

This commission will look at aid contributed all over the world from Central America to the Balkans, from Africa to Asia.

Take Sudan, for example. The United States gave \$1.7 billion in development and food aid to Sudan over the last 50 years. Just in the last 20 years, more than 2.2 million people in Sudan have died as a result of the ongoing civil war there. I have been to Sudan four times and have seen the suffering.

I have also been to Congo where the U.S. has sent \$724 million worth of development assistance and food aid over the last 50 years, and much more when you consider the cost of peacekeepers and even though we have tried to help more than 3.3 million innocent people have died in just the last 5 years.

Liberia is another example of a country with a long history of internal strife and instability yet they have continued to collect massive amounts of outside aid that directly benefitted the corrupt government. The United States gave \$929 million worth of development assistance aid to Liberia. And just look at the suffering taking place by the people of Liberia.

I have traveled to Ethiopia on two occasions, first in 1984 and again this past January, and over that span there remains little progress, if any, in land reform. Millions of people in Ethiopia are again at risk of starvation. This number is growing as millions more are on a "watch list" and in fear of starvation.

The high profile media coverage of the troubled relationship between Ethiopia and Eritrea have made these nations the faces of famine, but the pain is not theirs alone. Across the continent of Africa 30 million people are at risk of starvation.

The United States has given \$2.4 billion worth of development and food aid to Ethiopia and \$233 million to Eritrea over the last 50 years. Yet there has been little land reform and little long-term development.

Hunger and poverty and lives of misery are not just problems in Africa. Look at Haiti. The United States gave Haiti \$1.3 billion in development and food aid over the last 50 years and is the largest bilateral donor but Haiti still struggles with poverty, hunger, illiteracy and AIDS.

Corrupt dictators across the globe have become rich off the generosity of the American people. U.S. citizens have the right to expect that their assistance is truly helping the poorest of the poor—women and children around the globe—and not extending the longevity of corrupt and murderous regimes.

President John F. Kennedy, in his inaugural address on January 20, 1961, spoke of America's mission to help the suffering people of the world. He said, "To those peoples in the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery, we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves, for whatever period is required—not because the communists may be doing it, not because we seek their votes, but because it is right. If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich."

While there is no question in my mind that providing development and humanitarian assistance is the right thing to do, we also have an obligation to make sure that aid is being provided in the right way.

America has always stepped up to the challenge to help the helpless around the globe. The Helping Enhance the Livelihood of People Around the Globe Commission will look at

which efforts have succeeded and which have failed, and why. We must be confident that American tax dollars aimed at helping women, children and the poor are being spent wisely and efficiently and are truly making a difference in the lives of people who, as President Kennedy said, "are struggling to break the bonds of mass misery."

CONGRATULATING TERRY WITKOWSKI, MILWAUKEE SOCIETY'S POLISH AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on October 11, 2003, Polish National Alliance's Milwaukee Society Lodge 2159 will hold its 57th Annual Pulaski Day Banquet, honoring Mr. Terry Witkowski as its Polish American of the Year. What an outstanding choice.

For over 30 years, Terry provided dedicated service to the City of Milwaukee, first as its Child Safety Education Supervisor and then as Safety Director. In addition, he has been an instructor for the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for 17 years, and is currently a traffic safety consultant to local agencies and governments.

But his "retirement" from the City of Milwaukee was short lived. This summer, Terry was elected to the Milwaukee Common Council, bringing experience and integrity to the position.

Despite his busy schedule, he has always found time to be active in our community. Terry has provided strong leadership to a number of groups that promote traffic safety, such as the Wisconsin Highway Safety Coordinator Association, the AAA Advisory Board, and a host of others. In 1993, he was presented with the Distinguished Service to Safety Award, the highest award given to an individual by the National Safety Council, and received a 2000-People Who Shine, Lifetime Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Terry has also served in leadership roles in a number of other community groups, such as the South Side Civic Association, the St. Joseph's Foundation, and the South Side Business Club. When there is work to be done, he is always willing to help.

But Terry is also being honored for his work in Milwaukee's Polonia. He is a past president and current board member of the Milwaukee Society, and serves as treasurer of the Polish Heritage Alliance, which has given our community America's largest Polish Festival, PolishFest, and the Polish Center of Wisconsin.

I have known Terry for many years, and have always been impressed with his strong commitment to service. For all his hard work and dedication, he deserves our thanks, and our congratulations on receiving this prestigious award. Sto lat, dear friend.

TRIBUTE TO THE RIVERSIDE-CORONA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an organization whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside County, California are exceptional. The Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD) is celebrating its 50 year anniversary on October 25, 2003 and I commend them for the work they have done in the field of conservation.

The Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District facilitates natural conservation through education, collaboration, and technical assistance. The RCRCD is a small, government agency charged with conserving the natural resources of the area. Some of the projects of the RCRCD include habitat restoration projects including invasive species removal, a severe problem in my district; irrigation water management evaluations; and education programs concerning storm water, trees and soil.

In 1953, 126 local farmers owning 6,700 acres, with the help of Soil Conservation Service staff, sent a petition to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and requested formation of a "Soil Conservation District". That year an election was held and five landowners were nominated as the first directors. By forming the District, federal programs were made available to local farmers.

In the late 1950's, Colorado River water became available to local growers through Western Municipal Water District pipelines. Citrus was planted around Woodcrest, Eagle Valley, Gavilan Hills, Temescal Canyon, and Riverside-Highlands. The RCRCD gained over 400 cooperators. Farmers installed practices to help control erosion, such as cover crops, check dams, grassed waterways and to help conserve water, such as sprinkler systems. The population in the 1950's was about 50,000. Today it is around 500,000.

RCRCD continues to work with local communities and farmers to spread the use of best practices in conservation and for research purposes, such as housing the California Department of Food and Agriculture's research project on the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, a Pierce's Disease vector.

I salute the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District for the work they do in the field of conservation, an area crucial to the future of California. Without researching and educating conservation methods our state will find it hard to sustain the current rate of growth. I commend the 50 years of leadership by RCRCD and thank them for continuing this crucial mission.

THE BOB GATES WELCOME CENTER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Gates, a man who has