

behind a proud and lasting legacy. The crowning achievement of an environmentalist is to leave the earth a little cleaner, a little greener and a little brighter than when they started. Ruth Galanter has accomplished this and more.

BURMA MUST STOP ITS HUMAN
RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IMMEDIATELY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of the despicable attack on a key democratic figure in Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi, by Than Shwe and his brutal military regime.

A few days ago, the political arm of Than Shwe's regime, the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), launched an attack against Aung San Suu Kyi's motorcade as she was traveling to give a speech about freedom in Burma. After stopping the motorcade and wielding machetes and sticks, USDA members beat on the doors of the motorcade and attempted to steal cameras and other items.

This is only one of many recent occasions in which the USDA has harassed and intimidated Aung San Suu Kyi, her political opposition group called the National League for Democracy (NLD), and their supporters. In order to interfere with her efforts to speak about democratization in Burma, the regime has threatened her supporters with water hoses on fire trucks and blared loud music so that others cannot hear her speeches. Authorities have repeatedly deterred and prevented her supporters from attending her speeches by threatening them with arrest, and have turned back several busloads full of people.

I find it appalling that Than Shwe's soldiers would threaten one of the world's great freedom fighters with blunt weapons. Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD are the legitimately elected leaders of their country—they won 82 percent of the seats in parliament in an internationally recognized election, even though the regime refuses to recognize the results. As an elected Representative of the citizens of Massachusetts, I simply cannot stand by while men like Than Shwe so grossly violate the very principles upon which this House was built.

Than Shwe continues to terrorize the population of Burma. He and his regime have forced much of the population into modern-day slave labor, locked up about 1,400 political prisoners including students, monks, nuns, and 18 members of parliament, and recruited an astounding 70,000 child soldiers—far more than any other country in the world. Perhaps most disturbing, our own State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Rights, and Labor conducted an impressive investigation into rapes in Burma that confirmed the regime is using rape as a weapon of war. As we learned from Bosnia, using rape as a weapon is a war crime, and Than Shwe and his cronies should be brought to justice.

Most importantly, Burma's regime has proven that its words cannot be taken seriously. It has denied the use of rape as a weapon, stat-

ed that it has no child soldiers, and refuses to acknowledge the detention and torture of political prisoners. For this reason, it should not be surprising that Than Shwe has ignored the promise he made over a year ago to enter into a dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi, facilitated by the United Nations, aimed at a transition to freedom and democracy. Instead, he has flaunted the good-faith efforts of the United Nations Special Envoy to Burma, Razali Ismail, and by extension, the entire United Nations General Assembly.

I urge my colleagues to join me in condemning these recent attacks and urge the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Rights, and Labor to register our condemnation of the regime at the highest levels.

TRIBUTE HONORING SHARON COOK
OF NAPOLEON, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sharon Cook, an outstanding educator from Napoleon, Michigan, who is retiring after 31 years of teaching.

Sharon graduated from Napoleon High School in 1965 and attended Western Michigan University, where she majored in English and earned her K-8 teaching degree. She also earned a Master's of Education Degree from Eastern Michigan University. After teaching in the elementary school for a number of years, Sharon transferred to the Middle school, where she taught Math and Language Arts.

In addition to her classroom responsibilities, she has coached girl's track, Basketball, and cheerleading for both football and basketball. Sharon has also served as Yearbook and Newspaper advisor, as well as Service Squad and Class Advisor. She has also coached Michigan Mathematics League teams, reaching state level competition in 1987.

As an educator, Sharon Clark realizes the importance of helping young teachers establish themselves in the classroom and has served as a Mentor Teacher to newly hired teachers at Napoleon.

Perhaps most important is Sharon's dedication to community service. For many years, she has served as Student Council Advisor and encouraged her students to be active in many community projects. With her help, students in Napoleon have collected food for Thanksgiving Food Baskets, conducted Penny Wars for Christmas Giving, Angel Trees for children of prisoners, and most recently, packages for our armed service men and women currently serving in Operation Freedom in Iraq.

In a time when highly qualified teachers who motivate are so important, pleased to honor this outstanding educator on the occasion of her retirement. Sharon has dedicated 31 years in service to the students of Napoleon Community Schools and the community at large.

STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS
FOR PUBLIC ATTORNEYS

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act.

Throughout the country, District Attorneys are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain qualified and experienced attorneys. Recent law school graduates face difficult choices regarding their legal careers. While a starting salary at a private law firm now often exceeds \$100,000, the average starting salary in a district attorneys office is approximately \$35,000.

With undergraduate and law school loans frequently amounting to \$100,000, aspiring public attorneys face a crippling debt burden that drives them to other career choices. This financial burden likely hits minority students even harder and makes their decisions about a public service career that much more difficult. A system of continual turnover severely impact on law enforcement and the ability to ensure justice.

Due to the increasing fiscal constraints faced at the state and local level, public officials are unable to raise salaries to a competitive level. More than ever, America needs an effective justice system. The Department of Justice has recognized that public defenders and prosecutors should have access to student loan forgiveness programs as an important means of reducing staff turnover.

Under my legislation, a recently-recruited public attorney would enter a written agreement that specified that he or she would remain employed as a prosecutor or public defender for a required period of service of not less than 3 years, unless involuntarily separated from employment. If the attorney is involuntarily separated from employment on account of misconduct, or voluntarily separates from that employment before the end of the period specified in the agreement, the individual would be required to repay the amount of any benefits received. Successive agreements could be made to continue the loan payments until the maximum amount authorized is reached.

Under the proposal, the Secretary of Education would make the loan payments for the attorney for the period of the agreement if the funds were made available through appropriations. Students loan repayments would not exceed \$6,000 for any borrower in any calendar year or a total of \$40,000 in the case of any borrower. This legislation is supported by the National District Attorneys Association.

I hope my colleagues will join me by supporting and cosponsoring this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS FROM
FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL IN
PORTLAND, OREGON

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, on April 15, 2003 students from Franklin High School