

have come forth under the leadership of Representative TED POE, founding co-chair of the Victims' Rights Caucus, to speak out against violence perpetrated against women. Violence against women is one of the most pervasive forms of violence throughout the world today, affecting an estimated one billion women and girls. It is a reprehensible violation of fundamental human rights and a crime against humanity.

According to the United Nations, approximately 1 out of every 3 women in the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. The World Health Organization reports that in some countries, up to 70 percent of women report having been victims of domestic violence at some stage in their lives.

Violence against women has come to be systematically used as a tool of war in some regions, where women are publicly raped, beaten and murdered. In Rwanda, up to half a million women were reportedly raped during the 1994 genocide. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, nearly 60,000 women were raped in a campaign of ethnic cleansing during the war.

Women have become "prey," according to the New York Times, in Guinea, and in the Democratic Republic of Congo it is reportedly more dangerous to be a woman than a soldier.

Shocking stories such as these provide only a snapshot of the complete scope of this deplorable problem and are exemplary, sadly, of the experiences of vast communities of women and girls every day.

It is critical that we in Congress, along with other governments, multilateral organizations and nongovernmental organizations throughout the world, take a strong stand against these crimes. We must not allow violence against women to become a socialized norm.

In 1994 the Violence Against Women Act was signed into law by President Bill Clinton, in an effort to comprehensively acknowledge and address the severity and importance of this insidious problem within the United States. This landmark Act enhanced judicial and law enforcement tools to combat violence in all forms, improved existing services and provided for additional services, economic security, and protection for victims.

This legislation has since served as an example globally on how issues affecting women can be successfully incorporated into public law and social consciousness. Freedom from violence, abuse and intimidation is a basic building block of empowering women. And, when women have a voice, communities and countries are made stronger, more economically prosperous, and more stable.

In 2009, the International Violence Against Women Act was reintroduced, to extend the provisions of VAWA to tackle violence worldwide. This bill would ensure that all women are protected under the same policies and approach now codified for women and girls in the U.S.

VAWA seeks a comprehensive international strategy to reduce and prevent violence against women and girls. This includes assistance to reduce international violence, enhanced U.S. accountability and training of foreign military, police and judicial officials on preventing and responding to violence, and addressing violence in humanitarian relief, peacekeeping, conflict and post-conflict operations.

We in Congress, along with our international partners, must stand up now to take bold action on ensuring that women and girls are no longer targets of brutal violence; violence that destroys families and communities, and has lasting detrimental effects on productivity, health, and many other areas of women's daily lives.

Furthermore, we must work tirelessly to give women a voice to impact the issues that affect them and be agents of change in their societies. When women thrive, families, communities, societies and economies thrive. When women and girls are victimized, families, communities, societies and economies suffer and are profoundly weakened, and the cycle of violence is perpetuated. Violence against women and girls is an assault against us all and we must end it now.

IN RECOGNITION OF RETIRED SAN MATEO POLICE DEPARTMENT CAPTAIN KEVIN RAFFAELLI

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Kevin Raffaelli, who retired as a Captain with the San Mateo Police Department in December of 2008 after 30 years of dedicated and loyal service.

I must note that last year Kevin continued his law enforcement service on an on-call basis and on August 24, 2009 was credited with preventing a pipe bomb suspect from carrying out a potentially catastrophic event at Hillsdale High School. For this heroic action he was awarded the prestigious Medal of Valor, proving again, that some of us get better with age.

The list of commendations for Kevin is long and meritorious and many involve the apprehension of burglary subjects during the commission of a crime. He is well known throughout San Mateo County for his expertise in tactical deployment and special operations at events. He was, for example, commander of the Countywide Tactical Chemical Assault Team, a model operation replicated by other municipalities after 9/11.

He played key roles in coordinating security for numerous dignitaries visiting the San Francisco Bay Area, including President Bill Clinton, President George W. Bush, President Jimmy Carter as well as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Kevin grew up in the city of South San Francisco where his brother, Mark, served as the chief of police, so Kevin's thirst for public safety runs deep in his family.

Madam Speaker, Kevin Raffaelli has served his fellow citizens to the utmost of his ability and he has saved lives in the process. I commend him and wish that he and his wife, Elizabeth, enjoy this well-earned retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. DIANNE ADDINGTON'S DECADES OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF GENISYS CREDIT UNION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dianne Addington, president and CEO of Genisys Credit Union, on her retirement from Genisys. As a Member of Congress it is both my privilege and honor to recognize Ms. Addington for her many years of service and her contributions which have enriched and strengthened our community.

Ms. Addington brings a lifetime of experience to her current position at Genisys Credit Union; a career which began almost 40 years ago as a part-time teller at T&C Federal Credit Union. Through Ms. Addington's ingenuity and hard work she eventually rose to the position of president and CEO of T&C Federal Credit Union, one of the parent companies of Genisys, which she has held for the last 21 years. During her tenure at Genisys, Ms. Addington has been awarded numerous accolades for her commitment to the community including awards from the Sojourner Foundation, the Clinton Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce. In recognition of her many contributions, the Michigan Credit League, MCUL, awarded her the Distinguished Service Award in 2006, for which she was inducted into the Michigan Credit Union Hall of Fame.

Under Ms. Addington's leadership Genisys Credit Union has grown into a thriving local institution, which is deeply involved in strengthening the communities it serves. Genisys is a strong philanthropic partner to Southeast Michigan, having received numerous awards and recognitions from the community for the programs it has sponsored. In keeping with their mission to provide excellent customer service and to support its community, Genisys continues to create programs which highlight the importance of financial literacy to its more than 117,000 members and to the communities it serves. Moreover, through its strong commitment to quality customer service Genisys Credit Union was recognized by the readership of Corp! Magazine as a "Best of Michigan Business" in 2009.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Ms. Dianne Addington for her many contributions to our community and her leadership at Genisys Credit Union. I wish her many more years of health, happiness, and productive service.

CONGRATULATING ANGEL RAY GUERRERO

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, Angel Ray Tudela Guerrero is a teenager in the Northern Mariana Islands, who, despite facing extraordinary health problems in his own life, found