

TRIBUTE TO HOUSING OPTIONS & GERIATRIC ASSOCIATION RESOURCES, INC.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Housing Options & Geriatric Association Resources, Inc., an organization dedicated to improving the lives of homeless, elderly, mentally ill, physically challenged, and HIV/AIDS infected individuals in the Bronx. This invaluable organization celebrates the grand opening of its Scattered Site Housing Program and Supported Housing Unit on November 15, 2001.

H.O.G.A.R.'s mission is not only to raise awareness of the housing and health issues facing burdened groups of society, but also to provide ways of dealing with these issues. Not only does H.O.G.A.R. spread the word that a number of individuals diagnosed as mentally ill end up on the streets each year, but it also maintains a program to find housing for these people and has even opened a 12-bed supported housing unit that emphasizes community reintegration.

Mr. Speaker, H.O.G.A.R. also recently implemented the Scatter Site Housing Program for HIV/AIDS infected people. This program provides relocation assistance, access to counseling services, access to primary health care, recreational activities, daily life skills training, and classes in healthy meal preparation to name just a few things. Essentially it is a program to ensure that people living with AIDS, actually have some quality of life. Often those who are sick and poor are left to the wayside. H.O.G.A.R. is there to pick these individuals up and to show them how to stand alone.

An amazing group of men and women give H.O.G.A.R. its heart and soul and continually fuel its efforts. It is because of them that H.O.G.A.R. exists and succeeds in its mission. We will never be able to accurately assess exactly how many lives H.O.G.A.R. has saved or how many lives it has helped give meaning and hope to. We can only be sure that any addition to this organization is worthy of great celebration. That is why my son, Councilman elect, and myself are so honored to be named special guests of H.O.G.A.R.'s grand opening of these two new program units.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the H.O.G.A.R. directors and staff for their immeasurable contributions to those most in need and most overlooked and in thanking them for their ceaseless efforts.

THE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP ACT OF 2001

HON. W. J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, last week, Senator HOLLINGS and I joined together to introduce legislation to emphasize the prohibition on foreign government ownership of American telecommunications and broadcast infrastructure. This is not a new concept. It has been

the law for more than fifty years in order to protect the American national interest.

We have been dismayed this year by the FCC's approval of the Deutsche Telekom acquisition of VoiceStream Wireless Communications and the SES-Astra acquisition of GE Americom Communications. For several years, we have repeatedly expressed the most serious reservations about the Commission's interpretation of the foreign government ownership provisions of Section 310 of the Communications Act. We have repeatedly pointed out that companies controlled by foreign governments are too often motivated by political considerations that may be against the interests of the United States rather than by the working of the competitive marketplace.

Notwithstanding our stated concerns, the Commission approved the Deutsche Telekom acquisition of VoiceStream in April of this year, revealing the clear differences between the Congress and members of the Commission about the meaning and application of Section 310. The proposal of SES-Astra to acquire GE Americom presented the same concerns, and I asked the Commission to conduct a "vigorous review;" of the proposed acquisition to assure that our national interests were protected. However, instead of the vigorous review that was needed and requested, the Commission allowed the International Bureau to rapidly approve this significant acquisition in a pro forma manner. Indeed, once that approval had been given, SES-Astra revealed that it had not fully revealed the substantial extent of foreign control in the company, but the FCC staff again gave its prompt pro forma approval with no public notice.

Commissioner Michael J. Copps issued a statement noting that SES-Astra's failure to reveal the full extent of its foreign ownership and stating that the Telecommunications Act required the FCC to provide the opportunity for public notice. We agree. We believe the Commission has exceeded its authority in this area and has not weighed fully the full national interest considerations in foreign government ownership of our telecommunications infrastructure, especially in the wake of recent events that have heightened our concerns about the security of our homeland.

Accordingly, we introduced legislation to make it clear that foreign governments are not allowed to own or control American telecommunications, satellite, or broadcast networks, whether directly or indirectly. This legislation does not break new ground, but rather simply reaffirms, in no uncertain terms, that the telecommunications, broadcast, and Internet facilities that underlie our freedom of speech and our economy cannot be made vulnerable to the actions of foreign governments.

We suggest that it serves neither the public interest nor the interest of the applicants for the FCC to approve any mergers of this type, or for that matter to allow the SES-Astra acquisition of GE Americom to go forward without the full Commission seriously addressing our concerns.

AMERICAN SPIRIT FRAUD PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in the days following the terrible tragedy that befell America on September 11, 2001, we have experienced a reaffirmation of the American Spirit in the heroic acts of some Americans and the selfless giving of others. Americans have opened their hearts to the families of the victims of the September 11th tragedy and heeded the calls for assisting those victims. Americans from all walks of life have to date contributed in excess of \$1 billion to charities and other organizations supporting the victims of the tragedy. While the overwhelming majority of fund-raising efforts in response to the September 11th terrorist acts are legitimate, unfortunately, there have been a few fraudulent fundraising efforts capitalizing on this National tragedy.

As unacceptable as it may be, the September 11th tragedy, as other tragic emergencies, have spun deceit and fraud perpetrated by unscrupulous persons manipulating the emotions of generous citizens so that they may fraudulently line their pockets. Scam artists often use the telephone and Internet to prey on emotions—for example, by being rude when asked for specific information or insinuating that people who decline to give are unpatriotic. By taking advantage of the moment and acting quickly, these criminals are often able to raise thousands of dollars before they are caught. And when they're caught, the FTC has tepid legal authority to make them pay for their offense.

H.R. 2985, the American Spirit Fraud Prevention Act, introduced by Reps. DEAL and BASS, takes measures to prevent scam artists from capitalizing on national tragedies and takes additional steps to penalize those practices. The bill takes the needed step of strengthening the Federal Trade Commission Act so the Commission can punish those unscrupulous scam artists.

The bill gives the Commission the power, during times of presidentially-declared national emergency or natural disaster, to crack down hard on unfair or deceptive acts or practices that take advantage of the emergency or disaster. If the Commission acts to stop the fraud administratively, this bill doubles the civil penalties from \$11,000 to \$22,000 for each violation. Alternatively, if the Commission opts to go to federal district court for an injunction to stop the fraud, the bill gives the Commission the authority to demand civil penalties of \$22,000 for each violation, a punitive power the FTC currently does not have at their disposal. The increased penalties are available for unfair or deceptive acts or practices committed within one year after the President terminates the emergency period under the National Emergencies Act or within one year of the disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

Those are needed changes to the FTC Act. It is unfortunate that such changes were necessitated by the horrific events of September 11th. Yet, we must put all those engaged in fraud or contemplating fraudulent acts that

take advantage of National tragedies on notice that they will pay and pay dearly for their unscrupulous acts. This bill shows that we will not tolerate the manipulation of Americans' goodwill at times of National tragedy.

I wholeheartedly support the American Spirit Fraud Prevention Act and I strongly urge its passage.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAVID
POLLARD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize David Pollard of Cedaredge, Colorado, and thank him for his contributions to the people of Kosovo. For the past year, David has been involved with the "Youth With A Mission" organization that helps people throughout the world by building homes and fostering relief projects in troubled areas around the world.

David began his work with YWAM after training in Trinidad, Colorado for several months. His first assignment was to be sent to Kosovo as a member of the outreach team. The team's duties included building housing for families that have been displaced or lost their homes in the recent conflict in Kosovo. Living with a host family, David contributed to his team by providing the labor to construct these homes. David reached out further to the communities by interacting with locals and spreading moral messages based on the Bible and the Koran.

David ended his first mission to Kosovo last summer. Since, he has returned to Trinidad and assisted in the training of more teams to continue with YWAM's mission. After his second round of training, he was instrumental as a co-leader for a new team of volunteers and accompanied them back to Kosovo. Some people might say that two missions are enough in a place that has experienced such devastation and hardship for so long, but David continues his assistance to Kosovo. He is now planning to return to the country, on his own, at his own expense. Once arriving, David hopes to find work with relief organizations and continue his service to the people of Kosovo.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor David Pollard and his contributions to a country in a time of need. Like other members of "Youth With A Mission," David has provided his services without compensation. His volunteering efforts are well appreciated and bring great credit to himself, his family, and his community. Thanks David.

IN HONOR OF CARL J. GOLDBERG

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Carl J. Goldberg. On Friday, November 16, 2001, Mr. Goldberg will be the Honoree at the Deborah Hospital Foundation's 15th Annual Children of the

World Humanitarian Award Dinner-Dance. The event will be held at the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Carl Goldberg has enjoyed an extensive and successful real estate career that spans over two decades. In 1979, he joined the prestigious real estate firm Bertram Associates as a Project Manager for the development of single-family homes. While at Bertram, he quickly climbed the corporate ranks and became Operating Partner. As Operating Partner, he was instrumental in the construction of more than 2,000 homes throughout New Jersey.

In 1994, Carl Goldberg left Bertram Associates and founded the Roseland Property Company. Since its formation, Roseland has played a major role in the development of company communities throughout the Northeast. Under Carl Goldberg's guidance, Roseland builds over 1,500 residential units a year.

Currently, Carl Goldberg serves as a member of the National Association of Homebuilders and is the former President of the Community Builders' Association.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Carl Goldberg for his years of distinguished service on behalf of New Jersey residents.

HATE CRIMES IN AMERICA

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to rise to lend my voice to those who have spoken here today on the issue of hate crimes directed toward those who are Muslims, of middle eastern descent, or who are perceived as belonging to either group. As Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I know that hate crimes are not new. They are as old as lynchings and as real as bombings. Racial, religious and ethnic minorities have been the victims of hate crimes for a very long time in America and yet we all know that these acts of cowardice are rarely punished, routinely ignored and the victims are often considered the cause of the horror aimed at them.

I know that in other moments of crisis in this country, we have allowed fear to overcome reason and official actions to lead to unfair deprivations. The internment of the Japanese Americans, the treatment of the Native Americans and the slavery and segregation of African Americans were all caused by the interaction of fear, hatred and official action. In the new millennium, this country cannot afford to resort to old patterns of behavior.

In my district, the day after the September 11th attack, there were reports of people who shot into mosques in attempts to harm or terrorize. At that time, I issued a call for calm and reminded my constituents that this country must never resort to vigilante violence. In the wake of the horror that has been visited upon this country, we cannot allow ourselves to forget what it means to be an American. We must not forget that inclusion, diversity and respect for all people regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and national origin is the cornerstone of America's foundation and the undergirding of our greatness.

The American dream must be kept alive and well within our current nightmare. I am deeply disappointed to hear of the many instances of hate crimes that have occurred throughout the nation. I know that America is greater than this and I know that as always, the forces of fairness will overcome every domestic and international evil because the moral arch of the universe may be long, but it always bends toward justice.

TRIBUTE TO TOM J. DONOHO

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and commend one of Western North Carolina's and Buncombe County's finest citizens, the late Tom J. Donoho, "The big man with the big heart." Tom passed away on November 6, 2001. He was a personal friend of mine for many years, and he will be sorely missed.

Born in Greenville, South Carolina, Tom's family moved to North Carolina where he graduated from Biltmore High School in 1952. As an alumnus of Biltmore High School, saving the school from destruction became a pet project of Tom's in recent years. Last June the WNC Historical Association acquired the deed, and Tom sought my help for \$300,000 for the "Biltmore School Museum," which was provided in the 2002 Interior Appropriation.

After high school, Tom served in the United States Army and twelve years in the National Guard and Reserves. He was a man who loved his country, his community, and his people. Tom supported the East Asheville Youth Program for the past 47 years, giving freely of his time, materials, labor and money to this program, not for recognition but because he loved young people. Together, Tom and his wife Betty founded Asheville Electric forty years ago, building it into a thriving business, of which Tom was President, employing about 35 people.

When the new Reynolds High School was built, it was Tom Donoho who offered to wire the school, and he drove to Kansas to get the famous "Rocket"—an Army surplus "Honest John" rocket—which he helped mount at the entrance to the school and is the school's mascot. Tom provided the lighting for the school's football and baseball stadiums.

Tom took an active part in politics in Asheville and Buncombe County. For many years he contributed to the campaigns of good men and women who ran for public office and stood as a candidate for Asheville City Council in 1989. He was well known for donning an apron and cooking at fundraisers for local candidates.

In addition to being a well-known businessman, Tom served two four-year terms on the Asheville Regional Airport Authority. During that time he served as vice-chairman, chairman of the building and grounds committee, and employee relations committee. He was also a Shriner with the Oasis Temple and a member of the Biltmore Masonic Lodge, Asheville York Rite and the Asheville Scottish Rite.

Tom married Betty Brittain 43 years ago, they reared two children: Susan Donoho Martin of Asheville and Daniel Woron of Florida.