

Currently, Dr. Ricketts is a professor at the UCLA School of Medicine and Assistant Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Olive View-UCLA Medical Center. She founded and heads up the hospital's Health Career Day in which hundreds of local students have been provided the opportunity to learn about career options in the medical field.

The innovative teaching methods used by Dr. Ricketts at this career expo have received significant national attention. She received the Department of Emergency Medicine "Golden Award for Excellence in Teaching" as well as the National Emergency Residents Association "Augustine D'Orta Award for Excellence in Health Policy and Community Service".

Dr. Ricketts serves as an inspiration to all of us through her tireless dedication to providing exceptional medical care to people in need around the world. It is a distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Dr. Vena Ricketts on her outstanding achievements.

THE OPPRESSED WOMEN OF
AFGHANISTAN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentelady from California (Ms. SOLIS) for arranging this special order today. I also want to extend my best wishes and prayers to the women of Afghanistan.

Just as we cannot forget the horrific events of September 11, 2001, we must not forget the women of Afghanistan who have been suffering under the brutal Taliban regime since 1996. They were the first victims of the Taliban.

Today, there are thousands of widows in the capital of Afghanistan who are unable to leave their homes, even for food and emergency medical care. Women are forced to cover themselves from head to toe, denied access to education and proper health care, forbidden to work so that they may support their families, and face brutal beatings if they do not comply with the rules set forth by their oppressors. Amnesty International calls Afghanistan under the Taliban "a human right catastrophe." These women are struggling to survive in what has become a police state claiming to be a theocracy.

Nonetheless, by enacting these oppressive measures, the Taliban regime claim they are restoring Afghanistan to the purity of Islam. However, authorities in a number of Muslim countries insist that few of the regime's dictates have a basis in Islam. The religion of Islam requires all Muslims to cherish women, and requires that their status to be equal to that of men. It is the Taliban's interpretation of Islam and treatment of women that is un-Islamic. It is they who are the unbelievers, the oppressors, and the blasphemers. And it is they who continue to use violence and a distorted interpretation of Islam to force their ideology on others.

My sympathies and prayers with the women of Afghanistan, and I hope that their ordeal will soon come to an end.

OPPOSE DELAYS IN ENFORCING
EXECUTIVE ORDER 13166

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma, which would delay enforcement of Executive Order 13166 that requires federal agencies and organizations that receive federal funding to provide translators to limited English proficient individuals.

Executive Order 13166 promotes actions consistent with, but not unduly burdensome to, the fundamental mission of federal programs. Flexibility is recognized as essential—states and providers need only do what they can, given their circumstances, to assist limited English proficiency (LEP) individuals. For example, street signs do not need to be translated into characters and doctors who serve LEP individuals on an infrequent basis are not required to have full-time interpreters or bilingual staff, this would be considered undue burden.

The need for Executive Order 13166 and its implementing guidance cannot be overstated. LEP individuals—many of whom initially enter the United States as refugees and asylees—endure restricted access to critical public health, hospital and medical services which they often desperately need. The most recent Census data that documents over 31 million individuals, over one in nine Americans, speak a language other than English at home. While this reality should be viewed as a cultural strength of our nation, in the health care context an individual's limited English proficiency often results in inadequate health care. An inability to comprehend the patient, mixed with a fear of liability, can also lead some doctors to order expensive, otherwise avoidable tests. Conversely, because of communication problems, non-English speakers often avoid seeking treatment until it is absolutely necessary, which disproportionately causes them to underutilize cost-effective preventive care. This is not only unhealthy, but often more expensive. Without Executive Order 13166 and translation services for LEP populations, citizens and non-citizens alike suffer.

Parents of citizen children, who have limited knowledge of English, can not explain to the doctor what is wrong with their child nor do they understand what the doctor tells them to do for treatment. If a LEP individual arrives at a hospital with symptoms of tuberculosis—or smallpox—without an interpreter, hospital staff and public health officials would be unable to communicate with the patient and a public health hazard could easily spiral out of control.

Here are additional stories that have resulted from inadequate LEP translation services available.

A Korean woman appeared for a gynecology exam, but no interpreter or language line assistance was provided. The clinician used the 16-year-old son of a complete stranger to translate.

A woman requiring treatment for a uterine cyst was unable to receive treatment on two separate occasions because an interpreter was unavailable.

A man suffering from a skin condition requiring laser treatment underwent treatment for

over a year. The man endured days of pain after each treatment, but was unable to communicate this because he was never provided with an interpreter. Only after a community organization intervened did the clinic understand the patient's pain and adjust the treatment.

A Russian-speaking woman experienced life-threatening complications from prescribed medications. Without an interpreter or use of a language line, doctors in the emergency room were unable to treat her. Only because a Russian-speaking young girl happened by and agreed to help were doctors able to save the woman's life.

A Russian-speaking woman's nine-year-old son had to translate before and after his mother's angioplasty. The hospital refused to use a language line and the child translated for several hours each time.

This Executive Order will have a profoundly positive impact on ensuring that all individuals, regardless of language, receive quality care and that disparities in health care access and outcomes due to language barriers are being addressed. There is no good reason to delay the full enforcement of Executive Order 13166. Therefore, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

DAVID NEVES, RHODE ISLAND'S
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to David Neves, a Scituate music teacher who was recently named Rhode Island's Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Neves has been a member of the Scituate High School music department for 25 years and has devoted his career to instilling a love and appreciation for music in all of his students. Throughout his tenure at Scituate, Mr. Neves has directed the band program and served as the conductor for the symphonic band, jazz ensemble and orchestra. Any one of these projects consumes an extraordinary amount of time, yet Mr. Neves has undertaken all four with tireless enthusiasm.

In addition to providing basic music instruction, Mr. Neves has led his students on trips to Montreal, Toronto, Orlando, and Washington, DC, and even allowed them to produce top-quality recordings in professional studios. Through his efforts, the students in Scituate's music program have experienced life beyond their community, and they will relish and draw on those experiences for years to come.

Mr. Neves was selected for this honor from among nominees of schools all over the state. He will now compete for National Teacher of the Year and will be recognized at a Presidential ceremony here in Washington in the spring. I am very much looking forward to welcoming Mr. Neves to our nation's capitol and congratulating him on this impressive honor in person.

I think we all know the impact one exceptional teacher can have on his students. One teacher can change the course of a child's life by inspiring confidence, promoting excellence, and opening his students' eyes to possibility. Mr. Neves is truly an outstanding asset to his profession and community, and for that, I am

grateful. I know the entire second district of Rhode Island joins me in extending hearty congratulations on his wonderful achievement.

TRIBUTE TO TRI-ANIM HEALTH SERVICES, INC.

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tri-anim Health Services, Inc. of Sylmar, California. On October 12, 2001, this unique organization will receive the "Outstanding Corporate Contributor of Health Education" award from the Olive View-UCLA Medical Center Foundation in Woodland Hills, California.

Tri-anim Health Services, Inc. is the nation's largest provider of specialty health care products used in respiratory, anesthesia and critical care. Employing over 220 people nationwide with annual sales exceeding 100 million in revenue, Tri-anim prides itself on quality employees who continuously exceed the expectations of customers.

The Tri-anim corporate commitment to exceptional service extends beyond the boundaries of the company. The organization frequently donates medical equipment and supplies throughout the world benefiting thousands of people in Armenia, China, Columbia, Equador, Nicaragua and Russia to name a few. Tri-anim is also active in numerous local philanthropic endeavors. In particular, the company provides strong financial support to the American Cancer Society, Braille Institute and SHARE.

Most recently, Tri-anim donated 13 notebook computers to a Los Angeles school for children with autism. These computers allowed the students to enhance their ability to communicate and learn. In fact, the special software provided enables some students to communicate in sentences for the first time.

Tri-anim is recognized industry-wide for its renowned technological advances. The company's award-winning website was the first one dedicated to respiratory, anesthesia and critical care. The site offers approximately 32,000 products from more than 250 manufacturers.

Tri-anim Health Services, Inc. has risen above and beyond any other organization of its kind through the extraordinary dedication of each employee to providing exceptional service in the health care arena. It is a pleasure to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Tri-anim on their outstanding achievements.

THE WASHINGTON POST PUTS ITS FINGER ON 'THE ARAB PARADOX'

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, a very astute editorial was printed in today's Washington Post underscoring a provocative point: That the regimes of Arab states, which have little if any democratic legitimacy, use hatred for the United States and Israel to deflect criticism of their internal policies.

In our hearing yesterday in our Committee on International Relations on public diplomacy in the fight against terror, the very same point was made. And, to be sure, it has even been made by some moderate Arab leaders.

The fact is that these policies of blaming others are self-defeating. They do not lead to any long-term reform. They do not even allow any real release of tension. In this modern age, they lead to intolerance of others, support for terrorism, or terrorism itself.

We need to fully consider these points, as do the rulers of the "moderate" Arab states.

For the information of my colleagues, I request that the Washington Post editorial be printed at this point in the RECORD:

[From the Washington Post: Oct. 11, 2001]

THE ARAB PARADOX

Arab nations, including those considered allies of the United States, have been struggling with their response to the U.S.-led military campaign in Afghanistan. If their contortions were not so familiar they would be hard to understand: After all, Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda organization are sworn enemies of the Egyptian and Saudi governments, which in turn depend on the United States for their security. But it took Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak three days to choke out a statement supporting "measures taken by the United States to resist terrorism"; and even then he coupled it with a parallel demand that Washington "take measures to resolve the Palestinian problem." Meanwhile, Mr. Mubarak's longtime foreign minister, Amr Moussa, now the secretary general of the Arab League, prompted first Arab states and then the 56-nation Islamic Conference to adopt a resolution yesterday opposing U.S. attacks on any Arab country as part of the anti-terrorism campaign—a position that offers cover to Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

In effect, Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Moussa are backing both the military action of the U.S. alliance and the political position of Osama bin Laden, who on Sunday claimed that unjust American policies in Israel and Iraq justified his acts of mass murder. The world, Mr. Moussa said, needs to address the "causes" of the terrorism, and he suggested that a United Nations conference might be the best forum. There's little doubt what he has in mind: After all, Mr. Moussa only a couple of months ago led the attempt to hijack the U.N. conference on racism and revive the libel that "Zionism is racism."

Behind this contradictory rhetoric lies one of the central problems for U.S. policy in the post-Sept. 11 world: The largest single "cause" of Islamic extremism and terrorism is not Israel, nor U.S. policy in Iraq, but the very governments that now purport to support the United States while counseling it to lean on Ariel Sharon and lay off Saddam Hussein. Egypt is the leading example. Its autocratic regime, established a half-century ago under the banner of Arab nationalism and socialism, is politically exhausted and morally bankrupt. Mr. Mubarak, who checked Islamic extremists in Egypt only by torture and massacre, has no modern political program or vision of progress to offer his people as an alternative to Osama bin Laden's Muslim victimology. Those Egyptians who have tried to promote such a program, such as the democratic activist Saad Eddin Ibrahim, are unjustly imprisoned. Instead, Mr. Mubarak props himself up with \$2 billion a year in U.S. aid, while allowing and even encouraging state-controlled clerics and media to promote the anti-Western, anti-modern and anti-Jewish propaganda of the Islamic extremists. The policy serves his purpose by deflecting popular frustration

with the lack of political freedom or economic development in Egypt. It also explains why so many of Osama bin Laden's recruits are Egyptian.

For years U.S. and other Western governments have been understanding of Mr. Mubarak and other "moderate" Arab leaders. They have to be cautious in helping the United States, it is said, because of the pressures of public opinion—the opinion, that is, that their own policies have been decisive in creating. Though the reasoning is circular, the conclusion has been convenient in sustaining relationships that served U.S. interests, especially during the Cold War. But the Middle East is a region where the already overused notion that Sept. 11 "changed everything" may just turn out to be true. If the United States succeeds in making support or opposition to terrorism and Islamic extremism the defining test of international politics, as President Bush has repeatedly promised, then the straddle that the "moderate" Arabs have practiced for so long could soon become untenable. Much as it has valued its ties with leaders such as Mr. Mubarak, the Bush administration needs to begin preparing for the possibility that, unless they can embrace new policies that offer greater liberty and hope, they will not survive this war.

TRIBUTE TO ABBY HOCHBERG-SHANNON

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, as the Chairman of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, most of you have heard me speak on the House floor about children's issues. Today, I want to wish a fond farewell to the member of my staff who has worked so hard on these issues during my years in Congress—Abby Hochberg-Shannon. Abby is leaving her position as my Legislative Director today to work for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

All of us who serve in Congress know how important our staff members are to us. Abby was one of the first people I hired when I came to Congress in 1997. She has a real passion for children's issues, which was so important when two young constituents were tragically abducted during my first term. Abby's hard work was integral to the establishment of the first-ever Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus. Now the caucus includes over 150 Members of Congress who provide a loud and unified voice as advocates for missing children.

Now Abby is going to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. I am proud that she will be continuing her work on these issues with such an outstanding organization. Although she will be sorely missed, I don't feel like I am losing a staff member. I know that I and other members of the Caucus will continue to work with Abby Hochberg-Shannon and the National Center on this issue so we can "bring our missing children home".

Thank you Abby for 5 years of dedicated work. The Hill will miss you.