EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY FAMILY LOCATOR SYSTEM

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 31, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House about a bill that I have introduced recently—The National Emergency Family Locator System.

We talk a great deal about being prepared as a Nation for when disaster strikes. Yet the images of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina are still fresh in our minds.

Prior to Katrina, the dialogue in Washington was focused on preparedness in case of a terrorists attack.

However, given the number of missing children, what is becoming more and more apparent is that our government needs to have the capacity to assist in reuniting families after disaster strikes.

We must have a National Emergency Family Locator System. This bill, which is a companion bill to Senator OBAMA'S Senate bill S.1630, will take us in that direction.

This legislation directs the Department of Homeland Security to create a national service, so that after an emergency, displaced individuals can call one phone number or go to one website, and post their location or to be able to use this same secure, centralized system to check the status of missing loved ones.

Finally, this bill directs the Department of Homeland Security to create a Family Preparedness Education program that encourages families to sit down and discuss how the family will reunite if disaster strikes their community.

These are not pleasant conversations, but they are conversations that our Nation's families need to be having given the climate we now live in.

I ask my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and I look forward to working with the Department of Homeland Security in implanting these important programs.

HONORING THE 2005 WINNERS OF THE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARD

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 31, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor this year's winners of The Rutgers University President's Recognition Program. The Excellence in Service Awards acknowledge the exceptional individual contributions of university staff employees. It recognizes employees who provide superior sustained service, exceptional creativity and resourcefulness, and continually contribute to a positive work environment. The winners of this award are Erica Anderson, Camille S. Andrews, Jeanette Danner, David Maiullo, Joan McCracken, and Christinia Strasburger. The school and I are both extremely proud of your accomplishment.

The second award, the Bridge Award, is given to small teams. These teams are nominated for an extraordinary accomplishment demonstrated by the completion of a special project or activity during the last year, while giving a superior, sustained effort. The winning teams of this award are:

Blackboard System Implementation and Course Development Support Team, Team members: Ksenia Adamovitch, Jennifer S. Scalf, Monique R. Bonilla, Alan R. Shareshian, Marie J. Botticelli, Palma C. Sisco, Miguel Angel Estremera, Judy Soncrant, Alex V. Flinsch, Karen Yvette Swift, Norma Grace, Daniel R. Villanueva, Martin F. O'Reilly, William J. Yodlowsky, Elizabeth C. Rowe, and Mingkun S. Zhou.

GLBA Compliance—Risk Assessment, Office of Financial Services—Camden, Team members: Christopher V. Caracino, Domenick C. Nasuti, Marlene L. Druding, Stevenson Pierrejacques, Elizabeth A. Gorman, Joyce A. Sepanic, Maria V. Grace, Pamela Yvette Wells.

LSDA Project Team, Team members: Barbara Bastek, Jean McDonald-Rash, Cory J. Bastek, Digna M. Solis, Jo-Ann Craig, Erin A. Sullivan, and Rene E. Graham.

GLBA Compliance Team, Team members: Melvin L. Brown, Beckman Rich, Jo-Ann Craig, Bruce T. Rights, Nicholas DiGiovanni, Sanjana Rimal, Donald J. Gordon, Rosa M. Rivera, Keith B. Grant, Brian T. Rose, Ellen Harris-Small, Diane D. Spalluto, Lance D. Jordan, Timothy L. Stein, Nathan Kaplan, Theresa G. Wooding, Stanley A. Kolasa, Richard L. Woodland, and Stevenson Pierrejacques

RU Info Project Team, Team members: Elizabeth M. Brennan, John A. Kanopka, Eve C. Burris, Debra L. Norman, Elizabeth A. DeMauro, Cynthia B. Paul, Joanne M. Dus-Zastrow, James R. Stapleton, Jennifer L. Hollis, Sherrie Ann Tromp, Eric G. Jacobson, Matthew J. Weismantel, Mary Gail Bellas, and Kevin M. Zygler

"RU Safe?" Planning Committee, Team members: Rashel L. Carnefix, Laura Luciano, James R. Doyle, Francesca M. Maresca, Amy Ellen Hackett, Anthony Mireles, Rhonda L. Harris, Daniel R. Pascale, John A. Kanopka, Brenton F. Smith, Steven S. Keleman, and Christine E. Sohn.

Rutgers Cook College & NJAES (New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station) Resource Center, Team members: Richard Buckley, Gary Huntzinger, Lori A. Gillar, Holly S. Kennington, Michael J. Green, Stephanie L. Murphy, Stephen Griglak, Sabrina Tirpak, Michele Hujber, Bonnie G. Wasielewski, Tina M. Hunter, and Philip Wisneski

Web Transcript Project Team, Team members: Patricia Brophy, Lidia A. Levkovitch, Paula M. Couto, Cruz F. Lopez, Miguel Angel Estremera, Thomas McKeon, and Norma Grace, Eugene R. Pizzaia, George R. Hryvniak, and Terry L. Richartz.

TOPOFF Planning Committee, Team members: Richard R. Dinan, Mark D. McLane, Steven S. Keleman, Joanne O'Brien, Douglas S. Kokoskie, Alejandro Ruiz, Dorothy Kozlowski, Michael D. Smith, Rosemarie H. Kulp, Gregory J. Trevor, Edward Lifshitz, and James John Zawistowski.

Rutgers Learning Centers New Programs Team, Team members: Mary Ann Cancio, Shawn Taylor, Maryann Puccio, Matthew Winkler, Christine E. Sohn, and Calvin Yu.

All of the winners have truly earned these awards. I commend them for their hard work and dedication. Along with their fellow nominees, they are vital to making Rutgers a great University, and I hope they continue their excellent work.

SOCIETY OF MILITARY WIDOWS, DESERT ROSE CHAPTER 14 OF TUCSON, ARIZONA

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 31, 2005

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, as American soldiers valiantly serve and fall in the defense of an enduring freedom this nation and its allies are bringing to Iraq and Afghanistan, I am pleased to recognize an extraordinary sisterhood of supporters dedicated to bringing comfort and assistance to our military widows. That is the purpose and legacy of the Society of Military Widows and its Desert Rose Chapter 14 based in Tucson, Arizona, as described in a recent news article that appeared in the Arizona Daily Star. With congratulations and gratitude for the marvelous work the Society is doing, I am pleased to enter the following article into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Arizona Daily Star, Oct. 6, 2005]

A SISTERHOOD OF SUPPORTERS—SOCIETY ENSURES THAT MILITARY WIDOWS ARE NOT ALONE

(By Levi J. Long)

It was 3 a.m. when Dee Ruelas found herself in front of a computer staring at the words "military widow."

They weren't easy for her to type. Her husband, Command Sgt. Maj. David A. Ruelas, with the Arizona Army National Guard, had died of a heart attack 1 month before. They had been married less than 10 years.

"That was something I never thought I'd do so soon," said Ruelas, a 57-year-old northeastern Tucson resident. "It took me a while to even utter the word 'widow.' But there I was . . . searching for something."

What Ruelas said she found via the Internet that night was direction and "a sisterhood of supporters and friends."

For 25 years, the Society of Military Widows Desert Rose Chapter 14—based on Tucson's East Side—has been helping widows of active-duty and retired military personnel by lobbying on their behalf for health and retirement benefits. The society also serves as a support group of sorts for recent widows.

''Our goal is to support our members and to help them at a time that can be difficult,'' said Pat Shecter, president of the local society.

While recent widows are still in mourning, they often deal with mounting paperwork involving health-care and survivors' benefits, Shecter said. For some, the process can be hard to navigate and understand, she said. ''We want people to know that we're here to help.''

Over the last two decades, the society has worked on behalf of military widows receiving survivors' benefits. A few years ago, members started a successful grass-roots campaign to lobby Congress to give widows and their dependents continued health coverage after age 65 through Tricare for Life, a medical insurance plan for military retirees.

''When our husbands re-enlisted, they were promised that they would get free medical care for themselves and their dependents,'' said Shirley Degan, a local member and national chaplain for the society. ''We made sure it happened.''

Degan said the society also took on Congress when it limited the amount of money widows were supposed to receive through survivor benefits. Under survivor benefit plans, military personnel could opt for their surviving dependents to get 55 percent of their retirement pay after their deaths. But a new law created by Congress limited the amount given to survivors, capping it at 35 percent after age 62 when widows became eligible for Social Security, Degan said.

Again the group lobbied against the cut and was able to get the government to restore the amount to 55 percent, though getting it to that amount is still a sore subject among members, Degan said.

Annual 5 percent increments, starting this month, are being paid each year. It's expected to be at 55 percent by 2008, Shecter said.

''By the time it's back up, a lot of our members might not be here,'' Shecter said of the members, who are mostly in their 70s and 80s. Still, the group goes on with political causes its members believe in.

Joining with the National Association for Uniformed Services and other organizations, the society is part of an effort to get a constitutional amendment passed that would make it illegal to desecrate the American flag. It also wants to ensure its own future. With more than 25 nationwide chapters and 4,200 members, the society is campaigning to get younger members to join. Most current members—including the 230 local members—are widows of World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans.

''A lot of young women don't know we're here for them,'' said Marilyn Savage, a past president of the society. ''They're going to need to take care of their families. And we can help them with securing what's due to them.''

Ruelas, one of the chapter's youngest members, is chair-woman of the society's membership committee. She said she wants to do her part to make sure the society continues to exist. ''We want to be a resource for widows, especially younger ones, who aren't familiar with the group,'' she said.

Though it's been two years since David's passing, Ruelas said seeing little things throughout their house makes her feel like he is still around. ''It's calming to know he's here,'' she said. ''I can feel his presence and I know I can go on.''

About the society: Society of Military Widows Desert Rose Chapter 14 of Tucson is a nonprofit group affiliated with the National Association for Uniformed Services. The society is open to widows of active-duty and retired military. Call Pat Shecter at 574–5338 for an application, newsletter and membership information. For more information, visit the Web site www.militarywidows.org.

COMMENDING LIFETIME TELEVISION ON THE MINISERIES ''HUMAN TRAFFICKING''

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 31, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, this week, Lifetime Television is airing a miniseries that can only be described as ''Must See TV'' for all of us in the United States Congress.

''Human Trafficking'' tells a story that we cannot afford to ignore any longer. The movie depicts the plights of 4 young victims ranging from a single mother from the Czech Republic tricked into selling herself into slavery, to a 12-year-old girl from New Jersey kidnapped while on vacation with her parents. Their stories are horrific, but they are far from fantastical.

Each year upwards of a million people are trafficked within countries and across borders all over the globe. Human trafficking affects men, women and children, but women and children represent an unfortunate lion's share of trafficking victims. Selling people into forced labor and prostitution cannot be called anything other than slavery. The people and organizations that perpetrate this travesty are criminals of the lowest order and deserve to be brought to justice.

The practice of trafficking in persons must be of paramount concern to the U.S. Administration, Congress, and the international community. We cannot sit idly by while this nefarious practice continues and criminals continue to make enormous profits at the expense of innocent victims.

I want to thank Lifetime for its courage in bringing this issue to the forefront of this Nation's conscience. Aiming for similar results, I recently introduced a resolution, H. Res. 490, which encourages the United Nations to establish a commission that will look into the atrocities of human trafficking, exploitation and slavery. I hope you will all join me in support of that resolution. When we as a body and as a Nation infuse this issue with the bright light of our collective disbelief and horror that in the year 2005 the crime of slavery still afflicts our world, we will be that much closer to seeing its end in the coming years.

Lifetime, with the premier of this movie has made the necessity of our action so much more apparent and for that they deserve our commendation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 2

9 a.m.

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine funding needs for pandemic influenza preparedness.

SD–124

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To resume hearings to examine the response to Hurricane Katrina.

SD–406

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Avian Influenza.

SD–419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine why the levees failed relating to Hurricane Katrina.

SD–342

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine In Re Tribal Lobbying Matters, Et Al.

SH–216

2 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1548, to provide for the conveyance of certain Forest Service land to the city of Coffman Cove, Alaska, S. 1541, to protect, conserve, and restore public land administered by the Department of the Interior or the Forest Service and adjacent land through cooperative cost-shared grants to control and mitigate the spread of invasive species, S. 1552, to amend Public Law 97-435 to extend the authorization for the Secretary of the Interior to release certain conditions contained in a patent concerning certain land conveyed by the United States to Eastern Washington University until December 31, 2009, H.R. 482, to provide for a land exchange involving Federal lands in the Lincoln National Forest in the State of New Mexico, and S. 405, to provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark County, Nevada, for use as a heliport.

SD–366

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SH–216

Judiciary

Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup S.J. Res. 1, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage.

SD–226

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH–219