

Late last year, I introduced the Good Samaritan Tax Act, HR 2450, and I urge my colleagues to support that. I also am looking into ways we can remove obstacles to trucking companies and others who can help get food to hungry people.

Third, we must increase the minimum wage. As the Latham, New York food bank put it, "The fastest growing group of people being served by food pantries is the working poor. That is a disgrace. Minimum wage should lift people out of poverty."

There are other good anti-hunger initiatives as well, but if we are serious about answering the clear call of food banks in trouble, these three ought to be at the top of the agenda.

Food banks have been doing the hard work on the front lines of fighting hunger for decades. They are supported by their communities, and they are the organizations that increasing numbers of citizens turn to. In my own state of Ohio, one in nine people seek emergency food assistance every month, according to a September 1997 report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

When I visited my local food bank in Dayton recently, I was amazed to find it was the same place I had come often in the past. Then, the shelves were brimming with food—and good food too. Lately, the shelves have been empty, and when I visited it seemed they contained more marshmallows than nutritious staple foods. I was able to convince Kroger to make a generous donation to help Dayton's food bank. I urge my colleagues to see for themselves what is happening in their own communities, and to lend a hand in whatever way you can to answer this growing need.

Increasing numbers of people are so hungry they're willing to stand in line for food, Mr. Speaker. I cannot rest knowing that, too often, there is no food at the end of that line. I urge my colleagues to take a look at this survey, which is available from my office, and to see the situation for themselves in their own communities.

IT'S TIME TO COMPENSATE  
FILIPINO VETS

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 17, 1998*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of providing fair equity to the Filipino veterans of World War II.

I represent many Filipino veterans in Congress, and I have witnessed their fortitude and love of country and heard many accounts of their bravery and dedication in the face of battle.

Sadly, these veterans—despite their service and sacrifice—are not considered to have been in "active service", and are thus not eligible for full veterans benefits. Many of these veterans served in the battle of Bataan, were subject to the horrors of the Bataan Death March, and fought against the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. No one can argue that they did not earn their right to be considered World War Two veterans—yet current law does just that.

I am hopeful that we are moving closer to finally providing these brave and honorable people the benefits they have earned and de-

serve. In the 104th Congress, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a resolution expressing strong support for Filipino veterans. This year, the President's budget request actually includes funding—\$5 million—for benefits for these veterans.

Now is the time to give equal treatment to Filipino veterans. Over 180 Members of Congress, including myself, have cosponsored H.R. 836, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, which would provide all Filipino veterans full and equal benefits available to other veterans of the Second World War. This legislation is long overdue and, especially given how little the House of Representatives is scheduled to consider this year, there is no reason not to enact this bill in this session of Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support the President's request for funding for Filipino veterans, and push for swift consideration of H.R. 836. It is the least we can do for those who fought so bravely in the defense of our country.

TRIBUTE TO ROSA R. AND CARLOS  
M. de la CRUZ

**HON. PETER DEUTSCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 17, 1998*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rosa R. and Carlos M. de la Cruz, Sr. on receiving the Simon Weisenthal Center National Community Service Award. Mr. and Mrs. de la Cruz are being honored for their outstanding commitment to the community. Over the past several years, they have worked together to improve education and social services, promote the arts, help the underprivileged, and foster better relations for all people.

The de la Cruz family defines caring. Born in Havana, Cuba, Carlos and Rosa de la Cruz moved to Miami in 1975. Since arriving in South Florida, they have been a wonderful example of charitable giving, devoting time to education, social services, and the world of art and artists. In 1997, they received the coveted Alexis de Tocqueville Award for Outstanding Philanthropy from the United Way.

Carlos de la Cruz's leadership and enduring generosity is a beacon for us all. For six years, he chaired the development committee for the University of Miami. He also established a Black Educational Scholarship Fund at Florida International University and raised endowment for a campus for Belen Preparatory School. In 1990, Carlos became the first Cuban American to chair the United Way campaign. He helped guide the creation of a United Way program called GRASP to help Cuban and Haitian refugees get off to a good start in our country. Among his accomplishments, Carlos de la Cruz has received the Silver Medallion Brotherhood Award from the National Congregation of Christians and Jews, the Distinguished Service Award from Florida International University, and the Social Responsibility from the Urban League.

Rosa de la Cruz has shared her talent to the world of art. She serves on the Exhibitor Committee of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Acquisition Committee of the Miami Art Museum and is actively involved with the Museum of Contemporary Art of North Miami. She has helped countless contemporary artists express their talents and themselves.

I wish Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz the best on receiving this prestigious honor from the Simon Weisenthal Center. Their leadership and ability to inspire others is truly admirable and I know that they will continue on their benevolent path.

JOAN DUNLOP: LEADER FOR  
WOMEN'S HEALTH

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 17, 1998*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career and accomplishments of Joan Dunlop, one of the world's truly outstanding leaders for women's health.

As the President of the International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC), Ms. Dunlop has successfully transformed a once small organization into an agency with a genuinely global scope. Widely recognized as a top authority on women's health and population policy, IWHC now supports some fifty projects in eight countries, enlists the talent and energy of thousands of committed activists and policy-makers, and helps countless individuals make sensible health and family planning decisions.

Thanks to Ms. Dunlop, debate about reproductive health and population policy has achieved a new prominence at international conferences, and a greater claim on the attention of global decision-makers. She was instrumental in shaping the agenda of the 1994 United Nations Conference on Population and Development and the Women's Conference in Beijing in 1995.

Ms. Dunlop came to the IWHC after an already distinguished career in philanthropy and public service. She worked with the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Family, helped develop strong leadership at the Population Council, served as the vice-president of the Public Affairs Division of Planned Parenthood, and as the Executive Assistant to the President of the New York Public Library.

Mr. Speaker, on April 20, the staff, supporters, and friends of the IWHC will gather to honor Joan Dunlop and celebrate her inspiring contribution to the cause of women's health world-wide. I wish to add my heartfelt thanks and express my passionate belief in the goals to which Joan Dunlop has devoted her professional life.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE PATIENT  
RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT AP-  
PEAL ACT OF 1998"

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 17, 1998*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation guaranteeing Americans one of the most fundamental of patient's rights: the right to appeal adverse decisions made by health insurance companies.

"The Patient Right to Independent Appeal Act of 1998" ensures patients the ability to receive an independent, unbiased review of their cases when their plan decides to deny, reduce or terminate coverage in these circumstances: