

The Task Force conducted its evaluations, made its reports, and outlined what was needed. That was in large part comprehensive legislation to institute common protective standards for our nation's coral reefs, but, equally important, rules to discourage international coral reef abuse and encourage sustainable practices by allowing imports only of non-endangered products collected by sustainable practices and pursuant to integrated management plans.

The Coral Reef Conservation and Protection Act of 2004 I gratefully introduce today embodies the principal directions of the Task Force and more. It establishes a comprehensive scheme for the domestic and international protection of our world's coral reef ecosystems. The regime's key ingredients are the disallowal of any domestic taking, transport in interstate commerce, or import of the endangered marine life of our coral reefs, unless that life is collected in non-destructive ways or subject to sustainable management plans or otherwise exempted from coverage by administrative actions.

Mr. Speaker, we have to start somewhere; our world's coral reefs are crying out for our help. This bill is that start, and I urge its prompt deliberation and passage.

Mahalo, and aloha!

A POINT OF LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS—ESTER SILVER-PARKER VICE PRESIDENT OF DIVERSITY FOR WAL-MART STORES, INC.

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished business executive well known to members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Ester Silver-Parker.

She serves on the boards of International Women's Forum, Brenau University, North Carolina Central University, National Public Radio Foundation, The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the Wyndham Hotel Women and Diversity Roundtable.

Ester Silver-Parker was named Vice President of Diversity Relations for Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. in December 2003. She is charged with the strategic planning and execution of Wal-Mart's diverse efforts as it relates to its supplier development program, philanthropic and community relations programs. Additionally, she is responsible for strengthening Wal-Mart's relationships with diversity leaders and leadership organizations in the communities it serves.

Prior to joining Wal-Mart, Ms. Silver-Parker served as Vice President of Corporate Affairs and President of the AT&T Foundation for AT&T. She also directed AT&T's National Constituency Relations, Issues Management and Corporate Social Responsibility Programs.

Ms. Silver-Parker directed AT&T's public relations field offices in the Northeast States, the Mid-Atlantic States and the Southeast. She established the first AT&T public relations operations in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, designed and implemented the plan to increase AT&T's presence in the U.S. domestic field operations, and developed the organiza-

tional design for AT&T's field public relations organization. She also established AT&T's first constituent relations organization. She was the recipient of the Catherine Cleary Award, the highest leadership honor AT&T gives to a female employee.

Prior to joining AT&T, Ms. Silver-Parker worked in public relations for New York Telephone, the National Urban League and as a journalist for Essence Magazine, the Review of Political Economy and New World Outlook.

Ester Silver-Parker has traveled on behalf of the Board of Global Ministries in the Congo, Burundi and Kenya to study and write about the health conditions and quality of life of women and children. She is a frequent speaker on issues pertaining to women, diversity, corporate social responsibility, and strategic philanthropy.

She received a Masters in journalism from Columbia University School of Journalism and a Bachelors of Arts in political science from North Carolina Central University. She is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University's Executive Management Program and holds an Honorary Doctor's Degree in Humane Letters from Benedict College.

Ms. Silver-Parker has received numerous awards, including the Ebony Magazine Outstanding Women in Corporate Marketing, the Congressional Black Caucus Unsung Hero Award, the DECA Award for outstanding businesswoman, the Harlem YMCA Black Achievers in Industry Award, New York City Gus D'Amato Community Service Award, the Atlanta Business League's Outstanding Corporate Person Award, the 100 Black Men of America's Corporate Excellence Award, the National AIDS Fund's Leadership Award, the Asian Pacific Islanders Women's Leadership Starfish Award.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Silver-Parker is a genuine professional who cares deeply about her community. I am honored to recognize her as a "Point of Light for All Americans."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 21, I was meeting with constituents and unavoidably missed rollcall votes 402 and 403. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 402, and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 403.

DECLARING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago, as bloated corpses floated down Rwanda's rivers, the international community debated whether the atrocities being committed in Rwanda fit the definition of "genocide." By the time the world stopped debating, it was too late. Millions of men, women and

children had been killed. The failure of the world to act in Rwanda remains a stain on our collective conscience.

We must learn from the tragic mistakes of the past. Today, one thousand miles north of Rwanda, in the Darfur region of Sudan, more than 30,000 people have already been killed by the Sudanese military's aerial bombardments and the atrocities being committed by their ruthless proxies, the Jangaweed militia. Gang rapes, the branding of raped women, amputations, and summary killings are widespread. More than a million people have been driven from their homes as villages have been burned and crops destroyed. The Sudanese government has deliberately blocked the delivery of food, medicine and other humanitarian assistance. More than 160,000 Darfurians have become refugees in neighboring Chad. Conditions are ripe for the spread of fatal diseases such as measles, cholera, dysentery, meningitis and malaria. The U.S. Agency for International Development estimates that 350,000 people are likely to die in the coming months and that the death toll could reach more than a million unless the violence stops and the Sudanese government immediately grants international aid groups better access to Darfur.

Here in Washington and at the United Nations headquarters in New York, many officials are again debating whether this unfolding tragedy constitutes genocide, ethnic cleansing or something else. This time let us not debate until it is too late to stop this human catastrophe. Let us not wait until thousands more children are killed before we summon the will to stop this horror. America and the international community have a moral duty to act. The United States and the 130 other signatories to the Genocide Convention also have a legal obligation to "undertake to prevent and punish" the crime of genocide.

The Convention defines genocide as actions undertaken "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such." The actions include "deliberately inflicting on members of the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part." By all accounts, including the reports of U.N. fact finders, it is the African peoples in the Darfur region who have been targeted for destruction by the Khartoum-backed Arab death squads.

In the middle of an unfolding crisis like that in Darfur, there will always be debate over whether what is happening constitutes genocide. But it is important to remember that the Genocide Convention does not require absolute proof of genocidal intentions before the international community is empowered to intervene. The Convention would offer no protection to innocent victims if we had to wait until there were tens of thousands more corpses before we act. A key part of the Genocide Convention is prevention, not just punishment after the fact.

The United States has already done more than any other nation to call attention to and respond to this tragedy. But our efforts to date have not brought an end to the growing crisis. We must take additional measures now.

The United States should immediately call for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council and introduce and call for a vote on a resolution that demands that the Government of Sudan take the following steps: First, allow international relief groups and human rights