

A recent study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit corporation for reproductive health research, policy analysis and public education, stated funding cuts will restrict 7 million couples in developing countries from using modern contraceptive methods. This will result in 1.9 million more unplanned births, 134,000 more infant deaths, and 8,000 more women dying in childbirth and pregnancy, including from unsafe abortions. In fact, due to the dearth of funding, there will be at least 1.6 million more abortions in developing countries in just 1 year.

Family planning services offer often lifesaving health care services, including family planning, prenatal services, maternal and infant health programs, treatment of infertility, and the prevention of AIDS. The more we limit funds for family planning, the more we will spend on money for destitute children and health care for the sick.

Long-term costs of the cuts may prove so disastrous that the United States will wind up spending more than it will save. Worsening population trends mean the United States may confront more international instability, greater depletion of important global resources and ultimately much higher levels of foreign aid assistance.

International family planning funding must be restored. Not only is it a public health issue, but family planning is the answer to the question of overpopulation. Global population now exceeds 5.7 billion people. If nothing is done to stem this growth, the Earth's population will quadruple to over 19 billion people by the end of the next century. Uncontrolled population growth not only causes extreme poverty, unemployment, and urban overcrowding, but it is having an enormously damaging effect on our environment and public health.

In much of the developing world, overpopulation, caused mainly by the lack of access of women to basic reproductive health services and information, is contributing to impoverishment, malnutrition, and hopelessness. The damaging effect on the world's environment is resulting in resource depletion, tropical deforestation, extinction of certain plants and animals, and pollution of air, water, and land. Population growth is outstripping the capacity of many nations to make even slight gains in economic development leading to political instability.

Overpopulation must be addressed by sustainable development programs. There are three key areas which will target overpopulation directly: international family planning, financial commitment, and technical expertise. Practically every major innovation in the population and family planning field can be linked to U.S. support. Modern technology has also been applied to the population field in the areas of mass communication, biotechnology, and biomedical research in the development of new contraceptives.

Funding for international family planning is not about whether women in third world countries have abortions. The ramifications to funding cuts stretch from health counseling to global warming. Family planning directly deals with the protection of our environment, economy, and the health of women and children. We must work to maintain sustainable development programs to protect our environment, public health, and future. Please join me in the fight to restore this vital funding.

## HARD TIME FOR GUN CRIMES ACT

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Hard Time for Gun Crimes Act.

This bill would make it clear that the problem with guns in our society is not the guns but the felons who use them for a criminal purpose. The bill would dramatically increase the penalties for possessing, brandishing, or discharging a firearm during the commission of a Federal felony.

For instance, under my bill, if you fire a gun during the commission of a Federal crime: It it's the first offense, you'll get 30 extra years in jail; if it's the second offense, you'll get a minimum 50 extra years in jail.

The key message is that we've had it with gun-related violence. Americans have zero tolerance for gun crime, so our justice system should too. Our families and children shouldn't be afraid to walk to school, go to the grocery store, and leave their windows open at night.

That's why I think we should work to keep those who would misuse guns in jail. No more slick criminal defense attorneys pushing criminals to freedom through legal loopholes. No more soft sentences after teary speeches before the bench. No more legal gymnastics setting criminals free after a fraction of their allotted time in jail.

For 30 years, we've heard about rehabilitation and the root causes of crime. We should try to reform those who've committed crimes. We should try to address the grinding poverty of our urban areas, with welfare reform, for instance. But one of the root causes of crime—is criminals. Put a career criminal back on the street, and he's not rehabilitated, he's rejuvenated. What's gotten lost is punishment.

The Hard Time for Gun Crimes Act sends a clear message: If you use a gun to commit a felony, plan on spending the next few decades behind bars—no exceptions.

## TRIBUTE TO GEORGE DITOMASSI, THIS YEAR'S AMBASSADOR OF IRELAND AWARD

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to George Ditomassi, a constituent of mine who has distinguished himself both professionally and privately, as a man of significant accomplishment and compassion. Mr. Ditomassi is the Chairman of Milton-Bradley Co. in East Longmeadow, MA, a toy and game manufacturer owned by the Hasbro Corporation.

For as long as I can remember, George Ditomassi has given generously to the communities in which he lives and works. Year-in and year-out George Ditomassi is a good friend and neighbor to western Massachusetts. Though he sits on the corporate boards of some of America's largest companies, he also contributes his time to local and neighborhood organizations. In his many and varied roles,

George Ditomassi has favorably impacted the lives of thousand of other people. That, in part, is why I have chosen to recognize him here today.

On Sunday, March 17, St Patrick's Day, George Ditomassi will be given the Ambassador of Ireland Award by the Holyoke, MA, St Patrick's Day Parade Committee. The Ambassador's Award is given annually to an American citizen who is judged by the committee to have built an economic or social bridge between our two great nations. George Ditomassi fits this description extremely well.

Raised in Holyoke, a long-time Irish enclave in western Massachusetts, George Ditomassi understands well the contributions that Irish-Americans have made to American society. As a businessman, he clearly understands the value that is added to a company by a well educated and highly skilled workforce, the type which is found in Ireland.

As the chairman of the Milton-Bradley Co., Mr. Ditomassi has guided his company's decision to own and operate a manufacturing facility in Waterford County, Ireland. With over 500 people employed by Milton-Bradley at the facility, the plant is one of the largest employers in Waterford. It is a boon to the local economy and Mr. Ditomassi calls it "a jewel in our crown." It is his stewardship of this investment in the Irish economy that has qualified George Ditomassi for the 1996 Ambassador of Ireland Award and also, it is the other part of why I have chosen to recognize him in the House of Representatives today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating George Ditomassi for his upcoming receipt of the Ambassador of Ireland Award, and also, for a lifetime of service to his community.

## IN HONOR OF WILLIAM DEAN, WORLD WAR I VETERAN

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual, William Dean, who passed away on March 11, 1996.

Mr. Dean, who lived with his wife at Cloverleaf Farms, Brooksville, was 1 of fewer than 20 World War I veterans in Florida. He would have celebrated his 97th birthday on March 20.

Mr. Speaker, veterans of World War I have stood up for America longer than any other group—three quarters of a century. Their determination and pressure has insured that benefits and programs are today available for all veterans.

In June 1917, William Dean, at the tender age of 18, was mustered from his regiment in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania National Guard and sent to the battlefields of Europe.

Mr. Dean served with distinction and honor in both France and Belgium as a private and then a wagoner in the cavalry. His service has been recognized by both countries with ribbons and medals.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dean's great service to his Nation was in keeping with a long family tradition.

His grandfather served in the Civil War with the Union Army of the Potomac, having volunteered at the age of 34 with the Pennsylvania cavalry.

While Mr. Dean may have retired to Florida, he never stopped trying to help his fellow veterans. For more than 10 years, Mr. Speaker, this dedicated individual drove his fellow veterans to hospitals in St. Petersburg and Tampa to make sure they received the quality medical care they deserved.

Mr. Speaker, Tampa and St. Petersburg are not right around the block from Brooksville; they are a long drive away. But Mr. Dean was willing and ready to give this kind of selfless service to others in need. According to his wife, the frequency of these trips made it necessary for Mr. Dean to buy a new car every 15 months.

On March 20, friends of William Dean will gather at the cemetery in Bushnell to bid farewell to remarkable man who witnessed both the horrors of war and some of the most astounding advances in his country's history.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dean's life reminds us how important it is that we pay tribute to those who served and sacrificed for liberty during World War I. In William Dean's care, his service to his country continued long after he laid down his Army uniform.

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#### THE NEW BAMC OPENS

HON. HENRY B. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 1996*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the opening of the new Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX.

This is a proud day—for BAMC, for the Army, and for me personally.

At long last, BAMC is a state-of-the-art, unsurpassed medical center, at the forefront of military medicine. Patients here will get the finest care, and the staff here will continue the advances in medical technology that made BAMC as famous as it is great. San Antonio will continue to advance its role as a great center for medical care and research.

There are very few people who know what a long and bitter struggle it took to bring us to this day. But today, the moment this great institution opens for business, we know that the fight was worth it, and I am proud to have led it.

The new BAMC will build on a great history and find tradition. Starting today, Army medicine has a new reason to be proud of its history and certain of its future, which I know will be as great as its past. As today's ribbon falls, we will open the doors to a great future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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#### TRIBUTE TO STEVEN HOLTER

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 1996*

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding young man, Steven Holter of Hartford, CT. Steven has recently been honored with the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise 1996 Achievement Against the Odds Award, and I am sure my colleagues will agree that his story is inspiring.

Steven grew up in a public housing complex in Hartford. Moved by the need for companionship and belonging, several of the neighborhood children formed a recreation club. What began as innocent after-school fun, however, soon became gang activity. With Steven at the helm, The Magnificent Twenties became one of Hartford's largest gangs—and the violence escalated.

Four years of brutality and bloodshed took their toll, and Steven finally tired of the ugliness. He stood before his followers one morning, and declared, "We have to move in a different direction. Today, we will curb our behavior."

"We turned from night to day, like a light switch," says Steven. The Magnificent Twenties undertook a host of community service activities, including visits to the elderly, providing food for needy families, and establishing drug- and alcohol-free discos for teens.

After 2 years of organized community service, the gang dispersed—but Steven went on, his spirit of philanthropy undimmed. Today, he continues to act as a mentor for teenagers throughout the city of Hartford. Meeting with kids in prison, making presentations in inner-city schools, or chatting with his successors on the street, Steven's message remains the same. "You can make a difference in this chaotic world," he tells them. "It won't be easy. You need to want to help yourself. No one can do this for you. Life is all about choices." He urges young men and women to make the choice for a more meaningful life, a life of service rather than of destruction.

In addition to his youth mentorship activities, Steven is also the copresident of a construction firm, Relf & Holter Home Builders, Inc. He offers young people the opportunity to train with his company to develop valuable job skills for their future.

Steven reminds neighborhood youth of their unique capacity to contribute to the community. And he gets through—after all, as Steven often says, "Can't nobody tell it the way I can tell it."

I join all my neighbors in Hartford in agreeing that nobody can. Steven is a unique and irreplaceable part of our community, and we all join in congratulating him on this well-deserved award.

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#### GRAPHIC POSTCARD ACT OF 1996

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 1996*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge support for legislation that I have introduced, the Graphic Postcard Act of 1996. My bill, formulated after postcards showing a dismembered fetus were sent unsolicited to a number of towns in Connecticut, requires that material depicting violent or sexually explicit acts sent through the U.S. Postal Service be enclosed in an envelope emblazoned with a large print warning.

It is not unusual for parents to allow small children to open the mailbox and examine the contents. Bills, letters, and most advertisements pose no threat to young children. Sexually explicit material is already required to be covered when sent through the mail.

The right to free speech is one we all cherish. This legislation will not interfere with free

speech; it does not prohibit graphic materials to be mailed, but instead places a simple requirement on their mailing in order to protect children. Like it or not, those responsible for these postcards have every legal right to use the U.S. mail to express their viewpoints. However, I believe that parents have an equal right to protect their children from graphic presentations of frightening or violent actions. Requiring an envelope and warning does not infringe on the sender's freedom of speech, it simply guarantees protection for our Nation's children.

This is rational action to stop potentially dangerous behavior. Hundreds of my constituents have called or written to let me know they were outraged by these postcards. The level of violence in our society has reached an unprecedented level and is eroding the values that have made us a strong society. We have a special obligation to protect young hands and eyes from unsuitable material, and this is step one.

I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Graphic Postcard Act of 1996.

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#### COMMENDATION OF INTERAGES ON THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 1996*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commendation of Interages, Montgomery County's intergenerational resource center, on the eve of their 10th year anniversary celebration. Over the past 10 years, Interages has become an increasingly valuable member of our local community. Interages is dedicated to bridging the gap between senior members of our society and today's youth.

Interages programs bring volunteer youth to homebound seniors, helping to alleviate their loneliness and respond to the concerns of these otherwise isolated individuals. These young people take it upon themselves to uplift the spirits of these elderly men and women, giving their time in the interest of service to their community. Rather than finding this task a sacrifice, many of them feel that it is they who benefit from the deep friendships and exchange of ideas that often occur.

Since 1990, Interages has also sponsored the intergenerational bridges project. This project brings together elderly mentors with poor and disadvantaged youth. These young people receive the benefit of their mentors' lifetime of knowledge and experience. Often matched up with illiterate and immigrant youth, the seniors enable these at-risk students to rise above their surroundings, helping them to read, write, and speak English; the students end up with an increased sense of self-worth and a reduced risk of leaving school or engaging in criminal activity. The mentors, too, find themselves learning from their proteges, as they come to see through some of the myths surrounding disadvantaged youth in today's society.

On Sunday, March 17, Interages will officially celebrate their 10th anniversary with a celebration at the Chevy Chase Women's Club. This event will again bring together young and old in the spirit of intergenerational achievement and community service that