

HONORING DOCTOR PAUL ERRERA
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who gathered today to pay tribute to Doctor Paul Errera as he celebrates his retirement from service with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dr. Errera began his forty-seven year career with the VA as a first year resident in psychiatry at the West Haven, Connecticut VA Medical Center. He later went on to serve as the Chief of Psychiatry for fifteen years. In addition to his work in Connecticut, Dr. Errera spent nearly a decade in Washington, D.C. as the national Director of Psychiatry and Psychological Services. In that role, he was charged with the oversight of 172 VA hospitals across the country. In a career that has spanned nearly half a century, Dr. Errera has demonstrated a unique commitment to our nation's veterans and the quality of care they receive.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Errera has been a visionary leader, stimulating fundamental change in the way mental health care is delivered. He has played an integral role in the development and implementation of innovative, community-based programs to meet the diverse mental health treatment needs of veterans. Dr. Errera's commitment and diligence has had a dramatic impact on the VA's treatment of its mentally ill patients—effectively changing the face of their approach and service to many of our nation's most vulnerable citizens.

Dr. Errera attributes his dedication to the historic role the United States played in twice freeing his homeland of Belgium—believing that the citizens of Belgium owe a great debt to the brave men and women who liberated his native country. I have often spoke of our nation's need to provide the best possible care to our veterans. These are the men and women who fought for the freedoms and values we hold so dear. Dr. Errera, with his unparalleled record of service to the veterans of this country, has set a new standard for us all to strive to achieve.

Dr. Errera, through his infinite good work has made a real difference in the lives of many US veterans and for that we owe him a great debt of gratitude. It is my great honor to rise today to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Dr. Paul Errera for his outstanding service at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and my very best wishes to him and his family for many more years of health and happiness.

ILSA EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a proud cosponsor of this well crafted legislation, I rise

today in support of House Resolution 1954, the Iran Libya Extensions Act of 2001.

When this law was first enacted by the United States Congress in 1996 it imposed a number of economic sanctions against foreign companies that invest in the energy sectors of either Iran or Libya. Given those two nation's support for violence and terrorism, the bill passed overwhelmingly.

Unfortunately, nothing in those nations' behavior has changed since that bill passed unanimously by a vote of 415-0. Therefore, we must pass this bill to extend the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) for an additional five years.

As recently as March 13, 2001, President George W. Bush issued a statement declaring that Iran's government is, "a threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States"—due to—"its support for international terrorism, efforts to undermine the Middle East peace process, and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them."

And to add to this concern, in early March of this year, the Islamic Republic of Iran reportedly signed a cooperation agreement with Russia that will give it access to sophisticated arms technology.

As for Libya, the Iran Libya Sanctions Act of 2001 extends sanctions against Libya designed to end only if our President determines that Libya has fulfilled the requirements of all U.N. resolutions relating to the horrific downing of Pan Am 103 in December of 1998.

Given that Libya has not yet accepted responsibility nor compensated the families of the victims of Pan Am 103, I think it is only just that ILSA's sanctions remain against Libya.

Mr. Speaker, for the reasons I have outlined, I believe it is important to continue these restrictions on trade with companies who do business with Iran and Libya.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 1954, brought to the floor by my good friend and the Chairman of the House International Relations Committee's Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, Representative BEN GILMAN and the distinguished Ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee, Representative TOM LANTOS.

RECOGNIZING MR. DIONICIO MORALES OF THE MEXICAN AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most inspiring and influential Latino leaders in the United States. Dionicio Morales is the founder and former President of the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF), the largest Latino social-service agency in the United States. Mr. Morales has helped improve the lives of thousands of people, especially Latino youth and the elderly, by providing vital resources such as job training, senior services, naturalization services and child care programs in communities throughout California. The Mexican American Opportunity Foundation has established programs in

the San Gabriel Valley, East Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Ana, Oxnard, Salinas, and Bakersfield.

Mr. Morales' inspiring life is depicted in his autobiography entitled "Dionicio Morales: A Life in Two Cultures." In the book, Mr. Morales is described as a passionate leader who has led by example and knows first hand the struggles of the poor in detail. For many decades he has tirelessly organized and has fought to protect the rights of these individuals.

In the early 1960's Mr. Morales called the White House to request help in establishing programs to help employ and train Mexican Americans. Incredibly, Mr. Morales obtained a meeting with Vice President Lyndon Johnson, who agreed to help Mr. Morales through the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity.

Nearly four decades later, due to that fateful call made by Mr. Morales, the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation now has a budget of over \$60 million, making it the largest Latino organization in the United States.

Mr. Morales continues to be actively involved in the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation. He is a trailblazer and a true leader. I am privileged to recognize Mr. Morales' incredible life and applaud his work.

HONORING FENMORE SETON FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I had the distinct privilege of reading one of the most touching personal memoirs of the events of the invasion of Normandy, the turning point of World War II. A defining moment in our history, it is important to take a moment to reflect on the tremendous undertaking of the Allies and the unparalleled courage and bravery of the soldiers who fought, many making the ultimate sacrifice, for world freedom. It is my great pleasure to rise today to honor both the many servicemen who participated in the D-day invasion and my very dear friend, Fenmore Seton, by recounting his remarkable story.

In his memoirs Fen, a First Lieutenant in the Ninth Air Force of the United States Army Corps, captured the spirit and atmosphere of those first few memorable days. Hundreds of officers and soldiers were transported on Liberty Ships, normally equipped for crews of thirty. Under other circumstances such conditions would be considered intolerable, yet as they embarked from their staging area in Wales, there was little or no complaint from these exemplary men. Hour after hour the deafening roar of the planes overhead could be heard by the troops aboard the Liberty Ships in the Allies' Armada which stretched as far as the eye could see. Shortly before they began their mission, each man was given a printed letter of inspiration from the Allied Commander in Chief of "Operation Overload," Dwight D. Eisenhower. Climbing down the side of their Liberty Ships, on rope netting into the individual Landing Craft Infantry's, Fen and thousands of

other soldiers began to make their way ashore.

Fen disembarked from an invasion landing craft on Omaha Beach on D-day plus three. Though they were supposed to make their beach landing one day earlier, the Ranger Infantrymen who were fighting for a foothold on the designated beach landing zone, had met intense firepower from the reinforced concrete German Pillboxes which delayed their arrival. Under strict blackout instructions, they moved to their rendezvous point in a completely unfamiliar place in the pitch dark, finding refuge in a nearby shelter only to awaken amid chickens and manure and the realization that they had slept in a cattle barn.

This was the first of seven battle campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge, that Fen participated in as a member of the Ninth Air Force. In addition to the six battle stars that decorate his European Theatre ribbon, Fen was honored with the ribbon for Meritorious Service and Belgium's royal "Fourragere d'Honneur" for his service with the 70th Fighter Wing. However, it is not the honors, commendations, or medals that led Fen to take down his thoughts and memories of his extensive World War II experiences. It was, as he wrote, "because all Officers and Soldiers felt that World War II was a 'just' war . . . that had to be fought in order to defend civilization and to preserve our treasured American way of life."

As he concluded, Fen wrote: "Younger people particularly have little to no curiosity concerning World War II or the fact that the Normandy Invasion marked the turning point for the defeat of the Nazi Empire. I sadly suspect that most of the younger generation do not even recognize the significance of Pearl Harbor." It is my sincere hope that the young people of our nation and future generations remember the tremendous efforts that were made to preserve the freedoms we hold so dear. As the daughter of a veteran and a Member of this great body, I take pride in paying tribute to the veterans of World War II for their outstanding contributions to our great nation. They changed the course of history and for that we owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

Today, I stand to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Fenmore Seton for his outstanding service to our country and for bringing this remarkable story to light. It is veterans, like Fen, whose stories will never allow future generations to forget one of the free world's greatest victories.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, on July 18, 2001, my vote on final passage of H.R. 2500, the "Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002" was not recorded. I support the bill and intended to vote "yes."

I support this bill because it is fair and bipartisan, and appropriately funds many important programs and agencies in the government. This bill appropriates \$41.5 billion, which is 4 percent more than the current level and 2 percent more than requested by the president.

I am pleased that this bill adequately funds many important programs that have not received appropriate funding in the past. Specifically, H.R. 2500 provides \$1.01 billion for the Community Oriented Policing Services, a program that I strongly support and that contributes to the safety of our neighborhood streets. It also provides \$844 million for international peacekeeping efforts, including \$2 million to conduct programs that monitor and combat human trafficking. \$440 million is included for conservation programs to clean oceans and waterways. Additionally, the bill appropriates \$329 million for the Legal Services Corporation which provides legal assistance to lower-income Americans.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2001

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my grave concerns with the bill before us today. I have seen firsthand and know well the vital role that churches, mosques, synagogues and other religious institutions play in our communities. I believe, however, that both H.R. 7 and the Democratic substitute offer us a false choice and fail to protect our constitutional rights.

For more than 200 years, the U.S. Constitution has protected religious freedom by upholding each American's right to free exercise of religion and maintaining a separation between church and state. H.R. 7 would break down that historic wall.

Although the bill specifically states that government funds should not be used for worship or proselytization, meaningful safeguards to prevent such action are not included in the provisions. Indeed, as this bill is written, safeguards would be impossible. For example, if the purpose of a program is to end addiction by the adoption of a specific faith, it is impossible to separate the government service (drug and alcohol counseling) from the message of faith (proselytization). Even an "opt-out," which provides for a secular alternative to the services, does not change the fact that this bill provides government funding for religious activities.

Furthermore, both H.R. 7 and the Democratic substitute would provide direct funding to houses of worship. H.R. 7 gives federal agencies, at the discretion of the Secretary, the ability to take all the funding for a program and convert it into vouchers to religious organizations. This alarming provision takes \$47 billion in federal funds away from the oversight of elected representatives in Congress. Furthermore, the bill expressly permits federal funding of worship and proselytization with these "indirect funds." The Democratic substitute, although it attempts to close the voucher loophole, does not alleviate my concerns with direct government funding of religion.

I am also deeply concerned that efforts to make religious organizations dependent on federal funds will cause them to lose their independence, autonomy and unique voice in our society. With public funding comes public scrutiny and accountability. Also, the provi-

sions of H.R. 7 will inevitably put the federal government in the position of choosing one religion over another in awarding federal grants and contracts. Despite the fact that the bill assures us that the awarding of charitable choice funds would not constitute an "endorsement" of a certain religion, it takes little to imagine what will happen when a federal agency is forced to choose between two equally meritorious grants from different religious groups. Even worse will be the consequences when a cabinet secretary, by fiat, turns the program into a "voucher." A more egregious violation of the Establishment Clause can hardly be imagined.

I cannot state strongly enough my belief that religious organizations are an important part of our social fabric and provide absolutely vital services to people in need. Those services already can be provided by religious organizations in a way that is constitutionally sound. I encourage my colleagues to take this bill back to the drawing board and build on that record of service.

HONORING OTELLO AND CAROLYN MASSONI ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to two outstanding community members and my good friends, Otello and Carolyn Massoni, as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Married for a half a century, they are a wonderful couple who have both done much for their community in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Perhaps best known for their incredible working relationship, Otello and Carolyn are a true inspiration for any couple. They have worked on a variety of projects—always together—though their most popular are their beautiful reproductions of Faberge Eggs and fabulous dollhouses.

Their dollhouse hobby began when Otello was recuperating from a surgical procedure. Working from a kit, Otello has built a number of breathtaking buildings in a wide variety of architectural styles. Carolyn took on the responsibility of decorating the houses. From hand-made curtains trimmed with lace to the smallest details on a miniature reproduction of a Sears catalog, no detail has been overlooked. Victorian, Gothic, Colonial and Tudor styles, as well as some cottages, a gazebo, and even a brick outhouse, Otello and Carolyn's collection is truly impressive.

Intricate detail, unparalleled patience, love and care—characteristics similar to the traditional ingredients thought to be included in marriage—have gone into each of the delicate reproductions of Faberge Eggs that decorate the Massoni's home. This remarkable hobby has drawn much attention to Otello and Carolyn's creative talents. With each taking on a different task, they are not only creating beautiful ornaments, but cherished memories. Featured in local newspapers on a variety of occasions, Otello and Carolyn's work has sparked the imaginations of many in area communities.