

HIV/AIDS occurring in Sub-Saharan Africa. The report stated that one in five adults in Sub-Saharan Africa are infected with the HIV virus. How can the United States sit back and allow such suffering to go on? The answer is we cannot.

Back in April, the President declared AIDS in Africa to be a threat to U.S. national security. This epidemic has the power to devastate economies, overthrow governments, and set off wars. While some believed this statement was an "overreaction," I am convinced that this is an accurate assessment. If we do not provide the necessary funding to contain this epidemic today, the U.S. and the rest of the international community will have to carry a greater burden in the future.

We can no longer allow an isolationist approach to guide our foreign policy, which is exactly what this bill does. As a world leader, the United States should promote globalization and embrace a pro-active, internationalist vision.

Mr. Chairman, I am discouraged with the inadequate funding provided under the FY2001 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. It is my hope that we will be able to resolve many of the shortcomings in this bill and bring the funding levels closer to the Administration's request. However, in its current form, I regret that I will have to vote against this bill and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

THE HONORABLE D. JOSE MANUEL
MOLINA GARCIA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in offering a national welcome to a very special visitor to the City of Corpus Christi, the Mayor of Toledo, Spain, Excmo. Sr. D. Jose Manuel Molina Garcia.

Mayor Garcia is in my congressional district today as the guest of Corpus Christi's Sister Cities Committee. Toledo, Spain is a sister city of Corpus Christi in the U.S.A. The Sister Cities Committee is an important international economic engine in the Coastal Bend of Texas. I offer my congratulations to the Sister City Committee for the good work that they do.

Even before the advent of the North American Free Trade Agreement, Corpus Christi was becoming a leader in international trade. With the trading agreements we have made in the past decade, the international trade in our area has skyrocketed. The Sister City Committee has had much to do with this dynamic.

The Mayor of Toledo, Spain, Excmo. Sr. D. Jose Manuel Molina Garcia, is a very accomplished leader in Spain and has been active in government and economic affairs during the course of his career. He has served as a Senator and national congressman in Spain's legislature. He is well-versed in matters related to economics, he was schooled as an accountant and an attorney.

Since the official business of the House of Representatives keeps me here today, I wanted to ask the House to join me in offering our best wishes to the Sister Cities of Corpus Christi, U.S.A., and Toledo, Spain. Let us also

welcome the Honorable D. Jose Manuel Molina Garcia to our country.

RECOGNIZING JULETTE O'MEALLY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Julette O'Meally, President of Agape Development Services.

Ms. Julette Hernandez O'Meally has been in the business of managing, developing and training people for more than 15 years. She has served in hospitality, health care and other service industries in the United States and the Caribbean. Her clients range from Fortune 100 companies to individual entrepreneurs.

Whether on an organizational or an individual level, her work centers around increasing the profitability and effectiveness of her clients—by focusing on the personal/professional development of each person, as well as on the development of the organization. This is done through consultations, workshops and individual coaching sessions. Her work with recent clients includes creating, developing and delivering comprehensive orientation programs and training initiatives in customer service, supervisory/management development and communication skills. Ms. O'Meally has held a variety of operations management positions in the hospitality and retail industries. This management experience adds a certain level of credibility and depth of knowledge to the training programs she develops.

Ms. O'Meally is also the founder of the Beethoven Reading Club—a non-profit organization dedicated to the inspiration and development of children. Ms. O'Meally has recently written a book on how to raise self-esteem in children and their parents. She is also a co-founder of Agape Community Services, which offers free workshops and consultations to nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the lifelong efforts of Julette O'Meally, and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

NAUM FALKOVICH

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of acknowledging the former Naum Falkovich, an immigrant from the Ukraine. As Supervisor for the Transportation Authority, Mr. Falkovich helped to clean up the world's worst nuclear disaster at Chernobyl in 1986. He made daily trips to the nuclear disaster to ensure proper evacuation, while his wife, Lyusya Falkovich, helped clothe those in the immediate area of the disaster. Mrs. Falkovich later received a medal for her special efforts during the disaster.

In 1993, their desire to escape a land of religious persecution motivated the family to sell all of their belongings, including the precious medal. The Falkovich family sought refuge in

America, a land where opportunities are boundless and freedoms are afforded to every human. Fearing his death would arrive before his citizenship, Mr. Falkovich's family contacted my office seeking assistance to expedite the naturalization process. On June 9, 2000, just hours before his death, the 71 year old immigrant named Naum Falkovich received his last wish and became a citizen of the United States. Only a few hours later the proud U.S. citizen lost his grueling battle with cancer.

I speak today to honor Mr. Falkovich, and his courage to seek a better life for himself and his beloved family.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE ETTA
STANKO

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Darien, Connecticut's most notable volunteers and political activists, and my friend, Etta Stanko, who died June 12 at her home. She was 75 and had lived here for more than 40 years. I would like to read into the record excerpts from a news article of June 15, 2000, written by Locker McCarthy of the Darien News-Review, celebrating her life.

"One of her best friends and a fellow former president of the Darien Community Association, Marge Harrington, said she had known Ms. Stanko and her family 'since they moved to Noroton Bay, where we were, about 35 years ago. She used to call herself a 'professional volunteer,' recalled Ms. Harrington, 'and she certainly did a lot of things. She was everyone's dream volunteer—when she believed in a cause she gave 100 percent. She was a good person and a good friend,' said Ms. Harrington. 'We were with her just last Friday and we went to see 'Small Time Crooks,' and we all laughed.'"

"Just three weeks before her death, Ms. Stanko was notified she was to be the next recipient of the Georgina B. Davis Award for her outstanding fund raising efforts on behalf of the Western Connecticut Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Ms. Stanko became involved in trying to further research into M.S. after another past president of the D.C.A. became afflicted with the disease, and so became one of the original members of the Western Connecticut Chapter's committee that sponsors the annual March into Spring fashion show. 'She's been a very good friend since 1978,' said Chapter Director Loretta Weitzel. 'She was a wonderful woman, a mentor, and we'll miss her.'"

"Ms. Stanko was also an ardent leader of town Republicans. For 10 years she served on the Republican Town Committee, and was for two years, a decade ago, its president. She was elected to the Representative Town Meeting every two years from 1986 to 1996, when she did not to run."

"She was not a reticent member of the RTM, and with her high, piping voice, reminiscent in tone if not in content to Eleanor Roosevelt's, she was an instantly recognizable member of this town's political class. Former First Selectman Henry Sanders said, 'She represented reason and stability and meant a lot