

closer to achieving political, social and economic equality. We are all fortunate to have witnessed and benefitted from Ellie's passionate commitment and determination. I am proud to have worked with Ellie and to call her my dear friend. In appreciation for her all she has accomplished, I am proud to congratulate her on the 25th Anniversary of the Feminist Majority Foundation and look forward to continuing our work to achieve equality for women.

INTRODUCING THE JUSTICE FOR
WARDS COVE WORKERS ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Justice for Wards Cove Workers Act" in order to correct a grave injustice against thousands of Asian American workers that took place over a quarter century ago. In the 1970s, workers of Filipino, Samoan, Chinese, Japanese and Native American descent traveled north during the summer to work in the fish canneries in Alaska. Management at the Wards Cove Packing Company treated these migrant workers differently from white workers. They were forced to eat in separate dining halls, sleep in separate bunkhouses, and were unable to rise to top-paying positions in the company.

In 1973, two Seattle Filipino labor activists named Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes led several class-action lawsuits on behalf of these Asian American and Native American cannery workers alleging discrimination in the workplace. In 1989, the Supreme Court ruled against the Wards Cove workers, in *Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio*, which became a major impetus for the civil rights community to reverse the tide against employee rights. The result was the Civil Rights Act of 1991, which became the most comprehensive civil rights legislation signed into law since the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

However, what most civil rights communities forgot was that in the final hours before passage of the Civil Rights Act, a highly unusual and narrow amendment was inserted by two Senators from Alaska that exempted the Wards Cove workers from the expansive protections against workplace discrimination outlined in the Civil Rights Act. They feared that the Civil Rights Act could be applied retroactively to the workers.

The Senators' amendment was inserted in Section 402(b) of the Civil Rights Act, and its sole target was the Wards Cove workers. To date, the Wards Cove workers remain the only people who have been denied the rights promulgated by the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

Mr. Speaker, while my bill cannot retroactively alter the Supreme Court's ruling or grant retroactive rights for the Wards Cove workers, it does remove Section 402(b) of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 as a symbolic measure to right the wrong.

This is a legislative fight that I started in 1991, when I first introduced this bill. Every time I introduced this bill, it received bipartisan support but was never voted on the House floor. In 1993, then-President Bill Clinton wrote a letter of support for my bill, stating, "It is

contrary to all of our ideas to exclude any American from the protection of our civil-rights laws."

Too often, the struggles of Asian American and other ethnic minorities do not get the attention they deserve by policymakers and law enforcement officials. The savage beating and murder of Danny Vega, a Filipino-American resident of South Seattle, last November is one of many examples of the discrimination that minorities continue to face.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Wards Cove workers by supporting this bill.

AARON CORMIER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aaron Cormier for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Aaron Cormier is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Aaron Cormier is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Aaron Cormier for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING HOUSE PARLIAMEN-
TARIAN JOHN SULLIVAN UPON
HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man I have come to know and respect during my service in the Congress, the House Parliamentarian John V. Sullivan, on the occasion of his retirement.

John Sullivan has served the House for 25 years, starting at the House Armed Services Committee and then moving to the Office of the Parliamentarian. The last eight years he has held the position of House Parliamentarian.

Prior to his work in the House, Sullivan served in the Air Force. I would be remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I did not also mention that Sullivan is a Hoosier. He grew up in Northwest Indiana, graduating from Munster High School and after attending the Air Force Academy, returning home to earn his law degree from the Indiana University School of Law.

Indiana can take justifiable pride in John Sullivan and his service to the Congress and our nation.

The job of the House Parliamentarian requires integrity, intellect, good judgment and the ability to think quickly on your feet. The House Chamber can be a pressure-cooker at times, especially during votes on major pieces of legislation or at times of heated partisan rancor.

One of those times was the night of August 2, 2007, when a vote on the Republican motion to recommit the Agriculture Appropriations bill went awry. John Sullivan was on the House floor that night advising the Speaker pro tem, and he exhibited the type of courage and professionalism that the rest of us can only aspire to in such a difficult situation.

After that night, a select committee was appointed to investigate what happened during the vote, and I was appointed ranking member for the investigation. I got to know Sullivan very well during the course of the investigation, and I appreciated his honesty, candor and full participation in the investigation. From our many conversations and what we learned as a committee, it was clear to me that Sullivan could not be more dedicated to the House as an institution or his job as a non-partisan provider of carefully considered analysis and advice. The House was fortunate to have his professional judgment on that night and all of the many other days and nights he has spent on the rostrum advising Speakers pro tem and Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the House will miss John Sullivan. We wish him the best in his retirement and trust that he will enjoy spending more time with his wife, Nancy Sands Sullivan, and three children Michael, Margaret and Matthew. We thank them for sharing Sullivan with the House these many years, and again, Mr. Speaker, we thank John Sullivan for his service and wish him well in his retirement.

SUPPORTING GOVERNOR ED
RENDELL'S REMARKS REGARD-
ING CAMP LIBERTY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I am disturbed by recent press reports attacking former Pennsylvania Governor, Ed Rendell for taking a stand in support of the residents of Camp Ashraf as well as Iran's main opposition movement, the MEK.

Mr. Rendell is not alone, and he is backed by several dozen senior former U.S. Government officials who have taken the same position because they feel that position actually serves the national security interests of our country. Some 21 senior officials from past administrations, whose job it was to keep this country safe, agreed with Mr. Rendell when they filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals-DC Circuit in February in support of delisting the MEK. Among the former officials were a CIA Director, a FBI Director, an Attorney General of the United States, a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a State Department coordinator for counter-terrorism, and a Marine Corps Commandant.

Governor Rendell spoke at an event in the Cannon Caucus Room on February 3, 2012 and eloquently made the case for why the MEK should have been delisted long ago.