

In this spirit, the Council will celebrate its 51st annual Lincoln Day Banquet on February 22nd and will honor my long time friend and supporter, and senior citizen advocate extraordinaire, Mrs. Dorothy Seeley.

Dorothy has a well-earned reputation around the Milwaukee area and our entire state as a real go-getter and fighter for the rights of our senior citizens. From her years at Nordberg Manufacturing Company as a crane operator, to her union steward days, right on through her appointments by Wisconsin Governor John Reynolds and Milwaukee County Executive John Doyle, Dorothy has been a friend of working men and women and retirees. To this day, as President of United Seniors of Wisconsin, Dorothy pursues the never-ending battle to protect the rights of seniors, so that their voices can be heard here at home in Milwaukee, in Madison at the State Capitol and in Washington, D.C.

In 1990, Dorothy was given the prestigious honor of being named one of Wisconsin's Ten Most Admired Senior Citizens by Security Savings at an awards ceremony during the Wisconsin State Fair.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I ask that you join me in congratulating Mrs. Dorothy Seeley on a job well done. Keep up the great work, Dorothy, for many years to come. May God Bless.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3161— TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on February 4th, I joined my distinguished colleague from New Jersey, Congressman CHRISTOPHER SMITH, in introducing H.R. 3161, the Torture Victims Relief Act. Together, the two of us introduced similar legislation during the 104th Congress.

Our important legislation attempts to deal with the detrimental consequences of the most egregious form of violation of international human rights—the widespread use of torture. Human rights experts estimate that there are over 79 countries around the world where torture is practiced on a systematic basis. As a consequence, there are currently an estimated 200,000 to 400,000 victims of foreign governmental torture in the United States, who are in dire need of qualified psychological and medical treatment in adequate facilities. The traumatic experiences of torture—which according to experts in most cases does not ultimately aim to obtain information, but simply to break and destroy the victim's personality and human identity—result in continuous nightmares, flashbacks, anxiety attacks, and deep depressions.

In 1973, Amnesty International appealed to the world medical profession to respond to the international use of torture and to develop a multi-pronged treatment program to counter the severe effects of torture. These efforts—in particular under the outstanding leadership of Dr. Inge Genefke, MD, DMSc.h.c.—resulted in the establishment of the first Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1982. This international movement has now grown to encompass 173 centers in 76 countries. The suc-

cessful work of these centers—based on four parallel pillars consisting of psychotherapy, physiotherapy, social counseling and nursing—have shown that with adequate treatment, torture victims can resume productive and fulfilling lives.

Mr. Speaker, since torture is used by the most despicable of totalitarian oppressors around the world as one of their most common techniques for suppressing freedom of speech and democratic rights, it typically targets the strongest and most outstanding defenders of these democratic values in foreign countries. The United States has courageously defended and promoted the values of freedom and democracy around the world, the very principles on which this country was founded. The victims of torture are these courageous people who, knowing full well the risk of physical and psychological harm which will inevitably come to them if they are arrested, uphold our common values in the face of their brutal oppressors.

Mr. Speaker, these heroic defenders of human rights and human liberty deserve our strongest support. The Torture Victims Relief Act (H.R. 3161) will fully implement the provisions of the U.N. Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which prohibits the involuntary return of any person to a country if there is substantial evidence that a reasonable person in those circumstances would fear subjection to torture.

President Ronald Reagan signed the U.N. Convention on April 18, 1988, and the United States Senate ratified it on 21 October, 1994. With the ratification of this convention, these international norms became binding law in the United States. There is no domestic legislation, however, to implement these international legal provisions. Our legislation will rectify this oversight by providing the legal provisions necessary to implement the Convention on Torture.

Furthermore, our important bill will make important changes in the immigration procedures under which torture victims will be handled. The provisions of this bill expedite the processing for asylum applicants who make credible claims that they have been victims of torture. The legislation establishes the presumption that such applicants should not be detained while their asylum case is pending, and it designates refugees who are torture victims as refugees of special humanitarian concern with priority for resettlement at least as high as that given to any other refugee group.

In addition, the Torture Victims Relief Act provides for special training for officials who are involved in implementing immigration procedures. This training will provide information about torture and its long-term effects, and this will help these officials to consider the special physical and psychological circumstances a torture victim has to endure when they have to provide evidence in support of their asylum claim.

In order to ensure an adequate rehabilitation treatment for victims of torture, this bill authorizes \$5 million for FY 1999 and \$7.5 million for FY 2000 from funds authorized for the Department of Health and Human Services to support domestic torture treatment programs. In addition, the bill fully supports the international efforts I have outlined above. It authorizes \$5 million for FY 1999 and \$7.5 million for FY 2000 of funds authorized under the Foreign

Assistance Act for international rehabilitation services, and it authorizes \$3 million for FY 1999 and \$3 million for FY 2000 of funds authorized under the Foreign Assistance Act to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Torture Victims.

In a further effort to strengthen the international effort to address the scourge of torture, our legislation commits the United States to use its voice and vote in the United Nations to support the investigation and elimination of practices outlawed under the U.N. Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

COMMENDING THE HEROISM OF CUB SCOUT WILLEM REYNAR

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a brave and outstanding young American, Cub Scout Willem Reynar of Cub Scout Pack 440.

Willem Reynar is the epitome of a good Cub Scout, possessing courage and bravery beyond his years. In September 1997, Willem was able to think clearly and act quickly when he found his younger sister in a drowning situation. Willem didn't panic and in turn saved his sister's life.

I commend Willem Reynar for his courage and heroism. According to the great American author Mark Twain, "Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear—not absence of fear." Willem Reynar was able to conquer his fear and save the life of another human being.

Willem Reynar's bravery is an example to his Pack and to us all. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Cub Scout Willem Reynar, a hero who truly deserves the Boy Scout Lifesaving Award.

BOB ADAMS: AN AMERICAN HERO

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a friend, a role model and a hero in the black community. This man believes in the four values which have made America great. Those values are hard work, integrity, faith in God and persistence. In particular, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a successful black businessman who overcame dire circumstances to realize the American Dream.

Indeed, my good friend Bob Adams is the personification of the American Dream. Here is a man who was born into poverty and who understands what it feels like to go to bed with an empty belly, wake up with an empty belly, and then go to school and try to learn on an empty belly. There are millions of children in this country, Mr. Speaker, who have to endure the same horrible circumstances, but I am hopeful we can work in a bipartisan fashion in Congress to help end this suffering.

Though the odds were against him succeeding, Bob Adams never gave up. He never chose a life of stealing and drug dealing. That would have been the easy way out. Instead of saying, "I can't make it. It's too hard to succeed," Bob Adams instead decided to work hard in school, keep his faith in Jesus and maintain a positive attitude. Just like that song you hear over the radio, Bob Adams told himself, "I might get knocked down, but I'll get up again. You're never going to keep me down."

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that my friend Bob Adams is a successful businessman who owns a printing company and today does his part to give back to his community. He is one of the greatest examples I can think of when it comes to excellent role models in the black community.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, when the going got tough, Bob Adams didn't say, "I have gone this far, I can go no farther." Instead he told himself, "I'll never quit and I'll never give up." Friends, that is the essence of the American Spirit. That is the bulldog mentality that built America into the greatest country in the world.

My friends, whenever we despair and feel like quitting, it is time for us to get up, dust ourselves off and remember that great Bible verse—"I can do all things through him who gives me strength." And then we should remember the example of such fine role models as Bob Adams for inspiration. Bob Adams is proof that anyone can succeed in America if they put their mind to it, and their faith in God.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on February 5, 1998, I was unavoidably detained, therefore, missing roll call votes 8-10. Had I been here I would have voted Yea on roll call vote 8 (H. Res. 348) providing for the consideration of H.R. 2846; Yea on roll call vote 9 (H.R. 2846) prohibiting spending Federal education funds on national testing without explicit and specific legislation; and Yea on roll call 10 (H.R. 2631) disapproving the cancellations transmitted by the President on October 6, 1997, regarding Public Law 105-45.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY ROSENTHAL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of my staff who has recently left my office to become the Chief of Staff at the National Indian Gaming Commission. Larry Rosenthal, who hails from my hometown of Flint, MI, began working as a legislative assistant in my office in 1987. I recognized immediately that Larry shared my belief that the role of government is to preserve, protect, defend and enhance human dignity.

As Members of Congress, we know how crucial it is to have a good staff. I have always

sought to hire people who have good heads and good hearts. Larry has both attributes in great abundance. Indeed, over the years, Larry has not only become one of my closest advisors, he has also been one of my dearest friends.

During his tenure on my staff, Larry handled a variety of my most important legislative priorities. He was instrumental in the passage of the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act, the Grand Island National Recreation Area Act, and the Michigan Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Larry's work as the staff coordinator for the Congressional Automotive Caucus was crucial to my efforts to reinvigorate the Caucus and provide effective leadership in Congress on issues affecting the American automotive industry.

Most recently, Larry dedicated his time and efforts to the First Americans, Native Americans. He worked tirelessly to ensure recognition and federal support for tribes across the United States. Larry was committed to the fundamentals of sovereignty and respect that play such a critical role in Native American culture. His work as staff coordinator of the Congressional Native American Caucus has earned him a reputation in Washington, D.C. as one of the most knowledgeable congressional staffers on these issues. He has also earned the respect and gratitude of Native Americans in Indian Country.

There is no doubt that Larry has left an indelible mark on all of those who have come in contact with my congressional office. Whether planning a softball game, a reception for Ernie Harwell, or a conference on Indian Issues, Larry brought excitement and interest to each event. It is this dedication and devotion coupled with an indomitable spirit that makes Larry Rosenthal such a unique person. I am proud to call him my friend.

Larry's departure from my office is very bittersweet. Although I know that Larry will serve the government well at the NIGC, I will certainly miss his expertise. His service to the Ninth Congressional District should serve as an example to us all. Please join me in expressing my gratitude to Larry for his many years of service on Capitol Hill. I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

1,160-PERCENT INCREASE IN DRUG PRICE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, enclosed is a copy of a letter I've received from a Midwestern doctor.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STARK: I am not from your district or even from California but I know your interest in problems with the pharmaceutical industry so I wanted to share this outrage I just found out to my dismay.

I called the Darby Drug Company to order a thousand tablets of the generic for Lomotil and found that what had been \$27.95 in 1997 is now \$325.00—honestly—more than a 10% increase. I could not believe it but was told it is true. They don't have the 1998 catalogue yet but they say that is the new price.

Help!

I have seen increases in the prices of drugs that seemed too high, but this is absurd. How

can they get away with it? Certainly the cost of making it did not go up more than 10 times in less than a year. The reason given me was that now there is only one company making it—a lame excuse for taking such advantage of patients in need.

Thanks for your efforts to protect the poor consumer.

WESTINGHOUSE SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the People's House to pay tribute to four young scholars from Ward Melville High School, in Setauket, Long Island whose talents and hard work have earned them the coveted distinction as finalists in the 1998 Westinghouse Science Talent Search contest. Continuing a remarkable legacy of scientific achievement at Ward Melville, Christopher Michael Gerson, Grace Ann Lau, Clyde Law and Thomas Peterson have been invited to Washington, DC to compete for the top honor in America's oldest and most prestigious high school scholarship competition.

Inspired by their own ingenuity and thirst for knowledge, and supported by the dedicated teaching staff at Ward Melville, Christopher, Grace, Clyde and Thomas have all created impressive research projects that met the competition's rigorous standards and earned them the recognition of the Westinghouse judges. These hard-working scholars have produced brilliant experiments in scientific research.

Christopher Gerson studied the effects of colliding continental plates by producing a laboratory model that accurately simulates geological movements. Using a sandbox with a movable wall to simulate plate motion, and precise marking and photography techniques, Chris devised a method for studying plate science using innovative quantitative studies. A sports columnist for the school magazine and a member of the school marching band, Chris hopes to study computer science and mathematics at Princeton University.

For her project, Grace An Lau researched the effects that extracts from green tea have on an enzyme involved in inflammatory tissue injuries. Her study demonstrated that green tea can significantly inhibit the enzyme Neutrophil, which is implicated in a variety of diseases, including arthritis and cystic fibrosis. A violinist in the school orchestra and a Science Olympiad participant, Grace will study biology in college and hopes to become a veterinarian or a field scientist.

Clyde Law's physics experiment examined the compressibility of nuclear matter substances by studying the flow of protons, providing important insight into nuclear and astrophysics. Clyde is a participant in Science Olympiad and was a finalist in the ThinkQuest Internet Contest. He is also active in the Asian Culture Club and tutors Chinese. He hopes to attend MIT to study engineering and computer science and plans to become a computer systems analyst.

Thomas Petersen's breakthrough project produced what is believed to be the first experimental verification that thermally induced