

organ for the auditorium. She was on the board of directors of the Music Theater of Southern California and served for 30 years on the Music and Performing Arts Commission of Los Angeles County.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Helen Kennedy. The entire community joins me in thanking Helen Kennedy for her continued efforts to make the 29th Congressional District a better place in which to live.

CONCERNS REGARDING THE SHUT-DOWN OF UKRAINE'S RADIO KONTYNT

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I was dismayed to learn that on March 3, 2004, Ukrainian police shutdown Kontyent, a private radio station, in Kyiv, Ukraine. Four days before the Ukrainian authorities confiscated Kontyent's radio transmitter, the station began broadcasting Ukrainian-language programs by Radio Liberty. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty has played a significant role in Ukraine by providing several hours of Ukrainian-language programming to an average of six million regular listeners. RFE/RL offers comprehensive coverage of the internal political, economic and social situation in Ukraine. Such important information is not readily available to Ukrainians from their own domestic media.

Mr. Borys Kholod, the head of Ukraine's National Council for Radio and Television, claimed that the closure of Radio Kontyent was not politically motivated. Instead, Mr. Kholod maintains that Radio Kontyent had its license revoked due to Radio Kontyent's financial problems. However, Radio Kontyent has been in court for the past 3 years over the license dispute. It is my understanding that under Ukrainian law, action cannot be taken against the station until the court procedures have been completed.

Later this year, Ukraine will elect a new president. Many Ukrainians are concerned that without access to an independent media outlet, the current campaign will not be portrayed in a balanced and objective manner. I believe that Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty is essential in this cause and I expressed that in my recent meeting with Ukraine's First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Volodymyr Yel'chenko. He assured me that a resolution is forthcoming and they are currently looking for a radio station to transmit Radio Liberty in the interim. I expect to receive an update on this matter from the Ministry in the near future.

TRIBUTE TO JUANITA YOUNG DEVAUGHNA, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2004

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. During the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our Nation's most distinguished women. It is my great privilege to recognize outstanding women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today, to recognize an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mrs. Juanita Young DeVaughn. Mrs. DeVaughn's passion for community volunteerism, especially on behalf of children and education, has made Altadena and surrounding areas a better place in which to live.

Born in 1925 and raised in Boligee, Alabama, Juanita attended Alabama A&M University where she earned her BS in Home Economics. Juanita completed her higher education in 1977, obtaining her MA from Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, CA. Juanita married Paul DeVaughn in 1950. They have 2 children, Paula and Robert, and 2 grandchildren. The DeVaughns moved to Altadena, CA in the 1960s.

A lifelong educator, Mrs. DeVaughn has taught for 47 years. Her teaching experience began at the Industrial School for Girls in Alabama. She also worked as a Dietician at Talladega College, as a Nutritionist for the Headstart program in Birmingham, a teacher at Eliot Middle School in Altadena, and concluded her illustrious career in 1993 as an instructor in Home Economics, Geography, English, and Social Studies at John Muir High School in Pasadena.

A natural leader, Juanita has been extensively involved in many community organizations. She spearheaded the Campus Beautification project for John Muir High School, served on the boards of the Alkebulan Cultural Center, and the Altadena Christian Children's Center. An active Altadena NAACP board member, Juanita revitalized and chaired the Altadena NAACP's ACT-SO Program; an undertaking she continues to this day. She is a long-time member of Altadena Baptist Church, where she is a Deaconess, choir member, and volunteers for various projects. In addition, she raises funds for NAACP youth projects, the Pasadena chapter of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, and the Alberta Vaughn Scholarship Foundation.

Juanita has received numerous awards, including the Pasadena-Foothill Valley's YWCA Second Century Award, the Roy Campanella Humanitarian Award, Phi Delta Kappa's Woman of Year Award, an International Optimist Award, and the Pasadena Human Relations Commission's Harry Sheldon Award.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Juanita Young DeVaughn. The entire community joins me in thanking Juanita DeVaughn for her continued efforts to make the 29th Congressional District a better place in which to live.

AMERICA'S GROWING OBESITY EPIDEMIC

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, public health officials have been sounding an alarm in recent years about America's growing obesity epidemic. By 2000, almost two-thirds of adults were overweight or obese, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that 40 percent of adults will be obese by 2010, if trends go unchanged. In the past 20 years, the percentage of children who are overweight has doubled from 7 to 15 percent, while the percentage of adolescents who are overweight has almost tripled.

Recent studies have found that more than 34 percent of adults are overweight, about 31 percent are obese, and both children and adults are consuming significantly more calories today than they did just 30 years ago.

The personal costs of this epidemic include shorter lifespan due to increases in heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, some types of cancer and diabetes. The costs to society are immense and growing; CDC estimates that obesity-related medical costs reached a record total of \$75 billion in 2003, \$39 billion of which is borne by taxpayers via Medicare and Medicaid.

Among the best tools yet developed to fight obesity is the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (or EFNEP), which is operated by the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (or CSREES). Now celebrating its 35th year of service, EFNEP operates in nearly 800 counties in all 50 states and the U.S. territories. EFNEP's mission is to help low-income families and youth improve their diet quality and stretch their food dollar, skills which directly affect obesity. By making positive changes in individual and family behavior regarding healthy food choices, physical activity, and stretching the family food dollar, EFNEP participants can combat obesity and improve their health.

Studies show that people who are most "food insecure"—meaning those who are vulnerable to running out of food or missing meals because they cannot afford the cost—are disproportionately obese and overweight. EFNEP targets these very audiences: low-income youth and low-income families with young children. Through a series of lessons and activities, taught in peer-to-peer fashion by paraprofessionals and volunteers who come from the same populations the program is trying to reach, EFNEP relies on a tried-and-true learning process that brings about dramatic results.

Changes in diets to include more fruits and vegetables and dairy foods have been shown to lower the incidence of obesity and the risk of many chronic diseases. EFNEP has demonstrated remarkable success in increasing the consumption of these key foods. According to evaluation data, after participating in EFNEP, the adults consume 1.7 more servings of fruits and vegetables and a one-half additional serving of dairy foods, compared to their intake levels when they started EFNEP; 93 percent of the adult participants make a positive improvement in at least one food group.

Approximately 600,000 people each year—roughly 75 percent of them children—participate in the EFNEP program, gaining new skills in food preparation, shopping, storage, safety, and sanitation. They learn how to better manage their food budgets and related resources such as Food Stamps. Youth topics may also include fitness, avoidance of substance abuse and other health-related issues. EFNEP's hands-on, learn-by-doing approach allows the participants to acquire the practical skills necessary to make positive changes in behavior.

The results are clear and heartening. For example, EFNEP's evaluation and reporting system showed that among program graduates in 2002: 88 percent improved in nutrition practices such as making healthy food choices, reading nutrition labels and having children eat breakfast; 83 percent improved in food resource practices such as meal planning and budgeting; 67 percent improved in food safety practices such as storing and thawing foods correctly; 51 percent now offer five fruits and vegetables to their families each day; and 41 percent now routinely eat low-fat foods instead of fat-rich foods.

Studies in several states found that EFNEP is a solid investment of federal dollars. According to the studies, every dollar invested in EFNEP reduced health care costs by \$10.64 in Virginia, \$8.82 in a group of Midwestern states, \$8.03 in Iowa, and \$3.63 in Oregon.

In spite of these successes, the fiscal year 2004 Agriculture Appropriations bill reduced funding to 33 programs administered by CSREES by 10 percent each. EFNEP was one of those programs. Even in the short time since that appropriations bill was enacted in late January, we have already heard about the adverse impact the cuts are having on EFNEP. In community after community, extension offices are laying off EFNEP staff, thereby limiting the reach of the program. Just to offer a few examples, the 10 percent cuts to EFNEP mean that:

In Maryland 375 currently enrolled families will not be served, and another 3,000 eligible individuals will not receive nutrition education;

In Colorado bilingual nutrition education serving low-income Hispanic families will be cut by 400 people;

In Tennessee 14 staff positions must be cut, and EFNEP programs in seven counties will be lost, forcing a large reduction from the 3,600 persons served on average;

In Florida EFNEP youth contacts will be decreased by about 1,600 adult and 100 youth participants;

In Ohio EFNEP will suffer major staff cuts, which will force it to give up on many of the 7,000 parents and 21,000 youth it reaches every year;

In Michigan EFNEP will reach up to 600 fewer families;

And in my own state of Connecticut, 150 families and about 350 youth will not be served in both Hartford and Bridgeport, 2 of the 10 poorest cities in the country, as well as in Danbury, a city with many immigrant groups that are in need of nutrition education.

At a time when the need for EFNEP is greatest, financial support for the program from Congress has waned. This will only squander some of the significant gains EFNEP has already made in hundreds of communities around the country. And this penny-wise solution to short-term budget challenges will come back to haunt us in the long-run as the Fed-

eral Government's share of health costs—driven by the obesity epidemic—continue to rise.

With a relatively small investment, we can stem the tide of obesity in this country. That is why for 2005, I hope we can increase funding for this critical program. I respectfully urge my colleagues to seize this opportunity and do what is right.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I voted present on H.R. 3717 today, the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act. I support the aim of the bill, to limit the broadcasting of indecent material through increased penalties, but I have concerns about the application of such fines. My concern is that, since the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) lacks appropriate guidance for administering fines of this size, such enforcement action could have a chilling effect on free speech with regard to smaller broadcasters and individual performers. Mr. Speaker, this chilling effect can be reduced if the FCC is given clear statutory guidance as to how to determine the size of the fine; this bill fails to provide such clear guidance. Among the factors the FCC should be required to employ are the degree of indecency, pre-meditation, the number of viewers or listeners, and the size and wealth of the violator. In the absence of such clear standards, small broadcasters and nonwealthy performers may fear to speak even in manners which should be protected.

A TRIBUTE TO SUSAN BOWERS, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2004

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. During the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women. It is my great privilege to recognize outstanding women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today, to recognize an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Mrs. Susan Bowers. Mrs. Bowers's passion for community service, especially on behalf of children and education, has made the City of Burbank a better place in which to live.

A native Californian, Susan attended California State University Fullerton where she graduated as a member of the Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society. In 1997, she married Gordon Bowers, a Captain with the Burbank Police Department. After a successful corporate career in manufacturing, she joined the Burbank Chamber of Commerce in 2000 as Executive Director/CEO, where she remained until her retirement in 2003. Currently, Susan divides her time between volunteering, organizational management consulting, and spending time with her children, Melanie, Bryan,

Jeff, stepsons Matt and Michael, three grandchildren, and Lamont Duverne, for whom she and Gordon are the primary caregivers.

The consummate volunteer, Susan has three areas of community service that she passionately supports: leadership, literacy and education. She has served on numerous city and school committees, including the Civic Pride Committee, the Workforce Investment Board, the Burbank Unified School District Strategic Planning Committee, the Burbank Unified School District Partnership Program, and the Verdugo School-To-Career Committee. In addition, Mrs. Bowers was a founder and director of the Burbank Community Foundation, a Board Director of the Burbank Boys and Girls Club, and with her husband Gordon, was a mentor at Elmwood Achievement Center.

Mrs. Bowers currently serves on the Board of Leadership Burbank, the Woodbury University President's Advisory Board, Burbank's Library Board of Trustees, the Measure L Committee for Burbank libraries and the La Providencia Guild. In addition, Susan is a Sunday school teacher at First Presbyterian Church of Burbank.

Susan has received many awards, including the 2001 Community Support Award by Work Training Programs, Inc. and an honorary membership in the Woodbury University School of Business Honor Society. In 2003 she received a key to the City from Mayor Stacey Murphy for her contributions to the Burbank Chamber of Commerce.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring a remarkable woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Susan Bowers. The entire community joins me in thanking Susan Bowers for her continued efforts to make the 29th Congressional District a better place in which to live.

PREVENT INDONESIA FROM RECEIVING IMET FUNDING IN FISCAL YEAR 2004

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I offered an amendment that was intended to cut \$600,000 out of the IMET account to prevent Indonesia from receiving IMET funding in fiscal year 2004.

As many members are aware, I offered an amendment to the Foreign Service Re-Authorization Act of 2004 and 2005 that would limit Indonesia's participation in the IMET program. My amendment would limit Indonesia from receiving International Military Education and Training (IMET) funds until the President certifies to Congress that the Government of Indonesia and the Indonesian Armed Forces are taking effective measures, including cooperating with the Director of the FBI, in conducting a full investigation of the attack and to criminally prosecute the individuals responsible for the attack.

For those members that are not aware, on August 31, 2002, the staff of the International School in West Papua, Indonesia decided to take a picnic. The teachers lived and worked in Tembagapura, a company town located high in the mountains near the Grasberg gold