

my colleagues to appropriate full funding to fulfill the mission of the Violence Against Women Act.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY REDING

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Nancy Reding of Colorado City, Colorado. Nancy is one of those great Americans who teaches our kids as a profession and it is my pleasure to represent her in this Congress. Recently, her colleagues at Pueblo Community College named Nancy the faculty member of the year and I could not miss this opportunity to acknowledge her dedication and commitment to education before this body of Congress.

For the past 30 years, Nancy has given her life to teaching math to students in her Colorado community. We should all be humbled by this generous contribution to society and the sacrifice Nancy has made as an educator. Just think of the countless number of lives Nancy has touched. Nancy not only has lent her talents but her heart as well and, by so doing, she has given her students an awesome gift—the opportunity to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today and express my gratitude for Nancy Reding before this Congress and our nation. It is a chance for us to remind our fellow citizens that when you find a good teacher, thank him or her from the bottom of your heart for doing one of the toughest jobs in the country. Teaching is truly a noble calling and Nancy Reding has answered that call.

AMERICAN SERVICEMEMBER AND CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "American Servicemember and Civilian Protection Act of 2003."

This bill prohibits funds made available by the United States Government from being used for the establishment or operation of the Court.

Perhaps the most significant part of the bill makes clear that any action taken by or on behalf of the Court against members of the United States Armed Forces shall be considered an act of aggression against the United States; and that any action taken by or on behalf of the Court against a United States citizen or national shall be considered an offense against the law of nations.

Mr. Speaker, on May 6, 2002, President George W. Bush took the commendable step of repudiating the signature of the United States on the Statute of the International Criminal Court, stating that the United States "can no longer be a party" to the International Criminal Court. He also requested that those states choosing membership in the Court respect the decision of the United States in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, the Court is an illegitimate body even by the United Nations' own standards. The Statute of the International Criminal Court was enacted by a Conference of Diplomats convened by the United Nations General Assembly, whereas according to the UN Charter, the authority to create such a body lies only in the UN Security Council.

The International Criminal Court was established contrary to the American Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. It puts United States citizens in jeopardy of unlawful and unconstitutional criminal prosecution.

The International Criminal Court does not provide many of the Constitutional protections guaranteed every American citizen, including the right to trial by jury, the right to face your accuser, and the presumption of innocence, and the protection against double jeopardy.

Members of the United States Armed Forces are particularly at risk for politically motivated arrests, prosecutions, fines, and imprisonment for acts engaged in for the protection of the United States. These are the same brave men and women who place their lives on the line to protect and defend our Constitution. Do they not deserve the full protections of that same Constitution?

Last year Congress passed the American Servicemembers' Protection Act within the Defense Authorization bill. Commendable as that effort was, the fact of the matter is that because of the numerous loopholes and exemptions in that legislation, our servicemembers are still not protected from the probing arms of the International Criminal Court. American citizens have absolutely no protection under last year's legislation. This is simply unacceptable. That is why I am introducing this legislation that makes the position of the United States clear: we will protect our servicemembers and citizens from this illegal court.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all members of this body will join me in opposing this illegitimate and illegal court by cosponsoring the "American Servicemember and Civilian Protection Act of 2003."

TRIBUTE TO RETIRED LT. COLONEL JOHN V. AZEVEDO

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Retired Lt. Colonel John V. Azevedo for his service to our Nation and to his community.

John was born in Patterson, California to Joe and Maria Faustino Azevedo on December 21, 1919. He attended school in Patterson, then attended college in Modesto and Salinas. He then completed his education in Tokyo, Japan at Sophia University.

John joined the Army in May 1941, where he held the rank of Sergeant in the Infantry. In 1942, he was promoted to Second Lieutenant and served in England. John was in Normandy, France, crossing the beach 20 days after the first landings. While in France, John crossed Cherbourg, LeMans and Paris. He also served in Belgium as well as Holland. Following World War II, John was assigned to the Occupation Forces in Japan where he be-

came Special Staff to General Douglas MacArthur.

During the Korean War, John served in both North and South Korea. Following his assignment in Korea, John served Stateside where he was stationed as an instructor at the Adjutant General's School in Indiana. When that assignment was up, John was sent once again to Japan for 3 years. He returned to the United States where his assignment landed him at the Pentagon with promotion to Major. When his assignment was complete at the Pentagon, John was sent back overseas where he was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany. John again returned to the United States and spent time in San Francisco where he served at the Reserve Forces Headquarters. John was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and returned to the Pentagon where he served as Director of the Army and Air Force Postal Service.

John served his country admirably for 25 years. John retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the Army in 1966 and returned to his roots once again in Patterson, California. Once back in Patterson, he was elected to serve on the Patterson City Council where he also served as Vice Mayor.

John has served his community well. He is one of the founding members of the Patterson Historical Society where he served as a volunteer curator for over 20 years. The Patterson Apricot Festival honored John in 1997 by naming him Grand Marshal to preside over the Festival that year. John organized the Patterson Beautification Committee.

John has not only been honored by his community, but by his state as well. John was introduced on the California State Assembly floor where he was presented with an Assembly Resolution recognizing his volunteer work for the City of Patterson as well as Stanislaus County.

It is my pleasure to join the Patterson community in recognizing John V. Azevedo for his commitment to his community. It is an honor to call John my friend and represent him in the 18th Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO MARY HELEN YBARRA—IRA D. CALVERT DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Mary Ybarra is one of these individuals. On March 22, 2003, Mary will be honored at the annual YMCA Ira D "Cal" Calvert Distinguished Service Awards Dinner.

Mary was born in Yuma, Arizona but has resided in Corona for many years. She began service to the community at a very young age and as a teenager Mary was constantly busy organizing food drives for the needy in her local community. This drive and special gift of

helping others would stay with her into adulthood. When her children began elementary school she quickly became involved in her local PTA. This involvement paved the way for her never-ending community interest and desire to serve. Many city events and organizations have greatly benefited from her presence.

Some of the organizations that Mary has worked with include: ARC Angels, El Protector, Relay for Life, Day of the Young Child, A Day for Nicole, Little League Baseball, and Corona High Football Boosters. Mary has also chaired or co-chaired the following city events: the Health and Safety Fair, the Community Red Ribbon Week Celebration, the Community Blood Drive, and the fundraiser for Corona Regional Medical Center, "An Evening to Remember". Mary has also served as a YMCA Board Member, a member of several school site councils and has been involved in various school district committees.

Throughout her years of involvement Mary has been instrumental in organizing numerous community events to help the needy and the underprivileged. Mary's crowing achievement was using her connections and undeniable powers of persuasion to organize two critical blood and marrow drives. Community participation in these events was overwhelming. Mary's experience, positive attitude, humor, wisdom, and determination led to the perfect bone marrow match for two wonderful and well deserving children of our community.

Mary's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. She has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she receives the "Ira D. Calvert Distinguished Service Award".

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK SHUPE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Chuck Shupe of Riverside, Colorado for his dedication to the youth of his community. Chuck has selflessly given 28 years to the educational needs of children in the area, and as he celebrates 28 years of service, I would like to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this nation.

Chuck began his career as a teacher and a coach in a small rural Illinois school. Like so many other successful individuals, he decided to further his education. After graduating from the University of Illinois with a Master's degree in Education and Administration, Chuck was offered a job as the principal of a large inner-city school. At the age of twenty-five, Chuck became the youngest principal in Illinois. Yet, despite his age, he met the challenges and responsibilities he faced.

Needing a change, Chuck moved to Colorado where he worked both in Leadville and Basalt. Eventually, he became the principal of Riverside School. Chuck takes a hands-on approach and finds interaction with the students

to be very important, and the highlight of his day. He pours his heart and soul into the lives of his students, even creating a student ambassador program called "Shupe's Troops," which allows students the opportunity to improve their school.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today before this body of Congress and this great nation to recognize the dedication of Chuck Shupe, a true public servant. His generous attitude and love of the job have inspired many and have truly made a difference in his community. We should all emulate the selfless example of Americans like Chuck.

HONORING MUJERES UNIDAS

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a remarkable organization in the 15th district of Texas that helps victims of domestic violence. In recognition of "Stop Domestic Violence Week", I would like to highlight the accomplishments of the organization "Mujeres Unidas"—Women Together.

Mujeres Unidas is a non-profit agency that is tirelessly dedicated to helping women overcome domestic violence. Through community education, housing assistance, legal advocacy, and other outreach programs, Mujeres Unidas is offering hope and an improved quality of life to women in South Texas who have suffered violence and abuse in their own homes. For many women, a program like Mujeres Unidas is the difference between a dangerous living environment that can result in serious injury or death, and a future filled with personal growth and independence.

I would like to commend this extraordinary organization and thank them for their strong commitment to helping victims of domestic violence and for their Superior service to my district.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE BENSON GARRETT

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. BACA. Speaker, it is with deep affection that I pay tribute to the life of Willie Benson Garrett, longtime San Bernardino community and political leader and dear friend. Willie passed away in the comfort of his own home at the age of 75 on February 28, 2003.

Willie was born in San Augustine, Texas. He graduated from San Augustine Colored High School and from H. M. Morgan Barber College. He later moved to San Francisco where he graduated from Marinella Beauty College. He then enlisted and served in the Merchant Marines for two years, after which he was honorably discharged.

In 1957, Willie moved to San Bernardino where he has resided for the past 46 years and where he began his lifelong commitment to public service. Garrett's Barbershop earned recognition as one of the most successful bar-

ber businesses in the area and was the catalyst for Willie's commitment to the betterment of his community. Garrett's Barbershop became the central point within the community where many local leaders discussed political, economic, social and other issues.

As a community and political activist, Willie was President of the NAACP, supported the League of Mothers, helped establish WAG, was a member of The Black Democratic Club, was the Best Yet Promotions Political Campaign Advisor, and managed the Westside Drop-In Center in the City of San Bernardino. For his many contributions, Willie received the "Man of the Year" award for San Bernardino, received the 2001 NAACP Community Activist Award and received the "Role Model of the Year" award by WAG.

Willie did not let his retirement stop him from making sure the well being of his community continued to be a priority. Willie was a member of the New Hope Baptist Church and more recently the impetus behind seminars and workshops on prostate cancer, diabetes, and other health issues relevant to women and men through support garnered from Kaiser, Community Hospital, The VA and Loma Linda Hospitals. He also provided leadership to the camping program of the local 4-H youth program for a number of years and helped pave the way for Native Americans to help teach to the 4Her's.

Willie credited his success to the grace of God and to the support of his loving wife, Constance Garrett, of over 20 years. His 2 daughters, Bertha Hilburn and Patricia Scott, 2 sons, Shelley Garrett and Craig Garrett Cramer, 7 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, 3 sisters, Erma Jean Stafford, Ruth Stewart and Freddie Bivins and 2 brothers, Earnest and Leonard Garrett, also survive him.

Willie Benson Garrett has left behind a wonderful legacy of community and political activism. The many nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends who loved him dearly will miss him. Willie touched us all with his kind deeds and leadership in our community. Barbara and I extend our deepest condolences to Willie's family. May God bestow his comfort upon them at this time.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce, along with Congressman BACHUS, the Health Care Improvement Act of 2003. This is the successor legislation to the Campbell/Conyers bill from 107th, which passed the House by an overwhelming 276-136 vote. The legislation responds to two alarming anti-consumer trends—the ever increasing level of concentration among health insurers and exclusionary contracting practices by health insurance companies. The last five years have seen a massive consolidation in the health insurance and managed care market as more than a dozen health insurance competitors have been eliminated through mergers and acquisitions.

The dangers posed by this ever increasing market concentration are exacerbated by the