

BEERRA, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SUSAN DAVIS, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. Harman, Mr. HONDA, Ms. BARBARA LEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. MATSUI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Ms. LORETTA SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. STARK, Ms. TAUSCHER, Mr. MIKE THOMPSON, Ms. MAXINE WATERS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. HENRY WAXMAN, Ms. LYNN WOOLSEY, and Speaker NANCY PELOSI, to honor our long-time friend and colleague, the Honorable Lou Papan, who passed away at his home on Saturday, April 28, 2007, in Millbrae, California, at the age of 78. He was a distinguished American, a dedicated public servant, a forceful legislator, and a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Lou Papan was born Elias Papandricoupolos in Springfield, Massachusetts, the son of Greek immigrants, John and Flora Papandricoupolos. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Syracuse University and studied at Georgetown Law School. He served as a Sergeant in the Army during World War II and as a Lieutenant in the Air Force during the Korean War.

After Korea, he joined the F.B.I. and was transferred to San Francisco, where he met the love of his life the late Irene Damis, his wife of 42 years. Irene hailed from Portland, Oregon and studied at Mills College in Oakland. They had three children: John, Gina, and Diane. Gina is a member of the Millbrae City Council, and Diane is a practicing attorney in San Francisco. John passed away from a rare congenital illness at age 21, and in the wake of their profound loss, Lou and Irene founded an extraordinary scholarship and not-for-profit clothing bank to honor John's memory known as John's Closet, which has helped hundreds of low-income late-blooming students.

Lou began his political career in 1970 when he was elected to the Daly City Council. He was elected to serve the people of California's 19th Assembly District in 1972. He was appointed Speaker Pro Tempore in 1974, and became Chair of the powerful Rules Committee in 1976. He also chaired the Public Investment and Finance Committee.

In his many years in the Assembly, Lou Papan worked on behalf of California's working class, and was a tireless advocate for disabled children. He authored legislation that strengthened child and elder abuse reporting requirements and improved Worker's Compensation benefits. He promoted independent banking institutions and was an early supporter of e-commerce, an environmental champion who helped to purchase land in Pacifica for the State Park System, and protected endangered species on San Bruno Mountain. He improved government accountability by placing legislative records under the State's Open Records Act.

Lou retired from the Assembly in 1986 to run for the State Senate. He lost that race but was elected again in 1996 to his former Assembly seat where he served until 2002. In 1997, he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, given by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations in recognition of significant contributions made by immigrants to our country.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest sympathy to Mr. Papan's daughters, Diane and Gina, his son-in-law, Dan Latini, and his beautiful grand-

daughter, Alexa Papan Latini, as we honor the life of this proud American. We take comfort in knowing that he is now reunited with his angels, Irene and John. Lou gave our nation many years of devoted public service and we are better for them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, on the evening of May 2, 2007 I missed nine Rollcall votes. I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on these Rollcall votes.

It was my intention to vote:

No on recorded vote 287 Sullivan Amendment to the Honda Amendment.

Yes on recorded vote 288 Honda Amendment.

No on recorded vote 289 Campbell Amendment number 5.

No on recorded vote 290 Campbell Amendment number 4.

No on recorded vote 291 Garrett Amendment number 11.

No on recorded vote 292 Flake Amendment.

Yes on recorded vote 293 Matsui Amendment.

No on recorded vote 294 Price Amendment.

Yes on recorded vote 295 Final Passage of H.R. 1867.

INTRODUCTION STATEMENT FOR HIV/AIDS DENTAL SERVICE BILL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I introduce the Dedicated Dental Service for HIV/AIDS (DDS for HIV/AIDS) Act of 2007, to establish a loan repayment program for dental school graduates in exchange for their agreement to remedy a critical shortage of dentists for the poor, particularly in areas with a high incidence of HIV and AIDS, by agreeing to serve such patients. This bill is similar to legislation Congress has previously enacted to encourage other health professionals, such as physicians, nurses, optometrists and pharmacists to provide vital services in underserved areas. This bill is being introduced in conjunction with a series of HIV/AIDS town hall meetings that I am hosting in the District of Columbia.

I am introducing the bill on the same day when I am hosting a Men's Town Meeting on HIV/AIDS. This public meeting is one of a series of town meetings I am holding to increase awareness and individual responsibility at a time when 50 percent of AIDS cases today are African American. Howard University professors of dentistry inform us that the first indicators of HIV/AIDS infection are often oral health problems. Oral health problems often not only constitute an important early signal of HIV/AIDS symptoms; they also serve as benchmarks for disease progression. One of the most serious problems with the spread of HIV/AIDS is the reluctance of people to be tested for such a disease, especially in the Af-

rican-American community and other big city and rural areas. Access to dental care, therefore, is critically important from the earliest onset, especially in high impact areas. Access, of course, minimizes long-term oral health complications for patients, but it also provides important linkages to good overall medical care to combat the disease in the community.

A recent RAND health study on HIV costs and services found that the vast majority of patients received care at their local AIDS clinic, not a primary dentist. Moreover, these disfavored patients must look for service within the context of a nationwide drop in dental school applicants and graduates, and a projected 60 percent loss of active dentists due to retirement. As a result, the average American, especially those with HIV/AIDS, will, or already are, having difficulty in obtaining dental care.

The crisis is palpable for HIV/AIDS patients. They have even more difficulty than other Americans finding dentists who will accept Medicaid or treat patients at reduced cost.

Some dentists are reluctant to provide care. Although only one case of transmission between dentist and patient has been documented, problems of access are acute. Many patients must travel long distances to find care. Many states do not include dental care as part of their Medicaid coverage. Patients often must search for providers such as schools of dentistry or local community clinics which receive some funds from the Dental Reimbursement Program (DRP), administered through the Ryan White CARE Act.

My bill would create a loan forgiveness program for dental school graduates who agree to serve HIV/AIDS populations in areas where there is a high incidence of such cases, as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services. This program is drawn from the nurse loan forgiveness program passed by Congress in 1998. The crisis for the dental profession, especially in the distribution of dentists in underserved areas, is even greater than for physicians. Dental school graduates incur an average loan debt of \$100,000. Under the guidelines of the program, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to pay 60 percent of the principal and interest on the loans in exchange for service for a period of no less than two years. If a dentist agrees to participate in a third year of service, another 25 percent of the principal and interest on his loans will be paid. Loan forgiveness programs bring important added value because many recipients remain in practice in the area to which they are assigned. The Secretary of HHS is to submit to the Congress a report on the program, with information including the number of dentists enrolled, the number and amount of loan repayments, the placement location of loan repayment recipients, and the evaluation of the overall costs and benefits of the program.

With more than one million Americans with HIV/AIDS, and over 16,000 in the District of Columbia, and its impact among people of color, these health providers need greater attention. We are proud of the overworked and under-funded services that are available in the District of Columbia. The Howard School of Dentistry has a long history of providing dental services to the poor here, and the HU CARES program provides care for nearly 1,200 patients a year. The vital Whitman-Walker Clinic, the largest provider of comprehensive HIV/AIDS services in the District and the region serves over 1,500 dental patients a year.