

Responding to the desperate conditions of Haitian people in 1993, Katherine, at the age of 82, went on a 47-day hunger strike. She ended her hunger strike only when she was convinced, and rightfully so, that she was more valuable to the humanitarian fight, alive than dead. I recognize Dr. Katherine Dunham as one of the most passionate artists educators this country has ever seen.

For all these reasons and for receiving countless honors and awards, including more than 10 honorary doctorates, the Presidential Medal of Arts, the French Legion of Honor, and the NAACP's Lifetime Achievement Award, she has received for her work, I stand to salute Katherine Dunham, humanitarian, civil rights activist, and performance artist.

CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO
ZONING REFORM COMMISSION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chicago's Zoning Reform Commission and its Co-Chairmen, Alderman William J.P. Banks and David Mosen, for the recent completion of the new City of Chicago Zoning Code.

By understanding the changing needs of Chicago's residential and commercial population, the Commission has ensured that Chicago will continue to be a modernized, world-class city for the 21st century. The efforts of Alderman Banks, Mr. Mosen, and the other members of the commission helped lead the Zoning Reform Commission toward the first comprehensive rewriting of Chicago's Zoning Code since 1957.

Four years ago, Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed the Zoning Reform Commission to head this massive undertaking. The Commission sought input from the commercial sector, the Aldermen who represent these unique neighborhoods, and the public at large through numerous open public forums. The Commission is to be congratulated for the breadth of support they were able to garner for the new proposal before they considered their job finished.

The new Zoning Code has laid the foundation for a superior zoning map to be available for community leaders and residents. The ordinance includes improvements beyond its original structure—which simply addressed height, bulk and location—to set standards to deal with modern issues such as green space, increased use of public transportation and job retention. With its passage, a new vision for Chicago's future has been secured.

I am also particularly proud that two members of the Zoning Reform Commission represent areas of the 5th Congressional District. Alderman William J.P. Banks, the Chairman of the City Council's Zoning Committee, and Alderman Ray Suarez, the Chairman of the City Council's Committee on Housing & Real Estate, continue to provide their vast experience, expertise and knowledge in directing the planning and development of Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, and indeed all of Chicago, I am privileged to congratulate the Zoning Reform Committee for

their achievements in providing a new Zoning Code, and thank them for their diligent work on this important effort.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 231, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO PETER J. PURDY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Peter J. Purdy, President of the U.S. Committee for the U.N. Population Fund, who will be retiring at the end of this summer after a thirty-year career dedicated to improving the lives of women and children in the developing world.

Peter began his remarkable career as Country Director in India for the Thomas A. Dooley Foundation and later as Country Representative in Indonesia for Church World Service. These early experiences in India and Indonesia were to set the stage for a lifelong commitment to helping the world's poorest women have access to quality reproductive and maternal health care services.

For the next twenty-seven years, Peter traveled throughout the developing world as the Director of the Margaret Sanger Center, the international-arm of the Planned Parenthood Federation of New York City. Peter worked closely with both Government and Non-Governmental Organizations to improve the quality and availability of reproductive health care for women in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Since 1999, Peter has directed his considerable talents to building support with American citizens for the work of the United Nations Population Fund. It is through this context, I have had the pleasure of getting to know Peter as both a friend as well as an expert guide to some of the poorest and most forgotten places in the world. In Malawi, Peter introduced me to a traditional birth attendant who regularly delivered babies in a humble mud hut without any modern medical assistance. When asked what the U.S. Government could provide her, she said simply "clean razor blades and kerosene to provide light for night deliveries." My meeting her was a singularly memorable experience but for Peter she was but one of the many women he has met and helped along the way of his career devoted to saving women's lives. Peter was a joy to travel with, and his insight and dedication added greatly to my experience in Africa.

Peter has told me that he plans to devote his retirement to spending time with his wonderful wife, Susan, and playing jazz piano. Knowing Peter, however, I am confident that he will continue to advocate and educate all that he meets on improving the lives of women and their families around the world.

Thank you, Peter, for your lifelong dedication to making the world a better place by enabling women to live healthy lives and to have healthy babies. Millions of people around the world have been touched by your work over the last thirty years. Best wishes in your retirement.

PROVIDING RAPID ACQUISITION
AUTHORITY TO SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE TO RESPOND TO COM-
BAT EMERGENCIES

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to discuss H.R. 4323. This legislation has the best of intentions. It would provide authority for the Secretary of Defense to expedite procurement of equipment that is necessary to protect against combat deaths. While I agree with the premise, I am concerned about the details of the bill.

Obviously, we all, regardless of political party, want our men and women in uniform to have the equipment they need to protect themselves and successfully carry out their mission. Just last month, I voted in favor of H.R. 4200, the fiscal year 2005 Department of Defense Authorization Act. This legislation boosted funding above and beyond the levels requested by President Bush for a variety of critical equipment like armored Humvees, advanced body armor, and roadside bomb suppression devices.

H.R. 4200 also included a provision to speed up the procurement of equipment necessary to prevent combat casualties that is identical to the text included in H.R. 4323. While I had some reservations about the provision, I supported its inclusion in H.R. 4200 and voted for final passage of the bill because it contained a variety of important pay and benefit improvements for our men and women in uniform. And, as I mentioned, it increased funding for critical equipment. I was hoping that the procurement provision could be fine-tuned in the conference with the Senate.

However, the House Republican leadership decided to bring the procurement provision to the floor as a stand-alone measure, H.R. 4323, in order to fast-track the bill through Congress and get it to the President without getting bogged down in the various debates surrounding H.R. 4200. The bill is on the floor this week under a procedure that prohibits amendments to perfect it.

I voted against H.R. 4323 because I am concerned about rushing through a bill that, while well intentioned, may not provide the benefit to our men and women in uniform that its proponents claim.

The bill would require that the Secretary of Defense establish an expedited procurement process for equipment that can prevent combat casualties occurring in the field. In order to speed up the process and allow a contract to be awarded within 15 days of an identified need, H.R. 4323 would waive the statutory requirement that the equipment be tested and evaluated for effectiveness.

Some of my colleagues may remember during the Vietnam War when modified M-16s