

Rollcall No. 641 (H. Con. Res. 288): "aye."
 Rollcall No. 642 (H. Res. 393): "aye."
 Rollcall No. 643 (H. Res. 423): "aye."
 Rollcall No. 644 (H.R. 3140): "aye."

TRIBUTE TO VACAVILLE'S CRIME
 PREVENTION EFFORTS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker I would like to take this opportunity to call my colleagues' attention to a real success story in the City of Vacaville, California. As this article printed in the Fairfield Daily Republic explains, the Police Department in Vacaville is receiving a good deal of well-deserved recognition for the programs and services it provides. The Vacaville P.D.'s comprehensive and preventative approach to crime is a welcome one, and it is having an amazing effect. Despite statewide increases in crime this past year, major crime in Vacaville is significantly down. In a sense, by investing time and effort in the community, they are stopping crime even before it happens. This should be a lesson to all of us. I urge my colleagues to read the attached article, and I commend the City of Vacaville and its Police Department for all their hard work.

[From Fairfield Daily Republic, Nov. 27, 2003]

COMBATTING CRIME "HOLISTICALLY"—VACA
 POLICE USE NEW APPROACHES TO MAKE
 COMMUNITY SAFER

(By Nada Behziz)

VACAVILLE.—For decades, American doctors have prescribed pills for pain—white ones, blue ones, big ones, new ones.

And for centuries, practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine have eased aches, strains and spasms through herbal remedies and preventive care.

Now, those two philosophies are merging in Vacaville in a slightly different venue: public safety.

The Vacaville Police Department's transition from the "war on crime" model to more of a preventive slant is what police officials attribute to the city's decrease in crime.

"We're not at war with our community," said Vacaville police Chief Bob Harrison. "We're looking at crime more holistically. We want to provide comprehensive care to really get at the problem."

Vacaville is one of the only cities in California that not only provides preventive programs within elementary and grade schools but has a department within the police department that provides comprehensive, preventive resources to the community.

Sarah Jacobs was torn between loving her husband and saving her children. It wasn't until a rainy evening when her husband threw her and her two sons out of the house with bruises that she packed her bags and left.

"We had no where to go, but I knew we had to leave," Jacobs said. "I heard from friends that the police department could help, so that was the first place I went."

Jacob found a warm place to sleep, an arrest warrant for her husband who left bruises all over her body and parenting resources to help her children recover, all in the same place.

"The police department was able to take care of my every need," Jacobs said. "Now it's time to take care of myself emotionally."

Vacaville's Family Investigative Response and Services Team office based within the police department staffs investigators, counselors and volunteers that provide resources for at-risk families.

Officials say their FIRST program helps stop crime before it happens by nourishing families and showing them non-violent ways of solving disagreements.

Many Vacaville residents in need of services, including parenting classes and access to computers, don't know where to find them. The center provides a "one-stop-shopping place" for people to get the help they need.

Through FIRST, 28-year-old Jacobs was placed in transitional housing, a furnished home of her own where the agency could counsel and monitor her.

And she was introduced to a new family. "Anything I could possibly say I need, they're on top of it. I've never had to call my counselor in the middle of the night, but I know she's there," she said. "I never had family that I was close to and could trust, now I found them."

Today Jacobs plans to return to school next year to earn a bachelor's degree in business administration. She has hopes of one day becoming a lawyer.

The department first focused on domestic violence issues six years ago, but it wasn't long before police officers noticed that residents who visited were not in need of police services as much as they were human services. The program expanded to incorporate elder abuse, sexual assault and child abuse situations more than four years ago when FIRST opened its doors.

"People ask us often if we believe this is our job as a police department," said Lt. Scott Paulin, who runs the FIRST division of Vacaville Police. "We have to look beyond putting handcuffs on people and fill the gaps to prevent the criminals in the first place."

The gap between criminal activity and the department's clearance rate is slowly closing. While crime increases at a steady rate in California, this year alone, part one crimes—which include homicides, rape, assault and theft—have already dropped 6 percent from last year in Vacaville. The department's clearance rate hit almost 30 percent, a goal that Harrison says the department will surpass this year.

With one of the lowest percentages of overall crime in California, Vacaville was chosen this year by the California attorney general as one of two state police agencies for its "Best Practice Program," which will be featured on the attorney general's Web site as examples of excellence for other cities. The decline in crime, Harrison says, is in part due to the officers' visibility in the area and their personal investment since the vast majority live in the city.

"If it's in your back yard, you care if it's clean," Harrison said. "Many of our officers live in town and it's a place they use on a daily basis and want to take good care of."

But Officer Erwin Ramirez says the commute from the Bay Area is worth not worrying about a parolee coming after his wife and three children.

"When you have three kids and a wife, you want to keep them away from danger," said Ramirez, who says he makes at least five arrests each month. "It's a great city but I don't want to risk my family's danger by living here."

Ramirez came to Vacaville three years ago after beginning his career as a patrol officer with the Suisun City Police Department and says the stark difference between the community's reaction to police officers is what makes Vacaville special.

Driving around in his patrol car, Ramirez is approached by children on their scooters smiling and waving as he drives by.

"The department has done a great job at dispelling the stereotype that comes with the police," Ramirez said. "We go around the neighborhoods and talk with the people and hand out stickers to the kids. Hopefully they will remember that the next time we come by."

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS DEVOR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated volunteer from Montrose, Colorado. Dennis Devor is a humble and caring individual who commits his free time to the betterment of his community. His enthusiasm for serving others resonates throughout Colorado. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing Dennis, and his tremendous service to the Montrose community before this body of Congress.

Dennis was recently awarded the prestigious "9Who Care" Award given out by a Denver television station to honor unsung heroes in the community. Dennis' primary occupation is in the law, but he makes time before and after work to be involved in charitable organizations like the Montrose Education Foundation, Salvation Army, Montrose Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce. In addition to those organizations, Dennis is also an active member of United Methodist Church. Dennis always makes volunteer work an important priority in his life. His tireless dedication often results in early mornings and late nights spent working to better the lives of those in need.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis Devor is a hard-working individual who has enriched the lives of many members of the Montrose community. He demonstrates a passion for public service that sets a fine example for all Americans. Dennis serves with enthusiasm and commitment, and he certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. Thanks for your hard work, Dennis, and congratulations on a well-deserved award.

CONDEMNING THE TERROR
 ATTACKS IN TURKEY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the horrendous and cowardly attacks carried out in Istanbul, Turkey, on November 15, 2003. Twenty-five people were killed and over 300 were injured, as suicide bombers in trucks attacked two synagogues crowded with families attending bar mitzvahs. We should all mourn the unspeakable nature of this tragedy, and we must take decisive action against those responsible.

We are witnessing the resurgence of a pervasive and violent anti-Semitism, last seen on a widespread scale in the 1930s and 1940s in Europe. Some claim that this resurgence can be tied to the continued violence and political conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, but I fear it goes beyond that.