

At the May 18, 2005, Congressional briefing on homeless veterans, we heard from Denise Randolph, a former homeless woman veteran. She explained that when she went to the VA to stay at the domiciliary she felt unsafe because the space was not set up to house women. VA experts confirmed that many VA domiciliary programs are not equipped to handle the privacy and safety needs of female veterans, although VA is addressing this problem. Given that more women are serving in our armed forces and those women veterans are at greater risk for homelessness, we must ensure that female veterans have access to safe VA programs. The bill would require the VA to enhance its capacity to provide safe domiciliary care for women veterans.

The VA has no specific programs to help community providers who focus on homeless veterans in rural and remote locations. This legislation would authorize special grants to community providers to meet the needs of homeless rural veterans.

Dental care has consistently been identified in the top five unmet needs of homeless veterans. The legislation expands homeless veterans' eligibility for dental services and treatment.

The legislation authorizes appropriations of \$1 million each year through 2011 to provide technical assistance grants to assist community providers in addressing the problems of homeless veterans.

The authorization for the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans expires on December 31, 2006. This committee has been very effective in assessing the effectiveness of VA policies, organizational structures and services to assist homeless veterans. The Committee has also been pivotal in identifying gaps in programs and barriers to addressing the needs of homeless veterans. The legislation reauthorizes the Committee through September 30, 2011. The legislation also clarifies that the Executive Director of the Interagency Council on Homelessness, the VA Under Secretary for Health and VA Under Secretary for Benefits are ex-officio members of the Committee.

Helping transition homeless veterans is a complex and challenging effort that requires vigilance and coordination. A number of geographic regions of VA hospitals do not have full-time staff as Homeless Veterans Coordinators. My legislation requires each Veterans Integrated Service Network, known as VISNs, to have at least one full-time Homeless Veterans Coordinator.

Last August, our nation saw the destructive force of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The homeless shelters in New Orleans, like other structures, suffered damage from this disaster. The legislation would authorize the VA to make emergency grants to community shelters providing care for homeless veterans to repair or replace facilities that are damaged or destroyed by a disaster.

Homeless veterans with severe disabilities, including mental health disorders, need supportive services to maintain their functional lives. Linking permanent housing to supportive services is an effective way to end long-term homelessness for veterans who have mental health disorders, including substance abuse or other disabling conditions. According to the Corporation for Supportive Housing, providing supportive services to individuals in permanent housing reduces costly emergency room visits

by 57 percent, decreases inpatient hospital days by 58 percent and reduces use of public residential mental health programs by 100 percent. The VA's research has found that homeless veterans who have housing and supportive services can revive social networks and rebuild their family relationships.

My good friend and colleague from New Hampshire, Representative JEB BRADLEY, has introduced legislation to require the VA, in coordination with HUD, to provide financial assistance to non-profit organizations to coordinate the provision of supportive services for very low-income veterans residing in permanent housing. I support his bill and I have included a similar provision in my legislation.

In addition to providing the services at-risk veterans need to remain in permanent housing, we must also take steps to prevent homelessness. The legislation authorizes the VA to conduct a demonstration program, in at least three sites, to identify veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless after discharge or separation from the armed services and provide referral and counseling services to help prevent such veterans from becoming homeless.

The legislation makes permanent the successful pilot program to provide counseling and outreach to at-risk veterans who are transitioning from a penal institution or an institution that provides long-term care for mental illness.

The Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2006 has the strong support of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, the Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America and the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

I urge my colleagues to support the Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2006.

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IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY  
COUNTY FAIR

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Monterey County Fair on an outstanding 70 year tradition. During the week of August 15–20, 2006, the 7th District Agricultural Association's official County Fair will be enjoyed by both community residents and visitors with a theme of "That's Entertainment."

The Monterey County Fair promotes Monterey County's rich agricultural heritage with livestock demonstrations, displays and auctions to raise money for scholarships, including the participation of over 5,000 of Monterey County's youth through programs such as FFA and 4–H in festivities offered at the fair.

Exhibitors can choose from agriculture, horticulture and floriculture divisions for those with a green thumb, visual arts for the crafty and artistic, home arts for culinary whizzes and wine makers, and photography for camera buffs. Livestock categories include cattle, sheep, swine, rabbits, and poultry. These fun and friendly competitions are a chance to win both ribbons and prize money.

The Fair hosts Kids' Day, Seniors' Day, and Special Friends Day so that all children under age of twelve, all senior citizens living in Monterey County, and citizens of who are mentally or physically challenged can enjoy the fair.

The Monterey County Fair provides an excellent showcase of the unique, creative tal-

ents of the residents of Monterey County including crafts, fine art and photography. With over 200 categories for exhibitors to choose from, such opportunities increase self-esteem and community pride for all ages. This year they have added such innovative educational exhibits as a Living Food Pyramid that showcases local produce and teaches nutrition in a dynamic way, a Birthing Barn, Kid Tractor Pulls, a special new Kids Club, a Wild West Express Act, a special Street Rodder Car Show, and the all new Battle of the Bands.

The Monterey County Fair has launched a year-round Kid's Club to encourage Monterey County kids to learn more about the Monterey County Fair and get involved with many Fair activities year-round while having fun, such as the Read and Ride contest, coloring contest, and special Kids' Day activities.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Monterey County and all its citizens, I want to acknowledge the valuable contributions of the Monterey County Fair, and wish them all the best on their 70th anniversary.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, because of a briefing in the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I was absent for rollcall vote 414 on an amendment by Congressman TOWNS. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye".

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HONORING MS. NORCELLA GIBSON  
FOR RECEIVING THE KINDRED  
SPIRIT AWARD

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you to acknowledge the good deeds of a caring and compassionate woman who has been an effective advocate for defenseless animals. Ms. Norcella "Sally" Gibson is the creator of Lucky Cat Rescue, an organization established to save the lives of stray and feral cats.

Along with rescuing and re-homing over 250 cats each year, Ms. Gibson can add to her resume the Kindred Spirit Award from the Doris Day Foundation. The award is given to people who show extreme kindness and compassion to animals. By founding an organization that gives cats and kittens medical attention, foster care, proper diet, and loving homes, Sally Gibson was a first-rate candidate.

Sally, the Executive Assistant to the Chief of Pediatrics at the University of Maryland Hospital for Children, is known for her devotion to the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable, animals and children.

Lucky Cat Rescue takes in cats and kittens that are considered "unadoptable" by other shelters. In fact, these are the cats that would potentially be euthanized. Ms. Gibson maintains three feral cat colonies. She and other

volunteers offer these cats a home and foster families. Proud foster parents report back with incredible success stories.

Lucky Cat Rescue also serves as an educational organization. They provide information and resources to surrounding communities regarding the spaying and neutering of cats in order to reduce the amount of unwanted litters.

I believe it is important to protect animals. I proudly became a cosponsor of the Pet Animal Welfare Statue (PAWS) of 2005. This legislation regulates the pet industry and requires all commercial breeders to comply with basic animal welfare rules.

We live in a fast-paced world. Often times, the needs of animals can get overlooked. Ms. Gibson's, Lucky Cat Rescue is a place that shelters these creatures from cruelty. It gives me great pleasure to have a strong organization such as this in the Second Congressional District of Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring before you today a woman with such a strong sense of empathy and humanity. The acts of kindness she has shown saved the lives of hundreds of animals. Ms. Norcella Gibson is worthy of great recognition for her kindness.

#### ON THE PASSING OF AMBASSADOR ANNE FORRESTER

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to my sister, and friend, colleague Ambassador Anne Forrester, one of the premier civil servants and pan-Africanist of our generation. A great spirit departed this world when Anne lost her battle with pancreatic cancer and passed away in her home in New York City on June 23, 2006.

Today we mourn the loss of this great woman and celebrate her great legacy. As the third African-American woman ambassador in U.S. history and co-founder of TransAfrica Forum, Anne was a leader and mentor to us all. She devoted her life to public service and touched the lives of countless individuals. At the same time, Ambassador Forrester broke down barriers and paved the way for others to follow in her stead and continue the charge.

As an Ambassador from the United States to Mali, a senior aide to U.S. United Nations' Ambassador Andrew Young, Staff Director of the Sub-Committee on Africa for the House of Representatives, and a senior official at United Nations Development Program in Africa and in the Caribbean, Ambassador Forrester had a truly inimitable impact on the African Diaspora.

I met Anne on Capitol Hill during the mid-70s and got to know her and benefited from her brilliance, her great intellect, and her warm heart.

Today, my thoughts and prayers are with her family—daughters Camara and Kandia and aunts, Helena and Ethel—during this difficult time, along with the countless individuals throughout the world who were impacted by her tireless dedication to public service. We all share their pain.

Ambassador Forrester was truly an unparalleled force on the forefront of an international movement; she worked tirelessly to connect

and improve the condition of African peoples throughout the Diaspora. And no words can express how greatly our sister-friend will be missed. Anne's far-reaching contributions to foreign affairs set a premier example for people all over the world. As we mourn her loss, we all must commit ourselves to ensure that Anne's spirit and work will live on.

#### HONORING THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Huntington Park and its more than 64,000 residents on the occasion of the city's 100th year anniversary.

I am proud to have this great city as part of my 34th Congressional district of California.

With a long and distinguished history and a vibrant community, the city of Huntington Park has evolved from a small community of 526 residents in 1906 to a bustling retail center for the Los Angeles County region in 2006.

In the latter part of the 18th century, the land which would eventually become the city of Huntington Park was a vast, unexplored territory. The first European of record to arrive to the area was Francisco Salvatore Lugo, a soldier-explorer and personal friend of the King of Spain. For almost a hundred years, the early history of the area was the history of the prosperous Lugo Family.

In the early 20th century, ownership of the land was passed from the Lugo Family to the farmers, developers, and settlers who were preparing the way for the birth of the city of Huntington Park. Among the prominent names in the city's history was a pair of land developers named A.L. Burbank and E.V. Baker who arrived in the area in 1899. By 1901, these two developers controlled a 100-acre tract of land, which they named "La Park". Burbank and Baker were prominent names in the area, but they themselves had no intention of founding a city. Their vision of La Park was for a commercial center and way station for all transport of goods between Los Angeles and San Diego. In 1902, prominent industrialist Henry Huntington extended a line of his Pacific Electric Railway to La Park, and changed the name to "Huntington Park".

A group of early residents became the city founders. They were: George A. Garlow, Dr. Louis Weber, Dr. Clinton W. Hubbard, A.E. Walters, O.G. Jones, A.A. Weber, D.B. Lyons, William Linsey, and Frank Tate. These men of true pioneer spirit and foresight formed the Huntington Park Improvement Association and things began to happen. On September 1, 1906, with 526 residents, the area was officially established and recognized as the City of Huntington Park.

Today, Huntington Park, "The City of Perfect Balance," is a dynamic city with exceptional recreation and social service programs. The city provides superior-quality public safety, transportation, and community development services to its residents and businesses while cultivating a unique small town ambiance. The stretch of Pacific Boulevard in downtown Hun-

tington Park is a major, thriving commercial district serving as a major retail center for the largely, working-class communities of southeastern Los Angeles County.

As part of the City of Huntington Park's 100th anniversary, a centennial celebration will be held at the city's civic center. The city's year-long celebration will include special recognitions from local organizations including the Huntington Park Police Department and the Greater Huntington Park Area Chamber of Commerce.

The 100th year anniversary of The City of Huntington Park is another milestone in the rich history of the city, as well as in the history of the state of California and the United States. I am honored to represent this thriving community in Congress, and I join the Huntington Park community in celebrating this wonderful anniversary.

#### INTRODUCING A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE LAMBDA THETA NU SORORITY, INCORPORATED, THE FIRST INTERCOLLEGIATE GREEK-LETTER SORORITY ESTABLISHED FOR LATINA COLLEGE WOMEN ON THE WEST COAST

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to introduce a Concurrent Resolution recognizing and honoring the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter sorority established for Latina college women on the West Coast.

Lambda Theta Nu is a wonderful sorority. It has now grown into a well developed and structured organization that caters to the needs of Latina women in higher education. This sorority's B+ average grade point average among all its undergraduate members shows their dedication to academic excellence among Latina college women. Lambda Theta Nu prides itself on turning girls into women, Latinas into professionals, and students into graduates. Lambda Theta Nu's devotion to the Latino community and the positive development of its members should be applauded by all Members of the House.

The text of the resolution follows, and I urge my colleagues to show their support for this distinguished organization by cosponsoring it.

Recognizing and honoring the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Incorporated, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter sorority established for Latina college women on the West Coast.

H. CON. RES. \_\_\_\_

Whereas the Lambda Theta Nu Sorority was founded by 18 young women on March 11, 1986 at California State University, Chico;

Whereas Leticia Campos, Mary Helen Coronado, Pamela Daña, Abigail Estrada, Cecilia Fabian, Guadalupe Favela, Maria Gonzalez, Josephine Hernandez, Theresa Jauregui, Patricia Lozano, Luz Amelia Martinez, Rosa Meza, Imelda Michel, Rosana Michel, Teresa Reyes, Camille Rugama, Lisa Saldano, and Rosabelia Sanchez, the founders of the sorority, recognized and responded to the needs of