

My family and I are all grateful for their hard work and commitment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EDWARD
ASWAD

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Edward M. Aswad, Photographer & Author, as he will be inducted in a star ceremony in the Binghamton Sidewalk of Fame.

This recognition honors the professionalism, integrity, and artistic vision that Ed has demonstrated throughout his years in the photography business and his talent and success as an author. Ed calls his camera "a passport to many facets of life."

Ed received his first camera as a child living on Cypress Street in Binghamton, NY. Since that time his life has been entwined with photography. During military service from 1954 through 1958 he received intensive training and opportunities in the art of photography working in the headquarters of the United States Army Signal Corps.

He earned recognition and promotions as a photographer/correspondent, recording events of military, government and civil importance. His work has been featured in military publications, court records, and civilian newspapers both in the United States and overseas.

Ed received a letter of commendation for serving above and beyond the call of duty on a burning ship docked in Honolulu, Hawaii. He entered the hold of the ship with a cadre of firefighters who were removing vats of kerosene before the fuel could explode. He spent three days and two nights on the premises recording the crisis, and was cited for his dedication, professionalism and award-winning photographs.

Upon discharge from the United States Army, he returned to the Triple Cities and began his professional career as an industrial photographer for General Electric in Johnson City. During eleven years with this company, Ed received numerous professional awards. In 1969, Ed became a partner in Carriage House Photography, where he expanded his reputation for technical and artistic abilities.

His recording of buildings, now gone, and of the current use of these sites, his views of parks, rivers, events, and the people whose lives shape our area, have made his photographs synonymous with Broome County. His work is prized and featured in local businesses, the Broome County Chamber of Commerce, civil and government releases, and is in use as background sets on local television stations.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to salute Ed for his many years of devotion to the art of photography. Ed is a most deserving honoree of the Star.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER
AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT
ON H.R. 2620, DEPARTMENTS OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,
AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our Chairman JIM WALSH and our Ranking Member ALAN MOLLOHAN and all the staff that assisted in crafting this bill VA—HUD FY02 Appropriations bill. Faced with the allocation provided to the subcommittee, I believe the bill before us is a good and balanced product, which I support and plan to vote for today. The allocation, however, was simply inadequate to take care of our veterans and their truly pressing needs. All around our country veterans wait too long for doctors appointments, are disabled by substance abuse and mental illness, far too many are homeless, and surely it is nothing less than a crisis that a backlog of more than 500,000 claims for compensation and pension benefits are pending before the VA today.

I am, however, happy to note that this report does provide an important first step toward ensuring that veterans suffering from schizophrenia have greater access to new and vitally important atypical anti-psychotic medications. Under the provision, a physician's practice of prescribing atypical anti-psychotic medications must not be used as performance indicators when evaluating the physician's work. The provision also clarifies and reiterates the policy that physicians are to use their best clinical judgment when choosing these critical anti-psychotic medications.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is provided with \$7.9 billion—\$74 million more than the FY01 funding and \$587 million more than requested. The measure provides full funding for EPA enforcement activities and staff. I am pleased that changes were made from the House bill that would have significantly reduced EPA enforcement staff and shifted more enforcement duties to states.

The Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) is funded at a level of \$30.1 billion—\$1.7 billion more than FY01 appropriations, but \$433 million less than requested. It includes funding for 25,900 new Section 8 rental vouchers to provide housing assistance to additional families. There were increases in the Conference report for housing programs for the elderly, disabled, and persons with AIDS.

I am disappointed that the Conference did not provide the Senate's appropriation of \$300 million for HUD's Public Housing Drug Elimination Grant Program. This program fits several of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's main strategic goals: improving quality of life, promoting economic vitality, and keeping communities and neighborhoods safe. Housing authorities are specifically required to develop, in cooperation with local police, plans that ensure safety and crime prevention. Crime statistics show that crime has dropped nation wide and especially in our cities and public housing facilities since

this program was created. I again am very disappointed that his program has been eliminated, with no clear replacement that is accessible to localities.

The National Credit Union Administration provides \$1 million for the Community Development Revolving Loan Fund for loans to community development credit unions. Of this amount \$350,000 is provided for technical assistance to low income and community development credit unions. Technical assistance grants are available to low-income designated credit unions and those credit unions that expand service to low-income communities or investment areas. The purpose of these awards is to strengthen these credit unions by funding the following activities: improved technology and service delivery systems; economic development; consumer and entrepreneurial education; micro-enterprise business development; employment opportunities for through community business development; and credit union infrastructure and staff development.

Once again, I appreciate the hard work behind this bill but am deeply concerned that as we prepare to honor veterans on Veterans Day that an inadequate allocation will prevent us from providing this nation's defenders and protectors of liberty with the services and benefits they deserve.

RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SAFETY
INDIVIDUALS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2001

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the tragedies that befell our country on September 11th claimed many lives and caused our Nation great pain. These tragedies have given us a strong reminder and renewed our understanding of what extraordinary work our public safety professionals do on a daily basis. These men and women symbolize bravery and courage, two of the founding pillars that laid the framework for our great Nation.

As they proved on September 11th, our public service professionals are a lifeline to those whose lives are in danger. They are the brave souls who risk life and limb to save our own, and for that we are eternally grateful. They are the rock we lean on when it seems like things are caving in. They are quite simply heroes.

In keeping with honoring those who symbolize bravery and courage, I rise to recognize the public safety professionals from across the 9th Congressional District of Texas. Their professionalism, dedication and strong work ethic make me extremely proud to call myself a Southeast Texan. Words cannot express the gratitude that I, along with my fellow Texans, share for the work that our uniformed officers do.

And as I rise to recognize our public safety individuals, we must never lose sight of how critical they are, not only in times of need, but in our everyday lives. Let us today reaffirm our support and commitment to all of the Nation's law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and all other uniformed professionals as they selflessly serve their communities.