

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

(Mr. BURNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the House leadership for bringing before us a resolution to raise awareness and encourage prevention of sexual assault in the United States.

One person victimized by sexual assault is far too many, but unfortunately, one person on average is sexually assaulted every 2 minutes in the United States alone. These can be our neighbors, our friends, or even our family members.

For these victims and for the people who help them, this resolution salutes them for survival. For organizations, businesses and media, this resolution promotes awareness of sexual violence and strategies to decrease the incidence of these horrific crimes.

Mr. Speaker, no one deserves to be sexually assaulted. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution, S.J. Res. 8, on the House floor today.

MIGHTY DUCKS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim for their spectacular success in the 2002-2003 National Hockey League season. Even though they did not win the Stanley Cup this year, they came into the playoffs as the seventh-best team in the Western conference, faced down their critics, and made it to the Stanley Cup finals for the first time in their 10-year history.

Sweeping the Detroit Red Wings in four games, the Dallas Stars in six, and the Minnesota Wild in four, the Ducks proved that they were a serious contender for the sport's most coveted trophy; and Jean Sebastien Giguere, the Duck's spectacular goal tender, was selected as the most valuable player, winning that trophy for his hard work and incredible skill that gave the Ducks their fire throughout all of these playoff games.

Congratulations to my hometown team, the Mighty Ducks. Thanks for making this season a great one to watch and for making us proud.

TRIBUTE TO AL DAVIS

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the passing of Committee on Ways and Means' staff member Al Davis who died on May 30. Like so many of his staffers that I hope are watching today, the re-

gard that we as Members of this House hold for you is unparalleled. You are the ones who genuinely make the trains run on time.

In the case of Al Davis, the information he provided to members of the Committee on Ways and Means as our economist were not only quality statistics but they were always reliable, a fact that the media and our critics often missed. It is people like this who day in and day out provide us with legendary support, and I particularly will miss the volumes of data he provided to me on the issue of alternative minimum tax.

He was a political warrior, like so many who staff this Congress; but he was also an individual who held great regard for this institution and was never disdainful of any of its Members. Even those who opposed his ideas respected him.

If we were offering a sitcom on the life of Al Davis, we would have called it "Humble Al." I never heard anybody who did not find a compliment for Al Davis, and those of us who would acknowledge what he did when he whispered in our ear vital statistics are forever grateful for the service he rendered. We all will miss Al Davis.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, House Majority Whip Blunt said GOP Members find no urgency to act for a child tax credit, but there was an incredible urgency in this House a couple of weeks ago when we acted in the dark of the night to extend an average \$93,500 tax break to every millionaire in America.

Then the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) said, if we give people a tax break that do not pay taxes, it is welfare. Excuse me, someone who earns \$27,000 a year pays \$1,890 in FICA taxes. They pay taxes, regressive taxes; and guess what, every penny of those FICA taxes that is supposed to go into the Social Security surplus, the lockbox, that that side of the aisle used to support, that the President used to support, is being borrowed and being mailed in big checks to the wealthy. She may call that welfare; I call it Reverse Robin Hood.

NEXT GENERATION HISPANIC- SERVING INSTITUTIONS

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our educational future of America, I rise today in favor of H.R. 2238, a piece of legislation filed by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that would allow an opportunity for us to get additional resources for those youngsters and those individuals

throughout this country, Latinos, that are attending the Hispanic-serving institutions to be able to get additional resources to get their master's and their Ph.D.'s.

This bill will strengthen the Hispanic-serving institution programs by establishing a competitive grants program to extend graduate degrees program opportunities for the Hispanic-serving institutions.

The bill will support graduate fellowships, services for graduate students, facilities, and improve our college and university faculty and technology. Current law only provides for those that are attending 2- and 4-year institutions and not allows for master's and Ph.D.'s.

It is important that we look at providing additional resources so that these youngsters can go and obtain their master's and their Ph.D.'s. I ask for my colleagues' support on H.R. 2238.

AMERICA'S INTERNATIONAL STANDING IS BEING DAMAGED

(Ms. DEGETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, we have now gone 80 days without finding any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Questions are mounting as to whether the intelligence presented by the administration was manipulated or deliberately misinterpreted to create a false justification for the war.

Regardless of whether we supported or opposed the war, this is a critical issue. America's international standing is being damaged by this failure; and more importantly, this issue raises serious doubts about our intelligence apparatus, and it raises potential constitutional concerns.

I urge all of us to look carefully at this lapse, and I urge Congress to work in a bipartisan way to find out how this happened and to take steps to ensure that Congress and the American people are never misled when it comes to the issue of sending our American fighting men and women into harm's way about the purpose and the extent of the problem.

AMERICA'S FAMILIES AND CHILDREN ARE IMPORTANT

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in light of today's news reports to really thank Republicans for finally agreeing with us that all children and families of America are important, whether or not they are wealthy.

Two weeks ago, these same Republicans did not understand that lesson. Two weeks ago, they sacrificed the well-being of 6.5 million families, including 12 million children, so that they could pass tax breaks and dividend tax cuts for their wealthiest friends. Republicans thought that their

actions really would have gone unnoticed, but how wrong they were.

In California, for example, without this new legislation, almost 1.3 million California families would receive no child tax credit, including 2.4 million children. The Republicans would have especially hurt minority families because one-third of all Latino families would miss out on the tax break, while half of all African American families would not receive the credit.

Thankfully now, the majority is really beginning to listen and beginning to understand that those families who do not make any more than \$26,000 should also receive the same benefit that every family that earns up to \$110,000 and over would receive.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 8) expressing the sense of Congress with respect to raising awareness and encouraging prevention of sexual assault in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

The Clerk read as follows:

S.J. RES. 8

Whereas, on average, another person is sexually assaulted in the United States every two minutes;

Whereas, the Department of Justice reports that 248,000 people in the United States were sexually assaulted in 2001;

Whereas, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape;

Whereas, children and young adults are most at risk, as 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18, and 80 percent are under the age of 30;

Whereas, sexual assault affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, age, ethnic, and economic groups in the United States;

Whereas, less than 40 percent of sexual assault victims pursue prosecution by reporting their attack to law enforcement agencies;

Whereas, two-thirds of sexual crimes are committed by persons who are not strangers to the victims;

Whereas, the rate of sexual assaults has decreased by half in the last decade;

Whereas, because of recent advances in DNA technology, law enforcement agencies have the potential to identify the rapists in tens of thousands of unsolved rape cases;

Whereas, aggressive prosecution can incarcerate rapists and therefore prevent them from committing further crimes;

Whereas, sexual assault victims suffer emotional scars long after the physical scars have healed; and

Whereas, free, confidential help is available to all victims of sexual assault through the National Sexual Assault Hotline, more than 1,000 rape crisis centers across the United States, and other organizations that provide services to assist victims of sexual assault: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That—

(1) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity to educate the people of the United States about sexual violence and to encourage both the prevention of sexual assault and the prosecution of its perpetrators;

(B) it is appropriate to salute the more than 20,000,000 victims who have survived sexual assault in the United States and the efforts of victims, volunteers, and professionals who combat sexual assault;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about sexual assault, providing information and treatment to its victims, and encouraging the increased prosecution and punishment of its perpetrators; and

(D) police, forensic workers, and prosecutors should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to increase the percentage of sexual assault cases that result in the prosecution and incarceration of the offenders;

(2) Congress urges national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, and the media to promote, through National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, awareness of sexual violence and strategies to decrease the incidence of sexual assault; and

(3) Congress supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S.J. Res. 8.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution as a way to further increase awareness of sexual assault and recognize the important contributions of victims in various groups that combat sexual assault. The police, forensic workers, and prosecutors should be praised for their hard work and dedication to this fight.

Through recent advances in DNA technology, law enforcement agencies

have developed the potential to identify the rapists in tens of thousands of unsolved rape cases. The work of these individuals to prosecute sexual assault cases and incarcerating the offenders makes all of us safer.

We must also recognize the work of victims, national and community organizations, private sector supporters, and the media in this area. These groups helped to increase public awareness and provide support for individuals affected by this dramatic experience. Public awareness is a vital tool in combatting the incidence of sexual assault. It is noteworthy that the rate of sexual assaults has decreased by half in the last decade.

This resolution also recognizes the plight of victims of sexual assault. Often, victims suffer emotional scars that remain long after the physical scars have healed. Free, confidential help is available to all victims of sexual assault through the National Sexual Assault Hotline, more than 1,000 rape crisis centers in the United States and other organizations that provide services to assist the victims of sexual assault.

Hopefully, public awareness of this issue will also help victims to recognize that they are not alone and encourage them to come forward and report the crime. Currently, less than 40 percent of the sexual assault victims pursue prosecution by reporting their attack to law enforcement agencies.

This resolution offers the support of this Congress and brings attention to this very important issue. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the individuals and organizations that dedicate themselves to combatting sexual assault.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary in supporting S.J. Res. 8 to call attention to National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. The purpose of this resolution is to increase public awareness of sexual assault and to recognize the important contributions of various individuals and groups across the United States that combat sexual assault.

Mr. Speaker, sexual assault victims are primarily young people with 44 percent of the victims under the age of 18, 80 percent under the age of 30. Sexual assault affects women, men, children of all races, social, religious, age, ethnic and economic groups and even prisoners. Yet less than 40 percent of sexual assault victims pursue prosecution by reporting their attack to law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, Congress also recognizes that other tools are also important in preventing and addressing sexual assault. With advances in DNA technology, law