

rights treaty, such as the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which would minimize proliferation of detailed standards and mechanisms. Other Members, such as Mexico, Venezuela, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Thailand, and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, promoting, in most cases, the model of a comprehensive convention, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, emphasizing on the specificities of the situation of persons with disabilities as their focus in elaborating the Convention.

The draft text by the Working Group, as it stands now, is the result of a hybrid between the two approaches and there are number of complex issues and tasks left to the Ad Hoc Committee for its consideration.

*(3) The issue areas requiring close attention*

The following issues would require close examinations and consultations by the Ad Hoc Committee as the views differed significantly among the Members: definition(s) of disability and persons with disabilities; disability statistics and data collection; international cooperation; special and inclusive education, and the monitoring mechanism(s). The Group did not cover the international monitoring mechanism at this time and focused instead on national frameworks for implementation and monitoring of the convention.

*(4) The third session of the Ad Hoc Committee*

The third session of the Ad Hoc Committee will take place from May 24–June 4 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Ad Hoc Committee will have before it the draft text as a basis for negotiation of the text of an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

IV. THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE PLAYED BY U.S. LEADERS AND ADVOCATES IN DISABILITY RIGHTS IN THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The commitment of the United States to further goals of human equality and dignity for persons with disabilities has been demonstrated in a number of legislative and policy initiatives, such as American with Disabilities Act (1992) and "New Freedom Initiative" (2001), which resulted in a comprehensive set of regulations and enforcement mechanisms and the new disability-sensitized community—leadership of government, organizations of disabilities, countless advocates, scholars, practitioners in disability rights, as well as civic groups. I am delighted to see many of those leaders present at this meeting today. Those leaders have made extraordinary contributions not only to their own society, but also to the work of the international community.

Such outstanding contributions are exemplified in a wide range of activities from legislative and policy initiatives, scholarship, research to advocacy at national, regional and international levels: for example, one of the finest institutions of higher-learning in the United States, University of California at Berkeley co-organized with the United Nations "The United Nations Consultative Expert Meeting on international norms and standards relating to disability (December 1998). The work is considered as a first step to consider promotion of the human rights of persons through the use of international normative framework, including implications of an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. A number of US participants and leading scholars participated in both Berkeley and its follow-up meeting (the Interregional Seminar on international norms and standards relating to disability organized by the Equal Opportuni-

ties Commission, Hong Kong SAR, Republic of China).

During the past two sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee and the most recent session of its Working Group in January 2004, US participants as government and NGO representatives, panelists, researchers or individual advocates played a major role in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. The international community, along with the disability communities worldwide, would have much to gain from the continuing and active participation of the United States in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and the newly emerging international disability rights movement.

CONCLUSION

As a result of consultations at national, regional and international levels concerning an international convention since the Ad Hoc Committee was established, new networks and communities of disability-sensitized policy makers, programme specialists, academics and advocates have emerged. Together, they are contributing to a process of promoting and developing universal norms and thereby contributing to implementation of the universal human rights for all.

The on-going international discourse on disability rights in the process of elaboration of an international convention demonstrates our common foundation—a fundamental aspiration of the humankind to establish an integrated community of its members based upon the principles of the universality of human rights—the fundamental freedoms, the dignity and worth of every human person.

As we strive to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities through the work on an international convention, we are embarking upon a significant endeavour in translating the universality of the human rights into reality and taking a concrete step toward a just and equitable society.

MY COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE

**HON. MIKE FERGUSON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2004*

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit a paper by Mr. James Rieder, Jr., of Colonia, New Jersey, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I would like to offer my congratulations to Mr. Rieder on his accomplishment of winning the 2004 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. Following is the paper that Mr. James Rieder, Jr., wrote:

"The meaning of America is not to be found in a life without toil. Freedom is not only bought with a great price; it is maintained by unremitting effort." (Thirtieth President of the United States of America, Calvin Coolidge)

Consider these words by the late former President. "The meaning of America is not to be found in a life without toil." In order to be a true American, one must not take his/her responsibilities lightly, and must instead strive to achieve not only what's best for himself/herself, but also what is good for all, no matter the task at hand. "Freedom is not only bought with a great price . . ." Our great nation was constructed from the ultimate sacrifices of others, their lives, but not just our forefathers, but our grandfathers and fathers, as well. ". . . it is maintained by unremitting effort." The United States does not only thrive on those who lost their lives on the battlefield, nor even on those

who govern our democratic nation, but on the American people. And because of this supreme responsibility, it is our duty as a free people to work hard in preserving our rights for the future generations. This is my commitment to America's future.

My commitment to America's future is to uphold the freedoms we were granted by the blood and sweat of our elders. For some, this may be as simple as voting on Election Day to empower a governing body capable of protecting our rights. For others, their commitment may lie in the front line, physically stopping those who endanger the American way of life. Does this mean that the soldier's blood runs redder than that of the simple voter? Of course not; both hearts beat strongly with American pride and both souls soar along with the majestic eagle. It is not what you are committed to, but how committed you are that counts. As for myself, I believe that I will perform whatever duties my nation calls on me to perform. I will be just as pleased if I can donate to a helpful cause, as I would be if I were to be called to a foreign shore to fight for our rights. Whatever my responsibility, I will certainly be dedicated.

My commitment to America's future is to educate my children and raise them in an environment where they, too, can respect and cherish their American citizenship. As Theodore Roosevelt stated, "To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society." We must educate our future generation so that they may continue the legacy of our grand country. If we do not teach them properly, they may lose sight of the importance of their freedom, and the rights we presently have may exist as just unachievable aspirations. The path these children traverse leads to America's future. Thus, we must keep them on this path and ensure that they view the end of the journey with the utmost respect and dedication.

My most significant commitment to America's future would be to always keep my American pride strong within my heart, for Coolidge never specified whether the "unremitting effort" he mentioned should be physical or spiritual. I believe that you must first achieve a spiritual dedication to the United States before you can move on, and the more spiritually dedicated you are, the more American you become. And so, as long as the stars and stripes continue to wave grandly over these fifty unified states, so, too, will my heart beat with pride for my nation. I conclude yet again with this small, yet powerful, phrase from Mr. Coolidge and I implore you to always remember it and keep it in your heart, as I keep it in mine: "Freedom is not only bought with a great price; it is maintained by unremitting effort."

A TRIBUTE TO JANE BAKER

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2004*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pride that I pay tribute to an extraordinary woman, Jane Baker. For the past twenty years Jane has been an inspiration to those who wish to make positive change in their communities, as she has dedicated herself to serving both San Mateo city and County, located in my congressional district, through the various public service positions she held.

Jane Baker was born in Hamilton, Ohio, and after graduating from Purdue University, she

and her husband Bill moved to San Francisco. Shortly after moving to California, Jane hosted and produced a television cooking-show that aired in San Francisco and San Jose, where she demonstrated easy meals that one could make on an average night for the average family. By 1963, the Bakers had settled in San Mateo, where they have resided ever since.

Mr. Speaker, Jane had always participated in community events, being very active in her local Parents Teacher Association (PTA) and the Girl and Boy Scouts. Her commitment to save open space on Sugarloaf Mountain in San Mateo from overdevelopment prompted her to run for the San Mateo City Council in 1973. Her historic victory, at that time only the second woman ever elected to a City Council seat, was made more dramatic by the fact that she captured more votes than two male incumbents. Jane's traditional smashing ways continued when she became the first-ever female mayor of the city of San Mateo. During the twenty years that Jane Baker served on the San Mateo City Council she remained devoted to public service and although people encouraged her to run for higher offices, such as State Senate and Congress, Jane declined because she recognized the value of local government and the closer relationship to the public that comes with it.

Jane Baker's commitment to community service did not merely stop at being an elected official, as her drive and energy led her to serve on many boards and commissions. The number of boards and commissions that Jane served on is incredible. She represented the cities of San Mateo on the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission and served as Chair from 1993 to 1995. Jane also chaired the San Mateo County Transportation Authority for two years and was a member of the Joint Powers Board-CALTRAIN. Additionally, she served on the Association of Bay Area Governments for ten years, from 1975 to 1985.

In addition to her dedication to local government service, Jane was an active member of various statewide and national organizations. The litany of those organizations is too large to list in its entirety, but includes; the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities, the State Job Training Coordinating Council, the American Association of University Women, California Elected Women for Education and the Women's Association of the First Presbyterian Church of San Mateo.

As one would expect, Jane Baker has been honored for her numerous achievements by many of the organizations, including being named Safety Woman of the Year by the San Mateo Safety Council. She was also chosen as an Outstanding Graduate by the Purdue University School of Consumer and Family Services and inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, Jane Baker was often hailed as a maverick mayor because she wasn't afraid to speak her mind. In an era where women were often seen and not heard in City Hall Jane helped shatter the glass ceiling. A true pioneer for women's rights, Jane Baker has diligently served San Mateo for over 20 years. I know that I will not be the only one to miss her presence in our city government. I extend my very best wishes to her and hope she finds the future as rewarding as her years of public service.

JUDGE WILLIAM B. BRYANT  
ANNEX TO THE E. BARRETT  
PRETTYMAN FEDERAL BUILDING  
AND UNITED STATES COURT-  
HOUSE

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2004*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this bill has an unusual origin. The Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, for himself and the members of the trial court, visited my office to request that the annex under construction for the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building be named for senior U.S. District Court Judge William B. Bryant. Judge Bryant was unaware of the desires and actions of his colleagues, who unanimously agreed to request that the annex be named for the judge. It is rare that Congress names a courthouse or an annex for a judge who has served in that court and even more rare for a judge who is still sitting. Judge Bryant's colleagues, who know his work and his temperament best, have found a particularly appropriate way for our city and our country to celebrate the life and accomplishments of a great judge. I know Judge Bryant personally, I know his reputation in this city and on the law, I know that the request to name the annex for Judge Bryant reflects deep respect for his unusually distinguished life at the bar.

Judge Bryant began his career in private practice in the segregated Washington of the 1940s and 50s, when African-American lawyers were barred from membership in the District of Columbia Bar Association and from using the Bar law library. He established his legal reputation as a partner in the legendary African-American law firm of Houston, Bryant and Gardner and taught at Howard University Law School. His reputation as an extraordinary trial lawyer led to his appointment as the first African-American Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. He rose to become the first African-American to serve as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court whose members now ask that the annex be named for Judge Bryant.

For his representation of criminal defendants in private practice, Judge Bryant was admired as one of the city's best and most respected lawyers. Among his many notable cases is the landmark *Mallory v. United States*, 354 U.S. 449 (1957), where the Supreme Court ruled that an arrested person must be promptly brought before a judicial officer.

Judge Bryant graduated from D.C. public schools, Howard University and Howard Law School, where he was first in his class. After graduation, Judge Bryant served as chief research assistant to Dr. Ralph Bunche when Bunche worked with Gunnar Myrdal, the famous Swedish economist, in his studies of American racial issues. Judge Bryant served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was honorably discharged as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1947.

Judge Bryant, who is 92, took senior status in 1982. He raised a family but, as Chief Judge Thomas Hogan wrote, "lost his beloved wife, Astaire and now lives alone—with this Court and the law as the center of his life."

I am grateful to our judges of the U.S. District Court here for the thoughtful proposal that

the annex to their court be named for Judge William B. Bryant. The residents of this city that Judge Bryant has served so well and the members of the bar here would be particularly pleased. I am delighted that Senator PATRICK LEAHY, ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has agreed to sponsor this bill in the Senate and I urge rapid approval to give honor to one of the great judges of our court.

TRIBUTE TO FORREST L. WOOD

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2004*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an Arkansan who loves this country as much as any person I've ever met. Forrest L. Wood is an entrepreneur who has proved Americans can get as far in life as their talents will take them.

It was his own fortitude that made Ranger Boat Company what it is today. The company was founded in 1968 and almost as quickly was destroyed by fire in 1971. With no insurance and armed only with 60 salvaged boat orders, the Wood family nailed a telephone to a scorched tree, cleaned off the blackened site and began rebuilding. Within 40 days the company was back in operation building boats.

Mr. Wood's simple business philosophy continues to drive the Ranger Boat Company today, "You must build a good product—price it fairly—let folks know you have it, and treat your customers right."

In addition to his many business achievements, all leading to revolutionizing the Bass Fishing Boat industry, Mr. Wood is an aggressive conservationist. His efforts to save the environment for sportsmen are as legendary as the equipment he provides them to enjoy those lands. As a result, in 1998, he was named to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Mr. Wood, his wife, Nina Kirkland, and their four daughters work together, simultaneously running a cattle ranch, construction company, and fishing guide operation. Unlike so many other business success stories, Mr. Wood's drive is based on a true desire to further his community and this country. On behalf of the Congress, I extend gratitude for all the Wood family does to make the world a better place.

RECOGNIZING AN EXTRAORDINARY CITIZEN, DR. NEARI FRANCOIS WARNER

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 5, 2004*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary citizen from the Fifth District of Louisiana, Dr. Neari Francois Warner, who will soon be retiring as acting President of Grambling State University. Dr. Warner's tireless service and genuine commitment to education, and to GSU, her alma mater, are remarkable and inspiring.

In January 2001, Dr. Warner became the first female to hold the title of acting president