

HONORING JUSTIN-SIENA HIGH
SCHOOL OF NAPA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Justin-Siena High School in Napa, California. Thousands of young men and women from Napa, Sonoma and Solano counties have benefited from the school's rigorous curriculum and commitment to developing outstanding citizenship in its students.

Justin-Siena High School was created in 1972 from the merger of Justin High School and Siena High School. Both schools were founded in 1966, Justin High School by the Christian Brothers and Siena High School by the Dominican Sisters. Justin-Siena has benefited from the spirit and guidance of both orders in the decades since it was created, and the ideals under which each school was founded have guided its faculty and students.

A strong tradition of academic excellence has been the foundation of Justin-Siena's status as a preeminent high school in Northern California. This has translated into success for the remarkable numbers of Justin-Siena's graduates who continue their educations at colleges all over the United States. Additionally, the school has made a notable effort to ensure that its students learn the value of service to others as part of their education, and this has been of great benefit to the Napa Valley. The back-to-back section football championships Justin-Siena High School won in 2004 and 2005 remind us that athletics are not being neglected either.

Justin-Siena High School has made an important commitment to opening the opportunities afforded by the school to students of all backgrounds. This determination to ensure an accessible and affordable education is an important indicator of the role this school plays in our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize the 40th anniversary of Justin-Siena Catholic High School in Napa, California, and I congratulate the staff and students there. Justin-Siena has been a great asset to the Napa Valley and surrounding areas, and I expect it will continue educating fine young women and men for many generations to come.

CALLING ON THE SPEAKER TO
BRING H. RES. 759 TO THE FLOOR
FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, the sexual enslavement of more than 200,000 young women and girls by the Japanese Imperial Army before and during World War II is one of the most ignored and overlooked violations of human rights and international law in the 20th Century. These women, euphemistically known as "Comfort Women," are now elderly and living their last years without a formal apology from the government that enslaved

them. We cannot allow these survivors to fade into history without the closure that would come from official recognition, which is why my colleague, the Honorable CHRISTOPHER SMITH, and I introduced H. Res. 759, calling on the Japanese government to formally acknowledge and take responsibility for its involvement in this unspeakable atrocity.

Our resolution has broad Congressional support with 55 bipartisan cosponsors, including a substantial number of Members from the International Relations Committee, and the Congressional Human Rights, Women's Rights, Asian Pacific American, and Korea Caucuses. Additionally, on September 13, 2006, the resolution was marked up in the International Relations committee by unanimous consent, and subsequently sent to the Speaker with an official request that it be considered on the floor under suspension of the rules. We have also seen an overwhelming response from the Korean American, Chinese American, Filipino American and Vietnamese American communities to the Speaker asking for the resolution to come before the entire House of Representatives. Amnesty International, as well as prominent Japanese-American Congressman and my close friend, MIKE HONDA, also strongly and vocally support H. Res. 759.

Mr. Speaker, it is beyond my understanding why H. Res. 759 has not been scheduled for floor consideration. There has been no visible controversy about the bill from Members of Congress.

Moreover, many of the bills also marked up in the September 13 International Relations Committee hearing have made it to floor and passed by voice vote. It is deeply disturbing that the leadership of this House is not interested in supporting human rights or reiterating the role of the Congress to oppose human trafficking and other similar atrocities that have occurred throughout the world. This is not a Japanese issue, this is not a Korean issue, this is not an American issue; this is an issue about human dignity. And it is a slap in the face to those who have worked so hard to bring the Comfort Women issue to light on the international stage and especially to those who have been directly or indirectly affected by sexual slavery for this resolution to die at the hands of the Speaker after it successfully completed all the necessary procedural steps and demonstrated broad bipartisan support.

I urge the Speaker in the strongest terms possible to allow H. Res. 759 to come before the full House under suspension of the rules before the end of the 109th Congress, so that we may once and for all put this issue to rest, and leave this Congress having made a strong statement in support of human dignity.

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to the Ryan White Treatment Modernization Act.

Like many of my colleagues in the New York delegation, I strongly support the Ryan

White CARE Act and have supported its reauthorization in the past. These programs provide lifesaving medical care, drug treatment, and support services to over 535,000 low-income people living with HIV/AIDS throughout the nation.

Westchester County, in my congressional district has the highest number of persons living with HIV or AIDS of any New York State county outside of New York City. The services provided under the Ryan White CARE Act literally mean the difference between life and death for my constituents living with this devastating disease.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today will jeopardize these services for my constituents and countless other Americans in states that are at the epicenter of this crisis.

Under this bill, New York State stands to lose more than \$78 million over four years.

Despite what some say, the AIDS epidemic has not shifted—it has expanded. It simply makes no sense to pit regions of the country against each other by providing vitally needed services to one region at the expense of another.

My colleagues, rushing a bill through the House that will negatively impact the lives of so many individuals living with HIV and AIDS makes no sense. I am a cosponsor of legislation, H.R. 6191, that would temporarily reauthorize the program for one year to allow Congress to continue to negotiate a compromise that would not unfairly result in drastically reduced funds for any state.

I urge the House leadership to immediately consider H.R. 6191 and urge my colleagues to vote against the bill before us.

S. 2562, THE VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2562, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006.

S. 2562 would raise the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and would increase dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain disabled veterans. Surviving spouses and children aged under 18 would be among those who would benefit from the compensation rate increase that would become effective on December 1, 2006. The increase in rates would be equal to the increase provided to Social Security recipients and is projected to be approximately 2.9 percent.

As a co-sponsor of H.R. 4843, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006, which passed the House of Representatives on June 27, 2006, I also strongly support the Senate version of the bill.

In recognizing the contributions that veterans have made to our country, it is vital that we provide compensation that reflects today's rising cost-of-living. Many of the approximately 60,000 veterans who reside in El Paso, Texas depend largely on government compensation for supporting their families. Increasing the compensation rates for veterans and their

families allows us to demonstrate our immense gratitude for those who have courageously served our country.

Mr. Speaker, nation's veterans and their service to our appreciation for their service to our country. I ask all my colleagues to join me in voting favorably on S. 2562.

RECOGNIZING FINANCIAL
PLANNING WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 973, "Recognizing Financial Planning Week." I want to thank Mr. HINOJOSA and Mrs. BIGGERT for introducing the resolution. I am cosponsor of this resolution because I believe that we must acknowledge the importance of financial planning for all Americans.

This resolution accepts the goal of financial planning as a tool to enable families and individuals to achieve their financial and life goals. It recognizes the relevance of financial planners, many of whom are essential to American individuals and families planning for their futures.

Sound financial planning must be integrated into any comprehensive life plan. Many of the financial instruments and investments require basic if not advanced financial planning to be used productively. Financial independence is a goal that I strongly advocate. Without financial independence it is impossible to function and to meet future challenges.

The Financial Planning Association has designated the week beginning October 2, 2006 as Financial Planning Week. The House officially recognizes the importance of financial planning and financial planners in the process, and this resolution embraces Financial Planning Week. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

ON THE DEATH OF SECOND
LIEUTENANT EMILY J.T. PEREZ

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the tragic loss of Second Lieutenant Emily J.T. Perez, a young soldier from Prince George's County, MD, who gave the ultimate measure of sacrifice for our Nation in Iraq, saddens all of us.

And today, I want to pay tribute to this outstanding young American, as well as express my deepest condolences to her family, including her parents, Vicki and Daniel, and all of her friends and loved ones.

Second Lieutenant Perez of Fort Washington died on September 12 after a roadside bomb exploded under her Humvee. She is the first female graduate of West Point to die in Iraq.

But she should not be remembered solely for how she passed from this life and into God's hands. She must be remembered for the outstanding and inspiring way in which she lived and those she touched during her 23 years.

Emily Perez was a trailblazer and a star in every sense of the word.

She rose to the top of her class at Oxon Hill High School. She became the first minority female command sergeant in the history of the U.S. Military Academy. And she excelled at everything from track to the gospel choir.

As the Washington Post reported, friends and family members nicknamed her "Kobe," after Los Angeles Lakers basketball player Kobe Bryant, because "everyone knew she could make the shots, in whatever she did."

Second Lieutenant Perez was best known for her tenacious leadership, first as a wing commander of Junior ROTC and then on the campus of West Point. She leaves behind a collection of young cadets inspired by her patriotism, as they prepare for military careers defending our Nation.

While incredibly strong willed, Perez also is remembered for her sensitivity to others, organizing an HIV-AIDS ministry in high school after family members contracted the virus.

Yet it was being a soldier that was Perez's true calling. She was born into a military family in Heidelberg, Germany, and knew from a very young age that she wanted to serve. After graduating from West Point, she was assigned to the Army's 204th Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and deployed to Iraq in December.

One of her mentors, Roger Pollard, told the Post: "I clearly remember thinking that she would definitely be the first female president of this country."

Lost at the age of 23, we will never know what was in store for this extraordinary young woman. But one thing is certain: She heroically served her Nation in defense of our freedom, and we should all be proud of the full life she led in her short time here.

STATEMENT ON IOM REC-
COMMENDATIONS FOR FDA RE-
FORM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to bring to my colleague's attention a New York Times editorial that comments on the recommendations by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) for reforming the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The editorial contends that IOM has wisely called for a significant increase in financing and personnel to correct the imbalance between the funds and staff devoted to approving new drugs and the smaller resources available for post-market surveillance. The editorial also observes that, even when problems arise, the agency virtually has no authority to regulate drugs on the market unless there is overwhelming evidence that they are unsafe.

The IOM report, *The Future of Drug Safety*, confirms what many of us in Congress have been arguing all along—that FDA authority needs to be strengthened and that the agency relies too heavily on negotiations with industry. The recommendations outlined in the IOM report reflect the initiatives that many of us in Congress already have proposed, including: requiring post-market surveillance of drug products; requiring a moratorium on direct-to-

consumer (DTC) advertising; and eliminating conflict-of-interests involving members of FDA advisory committees.

This report provides independent verification that Congress must act to implement the changes that are needed at the FDA. Congress will have the opportunity next year to make an immediate impact when it considers the reauthorization of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA). Congress should strongly consider IOM's PDUFA recommendation that a portion of the user fees be diverted to specific safety-related performance goals.

I ask that the New York Times editorial be inserted in the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 28, 2006]

PRESCRIPTION FOR A STRONGER F.D.A.

A prestigious advisory group has put its weight behind criticism that the Food and Drug Administration is pitifully weak when it comes to removing dangerous prescription drugs from the market. Last week, a panel appointed by the Institute of Medicine, part of the National Academy of Sciences, issued a slew of recommendations to strengthen the beleaguered F.D.A. as it struggles to regulate a huge array of medications whose ill effects sometimes show up only after years of wide use.

The institute's report, which was requested by the F.D.A., deplores the big imbalance between the money and staff devoted to approving new drugs and the much smaller resources for monitoring drugs after they are on the market. The imbalance results in part from the pharmaceutical industry's providing user fees that pay for expediting the approval process, but not for monitoring the aftereffects. Worse yet, even when it spots a problem, the agency has very little power to regulate drugs on the market unless there is overwhelming evidence that they are unsafe, which is seldom the case.

Although the nation is mired in budget deficits, the institute was wise to call for a large increase in financing and personnel for this crucially important regulator of public health. If Congress is too stingy to ante up more money, it should at least divert some of the drug industry's user fees to surveillance after a drug's approval.

The panel calls for the F.D.A. to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of drugs that are truly new, not just copycats, at least once every five years. It wants the agency to be given explicit power to compel post-marketing studies and to impose fines, injunctions and withdrawals to enforce its decisions. In a departure from conventional wisdom, the panel also urges the F.D.A. to require that a substantial majority of the members of each of its advisory panels be free of significant financial involvement with companies whose interests might be affected. That undercuts the agency's claims that there are not enough experts without ties to the drug industry.

COMMENDING THE BOY SCOUTS OF
AMERICA TROOP ONE OF SAC-
RAMENTO ON ITS 90TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Boy Scouts of America Troop One of Sacramento as they celebrate their 90th anniversary and ask all of my colleagues to join