

toward improving the lives of Arab-Americans across the nation, and building bridges of understanding between Americans of Arab descent and those of us with other ethnic roots. A Life Member of the NAACP, Michael serves today as an Executive Board Member of the American Task Force for Lebanon. He also has served as a Director of the Greater Round Table of the National Conference of Christians, Muslims and Jews. If one wonders whether Michael's participation and advocacy have had an impact, I need only point to the growing influence today of Arab-Americans in nearly every sphere of our lives, in government, education, business and trade, literature and the arts, and politics.

Mr. Speaker, as Michael's many friends prepare to gather to celebrate this many accomplishments on behalf of his community and country, I wanted to share with my colleagues just how much Michael's service and friendship have meant to me. As a past Chairman of the 16th District Democratic Party for four terms, Michael has been active in Michigan politics for more than 40 years. Throughout this period, Michael has been a true and loyal friend and someone I could trust to give me good advice about everything from transportation policy to the current politics of Lebanon and other parts of the Middle East. His knowledge and insight have been invaluable to me in representing Michigan's 16th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. I wish him and his fiancée, Cindy Hanes, every happiness as Michael prepares to turn yet another new page on a successful life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT BY CORRECTIONAL STAFF ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 27, 1999*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct by Correctional Staff Act, a bill to protect female inmates from sexual misconduct while incarcerated in our nation's prisons. This bill follows a GAO investigation that I requested of the three largest prison systems—the federal Bureau of Prisons, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and the California Department of Corrections and, in addition, the District of Columbia, (1995–1998). I asked GAO to investigate these jurisdictions because they house one-third of the nation's 80,000 female inmates, and, therefore, are likely to reflect the range of problems women in prison face.

The treatment of women incarcerated cries out for remedies. Let me summarize some of the most important findings in the GAO report:

1. The full range of civil and criminal sexual misconduct and abuse was found: rape, improper touching, inappropriate visual surveillance, verbal harassment, and consensual sex, which is a crime when correctional personnel are involved.

2. None of the four jurisdictions had readily available or comprehensive information that would allow them to effectively prevent and address sexual misconduct. Since jurisdictions do not collect and examine even basic information, such as the number, nature, and out-

comes of sexual misconduct allegations, it is no wonder that they do little to prevent them. When attempts to track the abuse have been made, they often have been useless or dangerously incompetent. For example, the federal Bureau of Prison's (BOP) tracking system does not break down allegations of non-criminal sexual misconduct, such as indecent language from other allegations BOP classifies as "unprofessional conduct." The District of Columbia had no information on allegations.

3. Only 41 states specifically punish criminal sexual misconduct by corrections personnel, and eight states treat sexual abuse by corrections officials as only a misdemeanor. Although the four jurisdictions studied have criminal laws against sexual misconduct by corrections personnel, only BOP reported prosecutions with convictions (14 prosecutions: rape, consensual sex with an inmate, and sex for money).

4. The GAO reports that, "Many correctional experts believe that the full extent of staff-on-inmate misconduct is likely underreported nationally due to the fear of retaliation and the vulnerability felt by female inmates." Nevertheless, 506 reported allegations of sexual misconduct were made in the past three years in the four jurisdictions. Only 18% were sustained. Most of the sustained allegations resulted in resignations or terminations. What ordinary citizens go to jail for, corrections personnel often can walk away from if they are willing to leave the job.

5. Civil liability can be expected to mount if states do not substantially and immediately improve their efforts to illuminate sexual abuse. A \$500,000 settlement paid by the BOP to three women in a suit alleging rape, being sold by guards for sex, and beatings are the tip of the iceberg.

6. States have primary responsibility for the conduct of their own correctional staff, but the federal government is deeply implicated or complicit in two ways: (a) sexual abuse by guards, who have complete authority over inmates and are charged with their incarceration, often rises to the level of constitutional violations; and (b) the federal government gives financial assistance to state prison systems and therefore must be seen to condone constitutional violations in the face of this report unless appropriate requirements are attached to federal assistance.

The Prevention of Sexual Misconduct by Correctional Staff Act I introduce today responds to the specific issues uncovered by the GAO report. It provides mandatory sexual harassment and abuse awareness training for prison officials and staff, establishes a system for women inmates to report abuses by correctional staff, creates a reporting system for submission to the states' attorneys general so that they can detect patterns of abuse, establishes a mechanism by which allegations of sexual misconduct can be investigated, and requires that each state have criminal penalties that explicitly prohibit custodial sexual misconduct by correctional staff. This bill provides that each state submit reports on the compliance of the state to the U.S. Attorney General.

Women inmates should not be made to feel that sexual abuse and harassment is part of their sentence. I ask for your support to put an end to this violence against women.

GIRLS TOWN RECREATIONAL CENTER

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 27, 1999*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Joe Scallorns, of California, MO. Over the years, Fran and Joe have worked for the betterment of their community and of the State of Missouri. They have contributed countless hours to improve the lives of many Missourians and they have dedicated themselves to public service.

Recently, Fran and Joe donated the money for the construction of a new recreational center at Missouri Girls Town. It was named in honor of the Scallorns and their selfless contribution to the institution and the young ladies who reside therein. On October 2, 1999, the Scallorns Recreational Center was dedicated and Joe addressed those in attendance. His speech is set forth as follows:

We are here today for a dedication of this wonderful structure. Fran and I are a little embarrassed about the fact that it bears our name. Most people don't see their name cast in bronze or in stained glass. In most cases when a building is named it is for someone deceased. On those occasions, friends gather and say some nice things about the "dearly departed". On those other occasions in which the persons are still living, they are invited to make a few remarks. I can't tell you how happy I am to be here before you today.

We are here as a result of our lead gift for this recreation center. That was possible because we are living the American dream. From a very modest beginning of our marriage, we have worked hard, been lucky, and have enjoyed the encouragement and support of family and friends, many of whom are here today. We were fortunate enough to own our own business, sell it, and retire early. We do live in the greatest nation on Earth that is truly good and provides many opportunities.

Fran and I are so pleased to be a part of this great effort. We have been inspired and encouraged by the leadership of the Marshes, Ann K., the McClains, Isabelle Bram, and others in sharing their time and resources with the needs of the girls here. We are pleased and proud to be able to do this and hope that this might influence and encourage others to support Girlstown as much as they can.

We are particularly pleased that our gift was for the recreation center. Sports play such an important part in all our lives, but especially in the development of young people. Not only is this the largest structure on the campus, beautifully designed, and well built although it is all those things; but it is perhaps an apt symbol of what we try to teach all our children—those at home and those here.

Sports teach us that we get along better in life if we learn to play by the rules. Wherever we are in our society, we learn that there are certain expectations of behavior. There are rules in the workplace, rules of the road and rules of personal demeanor and behavior. The sooner we learn to take responsibility for our actions by respecting and abiding by those rules, the better we are able to get along.

Sports, whether recreational or competitive, teach us to do our best. Coaches in any sport certainly know the fundamentals of the game they are playing, but what makes a great coach is having the ability to motivate others to do their very best. If these