

Robert's courses and his success recruiting women into his automotive technology program. Furthermore, Robert has won acclaim for his unique talent for welcoming special education students and helping them excel in the program. Great teachers, like Robert, draw on their own practical experience in order to bring the real world into the classroom. Recently, the State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education named Robert faculty member of the year.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today and recognize Robert Duncan before this Congress and this Nation. We should all express our deepest gratitude to teachers like Robert. They make an enormous difference one life at a time, providing countless students with opportunity and hope. Teaching truly is a noble calling, and Robert has answered that call.

#### LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 27, 2003*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues' attention the following letter sent to President George W. Bush by members of the California Legislature stating their opposition to war against Iraq. I am proud of these 52 lawmakers who represent a diversity of California's citizens. They understand firsthand the cost of this capricious act. Financing this war will mean less federal investment in schools and nursing homes and the loss of basic services for the working poor, the disabled and mentally-ill. They are rightly concerned about the impact this war will have on those young Americans who have been called to fight. They are disappointed about the diminished respect and influence America will have in the world given the President's use of military power, not the interests of peace and democracy, in his approach to foreign affairs. I commend my fellow Californians for their eloquence and outspokenness on an issue of such great importance to the American people.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE,  
*March 4, 2003.*

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,  
*President, United States of America, The White House, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: As Members of the California State Legislature, we respectfully write in opposition to a war on Iraq without a formal resolution by the United Nations Security Council and a declaration of war by Congress.

As elected representatives of the largest population and economy in America, we have many concerns over the policies your administration is pursuing. These include:

A lack of credible evidence that meets the standard of "beyond a reasonable doubt" that shows the imminent danger Iraq poses to America's essential interests. Neither Colin Powell nor Hans Blix presented a case sufficient to warrant an attack by American forces.

A failure to persuade other nations to support our intentions. Unlike the aftermath of the Attack on America, you have not been able to enlist the support of other key nations, who presumably have been given even more intelligence data than has the American public. This lack of geo-political solidarity substantially weakens America's case in the court of world opinion. Further, it en-

hances the prospects of fighting a war with few allies.

Lack of clarity about the possible instability in the Middle East during the war and subsequent foreign occupation of Iraq. It seems unlikely that the Muslim world will for long passively accept America's incursion—whatever our provocation.

Respectfully,

Don Perata, Byron Sher, Jack Scott, Mike Machado, Tom Torlakson, Gloria Romero, Wesley Chesbro, Debra Bowen, Deborah Ortiz, John Burton, Liz Figueroa, Gil Cedillo, Sheila Kuehl, John Vasconcellos, Edward Vincent, Richard Alarcón, Jackie Speier, Dede Alpert.

Paul Koretz, John Longville, Mervyn Dymally, Christine Kehoe, Jackie Goldberg, Fabian Nuñez, Sally J. Lieber, Ronald Calderon, John Laird, Loni Hancock, Judy Chu, Patricia Wiggins, Alan Lowenthal, Hannah-Beth Jackson, Gene Mullin, Cindy Montañez, Marco Firebaugh, Patty Berg, Wilma Chan.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SOCIAL PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 113 recognizing the social problem of child abuse and neglect, and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of the problem. Although we live in the world's wealthiest nation, we have yet to eradicate some of the most disheartening social ills that plague our society. Throughout this great republic, it is a fact that many of our children are in great need, impacted by the horrifying realities of unsafe and unhealthy living environments, wherein abuse and neglect tear away at the very core of their youthfulness.

With regards to the prevalence of this problem, in 1999, an estimated 3,244,000 children were reported to Child Protective Services agencies as alleged victims of child maltreatment. Child abuse reports have maintained a steady growth for the past ten years, with the total number of reports nationwide increasing 45 percent since 1987. Neglect represents the most common type of reported and substantiated form of maltreatment. In 1996, 25 States provided the following breakdown for reported cases: 62 percent involved neglect, 25 percent physical abuse, 7 percent sexual abuse, 3 percent emotional maltreatment, and 4 percent other. For substantiated cases, 31 States gave the following breakdowns: 60 percent neglect, 23 percent physical, 9 percent sexual, 4 percent emotional maltreatment and 5 percent other.

Figures issued by another study conducted in 2000, which surveyed 48 States, representing over 95 percent of the population under 18, reveal a serious need for concern. Approximately 1,356 children died due to causes of child abuse and neglect. More specifically, children under 5 years old accounted for four out of five of all fatalities reported, which served as the 2nd leading cause of

death of children ages 1–4 in the United States. In that same year, children under 1 year old accounted for two out of five of all fatalities reported.

In the State of Texas, Child Protective Services reported there were 131,147 investigations of child abuse and neglect and 47,532 were confirmed victims. In fact, of the child abuse and neglect related fatalities in the State of Texas, figures from 2001 data show Harris County with the most occurrences.

To this end, there is no doubt that child abuse and neglect continues to be a significant problem in the United States. These statistics can only begin to help us understand the scope of the problem—who is affected and what extents to which they are. Nonetheless, this legislation makes way for others in the public who may not ordinarily think about such problems more acutely aware of these issues.

Our children are our future, but their health and safety in our society continues to decline. Everyone has an obligation to ensuring children have a chance at a great life and a prosperous future. The reality is alarming, but our commitment to the goals of this legislation must be strong. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, GREATER RIVERSIDE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, MORENO VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AMERICAN RED CROSS, SALVATION ARMY AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, MARCH CANTEEN, HARVEST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND OTHERS

### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 27, 2003*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to several organizations whose patriotism, dedication and contributions to the troops deploying out of March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, California are exceptional. As our troops have been preparing to deploy to the Middle East many local organizations have taken it upon themselves to provide an outpouring of support and assistance. The local organizations involved have been the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Community Foundation, March Canteen and Harvest Christian Fellowship.

March Air Reserve Base has a long history of honorable service to our country and once again it will hold a place in U.S. military history. The substantial airlift of 6,500 tons of cargo and the movement of 26,400 Marines headed for overseas has been helped by public donations of food and \$30,000. The volunteers have handed out fruit, potato chips, cookies and paperback books to each Marine passing through the Marine deployment terminal. The Marines were also given personal items in order to provide a measure of comfort during their stay in the Middle East.

The groups and individuals involved in the volunteer effort expressed nothing but appreciation and admiration for the men and women

who have answered their call to duty. Their organization, determination, and work on behalf of our military are an example for every citizen of the United States of America. Their own call to the duty of volunteerism represents compassion and caring through organization. As our soldiers carry out their mission in Iraq, those last acts of generosity, kindness, support and love will be remembered as our troop's face what may be the most difficult time in their lives.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Community Foundation, March Canteen, Harvest Christian Fellowship and others have shown their patriotism and I am proud of the work they have done for our troops. I am honored to have such dedicated community organizations in my congressional district as well as a military base that contributes to the national security of our country and the liberation of the Iraqi people.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF GERARD F. DOHERTY TO THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 27, 2003*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gerard F. Doherty, a distinguished resident of the 8th Congressional District. Mr. Doherty is a graduate of Malden Catholic High School and Harvard College. He earned a Masters Degree in Health Administration at Wayne University and a Law Degree from Suffolk University.

Gerard Doherty's involvement in state politics began in 1957 as a member of the Massachusetts' House of Representatives, where he served until 1965. He served as the Chairman of the Massachusetts Democratic Party from 1962 until 1965 and, in 1968, Mr. Doherty managed Senator Robert F. Kennedy's Presidential campaign in Indiana, helping Senator Kennedy win the Indiana Democratic primary. Since 1961, Mr. Doherty has been practicing real estate, public policy, and energy law in private practice.

Mr. Doherty also serves numerous organizations in Massachusetts. He is a Trustee at Suffolk University in Boston and a Board Member and Trustee of Malden Catholic High School. He serves on the Board for the Friends Charlestown Catholic and the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. He is also a member of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation.

To honor his contributions to a number of causes and organizations, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation named Mr. Doherty their 1998 "Irishman of the Year." That same year, the Charlestown Community Awards Committee presented Mr. Doherty with the "Unsung Hero Award" for his service to the Charlestown Community. On May 28, 2002, Mr. Doherty was honored with the "Vision of Hope" award by the John F. Kennedy Center in Charlestown, Massachusetts. This award paid tribute to Mr. Doherty and his wife Marilyn as "persons who, through selfless ef-

forts to help others and by their own exceptional example, provide a vision of hope to Massachusetts citizens."

Gerard Doherty's lifelong commitment to Massachusetts is admirable and deserving of recognition. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is fortunate to have a citizen who is involved in so many worthwhile efforts in his community. I congratulate Gerard Doherty on his extraordinary public service and I wish him continued success.

STATEMENT ON HOUSE  
RESOLUTION 153

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 27, 2003*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to explain my vote on House Resolution 153, a resolution "recognizing the public need for fasting and prayer in order to secure the blessings of Providence for the people of the United States and our Armed Forces during the conflict in Iraq and under the threat of terrorism at home".

Like all Americans, I strongly support our nation's Armed Forces and hope for the successful completion of their mission in Iraq and their safe return home. But, upon taking the oath of office, each Member of Congress has sworn to uphold the Constitution. As such, we must carefully differentiate the intent of the resolution we vote on from its language.

House Resolution 153 has the laudatory goal of protecting our troops and our citizens from harm. But, despite the sponsor's intentions, the actual language calling for prayer and fasting and asking for the intercession of Providence violates, in my view, our Constitutional obligation to respect the separation between church and state.

The resolution may reflect the religious views of some of our citizens as well as some of our Members. But, it may also offend the religious views of others and, consequently, be divisive rather than unifying—a concern clearly anticipated by our Constitution. Thus, I cannot vote yes in support of the resolution.

HONORING SUSAN BOWLER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 27, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Susan Bowler of Craig, Colorado. Susan is the public health nurse manager at the Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association, an organization that serves the health care needs of Routt and Moffat counties. Susan has done much to improve the lives of others in her community, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize that service and the important role she fills in her community before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Susan grew up in an Air Force family and got her first exposure to medicine in hospitals all over the world. She began working with infants in Thailand at local orphanages as a teenager and made infant care a career after

receiving her nursing degree. Susan came to Craig in 1992 after 12 years working with newborns in California, ready to retire. Instead, a friend inspired her to join Visiting Nurses. Now Susan is facing the challenges of public health head-on, meeting the needs of the local community. VNA operates programs for child immunization, nursing services to jail inmates, nutrition, and even contributes to Moffat County's response to potential bioterror attacks. Susan and her staff play an invaluable role in maintaining the health of the citizens of northwest Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, the role of a public health official is full of challenges and opportunities, and it is a great privilege to salute Susan Bowler before this body of Congress and this Nation for her willingness to take on those challenges. Her dedication to addressing the health care needs of Moffat and Routt counties is an inspiration to others and an immense benefit to her community.

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 26, 2003*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support House Resolution 57. I strongly support the goals and the ideals of "National Runaway Prevention Month."

It shocks me, that every year, it is estimated that up to 2.8 million youths in America are living on the street. In my home state of Texas, more than 100,000 children between the age of seven and 17 run away from home each year. This shocking amount indicates that there is a significant need for resources and outreach programs that effect this population. Runaway children have families, friends, and carry a despondence so great that they feel they can no longer stay in their homes.

We need to take action and prevent teens running away from becoming commonplace in our country. Many family related problems and pressure cause teens to leave home.

This is a problem that is not limited to any class or racial group. Millions of homes and families are involved. This is a national and community problem. We are obligated to stand up for the frustrated youths who are banished from the only homes they know out into the street. Many of these runaways have been physically, sexually, or emotionally abused.

Imagine a child, who feels so alone in their world and feels their only option is to live in the street. The pain and loneliness they feel only creates a negative cycle, which leads to depression, isolation, and desperation. We need to place an emphasis and value on the community services that can reach out and help these youths. If no help is given, how can we expect the youth to turn around their life and get back on track? A runaway teen does not have an easy life, and often turn to drugs or prostitution to simply survive.

I am proud to stand here today and speak on behalf of those runaway youths whom few before me have spoken for. This is an issue that we must address and come to understand