

the past and the present have made noteworthy inroads in expanding opportunities and creating greater equality for Michigan women. Tonight at the Sixteenth Annual Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Awards Dinner, each of these individuals will be recognized for their significant contributions. I would like to congratulate the 10 new Hall of Fame members and thank them for blazing a trail for women to follow in future.

Contemporary Honorees include writer and humanist Doris DeDeckere; nature columnist Margaret Drake Elliot; Elizabeth Homer, who has fought for educational and professional equality for women; and Sister Ardeth Platte, who has committed her life to social justice and eliminating violence.

Historical Honorees include Patricia Beeman, a member of the Southern African Liberation Committee, who fought to educate Michiganites on apartheid in South Africa; the first woman minister in the United States, Olympia Brown, the first woman to head the Detroit Police Department's Women's Division, Eleonore Hutzell; dietitian, writer and child advocate Ella Eaton Kellogg; and Emily Burton Ketcham, a Grand Rapids woman who fought for women's right to vote.

Dr. Peter T. Mitchell, President of Albion College, was recognized with the Phillip A. Hart Award for his contributions nationally to improving educational opportunities for women.

STUDENT RESULTS ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2) to send more dollars to the classroom and for certain other purposes:

Mr. FORBES. Madam Chairman, efforts to achieve gender equity have made herculean strides in the past 25 years, but now is not the time to look back with nostalgia and congratulate ourselves on how far we've come. We must look to how far we still have to go to ensure that everyone has equal access to the opportunities presented by the 21st century, as well as the means to meet the challenges of the new economy. The Women's Educational Equity Act is a key to unlock that door. The Act has focused on combating gender bias in the classroom, and provided funds to programs that train teachers and supply instructional materials to encourage girls to pursue careers and instruction in those areas that will drive our commerce in the future—math, science, engineering and technology.

Since the implementation of the act in 1974, girls have improved in areas such as math and science, but they have been left behind in learning the technological skills needed to compete in tomorrow's economy. The new global economy demands these skills. Technological literacy is essential for success in the workforce. Next year, 65 percent of jobs will require some technological skills. Why, then, do a very small percentage of girls take computer science courses? Of the girls that do participate in computer classes, they tend to

cluster in lower-end data entry and word processing classes. Boys, on the other hand, continue on to higher-skill, more challenging computer courses such as computer programming and problem-solving. We cannot afford, as a nation, to waste such a precious resource in this way.

The trend in educational initiatives is to give every student access to a computer and the Internet by the year 2000. These computers and the Information Highway have become as essential to the learning process as pencils and paper. We must ensure that girls in the classroom are equal partners in these opportunities and that teachers recognize and encourage their participation in technological training.

While steps have been made in narrowing the gender gap, girls and young women still encounter barriers in the classroom. Congress has an obligation to ensure that all students attain the highest standards and obtain the resources and tools needed to succeed in the new millennium. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of including this act as an amendment to the Student Results Act, H.R. 2.

IN HONOR OF MR. GUILLERMO ESTEVEZ ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Guillermo Estevez, Director of the New Jersey Office of the International Rescue Committee, for 20 years of dedicated service, and to congratulate him on his retirement from the organization.

From volunteer to Director, Mr. Estevez has had a remarkable career with the International Rescue Committee, Inc. Mr. Estevez and IRC provided assistance to more than 25,000 refugees from all over the world in the quest for freedom.

Since his arrival in the United States in 1979, Mr. Estevez has been a pro-active leader in the human rights struggle in Cuba. A political prisoner himself, who served more than 20 years in the jails of Communist Cuba, Mr. Estevez has firsthand knowledge of the flagrant disregard for civil and human rights on the island.

Over the years, Mr. Estevez has spearheaded many marches and demonstrations against the Communist Regime in Cuba. Through the streets of New York City, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, Miami, Tampa, New Orleans, and various cities in my home State of New Jersey, Mr. Estevez has been instrumental in shining a light on the too often overshadowed abuses in Cuba.

In Mr. Estevez's fight for a free and democratic Cuba, he founded, organized, and served as first General Coordinator of the Cuban Civic Committee. Mr. Estevez's efforts were rewarded when he was recently named to the Free Cuba Task Force by the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Estevez was the first Hispanic member of the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey State Prison Complex and was a member of

the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Committee of the Hudson County Human Services Advisory Committee.

For his remarkable contributions to the fight against civil and human rights violations, specifically in regard to the fight against the Cuban Communist Regime, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Estevez on a truly exceptional career and to wish him luck in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL PARK AND THOSE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with an overwhelming sense of pride that I now rise to pay tribute to a truly historic event in the proud and distinguished history of the great State of Colorado: the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

As the House sponsor of legislation that redesignated the Black Canyon as a national park, it gives me great joy to describe for this esteemed body's record the beauty of this truly majestic place. In addition, I would like to offer my gratitude to a community of individuals instrumental in the long process that ultimately yielded the establishment of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who has visited the Black Canyon can attest to its awe-inspiring natural beauty. Named for the dark rock that makes up its sheer walls, the Black Canyon is largely composed of what geologists call basement rocks, the oldest rocks on the earth estimated at 1.7 billion years old. With its narrow openings, sheer walls, and scenic gorges that plunge 2000 feet into the clear blue majesty of the Gunnison River, the Black Canyon is a natural crown jewel second to none in its magnificent splendor. Though other canyons may have greater depth or descend on a steeper course, few combine these attributes as breathtakingly as does the Black Canyon.

If ever there was a place worthy of the prestigious status that only national park status can afford, Mr. Speaker, it is the Black Canyon. But as you know, national parks don't just happen. In this case, it took nearly 15 years, several Congressional Representatives and Senators, innumerable locally elected officials, and a virtual sea of committed citizens in western Colorado.

Included in this group are the good people of Paonia, Colorado. During this long and at times difficult process, Paonia's civic leaders have given tirelessly and beyond measure in the hopes of making the Black Canyon a national park. Again and again these great Americans rose to the challenge, doing everything in their power to fulfill this dream. Without Paonia's leadership and perseverance, none of what we have accomplished would have ever been possible.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I give my thanks to the people of Paonia who played a leading role in making the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park a wonderful reality for Colorado, America, and the world to enjoy.

BATTERED IMMIGRANT WOMEN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation to address the gaps, errors, and oversights in current law that impede the ability of battered immigrant women to flee violent relationships and survive economically. The Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act of 1999 would restore provisions that allow battered women, who are entitled to permanent residency, to file their own application for immigrant status without requiring the cooperation of their abusive spouses. It would also allow them to remain in the United States while awaiting their green cards.

This legislation would also ensure that battered immigrants with pending immigration applications are able to access public benefits, food stamps, SSI, housing, work permits and immigration relief.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and domestic violence has grown to epidemic proportions. It is the single largest cause of injury to women in the United States. It is in every neighborhood and community throughout our Nation. Domestic abuse does not discriminate. Rural and urban women of all religious, ethnic, economic, and educational backgrounds; of varying ages, physical abilities, and lifestyles can be affected by domestic violence.

A woman's reasons for staying in an abusive relationship are more complex than a statement about her strength of character. In many cases, it is dangerous for a woman to leave her abuser. On average, a typical battered woman attempts to leave her abusive relationship five to seven times before she achieves permanent separation from her batterer.

This pattern indicates that battered women often lack adequate independent living and employment options. We must take the next step toward creating real solutions to the continuing problem of domestic violence. We must help women and families achieve economic self-sufficiency so that they are able to escape their violent relationships and secure protection.

Sadly though, in addition to the lack of adequate housing and employment options for many victims of domestic abuse, immigrant women and their children who suffer every day at the hands of abusers face one more threat—the threat of deportation. Battered women often experience shame, embarrassment and isolation. For immigrant women, who often have no family support and whose immigration status is tied to the abusers, it is even more difficult. In more ways than one, they are held hostage by their abusers.

The bill would expand legal protections for battered immigrant women so that they may flee violent homes, obtain court protections, and cooperate in the criminal prosecution of their abusers without fear of deportation.

It also ensures that women who are victims of terrible crimes, such as rape, incest, torture, battery, sexual assault, female genital mutilation, and forced prostitution, can remain temporarily in the United States. These women would then be able to apply for lawful permanent residency at a later date. Giving these

victims this opportunity to remain in the U.S. is an important step in the efforts of law enforcement to protect the victims and prosecute and investigate cases of domestic abuse and trafficking of aliens.

I'd like to share the story of "Celeste" to illustrate the dire need for this legislation.

Celeste was born in Mexico. She met her husband, Ronaldo, a lawful permanent resident of the United States in 1991. They immediately began dating and fell in love. Four months later, they married, and Celeste moved with her husband to Chicago.

For the first five months things went well. Celeste became pregnant, but soon after, things began to change. He suddenly became unpredictable and controlling. He began to abuse Celeste.

Celeste feared for her safety and that of her son. Ronaldo had promised to file a visa petition for Celeste when she came to the United States, but then refused to keep his promise unless she paid him a lot of money.

Celeste was left with only two choices: report the abuse to the police and face certain deportation or say nothing and live with the abuse.

If this critical piece of legislation is passed, thousands of women around the country like Celeste will be able to leave their abusive spouses and petition for citizenship on their own. Additionally, they will be authorized to work and will have access to basic services like transitional housing and counseling to help them get on their feet.

There is no reason to wait. We must act now to end the injustice, solve this problem, and help these women and their children. It is wrong to stand idly by as battered women and their children are forced to choose between a black eye and broken arm or a one-way ticket out of the country.

I submit the following summary of the bill.

**BATTERED IMMIGRANT WOMEN PROTECTION
ACT OF 1999**

The Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act of 1999 continues the work that began with the passage of the first Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 1994. Prior to VAWA 1994, abusive citizens and permanent residents had total control over their spouse's immigration status. As a result, battered immigrant women and children were forced to remain in abusive relationships, unable to appeal to law enforcement and courts for protection for fear of deportation.

VAWA 1994 immigration provisions remedied the situation by allowing battered immigrants to file their own applications for immigration relief without the cooperation of their abusive spouse, enabling them to safely flee violence. Despite the successes of the immigration provisions of VAWA 1994, subsequent legislation drastically reduced access to VAWA immigration relief for battered immigrant women and their children.

This bill seeks to restore, improve implementation of and expand access to a variety of legal protections for battered immigrants so they may file violent homes, obtain court protection, cooperate in the criminal prosecution of their abusers, and take control of their lives without the fear of deportation.

Under current law, many battered immigrants are forced to leave the US to obtain their lawful permanent residence. Leaving the US may put women at risk of violence from their abusers and would deny them the protection provided by courts, legislation, custody decrees, and law enforcement. This bill will allow battered immigrant women

and children to obtain permanent immigration status without leaving the U.S.

The Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act would:

Allow for adjustment of status for VAWA self-petitioners, thus allowing women to remain in the U.S. while awaiting their green cards;

Prevent changes in abuser's status from undermining victim's petitions;

Provide for numerous waivers and exceptions to inadmissibility for VAWA eligible applicants;

Improve access to VAWA for battered immigrant women who are married to members of the armed forces, married to bigamists, and victims of elder abuse;

Allow for discretionary waivers for good moral character determinations;

Give VAWA applicant access to work authorization;

Protect certain crime victims including crimes against women;

Allow VAWA applicants access to food stamps, SSI, housing and legal services;

Train judges, immigration officials, armed forces supervisors and police on VAWA immigration provisions;

Provide permanent immigration status for immigrant victims of elder abuse.

**IMF SHOULD PAY INTEREST ON
ALL U.S. FUNDS USED**

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, under legislation I am introducing today, the International Monetary Fund [IMF] would have to pay interest on all the U.S. reserves it taps, or face a cut-off of future U.S. funds. The failure of the IMF to pay full interest to the U.S. has been estimated to cost a cumulative \$2.7 billion, or \$150 million annually. This fleecing of the taxpayer should be ended before any further U.S. funds are even considered for the IMF. No U.S. approval of IMF gold sales, credit lines, or quota increases should be considered until the U.S. is fully and fairly compensated for its current financial support of IMF operations.

The IMF's failure to pay interest on all U.S. reserves is another one of many inconvenient facts that has never been disclosed or explained to the U.S. Congress or to the public. It provides yet another example of the lack of transparency so characteristic of the IMF and its activities. The disclosure of this failure of the IMF to pay interest on all U.S. reserves is one result of the Joint Economic Committee research program on the IMF. The JEC finding was recently confirmed and quantified in an important new General Accounting Office [GAO] report, "Observations on the IMF's Financial Operations."

These interest costs to the U.S. also highlight the implausibility of the Administration's oft-repeated arguments that the IMF does not cost taxpayers a dime, and that the U.S. must pay its fair share to the IMF. The U.S. already provides over one-quarter of the IMF's usable resources, but it is the IMF that is short-changing the U.S., not the other way around. U.S. taxpayers have been more than generous to the IMF, a specialized agency of the United Nations Organization.

There can be little doubt that very few members of Congress would defend the current