

The catalyst for Washington's transformation has been school principal, Kaye Burnside. Kaye's personal commitment and perseverance are responsible for Washington's dramatic turnaround. She has worked to assemble a team of teachers, educational professionals and community volunteers who mirror her passion and creativity, and who have created a place alive with learning.

Under Kaye's leadership, many educational partnerships have been forged, including Break the Cycle, a project with the University of California which provides after-school math tutors for approximately 90 students, and Project SEED, a program which introduces elementary students to algebra and other higher math. Washington has been designated a science magnet school and in keeping with their school mascot—the dolphin—a core marine science curriculum has been developed which runs as a theme throughout the many facets of school life. Kaye's efforts have also resulted in recognition from the Annenberg Foundation which has named Washington as an Annenberg Leadership School and provided support for Washington's contract with Early Childhood Resources to provide peer coaching of classroom teachers.

Recognizing that technological literacy is an important element of any student's future success, Kaye has strived to ensure that Washington students are fully versed in utilization and application of informational technology. Kaye recruited the talent which has brought to Washington a state-of-the-art computer learning center and integrated technology into the broader school curriculum. Development of the "Kid's Page" is just one example of this successful integration, with Washington students undertaking a project which challenged their hands-on computer skills while simultaneously asking them to research and explore various aspects of representational government and the legislative process.

Kaye has always envisioned that Washington would be more than just a school. She has built a true community center, a place in which neighbors feel a sense of pride and ownership. Washington has become the focus of the Many Hands Foundation, an exemplary community partnership which has brought together parents, business leaders and a cadre of volunteers in support of educational excellence. The Many Hands Foundation provides three business sponsors for each of Washington's classrooms. Many Hands also sponsors the Spirit of Excellence program, a program which rewards academic achievement with scholarships to summer Science Camp and purchase of a home computer.

The Many Hands Foundation, believing that Kaye has developed something truly special at Washington Elementary, will soon be awarding Kaye a grant enabling her to document the story of Washington's transformation. Washington is a model for replication in communities throughout our country, and I am personally honored to have been involved with its success. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tremendous contributions of Kaye Burnside and the Washington School community in the education of our young people.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ARREST OF FOUR FROM CUBAN DOMESTIC DISSIDENCE WORKING GROUP

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, one year ago today, on July 16, 1997, Rene Gomez Manzano, Marta Beatriz Roque, Felix Bonne Carcases, and Vladimiro Roca of the Domestic Dissidence Working Group were arrested in Cuba. These four brave dissidents authored a document titled "The Nation Belongs to Everyone," which offered their views on the social and economic situation in the country and on a peaceful transition of democracy. The document was issued as a response to the official declaration of the 5th Cuban Communist Party Congress.

The Castro Regime has not even had the courage to publicly charge these four prisoners of conscience, although Amnesty International believes they have been secretly charged with disseminating "enemy propaganda."

Last January, a Congressional Staff Delegation brought back a photograph of a courageous soul at Pope John Paul's Mass in Havana holding a sign aloft bearing the words "The Nation Belongs to Everyone." these four brave dissidents have not been forgotten in Cuba. It is our duty to remember them here. The Clinton Administration has made a number of unilateral concessions to the Castro regime in recent months. President Clinton should have eschewed this empty rhetoric and these unrequited concessions and instead demanded the release of these political prisoners.

The Miami Herald reported today that imprisoned dissident Vladimiro Roca in an open letter to the foreign press and diplomatic corps, asked Wednesday for a "fair and public trial" for himself and the three other dissident leaders. He said "We wish to draw public attention to our situation and to demand a fair and public trial, in the presence of the foreign press and any diplomats accredited in Cuba who may wish to attend, in proceedings both transparent and aboveboard."

Mr. Speaker, I believe that our European and Canadian and Latin American friends and allies have a special responsibility to act to secure the release of these four dissidents. Shortly before they were arrested, the dissidents held a briefing for foreign diplomats.

Two of the dissidents, Marta Beatriz Roque and Felix Bonne, described in a recorded July 7 conversation just days before they were arrested how only the United States Interests Section attended their briefing. Asked why other countries' embassies failed to attend, Roque replied: "Well, we think because of pressures." Felix Bonne added "We're hurt by the countries that did not attend . . . We're grateful to [U.S. Principal Officer Michael] Kozak and U.S. Human Rights Officer] Tim Brown."

On August 12th, 1997, Armando Correa reported in The Miami Herald 19 years old Idiana Durate's experience sharing a small, unventilated cell with Marta Beatriz Roque and three prostitutes.

Duarte said that she and her companions tried to keep the cell clean even though they

were given water only twice a week. She was quoted as tearfully recalling: "We had to use something that wasn't even a bathroom, with no privacy and with overwhelming human waste. At one point I became desperate in the terrible heat and I was only able to find refuge in Marta Beatriz."

Duarte said "In that cell, next to Marta Beatriz [Roque] I learned what it's like to be a dissident, what it's like for a woman who has to struggle for her ideals." Roque, 52, was like a mother to her, Duarte said. "She told me: 'Be strong; don't pay attention to these torturers.'"

Roque's behavior during questioning by Interior Ministry officials impressed Duarte. "Every time my turn came up, I suffered," Duarte said. "But Marta talked back to them, raked them over with a courage I've never seen in a woman."

Shortly before being released, Duarte learned that Cuban government prosecutors had asked for 20 years' imprisonment for Roque. "They want to frighten me," Duarte quoted Roque as saying. "But if I have to serve them I will, because I'm fighting for a just cause."

Marta Beatriz Roque and Vladimiro Roca have suffered serious health problems during their imprisonment. Marta Beatriz Roque has now reportedly been moved to a cell with hardened, violent criminals and is subjected to constant threats.

Accordingly, I invite our colleagues to join in an appeal to the Cuban Government to release these four dissidents.

HONORING DON A. HORN

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Don A. Horn for his outstanding contributions to the community and his thirty years of service on behalf of working Americans as Secretary-Treasurer of the Harris County, Texas, ALF-CIO Executive Board. Don Horn retired in 1995 and will be honored at a belated, but well-deserved retirement party on July 22, 1998, when his enduring contributions will be remembered.

A graduate of the University of Houston, Don Horn became a union member in 1945 when he joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Houston. Don served Local 716 as a member of the Executive Board, President, and Business Representative. In 1965, the Harris County AFL-CIO Executive Board elected Don as Secretary-Treasurer, a position he held until his retirement in 1995. During these 30 years, he also served on the Texas AFL-CIO Executive Board as a Trustee. In all these endeavors, Don Horn has provided a strong voice of clarity, wisdom, and constant dedication on behalf of working people. He has fought to protect the rights of working people and ensure fair compensation and sound benefits such as health care and a secure retirement. He has also been active in the political process, working to ensure that the concerns of working people are heard and addressed.

Don Horn also served on countless community organizations, providing a voice for organized labor on community affairs.