

CENTRAL RANKIN RELAY FOR
LIFE**HON. GREGG HARPER**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, Rankin County, Mississippi advocates with the American Cancer Society Relay for Life will host their annual "Paint the Towns Purple" walk on April 1, 2011 at Shiloh Park in Brandon.

Relay for Life is the signature event of the American Cancer Society and celebrates cancer survivors and caregivers, remembers loved ones lost to the disease, and empowers individuals and communities to fight back against cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2010, 14,330 individuals were diagnosed with cancer in my home State of Mississippi, and regrettably, this deadly disease claimed the lives of 6,060 Mississippians last year.

Today, I rise to recognize the Central Rankin Relay for Life in their efforts to rid America of this tragic illness. May their efforts of saving lives and creating a world with less cancer and more birthdays be an overwhelming success.

EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE
TREATMENT OF BAHAI'S IN IRAN**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concern about the treatment of Baha'is in Iran. Recent reports suggest that the seven Baha'i leaders convicted last August have been transferred to more dangerous areas of the prison in which they are being held. Additionally, a series of arrests of Baha'i adherents began in Isfahan on February 13th. The fate of those individuals is currently unknown, but these arrests suggest that the Iranian government is continuing its persecution of members of the Baha'i faith.

Freedom of religion is a basic human right. The United States has always been committed to defending religious freedom around the globe. The world must be vocal in its condemnation of the mistreatment of the Baha'i people at the hands of a brutal government.

I urge the Iranian government to release all those whom it has imprisoned solely because of their religious beliefs, and to treat all of its religious minorities with tolerance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency I unfortunately missed a series of votes on February 17, 2011, which included roll call votes number 67 through 79.

If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" or "aye" on rollcall vote number 67, 68, 69, 70, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, and 79.

If I had been present, I would have voted "no" or "nay" on rollcall vote number 71.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROSENBERG
FOUNDATION**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Rosenberg Foundation on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary.

For three quarters of a century, the Rosenberg Foundation has committed itself to achieving social and economic justice for the people of California.

The Rosenberg Foundation was established in 1935 by a group of relatives and business associates who were designated as trustees in the will of Max L. Rosenberg, a San Francisco businessman and philanthropist.

Throughout its history, the Foundation has set forth on a mission of expanding opportunity to all Californians. It has distributed more than 2,800 grants totaling nearly \$80 million to regional, statewide and national organizations advocating for social, economic and civic justice in the state.

These grants have focused on California's most vulnerable communities, from those in rural areas to women to minorities to children. Today, the Foundation is spearheading innovative solutions for tackling issues such as immigrant rights, justice for farm workers, sentencing reform and economic disparity.

For these efforts, the Rosenberg Foundation has been recognized with many prestigious awards. In 1997, it won the Outstanding Foundation Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals. In 2003, it was one of three foundations to receive the Paul Ylvisaker Award for Public Policy Engagement by the Council on Foundations.

As our nation emerges from this historic recession and inequality continues to rise, groups like the Rosenberg Foundation will play a critical role in helping all Californians realize their share of the American Dream. The Foundation understands that people aren't looking for a handout, but a hand up.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Rosenberg Foundation and its dedicated staff for their extraordinary contributions to the people of California during the last 75 years. I have no doubt we will be celebrating many more anniversaries in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE RETIRED SENIOR AND
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance and necessity of senior care programs such as the Retired Senior and Volunteer Program (RSVP). Philadelphia's RSVP is based in the Jewish Community Center Klein Branch and currently enlists about 600 volunteers. The program offers much-needed community services as well as

an opportunity for seniors to volunteer their time. RSVP provides important volunteer services such as tutoring, food for Meals on Wheels and assistance with tax preparation. The following article from the Philadelphia Daily News illustrates the importance of programs like RSVP and the need for our continued support of their worthy accomplishments.

[From the Philadelphia Daily News, Feb. 7, 2011]

SENIORS, LIFE'S CALLING YOU. SEND YOUR
RSVP

(By Stu Bykofsky)

DON'T TRUST anyone under 30.

Maybe reversing the infamous (and bigoted) catchphrase from the '60s is overdoing it.

But while many cultures, equating experience with knowledge, revere elders, here in the U.S. of A. we lionize "youth" (even while watching the reading and math scores of our "youth" fall, like tokens into a fare box).

Baby Boomers who cranked up the social-revolution line are now in the Social Security line.

In addition to the vast financial wealth that the Boomers piled up, they (and their elders) also collected a warehouse of wisdom, which some of them like to share.

Motivated older adults—55 and up—form the backbone of RSVP—the Retired Senior and Volunteer Program, a 40-year-old national agency which in Philly operates from the Klein JCC, in the Far Northeast.

Klein has about 600 RSVP volunteers. Some are way above 55, like Harold and Libby Yaffe, the 93-year-old married couple who come in to serve lunches.

"The only way we can do what we do is through volunteers," says Marcia Gross, RSVP project director, as she shows me around the lowslung Klein JCC at 10100 Jamison Ave. Gross is a woman of a certain age with no hard edges, a smiling round face framed by light-brown hair.

There are lots of underutilized or bored retirees, and a lot of programs that need help but can't afford to hire people, Gross says. You don't have to be Einstein to connect two dots.

When some people hear "volunteer" for free, they hit the exits. Better people see service to others as a benefit to society—and to themselves.

"I have to have something to do in the morning and I love every minute of it," says widowed Center City grandmother Laurette Feltoon, who admits to "65-plus."

For the last 13 years, she's been taking her master's in psychology (she had a private practice in marital and premarital counseling) and volunteering, every day, as a mediator in Municipal Court's Dispute Resolution Program.

The city and the warring parties get the benefit of her decades of experience, while Feltoon has a place to go and a mission to accomplish.

Dots connected. Win-win. Volunteers go only to nonprofit agencies, says Gross, ranging from the American Red Cross (blood-mobile aides) to WHY—TV (special events, begathons).

Sure, there are expected needs for people who can do data entry and fill clerical roles, make weekly visits to the homebound, tutor students or prepare food for Meals on Wheels.

But there are less-conventional volunteer options, such as tax preparation, historical research, ushering at local theaters, guiding tours at Independence National Historical Park or the Philadelphia Zoo, and providing immigration assistance. For those better with their hands than their mouths, RSVP