

during the Second World War, and in her own words reflects, "I have always been an activist. I am a patriot, greatly influenced by my being born on the 4th of July."

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Norma came to Miami in 1959. She studied at the University of Miami and later worked as a stockbroker and real estate agent. Although always involved in service, she entered the business world more out of necessity. After gaining financial security, she drove right back into her lifelong passion, extending a caring hand to those less fortunate.

According to Norma's daughter, Deahni Kipnis, philanthropy runs in her blood. In the late 1970s, Norma pioneered gender equality on the University of Miami's campus by breaking into that institution's male-dominated board of trustees. "It was wonderful to be a part of this change," she recalls. Deahni feels very grateful to her mom and remembers her mother's advice. "Don't ever learn how to type or take shorthand." In Deahni's own words, "She is a very forward-thinking, modern woman."

Norma's son, Dr. Douglas Michael Kipnis, adds, "It is a great honor to know that your mother was a pioneer in women's equality."

Deahni, considering her mother's struggle for female ascendancy, recalls an instance when she observed Norma sitting with a female Jackson Memorial Hospital nurse. Deahni promptly declared, "You're sitting in the presence of a legend. Your life is easier today because of the work my mother has done."

After her work at the University of Miami, Norma focused her attention on Jackson Memorial Hospital, serving as the chairman of the board of the Rape Treatment Center. She is also a member of the board of the Foundation at Jackson, where she raises money for many causes, ranging from the renovation of the Holtz Children Hospital to funding the Breast and Ovarian Cancer Center.

According to Norma's son Douglas, "She works effortlessly for the masses, people she will never see; but she knows that they will benefit from her work."

Striving to better her community, Norma Kipnis-Wilson, with her colleague Rosey Cancelli, founded the Guardian Angels, an organization dedicated to lovingly supporting sick kids at the Holtz Children's Hospital. Norma was not content to just sit on a board; rather, she has always tried to make a difference.

In addition to her extensive local service, Norma Kipnis-Wilson has reached out to the international Jewish community as a lifetime contributor to and leader of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, where she helps foster support and expedites programs for Miami-Dade and Israel. Indeed, Norma has recently been named as a life member of that institution's

board of directors. Through her involvement with the Jewish Federation, Norma developed the Lion of Judah pin, which signifies outstanding generosity.

Considering the Lion of Judah to be her greatest contribution, Norma marvels at how her idea has become a benevolent global sorority, over 7,000 strong, helping to raise millions of dollars every year.

According to Norma's son, Captain Daniel Carlin Kipnis, "I have to credit her with my becoming a moral person." This is just one example of Norma's far-reaching influence, an influence that has helped better many lives and has inspired many others to adopt the cause of community service as their own. In the words of her lifelong friend, Roxcy Bolton, "Norma cares about the human race and cares about Israel."

Norma is also a tough survivor, recently triumphing in her battle against cancer. Never complaining about her pain, she continued to attend board meetings at Jackson Memorial Hospital throughout her chemotherapy and radiation treatment.

Norma Kipnis-Wilson is a remarkable woman who has had a profound effect on her immediate community and, indeed, on the world. In addition to her legacy of uncompromising perseverance in the face of obstacles, Norma encourages the young people of today with a challenge: Care about others as much as you care about yourself.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Norma and her entire family for their selfless contributions to our community.

BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight, and I want to especially thank my good friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, as well as the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for bringing us together tonight to talk about Africa.

The United States' focus on Africa has been sporadic at best, despite our extensive ties to the continent. I strongly believe that our past, present, and future is closely intertwined with Africa.

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The United States is the leading foreign investor in Africa. Last year the total U.S.-African trade approached \$30 billion, and America is Africa's largest single market. Over 30,000 Africans study in America today, and we have almost 35 million citizens of African descent.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that about 200 million people in Africa are

chronically hungry. At least 25 percent of the world's undernourished people live in this region. Millions of Africans, mostly children under the age of 6, die every year as a result of hunger. Since becoming a Member of Congress, I have visited Africa a dozen or more times and have seen both the continent's problems and its promise. From Zimbabwe to Kenya, Gambia to Cape Town, I have been both saddened and inspired.

Just 2 weeks ago, I met with the Gambian President, A.J.J. Jammeh, in my office, and we spoke about how our nations can work together to promote economic reform, end conflicts, and build sustainable peace. We also discussed our partnership against crime and terror, which know no borders. I welcome the President's courage and farsightedness in supporting the democratic institutions and accountable government. There is an opportunity to build a true partnership between the United States and Africa, to leave behind the attitudes and habits of the past and seize opportunities to work together to achieve our shared goals.

I pledge to work to return American assistance to Africa to its past high levels. I join my Congressional Black Caucus colleagues in making the case to the American people that Africa's peace and well-being are closely bound to our national interests, whether fighting crime and terrorism or promoting exports and trade. The fight against poverty and underdevelopment is a critical part of our struggle of democracy and stability in Africa.

I am a passionate believer in the power of biotechnology to boost food production and fight hunger in this developing world. I know that the African continent is in special need of agricultural biotechnology, including transgenic crops. I believe that biotechnology is an indispensable tool that can produce dramatic benefits in food production on the African continent.

Biotechnology research has the potential to help the nations of Africa increase food security and improve the quality and nutritional content of food. Additionally, biotechnology can also improve the health of citizens of developing African countries by combating illness. Substantial progress has been made in the developed world on vaccines against life-threatening illnesses. Unfortunately, infrastructure limitations often hinder the effectiveness of traditional vaccinations methods in several developing nations.

For example, African clinics sometimes lack the electricity necessary to properly refrigerate and store vital vaccines. Even if a health clinic is able to effectively deliver the vaccines, the cost of multiple needles may hinder vaccination efforts. Additionally, the improper use of hypodermic needles can spread HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Biotechnology offers the prospect of orally delivering vaccines to

immunize against life-threatening illnesses through agricultural products in a safe and effective manner.

Mr. Speaker, during the 107th Congress we successfully created a competitive merit-based grant program at the National Science Foundation to conduct bio genome research on crops that can be grown in developing countries. I strongly believe this program can make invaluable contributions to the fight against hunger, malnutrition, and disease by providing research grants to the U.S. institutions and scientists in developing countries to address their agricultural challenges.

It is my hope that trade disputes between the United States and the European Union and the African countries do not prevent this promising technology from benefiting ordinary Africans who face ongoing food shortages due to agricultural challenges such as pest, drought, and disease. Indeed, the continent may be able to reduce dependency on food aid and increase self-sufficiency through increased investment in generic engineering.

We cannot hope to combat poverty without winning the war on HIV/AIDS. The HIV/AIDS epidemic has killed more people than all of the wars of this century combined, and it will leave 40 million children homeless and orphaned by the end of the next decade. The way to beat AIDS is not to ignore or deny it, but to actively prevent it. Countries such as Uganda and Senegal that have faced the threat squarely have begun to see reductions in their infection rates.

However, in order for these reforms to take place, Africa must have sustainable stability and peace. I have said repeatedly that our involvement in peacemaking in Afghanistan and Iraq, East Timor and elsewhere around the world is not an excuse for inaction in Africa. It is a challenge to do better. Crises in Congo, Liberia, or Sudan are serious roadblocks to the way of Africa's development, and ending them will be crucial to securing long-lasting prosperity.

One of the areas where the international community must improve is in developing the resources of our African partners—so that we can move together, quickly and effectively, to prevent and respond to crises.

Mr. Speaker, there is an Arab proverb that says, "He who drinks of African waters will drink again." Africa is too big to ignore, and too rich and too important to be the object of our pity. Africa matters. We will drink, and drink again.

Africans will determine their own fate, but our help can make a difference. Our support for democracy, conflict resolution, market reform and sustainable development—these policies serve our national interest and help give Africa hope.

LEAVE IRAQ TO THE IRAQIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GERLACH). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, it seems that every day we read about a young American soldier being killed in Iraq. Three were killed in a 24-hour period from Sunday to Monday. In its November 25 issue, "Fortune" magazine, long before the war started, said an American occupation would be "prolonged and expensive" and that it "could turn U.S. troops into sitting ducks for Islamic terrorists."

Unfortunately, this prediction has turned out to be deadly accurate. This past Saturday, the top of the front page of The Washington Post had a headline reading "Attacks By Iraqi's Growing Bolder." The next day a young American soldier was shot in the head at point blank range as he stood in line to buy a soft drink.

A few days ago, the leading Shiite cleric, the most respected figure of the largest population group in Iraq, demanded that the U.S. get out and leave Iraq to the Iraqis. It is so politically correct today and sounds so fashionable and intellectual to say that the U.S. will have to be in Iraq for several years and that it will not be easy and that we must be prepared for the sacrifice and the difficulties ahead.

Well, someone should ask why. Saddam Hussein was a very evil man, a tyrant, a dictator; but his total military budget was only about two-tenths of 1 percent of ours. He was no threat to us, as this 3-week battle, with almost no resistance, proved. Our military did a great job, as we all knew they would. Now we should bring them home.

President Eisenhower, as everyone knows, was a retired Army general, a graduate of West Point. He loved the military. Yet he warned us as strongly as he possibly could against what he call the military industrial complex. Pressured by this complex, we have now spent over \$100 billion on the operation in Iraq. The Congressional Budget Office originally estimated that a 3-month war followed by a 5-year occupation would cost us at least \$272 billion. Most estimate that we will stay in Iraq for 5 to 10 years, at a cost of 200 to \$300 billion, or more. And because we already face a \$400 billion deficit for this year, and hundreds of billions more in the years ahead, we will have to borrow the money to do all this. Once again, we should ask: Why?

Already we have had demonstrations by Iraqi soldiers demanding back pay, and similar demands from Iraqi retirees. Why should Americans taxpayers borrow hundreds of billions to pay the Iraqi military or Iraqi retirees to rebuild Iraq? We are jeopardizing the futures of our children and grandchildren. I believe our Founding Fathers would be shocked if they knew what we were doing today.

I remember reading a few years ago in The Washington Post that we had our troops in Haiti picking up garbage and settling domestic disputes. Later I read that we had our troops in Bosnia building latrines and giving rabies shots to Bosnian dogs. I have nothing

against the people in either Haiti or Bosnia, but they should pick up their own garbage and build their own toilets.

Now we are told that the military will build or rebuild 6,000 schools in Iraq and give free basic health care to any Iraqis who need it. We will stay in Iraq for many years, at great expense to U.S. citizens, because several large multinational companies will benefit from large contracts there. We will stay there because all the pressures and money and power and glory within the Department of Defense, the State Department, the National Security Council, and our intelligence agencies are to continue to do more and more in other countries.

These people are not seen as world statesmen and men and women of action unless we get involved in every dispute around the world. They never debate or discuss the merits of all this; they just label all opponents of an interventionist foreign policy as isolationist. However, whenever anyone uses this term, they are simply resorting to mindless name-calling.

Now I suppose we are going into the chaos in Liberia, as we have Haiti, Rwanda, Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Lord knows where next.

What we really need are more Calvin Coolidges, more people in government who believe in a humble foreign policy. None of these countries were any threat to us. Should we now change the name of the Defense Department to the Department of Foreign Aid or the Department of International Social Work?

I believe in and have always supported a strong national defense, but I do not believe in massive foreign aid. Most of our foreign adventures are creating great resentment toward the U.S. around the world.

The Iraqi people may have hated Saddam Hussein, but they do not want Americans or our puppets running their country either. They have humongous oil wealth. Let them rebuild their own country. The only Iraqis who want us to stay there are the ones we are paying or who believe they can get money from us in the future.

Our first obligation should be to America citizens, and the lives of American soldiers should be precious to us. Let us bring our troops home before more and more of them are murdered. We can be friends with the Iraqi people without making our soldiers sitting ducks for Islamic terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, let us leave Iraq to the Iraqis.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TOMAS SOTELO, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay a posthumous tribute to Tomas Sotelo, Jr.,