shelter and services for eight families with stays from six to ten months while they prepare for self-sufficiency.

Today, twenty-nine churches and a host of businesses are part of a community partnership contributing to FESCO's successful delivery of services. Eighty-five to one hundred families receive services from FESCO each year and approximately two hundred families are active in their Aftercare program.

As FESCO celebrates twenty years of exemplary service, they continue to plan for the future. They are committed to providing encouragement, hope and a belief in the future for homeless families.

Congratulations FESCO on your milestone anniversary and thank you for making a positive difference in our community.

**GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE
RESTORATION ACT OF 2006**

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2430, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. I would like to thank Mr. KILDEE (D-MI) for his leadership on this critical effort to restore one of our nation's most precious natural resources.

The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act reauthorizes the Fish and Wildlife Service to double the annual grants to States and tribes for the enhancement, conservation and restoration of fish and wildlife habitats in the Great Lakes. Since 1998, \$3.9 million in federal funds and \$2.7 million in non-federal matching funds were directed toward these efforts. The Act clearly draws vast participation from the Great Lakes communities in restoring this tremendous resource.

A key component of this legislation is wetland restoration. In Illinois, wetlands provide protective habitats for the forty percent of the state's endangered species and help stave off major flooding. Unfortunately, a staggering ninety percent of Illinois' wetlands have been destroyed. Through grants provided by the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, 68 acres of rare wetlands in the northeastern Illinois' Nature Preserves were restored. Another eight wetland restoration projects were undertaken in the Chicago area. We must provide the authorization and management to continue such restoration and reverse the rapid rate of wetland destruction around the Great Lakes.

I want to thank Chad Lord from the Healing Our Waters—Great Lakes Coalition, Cameron Davis of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, and all the other organizations that work tirelessly on behalf of our environment and the Great Lakes. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation so that we may continue our mission to provide for the long-term sustainability of this treasured ecosystem.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GME SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to reauthorize the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program. Seven years ago, Congress established this program to provide the federal support needed for training activities at our children's teaching hospitals. In other hospital settings, training dollars needed for residents are funded, in part, through Medicare's graduate medical education program. With relatively few Medicare patients being served at children's hospitals, however, children's teaching hospitals cannot fully benefit from Medicare's graduate medical education program. CHGME was established to help alleviate the inequity faced by children's hospitals with respect to the training of their residents.

Since its inception in 1999, the CHGME program has achieved tremendous success and enabled our children's teaching hospitals to address reductions in the number of pediatric residents. With this funding, children's teach-

ing hospitals—such as Texas Children's Hospital in my hometown of Houston—have been able to keep their residency programs alive and ensure that the pediatricians treating our children and our grandchildren are trained at the best facilities in the country.

It's no surprise that the same children's teaching hospitals receiving CHGME funds provide the ideal training grounds for pediatric residents. These hospitals house the Nation's leading pediatric research institutions and provide residents with experience in treating the whole range of childhood health care problems, from routine immunizations to pediatric trauma care and pediatric oncology.

Continued CHGME funding is critical if our children's hospitals can continue providing quality care to low-income children, as well as children whose families have private health insurance. Nearly 50 percent of care delivered at our children's hospitals nationwide is provided to Medicaid beneficiaries, and CHGME payments help cover the gap created by a Medicaid reimbursement policy that covers only 80 percent of care delivered to Medicaid patients.

The CHGME program provides children's teaching hospitals with real funding, without which their residency programs would face severe financial strain. Texas Children's Hospital in Houston is one of the top children's hospitals in the country and received nearly \$11 million last year in CHGME payments. Even with this funding, Texas Children's absorbed an additional \$11.5 million in unreimbursed costs associated with their training of pediatric residents.

We want our pediatricians trained at quality hospitals like Texas Children's, where they can put their skills to use on a diverse set of patients. Through this type of education and training, pediatric residents can leave children's teaching hospitals and travel to all corners of the country armed with the experience to effectively treat the young patients in their community. CHGME makes this possible, and I encourage my colleagues to support the reauthorization of this important program.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH GHELETA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Elizabeth Gheleta on her tire-

less devotion to assisting jail inmates and their families in San Mateo County, located in my Congressional District. For 38 years, and for the past 28 years as Executive Director of the San Mateo Service League, Ms. Gheleta has committed herself to ensuring that San Mateo County provide opportunities for positive change to county jail inmates, former inmates and their families. Under her direction, the Service League has made San Mateo County a safer place to live by offering inmates the skills and support necessary to successfully reintegrate into the community.

Over the years, Ms. Gheleta has built the San Mateo Service League into a well-established, non-profit community organization with 25 staff members and over 500 volunteers. Equally important has been her effectiveness in winning the trust and support of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, which has cooperated and helped finance many of the Service League's innovative programs. Among these are the Windows of Opportunity to find effective alternatives to incarceration, Hope Houses and Project Hope for alcohol and drug treatment, and the Children's Waiting Room at the County Jail. With the support of San Mateo County Sheriff Don Horsley, the Service League has promoted the expansion of in-jail services, including education, religious services, substance abuse counseling, and re-entry to society life skills. Ms. Gheleta and her staff also developed four residential facilities for former inmates and started programs to assist the children and families of inmates.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Elizabeth Gheleta for her contribution to the improvement of our community in San Mateo County. Ms. Gheleta's vision and dogged determination has resulted in model programs that have addressed important social issues such as chemical dependency, personal responsibility, education, permanent housing and family life skills. The reality of this vision has truly given hundreds of former inmates and their families a second chance in life. I am truly delighted and inspired by Ms. Gheleta's commitment to our community.