

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, Gaither 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