

kept their property in good repair with money raised from dues and the selling of 14 published editions of the Congressional Cookbook. Due to its success, the club was able to pay off its mortgage in 1948. To commemorate the occasion, Club member and First Lady Bess Truman ceremonially burned the papers at the 40th anniversary celebration. Since that time, their funds have been given to charity, and been used to pay for the upkeep of this historic home. The presence of the Congressional Clubhouse helped promote renewal in the DuPont Circle neighborhood until finally the U Street corridor is booming and busy again. The Clubhouse is on the National Register of historic places.

This is much more than just a social club. During World War I, the women rolled bandages and kept a room at Union Station for traveling soldiers. During World War II, Eleanor Roosevelt encouraged the women to promote patriotism and public safety in their home districts as part of the war effort. After September 11, the spouses were given a briefing to share with their home districts about how to prepare their families and communities for the possibility of additional terrorist attacks.

For a century now, spouses have done inner-city charity work. Every December, a Christmas party hosts underprivileged children who celebrate the season with gifts and a holiday meal, the singing of carols and making of crafts with Congressional families. At the end of each school year, a pizza party is held at the Club for at-risk inner city children. The wives have encouraged a sense of community by honoring the local fire and police departments and hosting the annual appreciation day for local nursing home senior citizens.

They continue to contribute to the lives of Congressional families by providing orientation for spouses of newly elected Members, annually honoring the First Lady and giving tens of thousands of dollars to a charity in her name. Their regular luncheons provide programs of education and entertainment.

Also worth mentioning is the global reach of the spouses through the annual honoring of ambassadors' wives. This past week, the Congressional Club hosted over 50 countries, who modeled fashions from their native land. This extension of the hand of friendship around the world surely promotes good will and encourages understanding of our culture of freedom and equality for all people.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention the work of the Club's Anniversary Committee, and its president, my beloved wife, Vicki. They have put together a number of events celebrating the anniversary, including a ringing of the official bells of the United States Congress, a birthday cake at the annual First Lady's luncheon, and a commemorative cancellation stamp.

It is fitting that this Congress should honor the good work of our political spouses and of the Congressional Club. In a time of extreme partisanship that all too often poisons relationships and stymies legislative action, the Congressional Club serves as a poignant reminder of life without partisanship. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Congressional Club and their 100 years of friendship and community service.

H.R. 5501, THE TOM LANTOS AND HENRY J. HYDE UNITED STATES GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to voice my strong support for H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008. This important legislation authorizes appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes, including program monitoring, operations research, and impact evaluation research of U.S. HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria programs.

Since the HIV/AIDS epidemic began, 20 million men, women, and children have died from the disease. Forty million around the globe are HIV-positive, and each and every day, another 6,000 people become infected with HIV. Tuberculosis and malaria are devastating diseases in their own right, particularly in developing countries. However, tuberculosis (particularly drug-resistant strains) in the immunocompromised poses a particularly vexing treatment challenge.

HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria are sometimes referred to as the "diseases of poverty;" without question, Africans and various peoples of African descent have been hit the hardest by this global epidemic. In three of the larger countries in the Caribbean—the Bahamas, Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago—more than 2 percent of the adult population is living with HIV. Higher prevalence rates are found only in sub-Saharan Africa, making the Caribbean the second-most affected region in the world.

AIDS is now one of the leading causes of death in some of these countries, with Haiti being the worst affected. An estimated 16,000 lives are lost each year to AIDS in Haiti, and tens of thousands of children have been orphaned by the epidemic. As well, Haiti has the highest per capita tuberculosis burden in the Latin America and Caribbean region. After HIV/AIDS, TB is the country's greatest infectious cause of mortality of both youth and adults, resulting in 6,000 deaths annually.

What must not be overlooked in the global pandemic of HIV/AIDS is the need for preventative care. For example, the Act directs the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to develop a program to facilitate availability of proven microbicides that prevent the transmission of HIV. The Act also creates linkages and requires patient referrals between HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis programs, and creates a new plan to stop tuberculosis by enhancing testing and treatment in countries with high tuberculosis rates. New tactics for attacking drug-resistant tuberculosis are also supported.

Most importantly, the Act provides funding for treatment based on scientific principles and evidence-based practices. It is our duty to battle these life-threatening illnesses, and it is inappropriate to forebear moral judgment or

other inherent prejudices upon those suffering from these terrible diseases. The Act's purpose is to help provide treatment and support to those who are unable to provide these services on their own. It implores us to care for one another, for we are all brothers and sisters in the eyes of our Creator.

Madam Speaker, there is a moral imperative to combat this epidemic, and the late Congressmen Lantos and Hyde, both dear friends and colleagues, fought long and hard on this important issue. Please honor their efforts by supporting H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008.

### STATEMENT ON VETERAN'S LEGISLATION

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about some important legislation that honors the sacrifice and courage of our women who have served and are currently serving in our armed forces.

The Veteran's legislation we considered today provides an opportunity for each of us, regardless of political views, religion, ethnicity, gender, or background to come together, and to recognize and honor our Nation's heroes.

We gather here today, in the midst of ongoing conflict and warfare, to celebrate the dedication of our men and women in uniform. Though we may be divided by our positions on the war in Iraq, we stand together to support our veterans. Our Nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this country. We must be united in seeing that every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine is welcomed back with all the care and compassion this grateful Nation can bestow.

All too many of our veterans are left without the help and support they need to transition from the horrors they bravely face on the front lines of battle to successful civilian life. According to the Veterans Affairs Department, as of 2006, on any given night, 196,000 veterans of all ages were homeless.

The V.A. also reports 400 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan alone have already become homeless, and this figure only takes into account those who have sought services from V.A.-sponsored programs. Experts have predicted that the trauma resulting from the extreme horrors of these modern wars could lead to a surge in homeless veterans in the coming years.

I chose to celebrate one of our heroic daughters of Texas, Specialist Monica L. Brown of the United States Army with House Concurrent Resolution 320 for her efforts earlier this year.

Spec. Brown was the first woman in Afghanistan and only the second female soldier since World War II to receive the Silver Star, the Nation's third-highest medal for valor. This soldier from Lake Jackson, Texas is only 19 years old.

On April 25, 2007, Specialist Brown was part of a four-vehicle convoy patrolling near