

the down-side to voluntary agreements. In my district a cruise ship—breaking its voluntary agreement—illegally discharged into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in 2002. Simply put, voluntary agreements between cruise lines and states aren't enough to ensure protection of our oceans. The public deserves more than industry's claims of environmental performance. We need a Federal law and we need it now. It's time we strengthen the environmental regulations and in so doing, bring these floating cities in line with current pollution treatment standards. The Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2005 is the answer.

The legislation that I am introducing today, which has bipartisan support and is endorsed by over 30 local and national groups, plugs existing loopholes in Federal laws, requires ships to treat their wastewater wherever they operate, and authorizes broadened enforcement authority. Several states including California, Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, and Washington have enacted or are currently considering legislation to better regulate various cruise ship wastes—similar to the legislation I am introducing today. In fact, I am proud to report that California is leading the country in protecting its coastal waters from cruise ship pollution. Passage of the Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2005 is one of the ways to provide all states with the kinds of ocean and coastal protections that the people of California, Alaska and Maine benefit from. Enactment of this bill will protect the tourism industry by making sure that the beaches and oceans, two of the attractions that make California the most visited state in our country, will be protected from cruise ship pollution. Simply put, this legislation ensures two things: (1) a sustainable future for our oceans, and (2) a sustainable future for the cruise and tourism industry.

This legislation promotes the public interest for all Americans. The public deserves clean water—both in our inland waterways and in our oceans. The Clean Cruise Ship Act of 2005, through its discharge standards, will give the public what it deserves.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this critically important legislation.

INTRODUCING THE ELECTION WEEKEND ACT OF 2005

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in 2001, the National Commission on Federal Election Reform released its report highlighting a variety of reforms that need to occur in our country's faltering election system. While I did not agree with all of the Commission's views, I did agree with the report's recommendation to establish a federal holiday on Election Day.

Today, my good friend from California, Representative Honda, and I are taking the Commission's recommendation one step further and introducing the Election Weekend Act of 2005. Our bill changes our nation's Election Day from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November to the first consecutive Saturday and Sunday in November. Furthermore, it expresses the sense of Congress that private sector employers provide their employees

with one day off during Election Weekend to allow them ample opportunity and time to cast their ballot without having to leave work.

Each Election Day, employees are faced with the difficult task of balancing their work schedules with their family responsibilities, while trying to find time to make it to the polls. Our bill recognizes the undue amount of pressure Americans face when trying to participate in the democratic process. It acknowledges the fact that a great deal of Americans are unable to leave their jobs in the middle of the day and vote because our elections occur on a Tuesday, a day when almost all Americans are working.

As more and more Americans enter the workforce, the choice they are forced to make between working or voting has resulted in decreased voter turnout. Turnout is even smaller in low and middle income communities where individuals do not enjoy the luxury of taking a three hour lunch to eat and vote. For many, the hour they lose in wages when they go to the polls may mean the difference between paying the bills or finding themselves out on the street.

It is irresponsible of us to continue forcing Americans to choose between a paycheck, family time, or democracy. It is the Constitutional privilege of every American to vote. In moving our nation's Election Day to the first full weekend in November and extending it from one day to two days, we recognize the responsibility that we have to our constituents and our democratic heritage. We should be doing everything we can to protect the integrity of our election system by not only encouraging Americans to vote, but making it more convenient for them to do so.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT), a gay, multiracial, multicultural organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized, on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary which it will celebrate this Friday evening, April 15th, with a reception in the Rayburn House Office Building Foyer.

NABWMT began in September, 1980 with an advertisement its founder, the late Michael G. Smith, placed in *The Advocate*. From this small advertisement NABWMT has grown into a national 501(c)(3) organization with headquarters in Pittsburgh, PA and local chapters in the major cities of the United States, including Washington, DC.

The national and the local chapter engage in educational, political, cultural and social activities as a means of dealing with racism, sexism, homophobia, HIV -AIDS discrimination, and other inequities. Among the more prominent of these activities are the Discrimination Response System, a model program which, I am proud to note, the DC Chapter

created, and the widely presented Multi-Racial, Multi-Cultural Workshop.

In the 1980's, local chapters initiated AIDS education and prevention programs that, in 1988, resulted in a million dollar grant from the Centers for Disease Control, which made the NABWMT the first openly gay organization to receive federal funds to conduct a nation-wide HIV education program. From this grant NABWMT created the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention. In 1992 the National Task Force became a separate entity which conducted trainings and workshops for every active chapter in NABWMT. The Task Force created HIV/AIDS educational models that community-based organizations, health departments, and activists used throughout the United States and in countries from New Zealand to South Africa.

I ask the House to join me in congratulating the National Association of Black and White Men Together on its silver anniversary.

THE UNITED STATES SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM UNESCO

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Mr. Speaker, in 1984 President Ronald Reagan withdrew the United States from membership in UNESCO, citing egregious financial mis-management, blatant anti-Americanism, and UNESCO's general anti-freedom policies and programs. President Reagan was correct in identifying UNESCO as an organization that does not act in America's interest, and he was correct in questioning why the U.S. should fund 25 percent of UNESCO's budget for that privilege.

Since the United States decided to re-join UNESCO in 2003, Congress has appropriated funds to cover some 25 percent of the organization's entire budget. But what are we getting for this money?

UNESCO has joined the "International Network for Cultural Policy" in seeking a UN "global diversity initiative" by this year that would restrict US export of some \$70 billion worth of movies, television programs, music recordings, and other cultural products.

UNESCO sponsors the International Baccalaureate program, which seeks to indoctrinate US primary and secondary school students through its "universal curriculum" for teaching global citizenship, peace studies and equality of world cultures. This program, started in Europe, is infiltrating the American school system.

UNESCO has been fully supportive of the United Nations' Population Fund in its assistance to China's brutal coercive population control program.

UNESCO has designated 47 U.N. Biosphere Reserves in the United States covering more than 70 million acres, without Congressional consultation.

Continued membership in UNESCO is a blatant assault on our sovereignty and an inexcusable waste of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all members of this body will join me in calling for an end to U.S. membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization by co-sponsoring this legislation.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 1028 OF BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Council 1028 of Belleville, Illinois.

In 1905, 31 members of the Knights of Columbus Council in East St. Louis, who lived in or near Belleville, Illinois, desired to have their own Council. After several rounds of negotiations with Bishop Janssen, the first bishop of the Belleville Diocese, this committee was successful in obtaining his approval. The National Council issued the charter and the first meeting of Belleville Council 1028 was held on July 7, 1905.

From this small but determined group of initial members, Council 1028 would grow to a peak of approximately 700 knights at the time of their Golden Jubilee, in 1955. During this time of growth, the goals of the Knights of Columbus, Charity, Unity and Fraternity, would be the guiding principals of the Belleville Council.

In 1906, one year after the Council was formed, and again in 1907, Council 1028 presented Bishop Janssen with checks of \$1,000,—a substantial sum in those days!—for the support of 81st. John's Orphanage. For the remaining time that 81st. John's was in existence as an orphanage, that institution was a favorite charity of Council 1028. Other worthy recipients of support through the years have been 81st. Elizabeth's Hospital, the Newman Foundation at Illinois Universities, Parent Teachers of Exceptional Children, the Mamie O. Stookey School, the Autism Society of Illinois, the Murray Center, Special Olympics and numerous local organizations.

The Belleville Council has always been a supporter of local youth activities. Boy Scout Troop 16, at St. John's Orphanage, was organized by the Council and supported for years. Catholic grade school field days were sponsored and numerous trophies were supplied for individual and team sports. The Council still sponsors local youth sport teams and continues to hold annual and recreational programs and many religious activities have helped promote camaraderie among the knights and their families.

While the names are too numerous to mention of those who have been instrumental in the history of the Belleville Council, one name is now officially linked to the Council. The Belleville Council is now named Monsignor Leonard A. Bauer Council 1028 to honor the dedicated service of Monsignor Bauer as the Council Chaplain for many years.

Council 1028 has seen many changes through the last 100 years but they have always stayed true to the Knights of Columbus goals of Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Council 1028 and wish them the best for continued service in the future.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF PEACEMAKING

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, (WILPF) who on April 9, 2005, celebrated their ninetieth anniversary marking their work for peace for justice.

We commend Phyllis S. Yingling and the Joint Planning Committee of the Baltimore/Catonsville area for their hard work on behalf of women and world peace.

WILPF, located in 36 nations, was formed in 1915 during World War I. WILPF works to achieve through peaceful means world disarmament, full rights for women, racial and economic justice, an end to all forms of violence and to establish those political, social, and psychological conditions which can assure peace, freedom and justice for all.

Out of a meeting planned amongst western European and N. American suffragists grew WILPF. The meeting was supposed to be in Berlin. The war prevented the women from going to Berlin, so the women went to The Hague. Over 1200 women attended. At that meeting the women decided that ending the killing and the violence of war was even more important than suffrage for women.

WILPF's first International President was Jane Addams, founder of Hull House in Chicago and the first U.S. woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

The United States Section of WILPF maintains a presence in Washington, D.C. providing support and organizing connections for the grassroots activities of WILPF's members located in 80 branches across the United States. They work in coalition with other disarmament, women's human rights, and racial and economic justice organizations to translate women's experience and vision into policies to promote peace and justice.

For the last nine decades, WILPF has had a vision of peaceful and non-violent solutions to conflicts around the world.

We salute WILPF for their remarkable vision that we respect and that which still guides us today as we face the human security challenges of tomorrow.

HONORING JUDGE MATTHEW J. JASEN, RETIRED ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE NEW YORK STATE COURT OF APPEALS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today, Thursday, April 14, 2005, the New York State Court of Appeals will for the first time in modern

memory hold a session outside of the State capital of Albany. For this august occasion they have chosen the newly-renovated courtroom of Erie County Surrogate Court Judge Barbara Howe.

Tomorrow, however, the seven member court will honor one of its former members, and that is the reason why I rise today. Tomorrow, former New York State Court of Appeals Associate Judge Matthew Jasen, a resident of the town of Orchard Park in my congressional district, will be honored by his successor colleagues on the court.

Judge Jasen was the Court of Appeals' first Judge of Polish-American descent. The most recent Western New Yorker to be elected to New York State's highest court, the Court of Appeals, Judge Jasen is an outstanding contributor to the Western New York community and to the legal profession, and I am proud to honor him today.

Through a combination of intellect and fortitude, Judge Jasen worked his way through the Great Depression to achieve great heights in Western New York's legal community. Educated at Buffalo's own Canisius College and receiving his law degree from the University at Buffalo, Judge Jasen went on to attend Harvard University's Civil Affairs School, and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1940.

Before beginning his distinguished career in law, Jasen was called to serve his country in the armed services in Germany during World War II. Following his service, he received an appointment to serve as the United States Military Court Judge at Heidelberg, where he presided over trials of Nazi Youth groups.

In 1957, Jasen was appointed to his second judgeship, the New York State Supreme Court, and 10 years later, Judge Jasen took on the race for Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals.

Today, Judges of the New York State Court of Appeals are appointed by the Governor, subject to the confirmation of the State Senate. This was not so in the 1960s, when Judges instead ran for this office in statewide elections. Through his skills as a grass-roots organizer and with tremendous perseverance, Judge Jasen, a loyal and longtime Democrat, was elected to the Court of Appeals.

Judge Jasen's career on the state's highest court ranged from his election in 1967 to his statutory retirement in 1985 at the age of seventy. During his 18 years on the high court, Judge Jasen played a part in hundreds of landmark decisions of the court, and played a significant role in the court's transition from an elected body to one of appointment based on merit. Nowadays, court appointments are made by the Governor, who must choose his Appeals court appointees from a list of three candidates presented to him by a judicial screening panel. An elected Judge himself, Judge Jasen was a strong advocate for merit selection, having authored articles on the subject in the mid-1970s.

Following his retirement, Judge Jasen re-entered the practice of law himself, serving as Of Counsel to law firms operated by his sons, Peter M. Jasen, Esq. and Mark Matthew Jasen, Esq. Despite advancing age, Judge Jasen's post-judicial legal career has been a busy one as well, taking part in cases on local, State and Federal levels, serving as Special Master in a number of State and Federal actions and in performing other services as an officer of the court.