

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF DR. PATRICIA L.
MCGEEHAN

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan for her exceptional contributions to the education of New Jersey's children. For 30 years, she has provided for their educational needs as a teacher, principal, and superintendent.

Dr. McGeehan received her Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the College of Saint Elizabeth, and her Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Seton Hall University, where, in 1997, she went on to complete her Doctorate in Education/Administration.

As Principal of the Midtown Community School from 1992 to 2000, Dr. McGeehan helped develop the school's curriculum, and provided meaningful guidance and support to enhance every student's educational experience. In 1995, she developed the Stevens Institute Partnership to provide students with the technological skills required to succeed in the new economy.

For her dedication, vision, and hard work, Dr. McGeehan has received numerous awards, including the New Jersey Star School Award, the National Blue Ribbon Award, the National Elementary School Principals Honor Council Excellence Award, and the New Jersey Principals' Harvard Project Case Writing Award.

Dr. McGeehan's commitment to community does not stop at the end of the school day. She generously serves on the Board of Trustees for the Bayonne Hospital, the St. Barnabas Burn Center, and the Simpson-Baber Foundation for the Autistic. In her spare time, she participates in Ireland 32's, the Friends of the Bayonne Community Orchestra, and the activities of the Holy Family Academy.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Patricia L. McGeehan for her hard work and dedication on behalf of our community, and for her extraordinary contributions in the field of education.

A TRIBUTE TO LEEROY CLARK

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in praising the work and life of Tuscola County Human Development Commission Chairman LeeRoy Clark upon the occasion of the dedication of the LeeRoy Clark Center to serve the everyday needs of senior citizens.

For more than 35 years, LeeRoy has quietly applied his keen intellect and loving heart to improving the lives of friends, neighbors and

strangers, while simultaneously overcoming the intolerance of less-enlightened minds. The breadth of LeeRoy's involvement and influence on his community cannot be underestimated or overvalued. In fact, a simple list of the many civic, educational and labor organizations that have benefitted from his leadership would take up several newspaper columns. No work log or time sheet is large enough to reflect his humanitarian commitment.

His work on the Human Development Commission and the community action movement has spanned four decades, beginning in 1965. LeeRoy has served as Commission Chairman for 31 of those years. He is also a board member of the Michigan Community Action Agency Association and is in the 40th year as an elected member of his township board.

Those who know LeeRoy have long praised him for his quiet and thoughtful lead-by-example approach. His efforts have immeasurably enhanced many lives by feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, finding work for the jobless at a fair and just wage, easing the burden of the impaired and leveling the playing field for minorities and the disadvantaged.

Although LeeRoy, who resides in Millington, Michigan, has received many accolades for his volunteer work, he has never sought such recognition. His wife, Billie, says he prefers "the appreciation that someone shows him by a handshake, a smile, sending a note or taking the time to say thank-you."

I hope my colleagues will join me today in publicly honoring LeeRoy Clark with the official gratitude of the United States House of Representatives for a lifetime of compassionate endeavors that have earned the handshakes and appreciative smiles of an entire community.

IN HONOR OF JEFF HORTON

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize Mr. Jeff Horton, a leader in educational reform and an outstanding educator from Los Angeles, California. His efforts on behalf of the children of Los Angeles and the State of California will be remembered and appreciated for generations to come.

A native of California and graduate of La Habra High School, Mr. Horton's commitment to education began over 30 years ago. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Yale University in 1970, Mr. Horton embarked on his journey as an educator by teaching English in Florence, Italy. He went on to teach English, Speech, and Reading at Crenshaw High School in Los Angeles from 1975 to 1989. Mr. Horton's dedication to the Los Angeles community has not been limited to the classroom; he has championed efforts to desegregate our

schools, establish an independent civilian police review board, and expand adult literacy programs. Eventually, Mr. Horton's drive to improve the quality of education for all children inspired him to run for elected office.

Jeff Horton was first elected to the Los Angeles Unified School District's Board of Education in 1991 and was reelected in 1995. Students in his district hailed from some of the most diverse urban areas of Los Angeles—from Hollywood, Koreatown, Silver Lake and Echo Park to West Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley.

As a board member of the largest school district in California, Mr. Horton served as Chairman of the Board's curriculum standards for six years. He initiated the practice of publicly recognizing schools for academic achievement and attendance. In addition, Mr. Horton was intimately involved in the development of district-wide learning standards for all academic subjects. These learning standards were adopted by the school district in June of 1996 and are currently under consideration by the State of California.

As a passionate advocate for disenfranchised children, Mr. Horton actively fought to protect the special needs of child abuse victims. During his tenure as a board member, he was instrumental in securing funds for the school district's child abuse office. In doing so, Mr. Horton made it possible for children with special needs to always have a place to turn for safe and confidential assistance.

In 1999, Mr. Horton was appointed to the Los Angeles County Board of Education and currently serves as the President of the California School Board's Association. As a board member he has brought with him 30 years of outstanding experience, educational commitment and compassion. Jeff Horton's legacy is one that we should all praise and celebrate. He is a living reminder to us of the powerful changes one person can make in society.

Mr. Speaker, along with family and friends of Jeff Horton who gathered at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach, California on Wednesday, November 29, 2000 to celebrate 30 years of educational commitment and professionalism, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this exceptional man and good friend.

PNTR HAS PASSED, BUT WHERE IS
THE FREEDOM IN CHINA?

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, "Protestant dies in Chinese jail" was the headline of a recent article in the Washington Times. According to the article, a Chinese protestant man was arrested on September 4 while worshipping at an underground church service then later died after being beaten and denied medical care while in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

prison. Liu Haitong was his name. He is one person who will never reap the so-called "rewards" of the United States giving China permanent normal trade relations (PNTR).

It has been several months now since the House and Senate passed legislation giving PNTR to China and the president signed it into law. During the debate, we heard the arguments that PNTR will bring changes to China, that PNTR would open China, improve human rights, and reduce the national security threat that China poses to the U.S. However, while the signing ceremonies have taken place and the parties celebrating its passage have occurred, people like Liu Haitong continue to be persecuted, imprisoned, and in some cases killed, because of their faith.

Many Members said that they voted in favor of PNTR because they thought it would bring about positive change in China's horrible human rights record, and that giving China PNTR would ultimately increase U.S. national security.

According to the Cardinal Kung Foundation, at least 13 underground Roman Catholic bishops are locked away in Chinese jails, under house arrest, in prison through labor camps, under strict surveillance, or in hiding because of their faith. At least 12 Roman Catholic priests are in prison as are numerous other laity, many of whose whereabouts are unknown. PNTR has passed, but where is freedom for these people of faith?

On the cusp of the vote on PNTR in the Senate on September 14, the Chinese government re-imprisoned Roman Catholic Bishop Zeng Jingmu, Bishop Zeng has spent much of the past 30 years in Chinese prisons and prison labor camps because of his faith. Imagine having to perform forced labor and having to spend most of your life in prison because of your faith.

PNTR has passed, but where is freedom for Bishop Zeng?

Practitioners of Falun Gong continue to be persecuted, beaten, and imprisoned because of their beliefs.

PNTR has passed, but where is freedom for the Falun Gong?

The Chinese government is pillaging Tibet. Thousands of Tibetan Buddhist monks, nuns, and believers are in Chinese prisons because of their faith.

PNTR has passed, but where is freedom for the people of Tibet?

There are hundreds of Protestant House Church leaders in prison and prison through labor camps because of their faith. PNTR has passed, but where is freedom for the Protestants house church?

Thousands of Muslim Uighurs are imprisoned because of their faith.

PNTR has passed, but where is freedom for the Muslim Uighurs?

PNTR has passed, but religious persecution continues unabated in China to this day, over two months after passage.

PNTR has passed, but a November 7 British Broadcasting Company (BBC) report says that the Chinese government is clamping down on the freedom of the Internet by asserting that websites that host chatrooms "will be held responsible for ensuring that users do not post messages that could be interpreted by the government as 'illegal.'" The BBC report says that the new rules also require "websites not run by state media to seek approval from the Information Office of the State Council, or

cabinet, before they may publish news" and that "to publish news from foreign sources, websites must seek special permission."

PNTR has passed, but the United States is routinely portrayed as Enemy No. 1 by the Chinese military. According to an article in the November 15 Washington Post, the Chinese military is openly grappling with the likelihood that the United States and China could go to war, quoting Liu Jiangjia, an officer in the People's Liberation Army, as saying "a new arms race has started to develop * * * war is not far from us now."

PNTR has passed, but there are numerous reports about China's increased presence and role in Africa. The Chinese National Petroleum Company's multibillion dollar investment and operations in the newly exploited oilfields in Sudan are very troubling. The Khartoum regime has one of the worst human rights record on the planet. And yet, the pumping of oil that is now occurring because of China's help is providing the Sudanese government with unprecedented revenue to conduct what many have described as genocide against the southern Sudanese population.

It is clear to me that mere passage of PNTR is not enough to bring about positive change in China. In fact, in my opinion, PNTR has passed, but there is only business as usual in Beijing. There are many people in China who have not benefited from passage of PNTR and who may never benefit, unless those Members who voted for PNTR speak out on behalf of human rights in China.

With permanent normal trade relations now in place, Congress will no longer annually review trade with China. That makes it even more vital that Members be more vocal and assertive in speaking out about human rights abuses in China, and about the national security concerns that continue to develop regarding Beijing.

Those Members who vocally opposed PNTR must continue to speak out as well. But it is even more important for Members who supported PNTR to speak out as their voice, as a supporter of this legislation, may be more powerful and persuasive with the regime in China. And bringing about change in China is what needs to happen now.

I urge all those Members who voted for PNTR to challenge the regime in Beijing. Speak out because the people who are suffering, who are imprisoned, or who are serving brutal prison through labor sentences need the concerted voice of Congress to bring about real and positive change in China.

IN HONOR OF RAFAEL TORO, THE
PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION'S
MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rafael Toro on being recognized by the Puerto Rican Association as the Outstanding Community Leader of the Year.

Rafael Toro, whose parents immigrated from Puerto Rico, is a native of New York City. He graduated from Northeastern University with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications and from Cambridge College with a Master's Degree in Education.

Shortly after graduation, Mr. Toro was selected to serve as the Special Assistant to the Mayor of Boston, the Honorable Kevin White, where he led the Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Board in a coordinated effort with local organizations to empower Boston's Hispanic community. For his work with the Advisory Board, Mr. Toro received the Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Contribution to the Hispanic Community from Governor Michael Dukakis and an award for outstanding achievement from Senator EDWARD KENNEDY.

In 1985, Rafael Toro was hired as the Director of Public Relations for Goya Foods, Inc., the Nation's largest Hispanic-owned company, to oversee public affairs, media relations, community activities, cultural programs, and corporate contributions. In addition, he supervises all Goya-sponsored special events, parades, and festivals. Mr. Toro has been instrumental in implementing several community and cultural activities, including the United Negro College Fund Annual Telethon, a Goya-sponsored, multi-city concert tour, and Goya's sponsorship of Picasso at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In 1993, Mr. Toro was awarded the prestigious Roy Wilkins Humanitarian Award from the NAACP.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Rafael Toro for his contributions to the Hispanic community.

A TRIBUTE TO DON AND MARY
AUNE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Don and Mary Aune of Oscoda, Michigan, as their fellow citizens prepare to recognize their contributions to the health and welfare of the Aune Medical Center.

Don and Mary have earned the appreciation of all Oscoda area residents by devoting their tremendous talents, time and energy to the re-development of health services at the site of the former Paul B. Wurtsmith Air Force Base Hospital. When the closure of the base in June 1993 left a void in medical services in the community for civilians and many retired military members living nearby, the Aunes worked with dogged determination to ensure that patients' needs would be filled.

At the time, Don was a newly elected member of the Oscoda Township Board of Trustees and was named Vice President of the non-profit corporation created to address the critical medical care shortage faced by the community. Don soon became Chairman of the Board of Directors and has spent the past seven years in that role.

With Mary's enthusiastic support, Don wielded the gavel with his usual firm and steady hand, shaping the cornerstone for a facility that will serve the needs of friends, neighbors and strangers for years to come. They led the effort to quickly turn a fledgling medical facility into a strong and vibrant operation that now provides more than 7,000 patients from the surrounding community with a host of services from family practice and pediatrics to women's health and radiology.