

I believe we have an obligation to maintain these services.

Our failure to ensure a safe environment for women in the armed services compels us to reauthorize this vital program.

Unfortunately, current law also does not enable all the victims of sexual abuse in the military to receive counseling at the VA.

Current law excludes active and former reservists and national guard members from seeking this vital care.

This is a serious oversight that needs correction.

Female reservists have been the victims of sexual abuse while on active duty in the Gulf and in Bosnia. They have come back with the scars of these crimes and have not been afforded care at VA facilities.

Reservists have also been the victims of these serious crimes during their active training.

Unfortunately, these crimes often go unreported because the Defense Department refuses to investigate offenses that affect non-active duty soldiers.

Because of this policy, no recourse exists for reservists and no care is provided.

This is wrong and my amendment will correct this loophole.

The Department of Veterans Affairs wants this program reauthorized until 2002 and Congress should comply with this request.

The veterans community wants this program reauthorized and wants all the victims of sexual abuse during their military service to be eligible for proper treatment.

As Josephus Vandengobergh (VAN-DEN-GO-BERGH), the National Commander of AMVETS, states in a letter of support for my amendment, "AMVETS strongly supports Congressman Guterrez's amendment to HR 4194, to reauthorize and improve the VA's sexual trauma program. If nothing is done, this program will expire in December. We would like to see it established as a permanent program, we believe it has proved its worth."

Today, our nation has more than 1.2 million women veterans.

This amendment would respond to their needs and help them gain the recognition they deserve and care they have earned.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and honor our obligations to women veterans.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to enter for the RECORD the letter from Josephus Vandengobergh, the National Commander of AMVETS, in support of my amendment.

AMVETS

Lanham, MD, July 14, 1998.

Hon. GERALD SOLOMON,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: AMVETS strongly supports Congressman Luis Guterrez's amendment to H.R. 4194 (the VA/HUD Appropriations Bill) to reauthorize and improve the "Veterans Sexual Trauma Treatment Act."

AMVETS, along with other veterans service organizations, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Government Accounting Office, testified earlier this year to the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health that this program needs to be reauthorized. We would like to see it established as a permanent program; we believe it has proved its worth.

Enclosed is our testimony, as well as the testimony of the VA and GAO. Mr.

Guterrez's amendment would reauthorize the program and expand its scope to cover Reservists and National Guard who experienced sexual trauma during military duty. Currently VA includes these groups in the program; therefore, no additional costs will be incurred by their addition.

If nothing is done, the program will expire in December of this year. According to VA, more than 18,000 women veterans and 200 male veterans have accessed sexual trauma counseling services. Please help save this viable program.

Sincerely,

JOSEPHUS C. VANDENGOBERGH,  
National Commander.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ANNE SPEAKE

#### HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Anne Speake for being selected to receive the Central California Woman in Business Advocate of the Year Award by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Ms. Speake is viewed as a role model for all women owning businesses. Not only is she a tremendous asset as a mentor, but she is also a leader in our business community.

Anne Speake is the owner and operator of the International English Institute. Anne started this business over 15 years ago, and is successful not only here in the Valley but globally through the International English Institute. Most recently she was selected as the Fresno Chamber of Commerce President. As Chamber President, Anne will be influential in shaping and molding the Valley's policy toward small businesses.

The Women in Business Advocate Award is presented annually to individuals who fulfill a commitment to the advancement of women's business ownership. Selection criteria for the award is based on the following areas: 1) Efforts to increase business and financial opportunities for women; 2) Legal, financial or managerial assistance; 3) Voluntary efforts to strengthen the role of women business owners within the community; 4) Advocacy of the women-owned business community as a whole.

Anne Speake was nominated for this award by Glendale Federal Bank. Anne Speake is viewed as a consensus builder and a leader. She commands respect from others, because she leads by example. Ms. Speake is deeply committed to our community, through her active involvement in the Fresno Business Council and the Fresno Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Anne Speake of the International English Institute. Mrs. Speake exemplifies what it means to be an advocate for small business. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Anne Speake many more years of success.

NEEDED: GOOD HELICOPTERS, NOT ACADEMIC DEBATE IN COLOMBIA; EIGHT ANTI-DRUG POLICE DIE IN HUEY CRASH

#### HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this week in northern Colombia, eight Colombian National Police (CNP) officers from the elite DANTI anti-drug unit died following a crash of one of the U.S.-provided, Vietnam-era Huey helicopters. These anti-drug police officers died flying a worn out 35-year-plus chopper after a take down operation against a rightwing paramilitary cocaine lab in the Uraba region, near the border with Panama.

Congress has argued that these good police officers fighting our fight against drugs before they reach our streets and kill our kids, deserve the best helicopter equipment we can provide. The House International Relations Committee has long argued for better and crash-survivable helicopters. Regrettably the State Department has resisted these efforts.

This aged helicopter fleet puts at risk the few good men and women of DANTI (only 3,000). CNP leader General Serrano doesn't have an unlimited number of good police officers. He no longer will have the courageous and dedicated service of Major Vodmar Galeano, the Chief of Operations for DANTI, and Captain Martin Sierra, Chief Helicopter Instructor Pilot, among the others killed in the most recent crash.

Their loss diminishes our national interests, as well as that of Colombia, where these illicit drugs finance all sides in a raging narco-based war, threatening South America's oldest democracy.

### AMERICA'S LOOKING FOR ITS MISSING CHILDREN PROGRAM

#### HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a very important program. It's not a government program, but an example of our private sector partnering effectively with the public sector to tackle pressing social problems.

In 1985, ADVO, Inc., the nation's largest direct mail marketing company, partnered with The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The Adam Walsh Child Resource Center, the Juvenile Division of the Department of Justice, and the U.S. Postal Service to lend a hand in the recovery of missing and exploited children. One of the leaders of that partnership, ADVO Senior Vice President Vincent Giuliano, recently came to Capitol Hill to share with the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus this amazing success story. I encourage my colleagues and every citizen to take an interest in this important program, which is doing so much to help the nation's missing and exploited children.

As a direct result of this innovative program, ADVO has helped the authorities recover 88 children and to reunite them with their families.