

programs would be used for our growing human and infrastructure needs, such as housing, health care, Social Security and the environment.

I chose to introduce the NDECA before the March 20th memorial service for William Thomas, who sat in front of the White House in an anti-nuclear vigil for nearly 28 years. His efforts have been called the longest uninterrupted war protest in U.S. history. He truly embodied our inalienable First Amendment rights. Tragically, instead of nuclear disarmament, nations around the world have increased efforts to seek or acquire nuclear capability with Iran's failure to halt uranium enrichment captured attention until recently, China's nuclear weapons and today North Korea continues testing missile long range missiles and there is little doubt that North Korea has acquired a nuclear device. India and Pakistan continue to fight over the Kashmir region and with the recent terrorist strikes in India, the instability in the region persists. Pakistan assures us that its weapons are safe, as nuclear secrets are sold by its top scientists, the streets are riled with protests, a military coup is not out of the question, and the semi-autonomous regions are dominated by Al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

The invasion of Iraq cost the United States much of its leadership on nuclear proliferation and other urgent international issues. This country reached a non-credible status in dissuading other nations who aspire to become or remain nuclear powers as we ourselves took greater initiative in increasing our own nuclear weapons program. We moved in the right direction when the Senate ratified the Moscow Treaty in 2003, which provides that by 2012 both the U.S. and Russia will reduce their long-range warheads by two-thirds from approximately 6,000 warheads each to 2,200. However, the Bush administration failed to build on this effort. According to the study, "Securing The Bomb: An Agenda for Action" (May, 2004; prepared by the Belfer Center, Harvard University Kennedy School of Government): "Total nuclear-threat-reduction spending remains less than one quarter of one percent of the U.S. military budget. Indeed, on average, the Bush administration requests for nuclear-threat-reduction spending over FY 2002–2005 were less, in real terms, than the last Clinton administration request, made long before the 9/11 attacks ever occurred." Instead, the Bush administration moved to increase the country's nuclear capacity.

However, the problem today is even more complicated than nuclear disarmament by nation states. The greatest threat today is from inadequately defended and guarded sites in many countries where there is enough material to make nuclear weapons and many opportunities for terrorists or nations without weapons to secure nuclear materials. Astonishingly, because of the previous administration's absence of leadership, less nuclear material was seized in the two years following the 9/11 attacks than in the two years immediately preceding the attacks ("Securing The Bomb: An Agenda for Action", May 2004).

In my work on the Homeland Security Committee, I know that threats from nuclear proliferation and available nuclear material are more dangerous in the post 9/11 era than in 1994, when I first introduced the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act. It is more urgent than ever to begin closing down nuclear capability here and around the world.

Today, our country has a hobbled economy, 45 million people still without health insurance, a long list of other urgent domestic needs put on the back burner following the invasion of Iraq, large tax cuts for wealthy people and corporations, and millions of Americans losing their homes and jobs. As the only nation that has used nuclear weapons in war, and still possesses the largest arsenal, the U.S. has an obligation to begin the arduous process of leading the world in the transfer of nuclear weapons funds to urgent domestic needs.

CONGRATULATING GUNDERSEN
LUTHERAN BREAST CENTER

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gundersen Lutheran's Norma J. Vinger Center for Breast Care on becoming the first breast cancer treatment center in the nation to achieve the highest level of distinction from the National Quality Measures for Breast Centers (NQMBC) program. The honor was presented to Gundersen Lutheran because they ranked at or above a designated threshold of performance for 90 percent of the measures specified by the NQMBC. This honor reflects the center's commitment to providing the highest level of quality care to breast cancer patients and their families at the lowest possible costs. I am extremely proud Wisconsin's Third Congressional District is home to a breast care facility that is a national leader in the measurement of treatment and outcomes.

The Norma J. Vinger Center for Breast Care provides state-of-the-art patient and family care emphasizing prevention, education, early detection, and clinical research. Their approach to breast care is holistic and interdisciplinary with a staff that includes experienced physicians, surgeons, nurses, and technologists who are skilled in the latest methods of early diagnosis, treatment, and reconstructive surgery. The Norma J. Vinger Center for Breast Care has discovered numerous breakthroughs in research and breast cancer care that have provided countless patients with hope and access to the most advanced care available in the country.

In addition to the NQMBC honor, Gundersen Lutheran is also one of two organizations in the country that has every available accreditation for the full scope of breast care, diagnosis, and treatment from the American College of Radiology. The Center also boasts two fellowship-trained clinical breast radiologists that specialize in breast cancer care. The Center for Breast Care has demonstrated continued excellence in measuring and comparing quality performance. The staff is also committed to utilizing new advances in technology to ensure that the Center remains a national leader in breast cancer care and research.

Providing care that promotes early detection, is outcome based, and utilizes innovative technology is the most efficient way to administer health care. I am proud to have this La Crosse based breast cancer facility in Wisconsin's Third Congressional District and hope that the great work they are conducting will serve as a model for the rest of the country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACCESS TO
JUSTICE ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Access to Justice Act. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish a right for an alien to file a motion to reopen a case in removal proceedings if the alien can demonstrate that counsel or a certified representative provided deficient performance.

In one of his last actions as Attorney General, Michael Mukasey ruled that immigrants have no constitutional right to effective legal representation in deportation hearings. After more than 20 years of precedent in special immigration courts overseen by the Justice Department, those now facing deportation have no remedy for the errors committed by incompetent, inattentive lawyers, or even those who claim to be lawyers.

This 11th hour regulation not only goes counter to what has already been established by a long line of decisions in the federal courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals but also is a matter of equal protection/due process. In fact, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit stated in an opinion, "Vulnerable immigrants are preyed upon by unlicensed notaries and unscrupulous appearance attorneys who extract fees in exchange for false promises and shoddy, ineffective representation."

The Supreme Court has found that non-citizens are ineligible for court appointed counsel in civil cases. Removal proceedings are not considered criminal and therefore, immigrants who are in the process of being deported must find their own counsel. Judge Katzmann on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals said in a recent New York Times article, "Justice should not depend on the income level of immigrants." A study in the Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics found that only 35% of individuals in removal proceedings had counsel; yet asylum seekers who have counsel are three times more likely to succeed in their claim compared to those without representation.

Because of this Supreme Court decision incompetent legal representation is now "discretionary" and thus unreviewable. So the former Attorney General, the final arbiter in immigration cases, decided in his final hours in office without any consultation with Congress that the 6th amendment right to counsel only applies to criminals, not to non-criminals who have privately retained lawyers in civil removal proceedings. Imagine in our great melting pot of an immigrant nation a decision that gives greater access to justice to those who might have committed a felony more than to those who want to be Americans. When a lawyer fails to show up to court or forgets to file the required paperwork, the individual being deported will have no legal right to appeal on the grounds of deficient counsel.

That is why I am introducing The Access to Justice Act, a bill that would create a legislative fix to the Mukasey decision. This bill creates a right to file a motion to reopen a removal case if deficient performance of counsel can be demonstrated. To provide relief to

those who are currently in removal proceedings under this decision, enactment of this bill would allow them to file an appeal.

I urge my colleagues to support the Access to Justice Act. This important and urgent legislation will bring justice to those affected by Mukasey's midnight ruling and ensure fairness in removal proceedings.

STOP AIDS IN PRISON ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of H.R. 1429, Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2009, which has been reintroduced by Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS. It is important that proper HIV/AIDS testing, prevention, treatment, and education are provided to all inmates. HIV/AIDS is quickly rising in America. According to the Department of Justice the rate of confirmed AIDS cases in prisons was three times higher than in the general population.

This piece of legislation will help reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS by making inmates get tested for HIV/AIDS upon entering jail and when they leave. Testing inmates when they enter and when they leave will help track the number of people infected and it will also help reduce the spread to others in their communities. Educating inmates about HIV/AIDS and providing them treatment will make them more responsible about their health and the health of others.

This is only one part of helping to solve this epidemic that has spread vastly in large and small cities and towns across America as well as in countries around the world. That is why I am in strong support of this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN PERINI

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Kathryn Perini of Temple City, California. Every March we celebrate Women's History Month in recognition of the contributions and the sacrifices made by our nation's women. Accordingly it is my privilege to highlight Ms. Perini as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Few people take the chance to positively impact their community to the extent that Kathy has. A lifelong Temple City resident, Kathy earned her degrees at the nearby University of Southern California and returned to her hometown to apply her education towards helping the people she knew and loved. Kathy began as a teacher and a counselor and she eventually became the principal of Emperor Elementary, a California Distinguished School.

At Emperor, Kathy has created and maintained cooperative and influential relationships with the community, parents, teachers, and students. With a clear action plan, she has crafted a school of academic scholars who benefit from Character Education as the cur-

riculum's core. Kathy also shares her insight by working as a consultant, helping regional and nationwide schools develop not only educated but also responsible citizens. Various esteemed organizations have recognized her with awards, from local PTA groups to the National Character Education Center and the Mattel Foundation Family Learning Program.

Throughout her years as an education trailblazer, Kathy has remained devoted to giving back to the community that helped raise her. In 1986 she founded the Temple City Youth Development program to benefit local students unable to afford extensive field study trips and remains the non-profit's director today. For nearly twenty years Kathy has been a dedicated member of the Tournament of Roses and presently serves on the organization's Executive Committee.

Kathy's dual roles as educator and community leader were tested in early 2006 when her school fell victim to the violent act of arson. Even in the face of adversity, she rose to the challenge by reaching out to the community for supplies to ensure that all her students' needs were met, regardless of the devastating classroom destruction. In response, Kathy was happily inundated with resources, support, and encouragement.

We are fortunate to have Kathy, a pillar of loyal community leadership, help us develop a new generation of bright and giving Americans. Her steadfast dedication and selfless service are an invaluable addition to the legacy of Women's History Month. With gratitude and admiration, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Kathy Perini.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN BARNETT WATERMAN II

SPEECH OF

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and, indeed, the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor John Barnett Waterman II and pay tribute to his memory.

A lifelong resident of Mobile, John graduated from the University of South Alabama in 1968 and was a member of the school's second graduating class. He was also a member of the university's first pledge class of the Sigma Chi fraternity. John earned a Bachelor of Science degree in finance and went on to pursue a successful career in investments.

A proud patron of the arts, John was a supporter of the Mobile Symphony and also sponsored an annual scholarship for a Mobile graduating high school student to attend the Brevard School of Music.

In 1919, with one ship and \$2,000 capital, John's grandfather founded the Waterman Steamship Corporation, which grew to become the nation's largest family-owned steamship company. The company's headquarters housed the Waterman Globe, a local maritime icon. John was an ardent supporter of the refurbishing of the icon, which is now on display at the University of South Alabama's Mitchell Center.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. John Barnett Waterman II will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Lynne Stanard Waterman; his daughter, Kemp Waterman Buntin and her husband, Jeffrey; his son, John Douglas Waterman; his sisters, Annise Waterman Uphaus and Melissa Waterman Inge; and his grandsons, Gaiher Waterman Buntin and Thomas Rush Buntin—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL CHRISTOPHER E. O'CONNOR

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the United States Marine Corps are exceptional. Our country has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to keep this country free and safe. United States Marine Colonel Christopher E. O'Connor is one of these individuals. On April 2, 2009, a retirement ceremony honoring Col. O'Connor will be held in Miramar, California. As a thirty year service veteran, Col. O'Connor deserves our thanks and gratitude as we honor him for his distinguished career.

Following his commission through the NROTC Program at the University of Rochester and his education at the Communications and Electronics School at MCAGCC Twenty-nine Palms, Col. O'Connor has served in many capacities over the years. The Marine Air Support Squadron where he served as an Air Support Control Officer in the Direct Air Support Center (DASC), the Aviation Department's action officer in the Aviation Logistics Branch of the Department of Aviation at Marine Headquarters, and operations officer of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Aviation Support Element Kaneohe are just three of many assignments Col. O'Connor has been entrusted with.

Receiving his wings in 1985, Col. O'Connor became a CH-53 helicopter pilot and transferred to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463. Col. O'Connor would leave HMH 463 to deploy to the Philippines but later return as Commanding Officer of the squadron from October 1997 to May 1999 in Kaneohe, Hawaii. In August 2006, Col. O'Connor assumed the position of Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Not only does he supervise over 3,000 Marines, Sailors and Civilian Marines with an operating budget of over \$217 million but he is also responsible for Air Station assets of over \$2 billion.

Col. O'Connor's tireless passion for service has contributed to the betterment of this country. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, and Navy Achievement Medal. I am proud to call Chris a fellow community member, American and friend. I know