

Angeles Times in an article of September 24, 1997, for earning the distinction of serving as a congressional page. I am especially pleased that she was chosen as a page in the House of Representatives. However, I am more pleased to have Ashley as an official representative of the 48th District of California. She is truly exceptional. I wish her well.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH STEWART
CARLSON—A QUIET AMERICAN
HEROINE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, few Members of this House have had the good fortune that I have enjoyed since I first became a Member in 1981. My greatest good fortune has been to have a district office staff of extraordinary high caliber.

For most of the 17 years that I have served in this body, I have benefited enormously from the dedication of a quiet, dignified, vital American heroine, special assistant in my district office, Elizabeth Stewart Carlson. Just a few days ago on October 3, we celebrated her 80th birthday, and at the same time we marked the beginning of another decade of dedicated service to the lives of so many by this wise, wonderful, and brave woman.

Elizabeth Carlson has been firmly rooted in the San Francisco Bay Area all of her life. Her father served for some time as the mayor of the City of Vellejo in the East Bay. As were so many in our area and elsewhere in our Nation, Betty Carlson was deeply affected by her teenage experience in the Bay Area during the Great Depression of the 1930's. Although her own family escaped some of the worst consequences of that difficult period, she saw the lives and health of others visibly ground down by deprivation and suffering. It was during that time that Betty Carlson first practiced and learned her quiet courage.

Mr. Speaker, this early observation of widespread suffering produced a desire in Betty Carlson to serve humanity. She graduated as a registered nurse in time to serve in Bay Area hospitals during the Second World War, and, in recognition of her care and compassion, she received the award for Outstanding Graduate after One Year from the Mount Zion School of Nursing. Then, and throughout her entire 30-year career in nursing, Betty applied kindness, careful treatment, common sense, and empathy to countless patients, some of them very ill and dying.

Betty Carlson's first husband, who had a career in law enforcement, met an early death in a line-of-duty accident. Because of her husband's profession, Betty lived a life of particular courage. The families of individuals which have pursued careers in public safety know the daily bravery required to watch a loved one go off to work with the knowledge of the personal danger that is involved.

Betty Carlson did not sit idly at home and wait, however. In addition to her professional nursing career, she was fully engaged in activities to support their son Frank. She continued her motherly responsibilities after her second marriage to Sten Carlson, and, with the birth of their son Eric, her responsibilities in-

creased in such areas as the PTA, Boy Scouts, and other youth groups.

In addition to her efforts with those groups that were important to her family, Betty Carlson has provided leadership and countless hours of service to many major civic and philanthropic organizations during Sten's long and dedicated service with United Airlines, and since his retirement.

The skill, compassion, courage, and leadership which Betty Carlson developed and demonstrated in her family, civic life, and formal nursing career during the first 30 years of her adult life would have made her a most highly valued member of my congressional staff. But one horrible experience she endured in 1974 has brought Betty enormous suffering, heroic reaffirmation, and positive public social action.

Mr. Speaker, in 1974, Betty Carlson's son Frank and his young wife Annette were viciously attacked in their San Francisco home. In one of the most reprehensible and appalling crimes that I have ever known about, Frank and his wife Annette were brutally and senselessly tortured and then left for dead. Betty's beloved son Frank died during that long and tragic night. Annette, Frank's wife and Betty's daughter-in-law, miraculously survived.

It is entirely fitting that we view Betty Carlson's suffering since that tragic event, her resulting religious struggle and reaffirmation, and the ongoing, quiet heroism of her principled and constructive public response in a similar light to the response of the heroic, non-violent Guatemalan Mayan Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu, after the similarly terrible torture and murder of her mother.

With the help of Betty's husband Sten and other loved ones, prayer, pastoral counsel, her own great courage, and the healing of time, Betty Carlson survived, and has helped her son's wife to live an active and productive life. Betty cofounded and served as president of the group Justice for Murder Victims. In 20 years, this group has greatly improved public awareness and to some extent improved our laws in dealing with families of the victims of murder. I have the greatest respect for Betty Carlson's ongoing service and the kindness mixed with common sense which she has shown toward many who have suffered.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Betty Carlson's 80th birthday I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding woman. We extend to her our very best wishes that she may continue to offer many more years of public service, commitment to her religious community, and a joyous family life with her husband Sten, her son Eric, and her daughters-in-law Wai Ling and Annette.

TRIBUTE TO AILEEN HARPER

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Aileen Harper for her extraordinary contributions and dedication to the Center for Health Care Rights in Los Angeles.

The Center for Health Care Rights is a California-based nonprofit organization dedicated to assuring consumer access to quality health care through information, education, counsel-

ing, advocacy, and research programs. Founded in 1984 as the Medicare Advocacy Project, the Center for Health Care Rights has gained widespread recognition as a leader among the State's health insurance counseling and advocacy programs. The center offers more than 1 million Medicare beneficiaries in Los Angeles County a free, one-stop service center that provides much needed counseling and education.

The success of the Center for Health Care Rights depends greatly upon its devoted and knowledgeable staff. Aileen is being presented with the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program Service Award for her ongoing leadership and vision at the center. This past September marked her 13th anniversary with the center. During her tenure, Aileen has developed and managed programs in community education and counseling designed to provide assistance with Medicare, managed care, long-term care, and other related health insurance matters that Medicare beneficiaries face in Los Angeles County.

Aileen currently serves as the director of district service programs, continuing her long-time commitment to serving the center's clients, particularly the underserved elderly and disabled populations who seek the center's counsel. She has also developed extensive experience with consumer concerns and protections in Medicare and managed care, having authored a number of consumer training materials that are used not only by the center, but by other Medicare advocates in California as well.

Our community owes Aileen a debt of gratitude for her significant accomplishments and distinguished record of achievement. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding her tremendous efforts and in wishing her happiness and success for the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARRIAGE
PENALTY RELIEF ACT

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of H.R. 2593, the Marriage Penalty Relief Act. I am pleased to report that a bipartisan group of my colleagues, including Mrs. KENNELLY, Mr. WELLER, Mr. CRANE, Mr. SHAW, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. MCCREERY, Mr. CAMP, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. DUNN, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. COYNE have joined me in this effort to provide relief to those couples who pay more in taxes simply because they are married.

Now that the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 has been signed into law, Congress must begin to consider its options for further tax relief in 1998. While this year's landmark tax cut does provide important benefits to students, investors, small business owners, and families with children, no specific provisions were included to assist those families victimized by the marriage penalty. I strongly believe that marriage penalty relief should figure prominently into the next tax cut passed by Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the marriage penalty imposes a substantial burden on a great many American families. According to a recent report by the Congressional Budget Office, the average marriage penalty was nearly \$1,400 in 1996. Indeed, under 1996 tax law, married couples could have owed the IRS more than \$20,000 in additional taxes compared to what they would have owed had they not been married. This is patently unfair, Mr. Speaker, and Congress must act to provide these families the relief that they deserve.

As financial pressures push more and more nonworking spouses into the labor force, an increasing number of families fall prey to marriage penalties. Indeed, CBO estimates that 42 percent of all married couples—some 21 million families—incurred marriage penalties in 1996. One of the major reasons why so many of these joint filers face this added tax burden is that the very first dollar earned by a family's lower earning spouse is taxed at the marginal rate of the higher earning spouse. Exempting some of the lower earning spouse's income from tax would mitigate this unfair situation, providing significant relief to the millions of Americans who face a higher tax bill solely because they are married.

Mr. Speaker, two-earner married couples were once entitled to a significant tax deduction to help offset the marriage penalties that are built into the Internal Revenue Code. However, the Code no longer permits these families to take advantage of this deduction. The Marriage Penalty Relief Act would simply restore this two-earner deduction, once again allowing couples a 10-percent deduction for up to \$30,000 of the lower earning spouse's income. While this approach will not eliminate the marriage penalty in all cases, it will provide meaningful relief to victims of this unfair tax—at roughly one-third the estimated revenue cost of outright elimination.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that providing families relief from the marriage penalty should be a major legislative priority during the next session of the 105th Congress. I am pleased that the approach adopted in my legislation has already attracted substantial bipartisan support, and I would urge the rest of my colleagues to cosponsor the Marriage Penalty Relief Act.

GUAM BATTLES FAMILY VIOLENCE

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 1997

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, last week my home island of Guam was shocked by the death of 7-year-old Erica Aquino, her mother Therese Crisostomo Aquino and her father Rudy Aquino. The island of Guam is shocked and horrified at the horrible details of these violent deaths. According to police and media reports, Rudy Aquino, estranged from his ex-wife Therese, had shot her and then their young daughter Erica before turning the shotgun on himself. Immediate family members were summoned to the scene of the crime to learn first hand of the tragedy. They had been preparing for a birthday celebration in honor of Therese's brother, a newly ordained parish priest.

Therese was a social worker in the adult protective services unit of the Guam Depart-

ment of Public Health and Social Services. Her daughter Erica was a second grade student at San Vicente School in Barrigada. A week has passed since these deaths and the family and friends of Therese Crisostomo Aquino and her daughter Erica are asking many questions, "Why did it happen?; How could we have helped?" The friends and family of Rudy Aquino also ask "Why did it happen?" and "How could we have helped?"

The incident occurred on the eve of Governor Carl Gutierrez's Proclamation of October as Family Violence Awareness Month. As if to demonstrate the need for such a proclamation, three lives were lost because of family violence. As we all know, family violence affects us regardless of age, sexual orientation, physical ability, marital status, ethnicity, cultural or educational background, religion or economic status. It is often ignored and tolerated by our society, and despite the number of agencies and nonprofit organizations set up to assist them, many victims continue to feel isolated and ashamed, and even responsible for the abuse—blaming themselves. We have to do all that we can to let them know that they are not alone.

Family violence affects the whole family, especially children. Children in abusive homes carry the terrible lessons of violence with them into adulthood and into the next generation. Children who grow up in violent homes are 6 times more likely to commit suicide, 24 times more likely to commit sexual assault crimes, 74 times more likely to commit crimes against the person and 50 times more likely to abuse drugs or alcohol.

Sadly, in Guam, despite a culture in which our elderly or "manamko", as they are affectionately known, are honored and revered, it was essential for our government to open an adult protective services unit in 1989. Since its inception, there have been 800 reports of physical and emotional abuse received by our island's elderly and disabled. Abuse in our families has reached into the generations that preceded us.

In Guam, police officers have responded to 5,969 family violence offenses from 1993 through 1995. During that same time period, the Child Protective Services received 5,881 referrals, and in 1996 they have reviewed over 3,000 of these referrals. In 1995, the Guam Attorney General's Office prosecuted 106 criminal felony cases and 248 criminal misdemeanor cases; while from January through June, 1996, they prosecuted 50 criminal felonies and 248 criminal misdemeanor cases. So many women and men are reluctant to admit to the violence and reach out beyond the family that experts believe the actual prevalence may be much higher than the numbers indicate.

So what are we doing in Guam to lessen and eliminate the instances of violence taking place between family members? Since 1993, the Governor, through executive order, has established the family violence task force comprised of all governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations which deal with family violence. Among its primary duties is the development and implementation of inter-and intra-departmental or agency policy and protocol on family violence; the development and evaluation of prevention and treatment programs for the community-at-large and for targeted groups; and the establishment of a community resource, referral and visitation center to dis-

seminate throughout the territory, educational information and materials concerning prevention and response to family violence.

The family violence task force was just re-institutionalized this year, and includes the following members: The First Lady of Guam, Mrs. Geraldine T. Gutierrez; and representatives of the following private and public entities: the Guam Police Department; the Department of Corrections; the Department of Law, Attorney General's Office; the Superior Court of Guam, Family Counseling and Client Services Division; the Guam Legal Services Corporation; the Public Defender Services Corporation; the Guam Bar; Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse; the Crisis Hotline; Healing Hearts; Department of Public Health & Social Services, Adult and Child Protective Services; Department of Youth Affairs; the Governor's Community Outreach Federal Programs Office; the Mayors' Council of Guam; the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority; the Guam Department of Education; the Guam Community College; the University of Guam; the Alee Shelter and Shelter for Abused Children, Catholic Social Services; Victim Advocates Reaching Out [VARO] inafamaolek, Inc; Victim Witness Ayuda Services; Sanctuary Inc; United Women of Micronesia; Naval Services Center, U.S. Navy Hospital Guam; Andersen Air Force Base Support Flight; and other individuals, to be named from the community-at-large which include religious leaders, private business persons and members of civic associations and organizations.

The Family Violence Task Force has traditionally held a public awareness campaign throughout the month of October. This year, Family Violence Awareness Month is being headed by Alicia Limtiaco, a private attorney who has formerly served as the island's Chief Prosecutor. One of the many events planned for the month is a "Silent Witness Exhibit" in memory of fatalities of domestic violence of Guam. Guam will be represented in the national events being held this month here in Washington by First Lady Geri Gutierrez, Sister Eileen of the Alee Shelter, and Marie McElligot of the Superior Court of Guam, as well as other dedicated supporters and advocates.

Also scheduled throughout the month are numerous appearances on all the local radio and television stations, as well as forums for specific target groups such as "Up Close and Personal" for service providers, "Ashes, Ashes We All Fall Down" for university students; and forums with broader themes such as "Legal Issues," "Life Skills for Women Only," "Life Skills Seminar for Couples," and "For Men Only." The local churches are encouraged to conduct sermons on family violence, and a poster and essay contest will be conducted in the island's schools.

Despite all these efforts, Guam continues to battle with family violence. It is recognized as a very serious and escalating problem within our community, and will take the entire community to actively work together to make our island safe for everyone, especially our women, children, elderly and disabled. On behalf of the people of Guam and the United States, I commend the dedicated work of all of the agencies, professionals, and volunteers, who work tirelessly to bring peace to each island family.