

that many citizens and servicemen are grateful for his service and salute him as he ends his term.

PERSIAN NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Nowruz which marks the traditional Iranian New Year and dates back more than 3,000 years. Nowruz, literally meaning "new day," celebrates the arrival of spring and occurs on the vernal equinox, which this year will happen exactly on Friday, March 20th at 7:44 a.m. eastern daylight time. It symbolizes a time of renewal, harkening the departure from the trials and tribulations of the previous year and bringing hope for the New Year. It is celebrated by more than three hundred million Iranians and other peoples all over the world.

Closer to home, more than one million Iranian Americans of all backgrounds, including those of Baha'i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Zoroastrian faiths, will be celebrating Nowruz. Recognizing the cultural and historical significance of this day and in its honor, I express my appreciation for the contributions of Iranian-Americans to American society and wish all those who observe this holiday a happy and prosperous new year.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO LONG-TERM CARE IN THE HOME AND COMMUNITY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that addresses one of the most crucial health concerns facing our nation: expanding access to quality long-term care in the home and community.

Long-term care is a broad range of health and social services that are used by people who cannot care for themselves because of a physical, cognitive, or mental disability. Eighty percent of long-term care now occurs in the home. The majority of long-term care is provided by family caregivers that are accompanied by community services such as Adult Day Care Programs, home-delivered meals programs, mental health services, and home health workers. Sadly, too many patients and families are enduring the physical, emotional and financial consequences of having poor access to long-term care services.

Madam Speaker, well over 9.4 million adults receive long-term care in the United States of America. And this number is expected to rise. Longer life spans among the chronically ill and disabled, and higher incidences of acquired disabilities from unmanaged conditions such as HIV/AIDS, diabetes, obesity and heart disease will increase our reliance on long-term care.

In little more than two decades, one-fifth of the U.S. population will be age sixty-five or

older. States with significant elder populations—like Florida—know the importance of ensuring that our health care system is well equipped to provide decent and routine long-term care services. However, the increase in demand for long-term care services has not been followed by an increased incentive to effectively address and solve the disparities in access to high-quality long-term care. Amazingly, there has never been a national plan for long-term care, and nearly twenty years have passed since Congress comprehensively reviewed long-term care policy.

The lack of streamlined standards and dominant payment methods for long-term care has left our long-term care system handicapped: depriving countless people of much needed services and placing a tremendous financial and emotional burden on families and caregivers. A significant portion of long-term care is financed with personal funds, and Medicaid is the largest public payer for long-term care. Medicaid and out-of-pocket-spending exclude countless persons from receiving health care service, which can lead to more costly and invasive medical interventions.

Madam Speaker, this is an important bill that must be supported during a critically important time when we are tasked with solving one of the most serious financial and health challenges of our era. This resolution calls for integrating long-term care into health care reform and for making long-term health more affordable.

The resolution regards preventative health and the management of chronic disease as essential components in decreasing the future dependence on long-term care by preventing conditions from becoming permanently debilitating or disabling. And, it encourages collaboration among local, state and federal health care entities to improve working conditions and training for home health aides to lower turnover rates, staff shortages, patient abuse and raising the standard of care.

This resolution supports funding for existing technologies, programs and initiatives that assist informal care givers, and help maintain and improve long-term health services for the disabled and elderly. Lastly, it commits to aiding relevant parties in composing, executing, and economic disparities that limit access to care.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and to truly invest in the present and future welfare of our nation's health care system.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws:

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the GIVE Act and the amendment offered by Congressman TEAGUE of New Mexico and Congressman KLEIN of Florida. This is a great example of furthering our commitment to

America's veterans, and I commend Congressman KLEIN and my fellow New Mexican, Congressman TEAGUE, for leading the effort to ensure our veterans have access to resources and programs that will benefit them.

During times of crisis and economic hardship, Americans have always joined together to overcome obstacles. The GIVE Act will provide Americans with the tools to get our country back on track by working in their communities. Americans of all ages have always responded to the call of service in times of crisis, and this legislation helps Americans to respond to this call by creating new opportunities to serve. This amendment ensures that those who are no strangers to service to our nation—our veterans—are included in this bill.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment to put veterans back to work and train them for civilian careers. This addition would provide support to veterans in their pursuit of education and professional careers, and assist disabled and unemployed veterans with transportation needs. This is an important step in moving forward with constructive legislation that gives due respect to those who have given so much. I thank Congressman TEAGUE and Congressman KLEIN for their efforts on behalf of our nation's veterans and urge an aye vote.

A TRIBUTE TO BRENDA GALLOWAY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Brenda Galloway of Pasadena, 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 Mrs. Galloway as a woman whose extraordinary efforts are vital to my district.

Originally from Kentucky, Brenda has lived in Pasadena with her husband Bill for the last forty years. Together they run the family business, Summit Enterprises, which invests in residential commercial properties in the San Gabriel Valley and trains local youth for careers in real estate. A tireless community leader, Brenda has devoted herself to improving the region's arts and educational systems with a blend of energy, enthusiasm, and humility. Her volunteer work began as a young girl running school paper drives and has grown to include an astounding collection of Southern California non-profit organizations.

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors for the Pasadena YMCA and the La Salle High School Board of Trustees, she has been involved the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Foundation, the L.A. County Commission of Children and Families, the Pasadena Police Department Olympic Committee, Jack & Jill of America, and the Jackie Robinson Memorial Celebration. She is particularly active with the CASA Glamour Gown program, which provides prom gowns and accessories to girls in foster care throughout Los Angeles County.

Showing great care and dedication to the community, Brenda has been involved with several organizations. While devoting herself to these great organizations, Brenda and her