

NONCITIZEN BENEFIT CLARIFICATION AND OTHER TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today, H.R. 4558, is important in that it clarifies the eligibility of immigrants in receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. As you know, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act permanently grandfathered most but not all noncitizens who were receiving SSI benefits when the welfare reform law was signed into law on August 22, 1996. About 22,000 "nonqualified" noncitizens were grandfathered through only September 30, 1998 in order to give the Social Security Administration adequate time to determine their status. This legislation would clarify that these individuals—many of whom are elderly or disabled and who claim citizenship but lack documentation or are not capable of documenting their immigration status—will continue to receive SSI benefits from the federal government.

While there should be strong and vigorous debate on the ensuring that those most in need of public assistance not fall through the safety net, perhaps it is not clearly known that not all U.S. citizens are eligible for participation in the SSI program. SSI is available to citizens who live in one of the 50 States; however, U.S. citizens residing in Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are not eligible for assistance under the SSI program. Given the fact that the cost of living is much higher in the territories than almost any mainland location, and given the fact that we have a permanent cap on Medicaid, I sincerely believe that there is a definite need to extend the SSI program to the territories.

Citizenship in this country and the privileges associated with it should not be measured by geographic choice in residency or the size of one's pocketbook. Whether one chooses to live in Hagatna, St. Croix or Peoria, a federally funded program should be accessible to everyone.

I urge my colleagues pass H.R. 4558 and to extend the SSI program to the American citizens in the territories.

SENSE OF CONGRESS CONDEMNING ATROCITIES BY SERBIAN POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES AGAINST ALBANIANS IN KOSOVA

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to show my support of H. Con. Res. 315 in condemning the atrocities in Kosova. The region has suffered significant loss of life and an immense amount of property damage due to the brutal actions of the Milosevic administration's military forces.

Tension in the area has been increasing since the government of Yugoslavia removed Kosova's autonomous status in 1989 without

the consent of the people, of whom 90% are ethnic Albanians. Human rights groups report that the conflict has escalated to the point where forces are conducting abductions and summary executions of innocent civilians. More than 900 people have died in the fighting this year, while an estimated 200,000 Albanian refugees have been forced out of their homes. If the offensive continues, these refugees will be at risk of freezing to death in the forests where they have hidden.

Mr. Speaker, we can not allow this destruction of Kosova's resident's to continue. Because the Milosevic government has been primarily responsible for this conflict, it should bear the burden of providing compensation for the loss of life and for the costs of rebuilding the destroyed areas.

IN REGARD TO CSU STANISLAUS AND THE DEDICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL BUILDING

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to California State University, Stanislaus on the occasion of the dedication of the University's Professional Schools Building.

CSU Stanislaus, located in my district in California's great Central Valley, has seen a very impressive 63 percent growth in student population during the past two decades and this new Professional Schools Building reflects a new milestone in the university's strong commitment to obtaining the highest level of student academic achievement.

This magnificent new building represents the core values of a learning-centered environment—not only for undergraduate students—but for the university's credential programs and the professional and applied programs.

I am very proud to report to my colleagues that standing on the brink of a new millennium, this new facility is designed with an eye on the 21st Century with an advanced technological infrastructure which supports on-site and interactive distance learning programs.

A copy of this message of congratulations is being enclosed in a time capsule at the University to be removed during the University's centennial anniversary in the year 2060. It is my sincerest hope, that at that time CSU Stanislaus will have traveled far down the path of academic excellence and made its mark of distinction along the avenue of Universities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be among the alumni of this university and can say that it holds a special place in my heart. I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in offering congratulations to Dr. Marvalene Hughes, president of California State University, Stanislaus, and in extending my best wishes to future generations of those who will hear this message.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MARCH—COMING TOGETHER TO CONQUER CANCER

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, hundreds of thousands of Americans will participate in The March—a rally to raise public awareness in support of the fight to end cancer. A high-profile gathering led by Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, Vice President AL GORE, and others will be held on the National Mall, and similar events are planned in communities around the country. This week is also "Prostate Cancer Awareness Week," and October is "National Breast Cancer Awareness Month."

Cancer causes one of every four deaths in the United States. Tragically, about 1.2 million new cancer cases will be diagnosed in 1998, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC estimates that half a million people will lose their lives to cancer this year—more than 1,500 people a day. Despite these sobering statistics, however, there is reason for renewed hope in the "War on Cancer."

A recent report by CDC, the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute showed cancer incidence and death rates for all cancers combined actually declined between 1990 and 1995—reversing an almost 20-year trend of increasing cancer cases and deaths in the United States. The report recognized, however, that "the declines in cancer incidence and deaths have not been seen for all Americans and that our collective efforts must be directed at reaching populations with a disproportionate cancer burden."

While we seek to give hope to cancer patients and their loved ones, we must not let optimism breed complacency. Instead, events like The March should heighten our determination to win the war.

As Chairman of the Health and Environment Subcommittee, I believe the federal government can and should do more to support ongoing research efforts. Specifically, I support an increased financial commitment to biomedical research, which is necessary to find a cure for cancer.

To that end, I have endorsed a proposal to double federal funding for the National Institutes for Health over the next five years. I have also authored legislation to provide additional funding for NIH research efforts. The bill, H.R. 3563, the Biomedical Research Assistance Voluntary Option (BRAVO) Act, would allow taxpayers to designate a portion of their federal income tax refund to support biomedical research through the National Institutes of Health.

Last year, Congress approved \$40 million in funding for prostate cancer research within the Department of Defense. I was pleased to support this measure when it was considered by the House of Representatives. I also supported a recent effort to increase funding by joining Representatives SHERROD BROWN, BILL GOODLING and a bipartisan coalition of my colleagues in requesting \$60 million for this important program in the Fiscal Year 1999 appropriations measure.

In March, my Subcommittee held a hearing on the process for setting research priorities at

the National Institutes of Health. Following the hearing, I wrote to NIH Director Harold Varmus to urge increased attention to prostate cancer and breast cancer research.

In July, my Subcommittee held a hearing to shed light on the many recent developments in cancer-related research. This forum provided an opportunity to gain knowledge from the experiences of a distinguished group of cancer researchers, all of whom are recognized as leading experts in their field of practice.

Earlier this month, I was proud to secure approval by the House of Representatives of H.R. 4382, legislation to reauthorize the Mammography Quality Standards Act. This important law was enacted in 1992 to improve the quality of breast cancer screening exams by establishing national standards for mammography facilities. Without question, it has been an overwhelming success.

Screening mammography is currently the most effective technique for early detection of breast cancer. This procedure can identify small tumors and breast abnormalities up to two years before they can be detected by touch. More than 90 percent of these early stage cancers can be cured, according to the Food and Drug Administration.

The use of screening mammography provides a ray of hope in the fight against breast cancer. Early detection of breast cancer through accurate and reliable mammograms can spare women from undergoing radical surgery—and often save their lives. Enactment of H.R. 4382 will help reduce the threat of breast cancer by providing women the tools they need to detect this terrible disease in its early stages.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend all of the volunteers who have worked as tireless advocates of cancer research. Events like The March remind us all of the terrible toll cancer extracts each year in our nation. For the hundreds of thousands of patients, families, caregivers and friends whose lives have been touched by cancer, we should renew and strengthen our commitment to ending this terrible disease.

SHARON DARLING IS AWARDED THIS YEAR'S ALBERT SCHWEITZER PRIZE FOR HUMANITARIANISM

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Louisville-resident who is dedicated to breaking the cycle of illiteracy.

Sharon Darling is being awarded this year's Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism, joining the ranks of former President Jimmy Carter, former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund. This award, administered by John Hopkins University, recognizes "exemplary contributions to humanity and the environment."

Truly, the work of Sharon Darling has been felt not only by the Louisville community, but

throughout our nation. As the founder of the National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL), Sharon has pioneered a program that combines early childhood education, adult literacy education, parent support and structured interaction between parents and their children.

Sharon is a perfect recipient for this year's award because of her dedication to breaking the grasp of poverty by teaching families the skills so necessary to succeed in our society. Without the ability to read, individuals are restricted in their ability to get ahead in our world. Illiteracy is a cycle because parents' inability to read is reflected in the ability of their children to succeed in the classroom.

The fact is a child's success in school is linked to the education of the parents and the ability of the parents to earn a living. What the National Center of Family Literacy has learned is that to approach literacy through the family is the surest way to increase education levels of adults and children because this approach expands the skills of both and draws on the power of the family to affect its own future.

In an era where individuals are moving from welfare rolls into the workforce, Sharon Darling and the NCFL have worked in Louisville and throughout the country to free families from the trap of poverty and ignorance.

I am thrilled Sharon Darling is being awarded the Albert Schweitzer Prize for Humanitarianism and am honored to recognize her today for her commitment to a truly noble goal. Literacy is a key to success, and Sharon is using that key to give families nationwide the chance for a brighter future.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE
MAXINE DARST

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a great American and long time constituent—Judge Evelyn Maxine Valentine Darst. Presiding as the Kaufman County Judge for her fourth consecutive term, Judge Darst continues her life long service to the preservation of our great legal system.

Born in Edgewood, Texas, Judge Darst moved to Terrell at an early age, where she has remained all her life. Intrigued by the law and dedicated to helping others, Judge Darst entered law school and received her B.S. from East Texas State University. She was admitted to practice law in Texas in 1976 and practiced in Terrell with her husband until 1983. Judge Darst became an attorney in Kaufman County and was also the first female to practice law in Kaufman. In 1983, Maxine achieved another first—when she became the first female Kaufman County Judge.

As Kaufman County Judge, Maxine has led the county to many improvements, including—a new Kaufman County Law Enforcement Center, a Kaufman County Emergency Children's Shelter, a Kaufman County Library, the hiring of a chief juvenile probation officer and a newly formed Public Works Department. Not only has Judge Darst greatly influenced Coun-

ty government, but she also has devoted her time and talents to such civic activities as the Kaufman County Child Welfare Board, Kaufman County Historical Commission Board, the Terrell Social Science Club, the Girl Scout Little House Board, the Terrell March of Dimes and the KauCedar Charities.

Ever dedicated to her professional career and civic duties, Maxine also managed to remain a devoted wife and mother. Maxine Darst's life and achievements stand as an example for us all. Through hard work, dedication and desire Judge Evelyn Maxine Valentine Darst has shown us all that we can accomplish whatever goals we want to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, this January, 1999, Judge Darst will retire from her seat as Kaufman County Judge. As we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and respect for this great American—Judge Evelyn Maxine Valentine Darst.

A TRIBUTE TO FOODLINK FOR
TULARE COUNTY, INC

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Foodlink for Tulare County which is proudly celebrating its 20th anniversary on September 24, 1998.

Foodlink, which was originally called Food Resources, was founded in the mid-1970's by a dedicated group of individuals who were very concerned about the growing hunger problem in the Tulare County, and equally concerned about food going to waste in this rich agricultural area. At the time, hunger in Tulare County was worse than the national average. Food Resources (Foodlink) worked with area farmers who were more than willing to donate agricultural surplus, culled vegetables, day-old bread, unlabeled canned goods, and other usable items to Foodlink to be distributed among the different foodbanks in Tulare County.

After 20 years of growth, Foodlink is currently providing 5 million pounds of food to 82,000 hungry people through a network of nonprofit emergency pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and youth programs.

Foodlink would not exist without the many volunteers and donors who have dedicated their time and resources. On September 24, 1998 in Visalia, California Foodlink, will present awards to Kraft Foods as outstanding Food Donor and St. Vincent de Paul in Porterville as outstanding Food Agency. With such partners as these, Foodlink has been able to provide much needed assistance to many families in Tulare County.

Unfortunately, the problem of hunger still exists in Tulare County. But, with contained support of the local community food donations from the USDA and others, Foodlink will continue their mission of ending hunger. I believe our community is lucky to have an organization like Foodlink to help those in need.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, please join me in wishing Foodlink a Happy Anniversary and a special thank you for all their hard work to end hunger in Tulare County.