

IN MEMORY OF ENSIGN ANDREW  
TRIPLETT

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2000*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I come before the House of Representatives to honor the life of an outstanding American, and member of the United States Navy, Ensign Andrew Triplett, originally of Shuqualak, Mississippi. Ensign Triplett was among the 17 brave sailors who gave their lives for our country in the attack on the U.S.S. *Cole*, on Thursday, October 12, 2000. This attack also injured 33 other sailors in the harbor of Aden, Yemen.

Andrew Triplett, noted for his quiet, shy nature, grew up near Willow Grove in Shuqualak, Mississippi, where he attended Reed Elementary School and in 1987 graduated from Noxubee High School in Macon, Mississippi. Upon his graduation Andrew Triplett enlisted in the Navy, where while serving his country he met his wife, Lorrie, a Detroit native. Just seven years ago, they began their family with the birth of their first daughter, Andrea, and three years later their second child Savannah Renee was born. Andrew and Lorrie lived in Virginia Beach, Virginia and were members of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

Successfully moving up the ladder as an enlisted man, Andrew was accepted for Officers' Candidate School and received his commission as an officer in April, 1999. On the U.S.S. *Cole*, he was assigned to the engineering department, a job that he was said to love. Tragically, it was the engineering department that suffered the blast damage from the explosive in the harbor.

For Ensign Andrew Triplett's thirteen years of service to the United States of America in the United States Navy, and for his life-long devotion as a son, husband, brother, father and citizen, I pay tribute. Ensign Triplett was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ree D. Triplett of Shuqualak, Mississippi. He is survived by his wife, Lorrie, and his two little girls, Andrea (age seven) and Savannah Renee (age four); his parents, Savannah and Ree Triplett of Shuqualak, Mississippi; and his two brothers, two former servicemen, Theotis Donald (Air Force) and Wayne (Marine Corps).

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in remembering this present day hero, Ensign Andrew Triplett. Our sincere prayers and thoughts are with the Triplett family at this difficult time, and the other families who lost loved ones on the U.S.S. *Cole*.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
HUGH DESMOND HOYTE

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2000*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize His Excellency, the Honorable Hugh Desmond Hoyte, the former President of Guyana and current leader of the People's National Congress.

During his Presidency from August 1985 to October 1992, Mr. Hoyte initiated far-reaching electoral and economic reforms that strength-

ened the bases of the democratic culture of Guyana, promoted market-oriented policies and stimulated economic growth. Prior to becoming President, Mr. Hoyte served as First Vice President and Prime Minister. In addition, he held numerous Ministerial posts, including those of Home Affairs, Finance, Works and Communications, and Economic Development.

As a Minister of Government, Mr. Hoyte had at various times responsibility for African, Caribbean and Pacific affairs under the Lome Convention. His portfolio also included Caribbean Community Affairs. As a member of its Conference, the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community charged him with responsibility for promoting freedom of movement within the Community and for coordinating the Caribbean Community's policy on the environment for the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992.

In fact, Mr. Hoyte has always taken a keen interest in ecological and environmental matters, working closely with the London-based Commonwealth Human Ecology Council. He is the architect of the Iwokrama International Rainforest Project in Guyana, which he initiated as the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1989.

Born in Georgetown, Guyana in March 1929, Mr. Hoyte received B.A. and LL.B. degrees from the University of London. He is a British-trained lawyer, a Barrister-at-Law of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple and a Member of the Guyana Bar. He was appointed to the Queen's Council in 1969, and his designation was changed to Senior Counsel in 1970 when Guyana became a republic.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hoyte is more than worthy of receiving this honor and our praises, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join his wife, Joyce Hoyte, and me in recognizing this truly remarkable man.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RESPONSIBLE  
DEBT RELIEF AND DEMOCRACY REFORM ACT

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2000*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the Responsible Debt Relief and Democracy Reform Act, legislation intended to provide debt relief to poor countries that have an insurmountable debt burden and to encourage these same countries to implement reforms for sound democracy and the maintenance of a civil society.

Many of the poorest countries of the world are struggling with democracy or with bad governance, and they are caught in a downward spiral of debt. Their futures are difficult and uncertain because of an overwhelming debt burden.

Many of the poorest countries have to spend an exorbitant amount of their budgets simply to make their debt payments. The rock singer, Bono, a vocal advocate for providing debt relief to heavily indebted poor countries, says, "A country like Niger, with a life expectancy of 47 years, spends more paying off their debts than on health and education combined."

Indeed, a country like Niger is not alone. Debt payments by the poor countries of the

world can consume as much as 30–40 percent of a country's revenue. The chances of these countries ever paying back their loans is slim, to none. Realistically, none of their debt is going to be repaid.

The problem is that it is the poorest people of the world in the poorest countries who suffer as a result of their governments' massive debt. The poorest of the poor struggle to find food to survive. Suffering from malnourishment, their immune systems are lowered and people catch horrible diseases that wrack their bodies. The poor countries of the world have an alarmingly low life expectancy rate, with reports indicating that the average person in Sierra Leone only lives for 27 years. Canceling or reducing the debt of the poorest countries of the world is an opportunity for the U.S. to alleviate the suffering that these people face.

An article in *Sojourners* magazine describes part of the problem in Africa:

It might seem odd to describe Hamsatou, a 13-year old girl in the West African country of Niger, as lucky. A mysterious flesh-eating disease known as "the Grazer" has consumed the left side of her face, leaving a gaping hole at the side of her nose, through which you can see her pink, unprotected tongue. She shields her head in embarrassment in her village, has no prospect of marriage, and rarely walks further than the nearby well. "When I go to the market . . . I'm ashamed of myself. I cover my face so people won't stare at me and laugh."

But Hamsatou is lucky because she is alive. One in three children in Niger, the world's poorest country, do not reach 5 years of age. And while the Grazer will kill 120,000 children in the world this year, a \$3 mouthwash would have ensured she need never have succumbed to its ravages. Unfortunately the government of Niger does not have \$3 to spare. Three quarters of its annual tax revenue is spent on servicing its \$1.4 billion international debt. *Sojourners* May-June 2000

Unfortunately, many of these poor countries that have insurmountable debt and that need democratic reform are in Africa. The Clinton Administration's Africa policies have failed across the board. "African Renaissance" Hailed By Clinton Now a Distant Memory" is the title of a recent article in the *Los Angeles Times* by Robin Wright. Ms. Wright says that just two years ago, President Clinton hailed what he called an "African renaissance." Now, despite several years of rhetoric on Africa by the Clinton administration, this article states that a recent national intelligence estimate says that "Africa faces a bleaker future than at any time in the past century." Most Africans are worse off now than they were eight years ago.

The U.S. can help provide hope and opportunity for those who may be hopeless. Providing debt relief to the poorest governments of the world, if done in the right way, can free these governments to better address the needs of their own people.

But simply canceling a country's debt doesn't necessarily pave the way to good government. The governments of poor countries are often part of the

That is why the legislation I propose today will provide incentives to countries to reform