

Whereas, the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association of the Lehigh Valley, a member of the CFIDS Support Network of the CFIDS Association of America, is celebrating their seventh year of service to the CFIDS community; and,

Whereas, the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association of the Lehigh Valley has been awarded The CFIDS Support Network Action Award for Excellence in Service in the area of CFIDS Awareness Day in 1996, and for Excellence in commitment and service to the CFIDS Community in the area of Public Policy in 1995; and,

Whereas, chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome (CFIDS), also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) is a complex illness which affects many different body systems and is characterized by neurological, rheumatological and immunological problems, incapacitating fatigue and numerous other symptoms that can be severely debilitating and can last for many years; and,

Whereas, it is imperative that education and training of health professionals regarding CFIDS be expanded, that further research be encouraged and that public awareness of this serious health problem be increased.

Now, therefore, Congressman Patrick J. Toomey recognizes May 12, 1999 as International Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome Awareness Day, commends the Chronic Fatigue Association of the Lehigh Valley on its Seventh Anniversary, and pays tribute to its efforts to conquer CFIDS on behalf of those battling this disabling illness.

Signed and sealed this Twelfth Day of April, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Nine.

TRIBUTE TO AL MANN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute my dear friend, Al Mann, who is being honored this year at a gala event hosted by the San Fernando Economic Alliance. Al is, to put it succinctly, one of the most extraordinary men I know. The story of his life and business ventures is one that epitomizes not only the spirit of a true entrepreneur, but a true humanitarian.

Al is a veritable one-man industry in the field of medical devices. His numerous and highly successful companies have included Siemens-Pacesetter, Inc., which manufactures cardiac pacemakers; Advanced Bionics Corporation, which is developing cochlear stimulation systems to restore hearing for the profoundly deaf; and MiniMed Inc., which develops, manufactures, and markets drug delivery devices including microinfusion pumps for treatment for various medical conditions.

Literally millions of people around the world lead lives that have been immeasurably improved by one of Al's products. He never, however, rests on his laurels. He is always thinking ahead, striving for another breakthrough in the ever-changing field of medical devices, combining his amazing creativity with his keen business acumen. Al is very much at home in a field filled with brilliant entrepreneurs.

Al's business career spans more than four decades. Long before anyone coined the term

"high-tech", Al was involved with companies that fit that definition. In 1956, he started Spectrolab, an electro-optical and aerospace systems company, and four years later he launched Heliotek, a semiconductor and electro-optical components manufacturer. In 1972, he started Siemens-Pacesetter, which was his first foray into the medical device industry. In addition to the aforementioned companies, Al is Chairman of Second Sight LLC, which is in the process of developing a visual prosthesis for the blind.

Al is the quintessential civic-minded businessman, whose efforts to strengthen the biomedical industry in Southern California have received widespread praise. A few years ago Al made an extraordinarily generous donation from his personal funds to both USC and UCLA for the establishment of a Biomedical Engineering Institute at each of those universities. The institutes are part of the Al Mann Foundation, which was founded in 1986, and is devoted to the development of advanced medical devices in a variety of fields.

In yet another compartment of his remarkable life, Al has built three large projects under federal program supplying rent subsidized housing for the poor. His developments, in Granada Hills, Tustin and Huntington Beach, are model examples of low income housing. He has also developed tracts of ultra-expensive lots and built custom homes worth millions.

Al Mann is a true Renaissance Man. He is an engineer, an accomplished musician and a learned religious scholar conversant in art, music, literature, philosophy and almost any other topic. He is a tenacious and perfectionist workaholic, who pursues his business and humanitarian quests with boundless energy.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Al Mann. The dedication, integrity, hard work and commitment that he brings to every endeavor and his impressive record of service to mankind embody the ideals of excellence. I am very proud to be his friend.

TRIBUTE TO FELICIA WONG

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Felicia Wong of Berkeley, California who has had the distinct honor of serving as a distinguished White House Fellow.

Last year, Ms. Wong became one of 17 outstanding citizens to join a long and prestigious list of former White House Fellows, including one of the Bay Area's most famous and successful businessmen, Robert D. Haas, Chairman and CEO of Levi Strauss and Company. Established in 1965, the White House Fellowship Program honors outstanding citizens across the United States who demonstrate excellence in community service, leadership, academic and professional endeavors. It is the nation's most prestigious fellowship for public service and leadership development. Over the past three decades, White House Fellows have promoted active citizenship and service to the nation. Additionally, the White House Fellowship Program has served as a "proving ground" for many of today's community, business and political leaders and will continue to do so for America's future leaders.

Ms. Wong currently serves as director of the Federal Support to Communities Initiative for the U.S. Department of Justice. The initiative, housed at the National Partnership for Reinventing Government, is an interagency project working with pilot cities around the country to respond more effectively to community needs, particularly in the area of youth development programming. She has played a leading role in this initiative, which works in partnership with communities, helping to provide better access to youth development funding and to furnish user-friendly information about the federal government to parents and families, community-based organizations, and state and local officials.

Ms. Wong has worked hard to achieve her standards of excellence. She received a bachelor's degree in English and Political Science, with honors and Phi Beta Kappa, from Stanford University, as well as a master's degree in Political Science from U.C., Berkeley. A recipient of a three-year National Science foundation graduate fellowship, Ms. Wong is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at U.C., Berkeley, where she is writing her dissertation on the politics of race and urban education reform. Ms. Wong is also a high school history and philosophy teacher at the College Preparatory School in Oakland, California. In her teaching position, she is a faculty advisor to a student group on a diversity and has launched an ethics program for the school's senior class. Ms. Wong is also the co-director of the school's Partner's Program, an academic summer school that serves low-income public students. She has also worked on nuclear non-proliferation issues at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and at the Arms Control Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here to recognize the accomplishments of Felicia Wong, and I hope my colleagues will join with me today in wishing Ms. Wong the very best as she continues her future endeavors.

HONORING KVEC RADIO

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Ms. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to extend my congratulations to everyone at San Luis Obispo radio station KVEC, which recently marked its 62nd year on the air. KVEC is a locally-owned and operated station featuring local news and talk show hosts who provide a forum of lively discussion of local issues as well as interesting and useful information on a wide range of topics. As such, KVEC provides an invaluable service to its listeners from throughout San Luis Obispo County.

As a frequent guest on the Dave Congalton Show, I have enjoyed the opportunity to hear from KVEC's listeners on a wide array of issues. I know that for many of the station's regular listeners, on-air hosts like Dave Congalton and Bill Benica are considered almost members of the family. I appreciate the entire KVEC family for their community spirit and the important job they have done so well

for more than six decades. I extend to them my sincerest congratulations and gratitude.

RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY
AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN LAOS

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce legislation that calls for democracy, free elections and basic human rights in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. This important resolution reaffirms and promotes our commitment to free and fair elections and basic human rights standards for the Lao people, especially the Lao-Hmong. While United States forces have departed Southeast Asia, the plight of the Lao-Hmong inside of Laos must not be forgotten.

The continuous allegations of persecution and abuse of the Lao people, especially the Lao-Hmong, must not be overlooked. The United States must investigate these allegations promptly. Lao-Hmong families are reported to be threatened daily under the Communist regime in Laos. We must focus public attention to address such allegations in attempt to finally bring a halt to this persecution.

I would like to remind my Colleagues that the service and contributions of the Lao-Hmong patriots had a major impact on achieving today's global order and the positive changes of the past decades. Extreme sacrifices were made by the Lao-Hmong in the jungles and in the highlands, whether in uniform or in the common clothing of the laborer. Thousands of U.S. soldier's lives were spared because of the Lao-Hmong patriots' support and help as they fought along side the United States forces in the Vietnam War. For their efforts, the Lao-Hmong deserve our thanks, our shelter and certainly fundamental human rights, freedoms, responsibility of democracy and openly-contested free and fair elections that will establish the right to self-determination in Laos.

Despite frequent statements about its commitment to the enforcement of human rights standards in the country, the Laotian government's actual practices deviate from such important principles. The Government may have learned to "talk the talk" and make paper promises, but they must be held accountable to "walk the walk." On a daily basis, the government violates the civil and political rights of Laotian citizens by denying them the basic freedoms of speech, assembly, and association. According to the State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1998, the Laotian government has only slowly eased restrictions on basic freedoms and continues to significantly restrict the freedoms of speech, assembly and religion.

Moreover, Amnesty International reports that serious problems persist in the human rights record of the Government of Laos. Such reports include the continued detention of political prisoners and the treatment of such prisoners in a manner that is degrading, abusive and inhumane. In February of this year, one political prisoner, Thongsouk Saysanghi, died in a remote prison camp in Laos. In addition, an unknown number of other political prisoners still remain inside of Laotian prisons.

Amnesty International has made repeated appeals to the Lao authorities to improve the conditions of the detentions of the prisoners. Such appeals have been ignored, resulting in this tragic death. That Thongsouk died and the unknown number of other prisoners still remain to be left in such critical conditions in the face of these many expressions of concern highlights not only the Lao Government's complete lack of care of its political prisoners, but its contempt for the opinion of the international community.

Specifically, my resolution calls upon the Laotian government to respect international norms of human rights and democratic freedoms as embodied in its constitution and international agreements; issue a public statement specifically reaffirming its commitment to protecting religious freedom and other basic human rights, fully institute a process of democracy, human rights openly and free and fair elections in Laos, and specifically ensures that the National Assembly elections, currently scheduled for 2002, are openly contested; and allow access for international human rights monitors, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and Amnesty International inside of Lao prisons and all regions of the country to investigate allegations of human rights abuse, especially those against the Lao-Hmong, when requested.

The United States must continue to ask the tough questions and not accept a blissful lack of knowledge as satisfactory. My resolution builds upon similar Senate action last Congress and amendments, which I have authored, that have been added to the State Department Authorization in previous House action, but have not been enacted into law due to other matters. Much more needs to be done in regards to this matter. U.S. policy and law must be changed if we expect results. Congress must ensure that the Lao Government is held accountable for their actions and inactions. Importantly, Laos is seeking normal trade and diplomatic relations with the United States and the global community. But, the policy and conduct of the Laotian government in regards to human rights must be transparent prior to putting in place such political and economic policy. We owe the people of Laos the moral obligation to remain diligent to their human rights circumstance and plight.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING
SLAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Police Memorial Week. It is a time when the citizens of the United States join the families, friends and colleagues of our Nation's slain peace officers, to honor and remember the sacrifices they have made.

On September 24, 1789, Congress created the first federal law enforcement officer, the United States Marshal. Five years later, on January 11th, 1794, U.S. Marshal Robert Forsyth became the first officer, in a long list of men and women who have given their lives

to protect and serve the communities of their beloved Nation. Since then, over 14,000 officers have died in the line of duty, including over 1,000 from the State of New York. The city of New York has lost more officers than any other department in the Nation, with more than 500 deaths. These heroes must never be forgotten, and their sacrifice must serve as a reminder that the price of a safer America, an America based on law and order, is being paid for by the blood and lives of our police officers.

Although our Nation's crime rate is at its lowest level in years, on average, one law enforcement officer is killed somewhere in America nearly every other day. Over the past ten years, America has lost one police officer every 54 hours; over 1,500 men and women. Already in 1999, forty officers have given their lives in the line of duty, a poignant reminder that crime reduction comes at a stiff price.

Police Memorial Week is a time to remind us that when a police officer is killed, it is not a city that loses an officer, it is an entire nation. We must believe that the senseless murders and crimes against our Nation's bravest men and women will one day stop; until then we will do everything we can in order to remember and honor all of the law enforcement officers who have ever given their lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to recite the names of those fallen heroes from New York, who, in the name of duty, gave their lives over the past two years: Chief Constable Norman E. Carr Jr., Officer Robert McLellan, Officer Sean Carrington, Officer Gerard Carter, Officer Anthony Mosomillo, and Officer Matthew Dziergowski. I would also like us to remember an officer from my congressional district Vincent Guidice of Stony Point, NY., who died in the line of duty on May 22nd, 1996. To our fallen officers, we express our Nation's gratitude.

In your spirit, I will continue to fight for those laws that provide our Nation's peace officers with the tools needed to fulfill their mandate of making our communities a safer place in which to live.

I urge all Americans to visit the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington. It is a tribute to the dedicated service of our law enforcement officers and their distinguished service and sacrifice.

SUPPORT THE VETERANS SEXUAL
TRAUMA TREATMENT ACT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to make permanent the sexual trauma counseling and treatment services offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Veterans Sexual Trauma Treatment Act, which I also introduced during the 105th Congress, will enable more former military personnel who were subjected to sexual harassment or abuse during their military service to receive proper medical and psychological care.

A high incidence of sexual harassment and assault cases in the military have been reported in the past several years. While some of these cases have gained national attention,