

the door to thousands of women to join unions and stand up for their rights in the workplace.

Barely off the boat from Poland, Mollie West became an organizer and a person who stood her ground. She was arrested for passing out leaflets in protest of her high schools' decision to discharge all the music, art, and gym teachers because of budget constraints. Soon after, Mollie was demonstrating in support of the Republic Steel strikers in South Chicago. She found herself in them midst of the Memorial Day Massacre of 1937 where ten workers were killed by police bullets and were she, too, felt the pressure of a pistol at her back as she was ordered off the field.

Later, after working for various unions, she became a professional proofreader, and joined the Chicago Typographical Union. An active member and a delegate to the Chicago Federation of Labor, Mollie became the voice for women laborers. She successfully lobbied for the establishment of an annual tribute to the Trade Union Women of Chicago, which continues to flourish today.

Another of Mollie's great achievements was helping to found the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) in 1974. Today CLUW has a network of more than 75 chapters and a membership of 20,000 women and men. The goals of CLUW include promoting affirmative action in the workplace, strengthening the role of women in unions, organizing women workers, and increasing the involvement of women in the political and legislative process.

For the last twenty years, Mollie has served as an officer and a volunteer of the Illinois Labor History Society. From that platform, Mollie has been able to pass on her memories of the struggle to audiences across the country. In addition, she has continued to stay involved in electoral politics at all levels. To this day, you can always count on Mollie's voice to be among those fighting for the rights of all women workers.

Today, I ask you to join me in honoring Mollie for all she has contributed to working women everywhere!

IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. In 1987, Congress passed a resolution designating the month of March as Women's History Month and a time to honor, "American women of every race, class and ethnic background [who] have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our Nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways."

For 2003, the theme of Women's History Month is "Women Pioneering the Future." In celebration of this month, I would like to focus on four women from Wisconsin's history and honor their contributions to society.

First, I would like to recognize Cordelia A.P. Harvey. An army nurse during the Civil War, Ms. Harvey worked vigorously in support of soldiers and their families. She not only collected money to support soldiers and their families but also campaigned for cleaner and more efficient hospitals for the soldiers. Her

determination and sense of good will is something all Americans can strive for today.

Born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Helen Mears was a talented artist who won her first prize for sculpture at the age of nine. She studied formally in New York and Europe and was commissioned to sculpt a woman and winged eagle design, the "Genius of Wisconsin," for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Her sculpture of temperance reformer Frances Willard was the first of a woman to be placed in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall. Ms. Mears enjoyed a successful career and is remembered for her limitless energy and artistic ability.

Kathryn Clarenbach is a woman who has made invaluable contributions to our educational system. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ms. Clarenbach created the continuing education program for women at the university and was appointed chair of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women upon its creation in 1964. She chaired the commission for 14 years and continues to serve as an inspiration to all women.

Finally, I would like to talk about Edna Ferber. A talented writer, Ms. Ferber spent her early years in Appleton, Wisconsin and eventually wrote for the Milwaukee Journal. After four years at the paper, she returned to Appleton where she proceeded to write short stories. Credited with introducing the character of the American businesswoman to modern fiction, she composed not only books but plans as well, many of which have been turned into Broadway productions and movies.

Each of these women has had an impact not only on Wisconsin's history but also on the history of the nation as a whole. Whether in art or literature, activism or teaching, each of these women truly was a pioneer in her field and deserves our remembrance.

TRIBUTE TO AURELIO PALOMARES

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on March 31, 2003, Aurelio Palomares, a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy, will be retiring after 32 years of distinguished county service.

Deputy Palomares was born in Leon, Mexico in 1948, and, three years later, immigrated to the United States with his parents. After becoming a United States citizen, Deputy Palomares enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a medic from 1969 to 1971, until he was honorably discharged.

After his tour of duty, Deputy Palomares began his career with Los Angeles County as a security officer in 1971. Aspiring to be a deputy, he joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in 1980.

Since then, Deputy Palomares has received 23 commendations throughout his career with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and has served as a bilingual bridge between law enforcement and the Spanish speaking community in Los Angeles County.

On April 8, 1985, he was commended after handling a bank robbery in which the suspect used a handgun and stole over \$4,000. Using

his uncanny ability to remember names and faces of suspects, Deputy Palomares reviewed the surveillance video and recognized the suspect as an inmate he had seen in the Los Angeles County Jail a few years before. Deputy Palomares provided the suspect's name to investigators, who subsequently arrested the suspect.

In 1986, Deputy Palomares was commended by the Mayor of Artesia, Robert Jamison, for his "consistent willingness to do more than what is required of him." Mayor Jamison also praised him as a "symbol of dedication to the department".

On June 2, 1989, Deputy Palomares was commended for his assistance in the apprehension of a Paramount gang member who had gotten into a shootout with deputies.

In 1994, Deputy Palomares was again commended, this time by the father of a drive-by shooting victim who wrote that Palomares' professional treatment of his son "calmed him and left a lasting and positive impression".

On March 19, 1996, he was commended by the Department of Corrections for "demonstrating exemplary service and dedication" in apprehending convicted felon parolees and for keeping "public safety in the forefront of his dealing with parolees and the community".

In 2000, Deputy Palomares was commended twice, once by a citizen for the caring and compassionate way he handled a rescue call in which a child was injured. The second commendation arose from his "prompt response and professionalism" that led to the arrest of a burglary suspect who had fired a handgun at the victim.

Throughout his career, Deputy Palomares has continuously demonstrated his dedication to his profession, community, and family. Deputy Palomares, who is affectionately called "AP" by his colleagues, has succeeded in having a close-knit family with his wife, Susan, their daughter, Sara, and son, Michael. As a family, the Palomares family regularly takes to the open road in an RV and visits all parts of the United States and Canada. On the road, he is sure to be tuned into National Public Radio, a station he listens to religiously while on duty.

From one public servant to another, I praise Aurelio Palomares for his valor in the face of danger and for his service to the community.

COLON CANCER SCREEN FOR LIFE
ACT OF 2003

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Colon Cancer Screen for Life Act of 2003. Colorectal cancer is the number two cancer killer in the United States. This year, an estimated 147,000 new cases will be diagnosed and more than 57,000 Americans will die from the disease. My home state of Maryland ranks 7th in the nation in the number of new cases and in the number of deaths. Our capital city, Washington, DC, ranks first in the nation.

Colorectal cancer disproportionately impacts the elderly. The risk begins to increase after the age of 40 and rises sharply between the ages of 50 to 55, when it doubles with each

succeeding decade. Despite advances in surgical techniques and adjuvant therapy, there has been only a modest improvement in survival for patients with advanced cancers.

The good news is that colorectal cancer is preventable, and it is highly treatable when discovered early. Most cases of the disease begin as non-cancerous polyps which can be detected and removed during routine screenings—preventing the development of colorectal cancer. Screening tests also save lives even when they detect polyps that have become cancerous by catching the disease in its earliest, most curable stages. The cure rate is up to 93 percent when colorectal cancer is discovered early.

Recognizing the importance of early detection, Congress in 1997 enacted a Medicare colorectal cancer screening benefit. Medicare currently covers either a screening colonoscopy every ten years or a flexible sigmoidoscopy every four years for average-risk individuals. Beneficiaries identified as high risk are entitled to a colonoscopy every two years.

Despite the availability of this benefit, very few seniors are actually being screened for colorectal cancer. Since its implementation in 1998, the percentage of Medicare beneficiaries receiving either a screening or diagnostic colonoscopy has increased by only one percent.

Why aren't more seniors being screened? I believe the problem is due, in part, to rapidly declining colorectal screening reimbursement levels. By 2002, Medicare reimbursement for diagnostic colonoscopies performed in an outpatient setting had declined 36 percent from initial 1998 level. For flexible sigmoidoscopies, payment in 2002 was 54 percent less.

While reimbursement has dropped across the board, cuts have been particularly harsh for screenings provided in hospital outpatient departments (HOPDs) and ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs). In 1997, a colonoscopy performed in one of these settings was reimbursed at approximately \$301. Now in 2002, the rate has fallen to about \$213.

The facility-specific cuts provide incentives for physicians to perform screenings in their offices, where reimbursement rates have remained between 68 percent and 108 percent higher. As you know, Medicare has established its own criteria for both ASCs and HOPDs to ensure high quality of care and patient safety. While there are office facilities where endoscopy is safely performed, physicians' offices are, for the most part, unregulated environments. This site-of-service differential may interfere with the clinical decision-making process, at the expense of patient safety.

In addition, Medicare currently pays for a consultation prior to a diagnostic colonoscopy, but not for a screening colonoscopy. Since colonoscopy involves conscious sedation, physicians generally do not perform them without a pre-procedure office visit to ascertain a patient's medical history and to educate patients as to the required preparatory steps. In fact, several states now require physicians to consult with patients prior to procedures involving conscious sedation. Because Medicare will not pay for pre-screening consultations, many physicians must provide them for free.

And, unlike screening mammography, colorectal cancer screening tests are subject to the Medicare Part B deductible, which dis-

courages beneficiaries from seeking screening.

My colleague, Representative PHIL ENGLISH, joins me today to introduce this important legislation, as well as my colleagues in the Senate, JOSEPH LIEBERMAN and SUSAN COLLINS. This bill is supported by the American College of Gastroenterology, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, and the American Gastroenterological Association. It would improve beneficiary utilization and help ensure the safety of colorectal cancer screenings by doing three things.

First, it would increase reimbursement for colorectal cancer related procedures to ensure that physicians are able to cover the costs of providing these valuable services.

Second, our bill will provide Medicare coverage for a pre-screening office visit. If Medicare will pay for a consultation prior to a diagnostic colonoscopy, it also should pay for a consultation before a screening colonoscopy.

Third, the bill would exempt colorectal cancer screening procedures from the customary Medicare deductible requirement. By reducing the financial requirements on the beneficiary, this law will encourage increased access to colorectal screening services.

The preventive benefits we authorized in 1997 were an important step toward fighting this deadly disease. But the colorectal cancer screening program is in danger of failing without our intervention. I strongly urge all my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

TRIBUTE TO RON KEENEY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated civil servant and all around great American, Mr. Ron Keeney. After 37 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Huntington, WV, he is retiring and embarking on a new stage of life. I want to express my deepest gratitude for his many contributions.

Ron Keeney has led a distinguished career and played a critical role in improving the lives and living conditions of thousands of people in my home district in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. Ron has been instrumental in getting a number of important flood control projects off the ground in my region and he shares my belief that we must carefully balance economic development with the needs of our rich natural environment. Through his efforts, the Huntington District has become an integral component of our region's PRIDE program, which is helping clean up our waterways and streams. I want to thank Ron for sharing my vision of how federal-local partnerships can bridge gaps, streamline the process, and make real contributions to people's daily lives.

Ron is also widely respected within the Army Corp of Engineers. Beyond measure, Ron has improved the Huntington District's programmatic, oversight, planning, and fiscal performance. He has also proven invaluable as the District's key civilian decision-maker with regard to strategic management of its major civil-works, environmental, and other programs and projects, including work for other Federal agencies.

The list of awards bestowed upon Ron speaks volumes about his job performance, knowledge, and skills. During his career, he has received more than 30 outstanding/exceptional performance ratings. He also received the May 1999, Silver de Fleury Medal, the 1994 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Planner of the Year, and the 1994 and 1985 LRD Planner of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I want to thank Ron Keeney for the time and effort he has put into the lives of others. Although his time with the Corps of Engineers is drawing to a close, I know the people of the Huntington District will continue to benefit from his contributions for many years to come. I want to wish him and his family all the best for this next stage of life.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2003 and 2005 through 2013:

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this rule. Budgets are about priorities. They are about values. But this budget does not reflect our priorities or our values. Instead, it shows an irresponsible disregard for working families and priorities the American people have made clear.

One example of that disregard in the Republican budget is its potential impact on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. While this budget does not explicitly instruct the Resources Committee to open ANWR for oil exploration, it is clear that the Republican majority intends to use its reconciliation instructions to the Resources Committee to move forward with the Administration's drilling proposal.

ANWR is one of the finest examples of wilderness left on the planet, with a full range of largely undisturbed ecosystems. The tens of thousands of caribou, polar and grizzly bears, birds, wolves, and fox that call this place home should not be sacrificed for a mere 180-day supply of oil, which is all the United States Geological Survey says we will likely recover. Even oil companies like British Petroleum, who have given up on the prospect of drilling in the Refuge, understand the relatively small amounts of oil ANWR is expected to yield and the high cost of removing it.

This budget should invest in renewable energy sources, not drilling for oil in the pristine wilderness. Yet my amendment to protect the Refuge in the Budget Committee was defeated on a party-line vote.

Mr. Chariman, this budget does not reflect the priorities or values of the American people. I urge my colleagues to oppose this rule.