

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LABELING IMPORTED PRODUCE

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that is extremely important to the health of millions of American families, the labeling of imported produce. We were reminded just how critical of an issue this is twice last year when a breakout of *Cyclospora* bacteria occurred in imported Guatemalan raspberries and when the Hepatitis A virus was found in strawberries which were imported from Mexico. In this particular case, these strawberries were illegally used in our nation's school lunch program and more than 150 students in Michigan were infected. When you take into consideration that shipments were sent to as many as 15 other states, thousands more could have been at risk.

What is perhaps more frightening than the presence of these strawberries in our nation's school lunch program, is the fact that these children are in just as much danger eating dinner at home. Every day, millions of Americans buy produce without knowing where it was grown. Though nearly every consumer product we purchase has origin labeling, the fruits and vegetables we eat do not. Taking into consideration that foreign countries do not adhere to the same phytosanitary and labor standards as American growers and handlers, it is very likely that harmful fruits and vegetables are being stocked on the shelves of our local grocery stores.

Mr. Speaker, this is simply unconscionable. Many of these countries are using pesticides that are currently banned in the United States or using irrigated water that is contaminated with raw sewage. It is also not uncommon to find young children being forced to work up to 12 hours a day picking and sorting these products. It is for many of these reasons that 80% of those asked in a recent survey believe that produce should have a label indicating its country of origin.

I, along with many of my colleagues, have already become a cosponsor of H.R. 1232, the Imported Produce Labeling Act of 1997, introduced by our good friend, the late Sonny Bono. This legislation will extend our current labeling laws, under the Tariff Act of 1930, to require country of origin labeling on imported produce at the final point of sale, the grocery stores. This requirement is neither complicated nor burdensome to farmers and retailers. H.R. 1232 will simply require that the country of origin of imported produce be displayed in a clear and visible manner if the produce package is not already labeled. For example, a grocer could place a sign above the food bin or include the information on or next to the price sign.

This action not only promotes safety awareness, but is good trade policy as well. Many of our major trading partners, including Canada, Japan, Australia and various European

nations, require country of origin labeling for imported produce, including the fruits and vegetables they buy from the United States. H.R. 1232 will place American farmers and consumers on a level playing field with our trading partners by harmonizing our labeling policies.

Most importantly, however, this action will provide American consumers with the opportunity to decide for themselves what fruits and vegetables they wish to buy. I firmly believe that it is not only a parent's right to know where the food they are feeding their family originated, but is also our responsibility to provide safe food to our nation's children. It is my understanding that Congressman Condit has recently requested to become the first sponsor of H.R. 1232 for the propose of adding cosponsors and working for its consideration. I applaud this action and urge all my colleagues, who have not already done so, to strongly consider cosponsoring this important legislation and support its passage when it reaches the Floor.

TRIBUTE TO REV. ANTHONY W. WILCOTS, A MAN WITH A MISSION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend marked a celebration for a fine young man who is serving as shepherd to some of my constituents. That young man is Reverend Anthony W. Wilcots. Rev. Wilcots is the pastor of the Liberty Baptist Church of Elizabeth, New Jersey. Although his physical presence with this church is short-lived, the spirituality and lessons he has taught are far-reaching. As we begin our life's journey we never know what paths we'll cross or with whom we'll come in contact but if we're fortunate to be prepared and faithful we are usually blessed to meet and serve those for whom we were destined.

Rev. Wilcots' journey has taken him far and wide and he and his congregants have certainly benefitted. Rev. Wilcots, a native of Houston, Texas, is a graduate with the Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas Southern University, the Master of Divinity degree from the School of Theology, Oral Roberts University and the Master of Sacred Theology degree from Yale University School of Divinity. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Social Ethics at Drew University. His evangelistic ministry has carried him to college campuses, churches and tent crusades in over 30 states, the District of Columbia and six foreign countries. Mr. Speaker, as you can see Rev. Wilcots has taken his calling seriously and continues to increase his capacity to serve the minds and souls of many.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our appreciation to Rev. Anthony W. Wilcots and his family for his contributions to our community.

HONORING VILICIA ELIZABETH CADE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the skill and achievements of Vilicia Elizabeth Cade. Her contribution to public and community service is incomparable.

Vilicia was taught the value of community service and scholarship at a young age. As a child, she was often involved in community service through her family's church. Her zeal for community service found its firm foundations from these experiences.

In 1984, Vilicia attended the College of New Paltz. While enrolled full time she was involved in various community service endeavors. One particular project, involved creating a plan to provide resources for migrant workers. In addition, Ms. Cade stood in the forefront to fight injustice. She helped organize peaceful and successful demonstrations against apartheid. These demonstrations eventually lead to her college's discontinuing its use of a bank that had investments in South Africa. In the end, NYPRIG asked Ms. Cade to serve as a poster model for their 1986-97 campaign.

In 1986, she joined Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. As a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, she continued her community service endeavors. In addition, her local chapter started a scholarship fund in the Sorority's name for female students. Vilicia obtained her Bachelor's degree in 1988. Without reservation her peers voted for her to be the first recipient of the "NIA" Award, an award for the highest grade point average in her major. She also received a full fellowship for graduate studies. In 1989 she attended the State University of New York at Albany for graduate school.

Upon returning to Brooklyn, Vilicia continued in her commitment to community and scholarship. She obtained employment with the Federation Employment Guidance Service (FECS). Through her employment as a case manager with "at risk" New York City Public High School students, she organized college trips and encouraged students to be actively involved in service learning projects. In 1996, she obtained her second Masters degree from Long Island University.

Vilicia was blessed with two beautiful sons, Jelani Omari (deceased) and Curtis Anthony. Encouraged by her supportive family, friends, and Sorors, Vilicia continues to fight for the betterment of her community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Vilicia Elizabeth Cade for all of her achievements, for being a woman who dares to be different, and for showing young women everywhere that they can do and accomplish anything.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN HONOR OF THE PANCYPRIAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA WOMEN'S ISSUE NETWORK AND MRS. YIANOULLA VASSILIOU

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Pancyprian Association of America Women's Issues Network on the occasion of their first annual dinner dance. I would also like to honor the Pancyprian Women's Issue Network's first 1998 Woman of the Year Award honoree, Mrs. Yianoulla Vassiliou.

Mrs. Vassiliou, who is visiting the United States for several weeks, is a former principal and elementary school teacher in the occupied part of Cyprus in the village of Rizokarpaso Cyprus. Yianoulla Vassiliou has devoted the past 24 years to educating these enclaved children. For selflessly leaving her family and dedicating her time to ensure that these children in the occupied area receive an education, Mrs. Vassiliou is a worthy recipient of the first Pancyprian Women's Issue Network 1998 Woman of the Year Award.

The Pancyprian Association of America Women's Issues Network was established in the spring of 1996 by a group of dedicated women as a division of the Pancyprian Association of America, Inc. in an effort to bring together women of Hellenic origin. The Founding President, Dr. Florentina Christodoulidou, has spearheaded the organization to be a significant component of the Hellenic women's movement.

The Pancyprian Women's Issues Network is a network group providing information and services to women within the Hellenic communities. It helps raise awareness about social, health, economic and other issues as they relate to women's roles as mothers, daughters, wives, breadwinners and homemakers.

The philosophy of the Pancyprian Women's Issues Network is one of extending a helping hand to others, and which is deeply rooted in efforts to develop mutual prosperity and steering lives towards family fulfillment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to the Pancyprian Association of America Women's Issues Network, a group of dedicated Hellenic women who have successfully integrated the Hellenic spirit with American ideals and values. I also ask my colleagues to rise in tribute to the Pancyprian Association's Woman of the Year honoree, Mrs. Yianoulla Vassiliou.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NEW HOPE FOUNDATION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to acknowledge the positive efforts of the New Hope Foundation, Inc. in Jackson, MS. New Hope was established in 1981 as a non-profit organization to provide community-based alcohol and other drug abuse correction services to individuals, regardless of race, sex, re-

ligion, or national origin. New Hope's mission is to prevent, treat, and educate individuals living in low and moderate income communities about alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse.

Some of New Hope's programs include a Three Quarter-way House for males. This program is a secondary alcohol and drug treatment program for recovering chemically dependent persons. In this program, individuals are given an opportunity to improve their lives by participating in vocational and employment activities. New Hope also conducts several other programs such as support groups that help aid in temporary and permanent housing, medical assistance, achieving a Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED), aid to the homeless and many other worthwhile benefits for men subjected and victimized by the ills of society. It is refreshing to know that organizations such as New Hope are created to help people who are not able to help themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I salute The New Hope Foundation. We can learn a lot from their determination and their commitment to assisting the less fortunate. I congratulate New Hope on their accomplishments and I encourage them in their quest to empowering a part of America that is almost too often neglected.

SALUTE TO DR. JOHN S. MBITI

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives a very special man, Dr. John S. Mbiti.

Dr. Mbiti has studied the attitudes of mind and belief that have evolved in the many societies of Africa. His interests are in biblical studies in relation to the expansion of Christianity and theological developments in Africa, Asia, and Oceania, and missiology, ecumenics, and the science of religion. Mbiti adds a new dimension to the understanding of the history, thinking, and life throughout the African continent. Religion is approached from an African point of view but is as accessible to readers who belong to non-African societies as it is to those who have grown up in African nations. The publication of his book "African Religions and Philosophy," has become essential reading for anyone concerned with African religion, history, philosophy, anthropology or general African studies.

As the representative of Elizabeth in Congress, I am proud of the accomplishments of Dr. John S. Mbiti. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our appreciation to Dr. John S. Mbiti for his numerous outstanding contributions to humankind.

HONORING PETER C. CAMPANELLI

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the numerous achievements of Peter C. Campanelli during his fiftieth birthday celebration. His dedication to providing vital clinical

services to individuals afflicted with mental illness has been incomparable.

As an adjunct professor at Rutgers and as a supervisor of students working towards an expertise in Cognitive/Behavioral Psychotherapy, Dr. Campanelli has trained a new generation to deal with the intricacies of the mental health field. He also organized and directed the Institute for Community Living (ICL), a private not-for-profit corporation, for the purpose of development and operation of community residences for the mentally ill within the catchment areas of two large state psychiatric hospitals. ICL currently provides approximately five hundred and sixty residential beds within various levels of care. It is clear that Dr. Campanelli strives to provide vital services to a constituency desperate for health and social services.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Peter C. Campanelli on his fiftieth birthday and thank him for sowing the seeds for others in our community to follow in his footsteps and provide the needed services for those who live there.

IN HONOR OF IRENE KLEMENTOWICZ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Irene Klementowicz, a resident of my district who has fought hard to protect the environmental health of her community.

Ms. Klementowicz has actively worked to improve her community since she first arrived in Greenpoint. Among her many activities, she helped ensure that a local factory started implementing pollution controls. This was especially important since it was situated directly across from two schools.

This early activism led to an appointment to Community Board 1, where she continues to champion the health and safety of her district. Among her accomplishments, she can be credited with a hard-fought and successful campaign to shut down the Greenpoint incinerator, long a source of pollution and nuisance.

Ms. Klementowicz's efforts have been recognized by numerous civic organizations. The City Club of New York honored her with an award for grass-roots leadership to the Concerned Citizens of Greenpoint, of which she is president. This group was formed to address environmental conditions that are detrimental to the health of Greenpoint citizens.

Her selfless efforts on behalf of the Greenpoint community have earned her the respect, and in some cases trepidation, of numerous public officials. She is both a tireless opponent of environmental degradation, and a committed activist for improving the quality of life in her district.

The efficiency and effectiveness Irene Klementowicz has displayed in Greenpoint should serve as a model for all community activists. Without people like Ms. Klementowicz working to improve communities on the local level, our work as Members of Congress would be compounded tenfold. It is the hard-working people like Ms. Klementowicz who