

Mr. Speaker, the roots of Dominican New Yorkers lie in a country with a fascinating history and arresting beauty. The Dominican Republic is the home of a number of people from various heritages. As a result, the culture is charged with strong Taino, African, and European influences. One visit to the Dominican Republic will put to rest any questions one might have as to why Dominicans in America retain such a strong sense of pride in their homeland and never stop missing it.

The achievements and contributions made by Dominican-Americans and Dominican residents have spanned the realms of politics, science, the Armed Forces, literature, public service, and the arts, and undoubtedly make them an integral part of American society. The Dominican Day Parade and Festival of the Bronx is a great opportunity to celebrate the Dominican people's culture, history, and bright future.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring the Dominican Day Parade and Festival of the Bronx.

HONORING THE TOWN OF
AINSWORTH

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize before this body the Town of Ainsworth as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary this year.

Named for a young immigrant from Dorchester, England, "Uncle Tom" Ainsworth, the Ainsworth name has long been a fixture of my district.

Uncle Tom Ainsworth and his brothers played a key role in the agricultural development of the area, which included tending dams on the Wolf River. His descendants over the years have held several leadership positions to help continue the pride Uncle Tom had for his new home.

Today, the Town of Ainsworth continues to hold tight to its agricultural roots with abundant natural resources and farming opportunities that keep its economy solid.

Mr. Speaker, though the official anniversary date was April 4, 2005, I would like to extend congratulations on the past 100 years of success as the Town of Ainsworth holds its centennial celebration on July 2. And I wish the town and its citizens the best of wishes in the next 100 years.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VILLAGE OF CURTIS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community in my district that is celebrating its 100th anniversary as a village. On Sunday, July 3, 2005, the residents of the village of Curtis, Michigan, will host a parade to honor their history that 100 years ago began with the establishment of a post office. The official Centennial Celebration will take place September 2nd through 4th.

Local historians have documented evidence of human civilization in the area dating back more than 13,000 years. Explanations suggest that native tribes moved with the gradual northern movement of the glaciers that sculpted the region and helped structure the forest and copper rich area, now known as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Excavation sites dating back as early as 3500 B.C., show evidence that seven spots were used to extract copper.

As time went on, Native American Indian tribes visited Curtis as a favorite camping site while early historical references indicate explorers traversed nearby waterways in search of resources and western passages from the 1600s to the late 1800s. However, settlement and population growth began in 1881 when the Detroit, Mackinac and Marquette Railroad was built bringing lumber workers to the area. A township board was elected in 1887 to locally govern Portage Township with just over 150 people residing in its borders.

In 1905, the Manistique Railroad that ran from Grand Marais to Seney and Germfask was extended to Curtis and a post office was established. The first postmaster facilitating the operation was Mark Howard Miller. A sawmill started by Jesse Sherbrook later that year in Saw-wa-qua-to-beach on South Manistique Lake gave the town the resources they needed to establish itself.

What began as a town of roughly 75 people, Curtis and the surrounding township now make up approximately 1,000 residents. Through the years, this close knit community has thrived as the tourist, fishing and logging industries have flourished in the area. Nestled between the two beautiful, large, pristine Manistique Lakes, the people of Curtis have grown to be nothing short of a family. Many of the names of original settlers can still be found among the rosters of the 13 civic and fraternal organizations including the Lions, Fireworks Committee, Ladies Aid, The Fish Coop, and the Curtis Community Arts Council. Curtis's four churches, library, school, medical clinic, post office, bank and public housing facility make the town completely self-sufficient and an attraction for families and businesses looking to move into an All-American community.

The history of Curtis contains many interesting facts and figures as well as tales of its growth as an area inhabited for over 1,000 years by early mankind. As a small town tucked between waterways and engulfed in thick forests in the middle of Michigan's eastern Upper Peninsula, the people of Curtis were able to build their community with their own resources and based on their own value driven standards to create an amazing town. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the village of Curtis and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century.

MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL
SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the House passed H.R. 458, the

Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act. This important piece of legislation prevents the sale of abusive insurance and investment products, such as contractual plans, to military personnel.

Contractual plans, which have all but disappeared from civilian markets, offer individuals the opportunity to invest small amounts of money on a regular basis over an extended period of time. Generally, these contractual plans require that investors make monthly installments for a period of 15 to 20 years and charge up front the commission that would be expected over the life of the contract. Because these plans require that commission fees be paid in the first few years of the contract, the investor's account is not fully credited during this period. Furthermore, investors who drop out of these plans before the designated end of the contract sacrifice all the prepaid commission and often find that the number of shares they own is considerably less than what they could have purchased directly.

A series of articles in the New York Times highlighted the abusive sale of these financial products to members of the Armed Services. While most financial service providers supply their military customers with honest and accurate information, some have engaged in unfair and deceptive practices in an effort to increase their own profits. The men and women who defend our country deserve better.

I supported H.R. 458 because it ensures that our troops are protected from the potentially abusive sales of certain financial products. By enacting new regulations and prohibiting the sale of mutual funds sold through contractual plans, H.R. 458 provides military personnel with the proper assurances they need to make informed financial decisions.

THE IMMIGRANT VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005: PROTECTING ALL BATTERED IMMIGRANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I'm introducing the Immigrant Victims of Violence Protection Act because there is a perverse incentive in U.S. law for immigrant women to stay with their abusive spouses in order to preserve their immigration status. My legislation will help immigrant women who need to leave their abusive spouses by preventing their deportation and providing them access to work permits and legal and social services.

Violence against women is a profound and extremely pervasive problem, striking across economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and across all age groups. If we are to stop violence against women, all victims need protection and assistance without regard to their immigration status. Escaping domestic violence can be especially difficult for immigrant women and their children. The threat of deportation, cultural and language barriers, lack of a work permit and limited access to legal and social services may make immigrant victims of domestic violence more dependent on their abusive spouses.

That is why including the Immigrant Victims of Violence Protection Act as part of VAWA

reauthorization is essential. My legislation would help immigrant victims in my district and across the country escape from violent and abusive households. Battered immigrant women deserve an escape from abuse that protects their rights and keeps them united with their children.

Today this House has a chance to fight against violence against women and protect all immigrant victims of violence. I urge every Member in this House to join this fight.

INTRODUCTION STATEMENT
PASSENGER SAFETY ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to return to private airline screeners, now is the time to continue to focus on passenger safety.

Last November, airports were given the option to start the process to opt-out of having Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screeners in favor of hiring private screeners. Thankfully, no airport has opted out. If this is allowed to happen, it will be a step backwards in airline security.

TSA has only been in existence for a few years and has certainly suffered through some growing pains. Because of this, we should be focused on ensuring the success of TSA rather than adding the new challenge of privatization that could jeopardize their future and potentially endanger the security of airline passengers. That is why I am introducing the Passenger Safety Act which will repeal the opt-out language in the law that created the TSA. I urge my colleagues to support this important initiative to protect passenger safety.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL
HIV TESTING DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, HIV testing is imperative. There is not much else to be said. This global epidemic has affected communities and families around the world. In Chicago, there are about 40,000 new cases each year. There are thousands of families struggling with this fact.

Nationally, nearly one million people are infected with HIV and nearly 30 percent are not aware of it. The highest rates of new infection are with women, especially the women of the African-American community. Sixty-seven percent of new cases are Black women, although women make up only 23 percent of new cases overall. This is a travesty.

We must also remember that this is a global issue that affects the lives of members of our international village. A recent ad campaign in Russia warns, "Close your eyes on HIV today and you might miss the people closest to you tomorrow." This warning, unfortunately, rings true in the lives of many people today. Globally, nearly 40 million men, women and children are infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

We in Congress have taken great legislative strides to fight this epidemic, but we are only 435 faces. It is up to the citizens of this great Nation and nations around the world to stand up and join the fight. This is why June 27th has been designated as National HIV Testing Day. Take advantage of it.

Some people say they don't have time. The fastest method of determining one's status is through rapid testing. It takes about 20 minutes. There are 1,440 minutes in a day. Clinics tend to be open for 8 hour days. If one person went to get tested every 20 minutes at one clinic on June 27th, then there would be 24 people that know their status. The number of United States registered hospitals totals 5,764. If one person went to get tested every 20 minutes at each of these hospitals, on June 27th, 138,336 people would know their status. Imagine if this were a global initiative. To the people who think that HIV testing is a long and time-consuming process, I say, we don't have time to waste.

Mr. Speaker, we don't have time to lose another life. We don't have time for silence or apathy. Tell a friend or family member. Remind them how urgent it is to grasp this moment. Take advantage of this day. Seize it. Get tested.

INTRODUCING ANSWER AFRICA'S
CALL ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, America has before it a rare opportunity of historic and humanitarian proportion. The opportunity is so great, and the outcome so important, that we cannot, we must not, we will not see this as a Democrat or Republican issue. When it comes to meeting the challenge to end poverty in Africa, there is only America united.

The President can assume command at the upcoming G-8 Summit in Scotland with bold steps to unite nations in this World of One War—defeating the global enemy of poverty—which starves, maims and kills tens of thousands, mercilessly and indiscriminately, in Africa every day.

Leaders of the Group of Eight industrialized countries will meet in Scotland to discuss making a long-term, multilateral commitment to fight poverty in sub Saharan Africa.

Let America today shine brighter than the torch on the Statue of Liberty. Let America unite mankind to save humankind. Let the President stand up and demand—not discuss—action.

Demand action, not because we are arrogant, but because we see the pain in Africa's faces and rush in compelled to act. Demand action, not because we are bullies, but because we are burdened by the grief of a billion people starving on one dollar a day. Demand action, not because we are the mightiest nation on earth but because the rivers of Africa flow with tears of sorrow over the dead and dying. And no amount of weaponry can stop the pain, only people can.

The President can unify the world to fight this just and noble war against disease, malnutrition, and economic injustice in sub Saharan Africa.

The richest nations on earth, which throughout history placed self interest ahead of Africa's interest cannot undo the past, but can make a bold commitment to the future. In one defining moment of courage and conviction, the President can unite the world to commit the financial and humanitarian resources that can begin to wipe out poverty in Africa.

Mr. Chairman, more and more African oil fuels the engines of our global economy. The industrialized nations have a long history of extracting Africa's natural resources to fulfill our desires. From bauxite to diamonds, and from copper to cocoa, the world has fed off the resources of Africa, even as Africans starved before our eyes.

While the world benefits from raw commodities found in Africa, nations, including the United States, have policies that keep Africans from adding value to these commodities that would benefit their continent and people. Rich nations benefit more from African materials than the Africans themselves do.

For far too long our farm and trade regimes have hindered African development and injured the African people in countless ways. We have made progress improving trade laws in recent years; we are negotiating at the World Trade Organization now for ways to reform our farm programs which currently distort trade and deny opportunities to African farmers struggling to compete in a global economy. We have difficult work ahead on farm reforms, and more to do to provide access to our markets for African farm products. Many of Africa's agricultural products still face steep, insurmountable and unacceptable tariffs.

But reducing tariffs and farm subsidies imposed by rich nations cannot begin to help Africa overcome the magnitude of its economic and humanitarian crisis. Investments in health and infrastructure are vitally necessary. We can help with these investments. And we can help in ways that improve outcomes for Africans.

I am talking about the immediate and critical need for money in the form of assistance and financial aid, and let me say something that may shock some of you. I agree with the Heritage Foundation—not exactly a Democratic organization—when it points to the mis-steps and mishaps of the past. But haven't we learned from those mistakes? Weren't many of those mistakes made within the context of Cold War politics with priorities different than those we seek today?

There were times when the best of intentions by nations, including America, ended up creating greed, not combating poverty. America has learned and so has the rest of the world. Today, there are organizations, systems and people above reproach. You need only look to the extraordinary work of the Gates Foundation in my District in Seattle to see what is possible and effective.

Today, the only thing standing in the way of action is inaction, and we can change that. The need has never been greater and the time is now for America to lead the world to Answer Africa's Call.

That is why, on behalf of Democrat Leaders today, introduce the Answer Africa's Call Act. The Act would create a five-year, \$6 billion annual revenue stream that would fund the International Finance Fund, or the IFF. The new money from this legislation would not be subject to annual appropriations and would not increase the national debt. This approach is