

next president, is more than capable of making the decision. Let George or Al do it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2000

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, due to travel delays, I was not present for rollcall votes 373 through 378. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 373, "no" on rollcall vote 374, "aye" on rollcall vote 375, "no" on rollcall vote 376, "aye" on rollcall vote 377 and "no" on rollcall vote 378.

HONORING GIOACCHINO BALSAMO FOR A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2000

Mr. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor an extraordinary individual whose contributions to the Italian-American community in my hometown of New Haven, Connecticut have been truly invaluable. A friend to all who know him, I am honored to pay tribute to my Uncle Gino as he celebrates his 90th birthday.

The son of an Italian Supreme Court Judge, Gino grew up in Rome and came to the United States with his family shortly after the conclusion of World War II. Ambitious and hard working, Gino took on a variety of jobs throughout Greater New Haven, doing whatever necessary to support his wife, Nerina, and two children. Always committed to his Italian heritage, one of Gino's first jobs was delivering the news on the local Italian radio station. During his first years in New Haven, he found a friend and mentor in my father, Ted DeLauro to help guide him as he began a new life in America. Gino and his family formed a special bond with my family. My mother, Luisa, was especially close with her Aunt Nettie, whom she lived with until Nettie was fifteen years old. Gino's family would come to dinner every Thursday night and I can remember listening in wonder to his stories of Rome and Amalfi, New Haven's sister city. His gentle nature endeared him to all those fortunate to know him and I consider myself blessed to be in his family.

After becoming a prominent figure in the Italian-American community of the Greater New Haven area, he began to use his many talents to assist Italian immigrants with immigration formalities, translations, and travel arrangements to the "Old Country". As a native of Italy and immigrant himself, Gino understood the fear and confusion of coming to a new country. He used his knowledge of his homeland and what he had learned here to support and comfort families that sought his assistance. Finding more and more of his time focused on these issues, he established the Balsamo Agency at the age of fifty-two and ran the company until his retirement at the tender age of eight-four. His compassion, warmth and unparalleled dedication to the

Italian-American community helped thousands of Italians adapt to their new lives in America. Without his diligent efforts on their behalf, many would have found the daunting task of starting a new life a much more difficult experience. He made a real difference in the lives of many—a rare accomplishment.

It is a pleasure for me to stand today to recognize Gino's lifetime of achievement. He has left an indelible mark on the New Haven community and words cannot begin to express the thanks and appreciation he deserves for all his kindness and good works. I am honored to join his wife of sixty-six years, Nettie, his children Dino and Fausta, family and friends in extending my best wishes to Gino as he celebrates his 90th birthday. Happy Birthday Uncle Gino!

IN TRIBUTE TO CHIEF JOSEPH WHITE

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2000

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to express my condolences to the family of Chief Joseph White, whose tragic and untimely passing, in the line of duty, we mourn. His wife, Joyce, his three children, his two foster children, his grandson and two foster grandchildren should know, that while their grief is heavy, comfort may be found in those close to them, friends and family, who will gather to acclaim his life. This husband and father was indeed a hero, cut down by a gun, while doing his job.

For nearly 30 years, Chief White gave of himself as a law enforcement officer, after retiring from the United States Navy. He served in a range of roles before becoming Chief at Rich Square a year and a half ago. He has been described as soft-spoken, yet effective. He was often seen with his 13-year-old grandson, a tough yet tender law man.

Chief White has now been called to rest and to reside in a place of total peace. God's finger has gently touched him and he now sleeps. I am confident that he has left a lasting impression on those who came to know him, and the principles that guided him will now serve as guideposts for those he leaves behind. I am also certain that throughout his life, he remained a caring friend, a devoted and loving family member, and a committed and dedicated father and husband.

He shall surely be missed. I feel certain, however, that he would want all of us to rejoice in his life and the time he spent on this earth.

The passing of a loved one is always very hard to understand, but God has the situation in-hand. Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, Verses 1 through 8 is instructive. It reads in part, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven . . . A time to be born, and a time to die." And while his friends and family will greatly miss the Chief, I want to remind them that strength can be found in their continued support of one another. That is what he worked for all of his life. That is what he would want.

And, a special word for his wife and children. It is my hope that your family will be comforted by the fact that God in His infinite

wisdom does not make mistakes. Your husband, father and grandfather will live on forever in your hearts and minds through your cherished memories of his life and the time you had with him. Please continue to support one another, and I will pray for God's rich blessings on each of you. May God comfort and help your family and friends and help all of you to hold on to treasured yesterdays; and reach out with courage and hope to tomorrow, knowing that your beloved is with God. Death is not the end of life. It is the beginning of an eternal sleep. Chief Joseph White lived his life in sacrifice so that all of us could live our lives in pride. He has labored long. He now rests.

THE U.S. MUST SUPPORT PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR POLISH HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, nearly two hundred of my constituents are the victims of a gross injustice which is continually being compounded by the evasive actions of the present government of Poland. Instead of acting expeditiously to end the cycle of evil set off by the Nazi extermination of Polish Jews, the present Democratic government of Poland has adopted a set of obviously immoral legal maneuvers which deny just compensation to these Polish holocaust victims and their heirs. Following the Nazi defeat, the Communist government continued the criminal denial of property rights. Now a government which has embraced the principles which recognize private property rights is behaving in a manner bordering on racketeering.

In response to a lawsuit filed in Federal Court in Brooklyn on June 18, 1999, the Polish government, on December 22, 1999 filed a motion to dismiss the pending case; however, four weeks later this same government began drafting a reprivatization law to submit to its parliament. The key provisions of the draft represent a blatant attempt to swindle the long neglected victims: Only fifty percent of the current value will be offered to the original owners; payment in bonds which have no face value is proposed; inheritance taxes will be demanded; a one year limit on making claims under the statute will be imposed; for each person making the claim there will be a five year residency requirement.

Instead of these evasive actions which prolong the cruel and inhuman treatment already suffered by the Polish Jews; justice requires that the Polish government institute the following remedies for the survivors: Immediately commence the deeding of all government owned properties back to their rightful owners; creation of a fund for those with ownership rights in properties that have been sold to bona fide third parties; no eviction of any Polish citizens is demanded and an accounting of profits received by Poland during the last 55 years would be "negotiated away."

The obvious violations of human rights is the least issue involved in this class action suit. Government grand larceny is a more appropriate term to describe this stalemate. The current neutral position of the U.S. State Department on this matter is inconsistent with

U.S. Human Rights Policy and totally unacceptable. In addition to encouraging condemnation by national and world public opinion it is vitally necessary that our government examine its relationship with the Polish government to determine ways to accelerate a just settlement of this sordid victimization. It must be noted that in both Switzerland and Germany, recent steps have been taken to establish large funds for labor and bank deposit claims. Private property claims are not only more easily validated; tradition also considers property rights as almost sacred. World opinion and all Democratic governments must act vigorously to uphold the rights of Polish Jews.

RECOGNITION OF MARY TURNER'S
40 YEARS' SERVICE TO THE
AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2000

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a very special humanitarian and volunteer in my congressional district, Mary Turner of Dothan, Alabama.

Mary Turner recently celebrated a remarkable four decades of service to Southeast Alabama as an employee of the Wiregrass Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Mary started to work as a secretary with the Red Cross on May 30, 1960. In January 1979, Mary became Chapter Manager, serving Houston, Henry, Dale and Geneva counties.

Since its inception some 83 years ago, the Wiregrass Chapter of the American Red Cross, has faithfully provided the community with disaster services, health and safety programs, services to the Armed Forces, support of the blood services program, Project Share, and many other outreach efforts. And for nearly half of its history, Mary has played an important role in supporting many of these local Red Cross programs.

Additionally, Mary has been active in and a member of many local, regional and state social and human service organizations, including the Governor's Conference on Volunteering.

A kidney transplant and coronary by-pass surgery have not diminished Mary's dedication to serve others. She is presently active as a member of the Zonta Club of Dothan, the Association of Service Agencies, the Transplant Support Group, and Highland Park Methodist Church.

I wish to extend my best wishes to Mary and my personal thanks for her efforts to better the lives of so many. America is greater because of its volunteers and the work of people like Mary Turner who help to rebuild and strengthen our communities and restore and enrich our lives.

IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZING
PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY
THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AD-
MINISTRATION

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2000

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. CAPPS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. STRICKLAND, Ms. DEGETTE, and others as original cosponsors of legislation to reauthorize programs administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Established by Congress in 1992, SAMHSA has built on Federal-State partnerships with communities and private organizations to provide a safety net of services for individuals and families with substance abuse problems and mental illness. In 1995, the last year for which statistics are available, drugs and alcohol cost the American public \$276 billion in unnecessary healthcare costs, extra law enforcement, auto accidents, crime, and lost productivity. The bill introduced today recognizes the challenges of SAMHSA's comprehensive mission and builds upon its successful programs with over a dozen new provisions, a number of which include prevention initiatives that target risk factors contributing to substance abuse and mental illness.

An important aspect of this bill is its extension of the Secretary's flexibility and authority to create programs of regional and national significance in the areas of substance abuse prevention and treatment, and mental health services. This bill affords the Secretary new opportunities to respond to changing societal trends and tomorrow's needs through knowledge development grants, enhancing expertise of service providers, and implementation of regionally sensitive, community-specific programs on an as needed basis.

This bill also places a special emphasis on programs for our Nation's young people, aimed specifically at fostering a generation of drug and alcohol-free youth. This past December, when HHS released its annual report of illicit drug use among teenagers, "Monitoring the Future," we learned that overall marijuana and other illicit drug use among 8th, 10th and 12th graders had leveled off; but, decreases in crack cocaine use among 8th and 10th graders were offset by increases in the use of ecstasy among 10th and 12th graders, and steroid use among 8th and 10th graders. This is not good enough for America's next generation. Therefore, this bill provides funding to: strengthen families; prevent underage drinking; deter methamphetamine and inhalant abuse, particularly by adolescents; create developmentally appropriate early intervention and substance abuse treatment programs; help young people cope with exposure to violence; and permit re-entry into society from the juvenile justice system with appropriate wrap-around services (aftercare and mental health counseling) in place. These are model programs of which we can all be proud. The bill also improves coordination of services to children of substance abusers and provides new help for children and adults with fetal alcohol syndrome.

According to SAMHSA's 1998 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Statistics Source

Book, of the 52 million Americans between the ages of 15 and 54 who experience a substance abuse or mental health problem, 8 million, or more than one in seven, have both a mental health and an addiction problem. This represents nearly 5 percent of all Americans in this age group. The bill introduced today acknowledges the common co-occurrence of these conditions by establishing best practices for treatment strategies, and by significantly expending and improving access to those services for both individuals and families.

SAMHSA has been the payer-of-last-resort for millions of Americans with mental health and substance abuse problems. Disorders of the brain are perhaps the most complex challenges we face. While stigmatizing, they are treatable and often preventable. This bill identifies and addresses the broad range of issues contributing to the complex concerns of substance abuse and mental illness. It creates new Centers of Excellence which will lead by example and represents a major step forward for America by providing compassionate and responsible solutions.

IN MEMORY OF MAYOR HUGH
MARTIN CURRIN

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2000

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, July 15, 2000, Mayor Hugh Martin Currin, of Oxford, North Carolina, left this life. He was laid to rest today, after serving a total of 25 years as Mayor of Oxford, over a period which spanned 50 years. He spent almost a third of his life as Mayor. At age 78, he died at his home and has now been called to rest and to reside in a place of total peace.

Mayor Currin was first elected to that position in 1949, after having graduated from Oxford High School, Wake Forest College and Wake Forest Law School. This son of a tobacco farmer served as a Naval Officer during World War II. Over the years, in addition to Mayor, he served in various public positions. He was known for his ability to work with all people. The late Floyd McKissick, Sr., himself an attorney in Oxford, once said of Mayor Currin, that he was a "man of vision." He said the Mayor, "had the nature and capacity to treat a man fairly. He converted Christianity to the political arena." Indeed, despite his many activities and responsibilities, he still found time to teach Sunday School class for more than 40 years.

His years of service were perhaps captured best, in his own words. He said, "The City of Oxford has improved, not because of me or the commissioners, but because the people in this Town cared, and still do." Then, he added, "That's why Oxford has come so far—the people."

Mayor Currin was a devoted husband and loving father, whose son, also a lawyer, practiced with him in Oxford for many years. I know his wife, Doris; his son, Hugh Martin, Jr.; his daughter, Patricia Currin Mangum; and his two granddaughters will miss him dearly. All who knew him were touched by his humility, strength of character and faith in God. He was loved and well respected.

God's finger has gently touched Mayor Currin, and he now sleeps. I am confident that