

# HONORING PEACE ACTIVIST DICK HEIDKAMP

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2012*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dick Heidkamp, a former Catholic priest and member of the Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America, an organization that seeks to promote peace and improve the lives of people living in Latin American countries. Throughout his career, Dick has passionately advocated for human rights, peace, and justice for all, with a special focus on Central and South America. Dick has been a member of the Peace and Justice Committee at the Mary Seat of Wisdom Church in Park Ridge, Illinois, for 38 years. He has also advocated for justice at organizations throughout Chicagoland, including Illinois SOA Watch, Eighth Day Center for Justice, Su Casa Catholic Worker, and Cristo Ray High School.

Dick first brought his high energy commitment to Chicago Religious Leadership Network in 1998. He has been a dedicated participant in CRLN, serving on its Board of Directors since 1999. In his time at CRLN, Dick has traveled throughout Latin America promoting justice and peace in underdeveloped countries, seeking to improve the lives of people living in nations such as Cuba, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Colombia. Dick has consistently advocated for policies that would increase standard of

living for all people, recognizing that poverty is not just a tragedy for individuals and families but a key cause of global instability. Dick has fought for a U.S. foreign aid system that considers human rights above militarization. He has also lobbied Congress to end military aid to Colombia and to eliminate the trade embargo of Cuba, arguing that it keeps essential goods away from the Cuban people.

Understanding the plight of impoverished economies, Dick led the CRLN public policy delegation to Washington D.C. for the Jubilee 2000 campaign. That successful campaign pushed to cancel third world debt owed to the wealthiest nations of the world. Looking out for the average citizen, Dick and CRLN believed that this debt cripples already-struggling nations, preventing their governments from supplying services for their people.

Dick has always sought to give a voice to the voiceless. He has been a cheerful and committed public witness for nonviolent action in response to injustice worldwide, bringing attention to some of the Western Hemisphere's most overlooked problems. I congratulate him on his decades of service and his vocal support of justice, peace, and human rights in Latin America.