

WALTER AND HELEN LUCAS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS

HON. HAROLD L. VOLKMER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my hearty congratulations to Walter L. Lucas, Jr., and his wife, Helen Lucas, of Shelbina, MO, who are celebrating their 50th year in business. Walter and Helen were married on July 26, 1940. After serving his country during World War II, Walter returned to Shelbina to start Lucas True Value Hardware in Shelbina. On March 6, 1946, Walter and Helen opened the doors of their hardware store and they have been providing quality service to their customers for over 50 years.

Walter has also devoted his considerable talents to helping his friends and neighbors in Shelbina. In 1956, he established the Walt Lucas Outstanding Scholar Athlete Award as a way to honor academic and athletic excellence by local high school students. Walter has also worked closely with the Boy Scouts, where he has served as a Cub Master and a Scout Master. In addition, Walter served as the president of the Shelbina Chamber of Commerce and he is active in the Shelbina First Christian Church.

Walter and Helen are shining examples of why small business owners are the backbone of our economy. Not only have they prospered economically, they have helped many of their friends and neighbors through their involvement in the community, and I wish to congratulate them on their success in business and in life.

DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3396) to define and protect the institution of marriage.

Ms. Velázquez. Mr. Speaker, too many Americans are worrying about how they are going to pay for their children's education and their parents' health care. Yet, instead of working for real change, we are voting on legislation that will do little more than increase the amount of hate and division in this country.

The Defense of Marriage Act, H.R. 3396, will ban homosexual marriages. Proponents of this destructive legislation argue that same-sex marriage is an assault on the sanctity and integrity of heterosexual marriages. The argument is irrational. Homosexual couples do not influence heterosexual marriage choices. Marriage protection proponents also argue that this legislation promotes tradition and family values. These arguments are strikingly similar to those raised less than 30 years ago in resistance to repealing miscegenation laws.

Like its hate-driven predecessor, the Defense of Marriage Act sends a dangerous message to society. We are legitimizing hate and discrimination. Intense prejudice against

lesbians and gay men remains prevalent in our society. Homosexuals are victims of extensive discrimination, prejudice, and violence due to their sexual orientation.

Discrimination against gay people in such critical areas as employment and housing remains widespread in many jurisdictions. Even more alarming, high rates of antigay violence or hate crimes abound. Society communicates particular values and attitudes to its members in many ways, but primarily through laws. Instead of working to reduce discrimination, this body is pushing legislation that will reinforce intolerance and hostility toward gay people.

Discrimination against homosexuals is unfair, unjust and appalling. Let's end this charade! I urge my colleagues to vote for fairness and equality and oppose this shameful legislation.

MARY MASI IS HONORED

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, a house of worship not only brings sustenance to its parishioners, it draws sustenance from them. In Mount Vernon, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church has given aid and comfort to its parishioners for a century and for 40 of those years Mary Masi has been office manager and church secretary, giving of herself to help her church and her fellow parishioners. In that time the church has had eight pastors and it was Mary Masi who provided the continuity for them serving as a link from the past to the future. She is always the first to volunteer for church events and is usually the driving force behind them. She is a member of many church organizations and for Mount Carmel, Mary Masi has become a symbol of loyalty, unselfishness, and devotion on whom the church and its parishioners have come to rely. I offer her my congratulations for her years of giving to her church and her neighbors.

DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3396) to define and protect the institution of marriage:

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3396, the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, and ask my colleagues to reject this mean-spirited legislation.

The proponents of H.R. 3396 would have us believe that this legislation is necessary to save the institution of marriage. The real purpose of H.R. 3396 is to create a wedge issue for Republicans for the upcoming elections.

In a shameless attempt to divide the American public, the Republican Party is espousing official bigotry. It is promoting discrimination against individuals who seek the same responsibilities and opportunities other Americans seek when they form a lifelong union

with someone they love. It is scapegoating a segment of our society to fan the flames of intolerance and prejudice. And it is doing this to try to improve its standings in the polls.

Discrimination against people who are gay and committed to one another does nothing to defend marriage or to strengthen family values. It does, however, continue to deny them legal rights that married couples simply take for granted—inclusion in a spouse's health insurance plan, pension and tax benefits, the ability to participate in medical decisions, and the right to visit a dying spouse in the hospital.

Our Nation's families deserve better from their leaders than this cynical effort to raise fears and create divisions for political gain. They need leaders who will recognize the true needs of families and who are willing to work for adequate healthcare, access to educational opportunities, a decent wage, and a livable environment.

Let's work together on the real challenges we face as a nation. Let's not allow our Republican leaders to create scapegoats to distract the public's attention from the failure of this Congress to address issues the American public cares about.

I urge my colleagues to stand up to bigotry and discrimination. I urge you to vote against this mean-spirited legislation.

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY BOARD ON ARMS PROLIFERATION POLICY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, over many years the United States and the international community have made important progress in arms control, especially concerning weapons of mass destruction. But there has been little progress in controlling or containing the proliferation of conventional arms.

Therefore, I welcome the recent report of the Presidential Advisory Board on Arms Proliferation Policy, issued on June 25. Its findings and recommendations provide fresh thinking on the question of conventional arms control, and merit careful study by both Congress and the executive branch. I commend the work of Dr. Janne E. Nolan, the Board's Chair and the Board's other members—Edward Randolph Jayne II, Ronald F. Lehman, David E. McGiffert, and Paul C. Warnke.

I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the report's summary and recommendations. The text follows:

SUMMARY

Advisory Boards such as ours invariably grapple with broad mandates, changing circumstances, and widely diverse interests concerned with the substance of Board charters. As we have noted, our approach has been to review and offer recommendations on both policy and process. We have endeavored to review the Administration's current policies regarding conventional arms control, and have commented only where we concluded it appropriate. We are under no illusions as to our limitations in addressing but a few of the myriad interests and issues of great concern to the various parties concerned with arms proliferation policy.

At the core of our recommendations is our belief in the value, indeed the necessity, of strong U.S. leadership in the quest for more