

HONORING THE CHINATOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF SAN FRANCISCO

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the Chinatown Community Development Center of San Francisco, which has been selected to receive the Fannie Mae Foundation Sustained Excellence Award.

For the past 21 years, the Chinatown Development Center (CCDC) has served North-eastern San Francisco neighborhood's through providing low-income housing development and management and by fostering a sense of community. CCDC incorporates a unique approach to community development that combines housing advocacy with community involvement through grassroots organizing and neighborhood planning. Supportive services empower residents to become self-sufficient and to participate in formulating public policy issues that directly affect them. Throughout its 21-year history, CCDC's principal projects reflect how it has merged housing with community improvement.

The significant contributions that CCDC has made include managing more than 1,000 units of affordable housing with a multitude of tenant services and the creation of 10 commercial spaces for small businesses to help provide employment for local residents. The CCDC has also contributed to fostering neighborhood pride through the creation of a street cleaning venture called the Chinatown Environmental Organizations and through coordination of neighborhood-based planning resulting in the renovation of five new parks, gardens, and courtyards in neighborhoods with limited safe, recreational areas. Additionally, CCDC provides citizenship and educational classes, as well as counseling and translation services for its residents.

We in San Francisco are proud of our diversity and CCDC has played a key role in supporting immigrant and low-income populations throughout the city. By investing in low-income residents, CCDC has brought new life and hope to San Francisco's low-income neighborhoods. CCDC is a model of sustained high quality housing development and management combined with active grassroots community organizing. CCDC possesses a clear vision for sustaining its communities for years to come. I join with the people of San Francisco in congratulating and thanking Gordon Chin and CCDC for its 21 years of accomplishments and send my very best wishes for continued success.

HONORING REVEREND BRAXTON BURGESS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before you today to recognize the achievements of Reverend Braxton Vincent Burgess of Flint, Michigan. On Saturday, May

30, the congregation of Flint's Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church will honor Reverend Burgess for the many contributions he has made to our community.

Reverend Burgess earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Wilberforce University in Ohio and continued his education at Payne Theological Seminary where he received his Master's of Divinity. To continue his mission of peace and social change, he received a diploma in urban ministry from the Urban Training Center of Chicago and served as a member of President Carter's White House Council on Arms Control.

In 1967, Reverend Burgess was ordained as an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Since that time he has committed his life's work to providing spiritual guidance and counsel to countless individuals. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Urban League of Flint, Past President of the Greater Flint Association of Christian Churches, and a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Genesee County, Reverend Burgess has been a highly effective leader. His dedication to ensuring that everyone is afforded a quality education is evidenced by his tenure on the Advisory Committee for the Mott Adult High School Continuing Education Program.

Reverend Burgess's tireless service and deeds have earned him recognition from various groups such as the Flint Optimist International, Western Michigan University's Black Studies Department, the State of Michigan House of Representatives, and the Flint Chapter of the NAACP, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saluting an inspirational individual, Reverend Braxton Vincent Burgess. He deserves our thanks for a lifelong commitment to making our community a much better place.

ARMED FORCES' DAY "WE MUST REMEMBER"

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I joined the veterans in my community to recognize the first day the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Flag was flown Nationally on Armed Forces' Day.

During the day, I had the opportunity to hear the stories of America's POWs and MIAs.

Their stories weighed on my heart and angered my senses. These men deserve from the United States as much, if not more, than they have given to us.

For these reasons, I cosponsored Public Law 105-85, legislation that requires the flying of the POW/MIA flag at Federal facilities, including U.S. Post Offices.

Having the flag flown at Federal offices and facilities will help us remember the work that remains to honor these courageous individuals and their families.

The POW/MIA flag offers us an opportunity not only to remember and recognize those we have lost, but also to rededicate ourselves to the cause of finding these men or their remains and bringing them home to their families and their grateful Nation.

We need to secure a full accounting of the men and women who fought for our Nation's flag and who were captured by the enemy or listed as missing.

We must work together to ensure the fullest possible accounting of these men for their family and all Americans who have benefited from their fight for freedom and liberty.

Although this is a good first step to recognizing and remembering those missing soldiers, I believe we must do more.

Recently, I joined several of my colleagues in contacting the State Department expressing our concern about the POW/MIA who are still unaccounted for from the Korean War.

We felt that the POW/MIA subject should have been a priority subject during the negotiations in Geneva this past December.

I strongly believe that any agreement for peace must include a serious commitment on the part of the government of North Korea to locate missing soldiers of the thousands of Korean Veterans I represent.

As you know, a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, underscored by a unified democratic government is a goal for which our Veterans fought bravely during the conflict of 1950-1953.

Under adverse conditions, and sometimes against a numerically superior enemy, U.S. troops battled to preserve a non-communist enclave on the Asian continent.

At a time during the cold war when the forces of communism seemed on the rise across the world, the performance of our valiant soldiers, sailors and airmen affirmed the resolve of democracy.

Now that the first steps to achieving peace in Korea are being taken, it is paramount that the US negotiators insist on POW/MIA closure are subject to any formal accord.

By doing so, we honor the troops who put forth the ultimate sacrifice;

We honor their families, who have lived with uncertainty about their loved ones for over 40 years; most importantly;

We honor those veterans of the Korean War still living, who will never forget their colleagues lost on the nameless hills, ridges and valleys during those 3 long years.

I will continue to urge the State Department to work with the Pentagon in articulating a clear and resolute position for the United States on unresolved POW/MIA personnel cases as the talks continue.

A lasting peace cannot be fully achieved unless those who fought for it are accounted for by a grateful nation.

And I will continue to express my concern to the federal government.

It has been over 20 years since the war in Vietnam ended, yet our Government has still not accounted for so many of those men who went to a far away nation to defend an unknown people against an unseen enemy.

We have almost erased the scourge of Communism from the face of the earth, yet we have not yet fully recognized all of the men who made this victory of democracy possible.

Until we bring home these men, the war is not over. We must continue to fight and remember those we have lost in our battle for freedom.

Until all of the men, from throughout this country, have been accounted for, we must not rest in our efforts.

As a member of the National Security Committee, I commit myself to America's veterans.

I commit myself to working in the memory of the thousands of Americans who served in America's wars and were captured by the enemy or listed as missing in action.

I commit myself to the families of those whose fate has been unknown and who have had to suffer tragic and continuing hardships.

In Washington, engraved at the Veterans's Administration Building, is a quote from Abraham Lincoln, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his orphan."

I do not believe that America has sufficiently cared for all of those men who have been declared missing or captured.

Until we have a full accounting, we cannot fulfill this promise to America's veterans and families.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BLAIR J. NAHM ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, NEW YORK

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Blair J. Nahm. Blair recently accepted his offer of appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

The Nahm family has a long tradition with West Point, as Blair's older brother, Reid, is currently a Cadet Third Class. As Blair will soon be graduating from Tiffin Columbian High School, he, too, will be embarking on what figures to be one of the most educational and challenging opportunities of his life.

While attending Columbian High School, Blair excelled academically by attaining a 3.735 grade point average, placing him in the top ten percent of his class. Blair's academic excellence was extended through his involvement in the National Honor Society. He also participated in the Ohio Test of Scholastic Achievement, where he placed second in the district in pre-calculus.

Blair is also a fine student-athlete, and has distinguished himself on the fields of competition. He was a key member of the Varsity Football Team and Varsity Wrestling Team. In fact, during his junior year of wrestling, Blair received the Wrestling Iron Man Award for his accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that Blair will be very successful at West Point and in all of his future endeavors. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying tribute to Blair J. Nahm, and in wishing him well as he prepares to enter the United States Military Academy.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MARJORIE SLAVENS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to say a few words in tribute

to an outstanding teacher, Dr. Marjorie Slavens, who after nearly 40 years in the teaching profession, has decided to retire.

Dr. Slavens, who has been blind since a small child, has dedicated her life to teaching others. She is a Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Missouri at Columbia—holding both Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees. She earned her Ph.D. from St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO. After graduating, Dr. Slavens began teaching Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages at Rockford College in Rockford, IL, and continued at this post for 33 years. During this period, student workers proudly assisted Dr. Slavens by taking attendance and proctoring tests, and tape-recording examinations for Slavens to grade.

Dr. Slavens's unique teaching style has earned recognition. In 1987, Dr. Slavens received the Illinois Lieutenant Governor's Award for service to the foreign language teaching profession. The college also appointed her Director of Advising, and she published Rockford College's first Academic Advising Handbook. In 1989, she was awarded the Mary Ashby Cheek Award that recognized her as an Honorary Alumni of the college. In 1991, a committee composed of faculty, staff, and students selected Dr. Slavens to receive the Sears Foundation Award for teaching excellence and campus leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating Dr. Marjorie Slavens on a spectacular teaching career. As she prepares for her retirement and the enjoyment therein, Dr. Slavens will undoubtedly take pride in her legacy as one of the nation's most special educators.

PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL DAY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, on May 15 our Nation honored the brave men and women in law enforcement with Peace Officers' Memorial Day, designated 36 years ago by President John F. Kennedy. This day of acknowledgment for the selfless contributions made by hardworking individuals falls during National Police Week. I rise today to pay tribute to all law enforcement professionals across our country and to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Last year, 159 officers lost their lives in the line of duty. These fine individuals died serving the best interests of our society, working hard to protect our citizens. Patrolling our streets and highways, protecting our homes and families, and seeking out criminals are in the job descriptions of law enforcement professionals. Yet we all too often take for granted these hardworking people.

The National Association of Police Chiefs reported 21 confirmed line-or-duty deaths for January of 1998, ten more than reported in January of 1997. Even as crime rates are dropping, peace officer fatalities are steadily rising. Since 1980, 1,182 officers have been killed in the line of duty by firearms. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 42 percent of those officers could have survived had they been wearing bulletproof vests. That is why I am pleased that the Bulletproof Vest

Partnership Act was approved by Congress last week. This bill will provide Federal grants to match State and local government funds in purchasing bulletproof vests for law enforcement officers. This bill will take steps to provide these brave men and women with the tools they need to fight crime, protect society, and insure that they make it home.

We should not forget the hardworking, courageous men and women who every day step into the role of peace officer to make our society a safer place. I thank the Members for supporting the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Act and observing National Police Week and Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

THE NIGERIAN DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT ACT, H.R. 3890

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, along with Representative DONALD M. PAYNE of New Jersey, the Nigerian Democracy and Civil Society Empowerment Act, H.R. 3890. Mr. PAYNE, a senior member of our International Relations Committee, has been a true leader in Congress on this issue. He identified the corrupt, venal nature of the Nigerian regime long before many of us, and I am pleased to work with him on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, while many other African nations are moving toward democracy and joining the world economy, the military government of Nigeria has become one of the most brutal and corrupt dictatorships on the continent.

Nevertheless, Nigeria remains important to U.S. interests. With a population of more than 100 million people, and the strongest military in the region, Nigeria is the key to security and development in all of West Africa. If Nigeria descends into chaos, millions of people from Senegal to Cameroon will suffer.

Nigerian drug traffickers, who have thrived under this regime, are among the most skilled in the world, reportedly delivering 70% of the heroin that enters Chicago alone, as part of their world-wide distribution networks.

Our bill sends a clear message to the military regime in Nigeria that the status quo is unacceptable. The Nigerian people want and deserve a real transition to democratic, civilian government, and this measure points U.S. foreign policy toward that goal. This legislation does three things.

It establishes a program to assist those in Nigeria who are willing to take risks for democracy and human rights. As was done during the apartheid regime in South Africa, the United States will aid those who stand against the illegitimate government of Nigeria and for a return to democratic, civilian rule.

The bill codifies into law the various sanctions that have been imposed on Nigeria by executive order, from visa restrictions to prohibitions on weapons sales, and establishes conditions under which these sanctions can be lifted.

The bill also mandates further measures if a transition to a democratic government under civilian control does not occur by the end of