

South Hadley, is a past president of the Massachusetts Library Association, and served as a delegate to the 1991 White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services.

While an accomplished professional, Connie has also been extremely active in community organizations, serving, at various times, as a president of A Better Chance for Education, chair of Saint Patrick's Parish Council, and president of the South Hadley Women's Club. In recognition of her service she has been awarded the Jaycees Distinguished Service Award, the Lions Club Citizen of the Year Award, and the Joseph W. Long Citizenship Award. And these are just a few highlights of the recognition of Connie's distinguished service to the Pioneer Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in wishing Connie Clancy well as she reflects on and celebrates 35 years with the South Hadley Public Library, as well as wishing her continued success and happiness in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO QUEENS BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special organization as it celebrates 100 years of service to the residents of my district in the Queens Borough of New York City: The Queens Borough Public Library. In keeping with the library's centennial theme, "Lighting the Way," a year-long array of events commemorating this historic occasion is now underway at the Central Library in Jamaica, Queens, and at each of the library's 63 branches located throughout the borough.

The official celebration began on March 19, with Charter Day programs presented throughout the Queens Library system. Charter Day is the anniversary of the signing of the Queens Library charter in 1896 by New York State Librarian Melvil Dewey, the architect of the familiar "Dewey Decimal System."

Mr. Speaker, the Queens Library provides a tremendous service to the 2 million residents of Queens, virtually all of whom live within walking distance of a library branch. It provides more than 18,000 cultural, educational, informational and social programs for Queens' residents. These include access to computerized data bases of social services and job listings, vocational counseling, classes in everything from coping skills to parenting, and acculturation for new immigrants in dozens of the languages spoken in Queens. After-school latchkey programs assist 35,000 Queens children each year to develop good homework habits and learn how to use a library. The library's literacy programs reach thousands more.

Interwoven with all these are the library's technology programs, putting the power of information technology in the hands of people who would otherwise be denied access on economic grounds. According to the department of Commerce, less than 8 percent of central city homes in the northeast have computers with modems.

Mr. Speaker, with all these services, the Queens Library also holds a very prestigious

place among U.S. public libraries: It has the largest circulation of any library in our Nation, and the highest per capita use of New York City's three library systems.

The Queens Library has favorable ratings that most of us in the political community envy. User surveys reveal that almost 90 percent of borough residents have a favorable opinion of the library and what it does for them. More than 60 percent of Queens children visit a Queens Library facility each year. Over 175,000 borough residents turned out for centennial events last month.

Mr. Speaker, the Queens Library is a very special part of Queens as it touches more people than any other Queens service institution. I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the Queens Library today by wishing it a most sincere Happy Birthday and many more to come.

TRIBUTE TO RECIPIENTS OF THE HONOR IMMIGRANT AMERICANS DAY AWARDS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to 11 remarkable individuals from the 11th District of Virginia who were honored at the Honor Immigrant Americans Day Awards Banquet on May 4, 1996 in Rosslyn, VA. The banquet, hosted by the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans [OCA], recognized the enormous contributions which these first generation immigrants have made to our community.

The OCA bestowed the Corporate Award on five of the honorees. These persons received the award for their outstanding achievements in both the work place and in their communities.

Ms. Ruth K. Barham, who works for the Signet Banking Corp., was born in Kobe, Japan. She moved to the United States with her husband in 1969. Ms. Barham joined Signet Banking in 1988 and is currently an administrative assistant in the personal trust division of the Washington metro region.

Ms. ATI Suradja-Shuey, who also works for the Signet Banking Corp. is a native of Indonesia. She came to the United States in 1950, when her father was posted in the Embassy of Indonesia. Ms. Suradja-Shuey joined Signet Banking in 1985 and now acts as an administrative assistant for the private banking division for the metro Washington region.

Mr. Ebrahim (Abe) Bibizadeh came to the United States in 1976 on a scholarship from his native country of Iran. Although the scholarship was discontinued after 3 years, he worked a number of odd jobs until he was able to earn his bachelor of science degree from the Virginia Military Institute. After his graduation, Mr. Bibizadeh began working for Virginia Power as an associate engineer/service representative where he is still an employee. He has also served as a coordinator of the United Way Campaign in Springfield VA, as a member of the Springfield Safety Committee, and is an active member of the Virginia Power's Speakers Bureau. In 1990, Mr. Bibizadeh realized a life-long dream when he started his own travel agency. Both he and

his wife became naturalized U.S. citizens in 1995.

Mr. Hai NamLy immigrated to the United States from Vietnam in 1992. He began working with BTG as a warehouse receiving clerk. An outstanding employee who focuses on quality work, Mr. Ly was recently promoted to the position of netscape administrator for BTG technology systems where he is responsible for fulfilling orders for one of BTG's most important strategic partners.

Mr. Jose Diaz, who works for Walcoff and Associates, Inc., immigrated to the United States from Cuba and earned a bachelor of science degree from Georgetown University in 1992. His career at Walcoff is focused on immigrant outreach and assistance. Mr. Diaz recently enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve in order to give something back to the United States for providing him with educational and career opportunities.

Six of the honorees received the At-Large Award for their outstanding life-long achievements in the community.

Dr. Jorge O. Arnoldson emigrated from Cuba and has practiced pediatric medicine in Fairfax County for over 20 years. He has been a strong supporter and participating member of the Medical Care for Children Partnership [MCCP], providing medical care to children of the working poor. Dr. Arnoldson is a hero to his patients and a genuine hero to the MCCP and his community.

Mr. Phan Nguyen Ngoc Hung is a refugee from Vietnam and is now a local young professional. As one who personally experienced the frustrations of living and working in a totally foreign society, Mr. Hung has undertaken initiatives to help recent immigrants assimilate into American society. He now acts as a "Big Brother" to many refugee youths.

Ms. Sarah K. Joaquin came to the United States from the Philippines in 1960 and has influenced many men and women who have pursued careers in drama, broadcasting, writing, and the arts. She has been a teacher, author and a theatrical producer. Ms. Joaquin has staged plays and special events for the Philippine Embassy and co-authored "Bayan Ko, Bumangon Ka," a musical play presented at the Kennedy Center.

Ms. Air Paukkunen Oulette was born in Finland and registered to vote the day she became an American citizen. Ms. Roulette has been a lifelong volunteer and is a political activist who has made a difference in people's lives and the community she serves. She has worked on numerous political campaigns in Virginia and sits on the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party. Ms. Roulette also represents Providence District on the Community Action Advisory Board of Fairfax County, which advocates the needs of the working poor.

Mr. Michael M. Shen immigrated to the United States from China in 1953. He graduated from Columbia University and attended the Stevens Institute of Technology before joining the Department of Navy in 1963. He received the Civil Service Meritorious Award in 1986 upon his retirement from the Navy after 23 years. Mr. Shen started his own marine engineering consulting firm and in 1990, was awarded a patent for an invention for sealift ships. He is also an active volunteer adult leader in the Boy Scouts of America and received the Silver Beaver Award, the highest and most distinguished award for a volunteer adult leader.

Mr. Hsin (Sam) P. Wong came to the United States from China in 1948. He earned a bachelor's degree from George Washington University and a master of science degree in Electrical Engineering from Brooklyn Polytechnical Institute. Mr. Wong received the prestigious Meritorious Service Award upon his retirement from the Navy after a distinguished civilian career that spanned 31 years. He was one of the founders and developers of the Wah Luck House, a residential apartment complex for the elderly.

Since her founding, our Nation has achieved many successes through the great achievements of the many diverse groups of people who bring their unique cultures and strengths to our shores. I am proud to represent these exceptional individuals who remind us that although we may come from different countries and ends of the earth, we all share a pride in being Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will want to join me in congratulating these 11 immigrant Americans who have contributed in so many ways to the strengthening of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on May 1, 1996, I was detained and did not cast a vote on S. 641, the Ryan White CARE Act conference report. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 145.

CARMEN OLAVARRIETA RECEIVES UNICEF VOLUNTEER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a lady much distinguished for her humanitarian efforts and desire to help others in need, Carmen Olavarrieta. Carmen has been recently recognized by UNICEF and has been selected to receive the Volunteer Distinguished Service Award in 1995-96 for all of her exemplary work and dedication at this world-renowned organization.

Since immigrating to the United States in 1961, Carmen has used her linguistic and teaching talents in order to teach students and even to co-author "Hablemos Espanol," a publication used to teach Spanish to foreign students studying at the University of Madrid and Barcelona.

In addition to serving as a volunteer at UNICEF, Carmen has also given her services to the League Against Cancer, the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association [Latin Division], and the Colombian Emergency Fund, a radio telemarathon to help the children during the volcanic eruption in Armero, Colombia.

Carmen is a very caring person, dedicated not only to her family, but also to those who

are less fortunate. She is a fine example of what "love thy neighbor" is all about.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1996

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Low-Level Radioactive Waste [LLRW] Federal Responsibility Act of 1996.

This legislation would effectively repeal the 1980 Low-level Radioactive Waste Act which requires States to enter in compacts to dispose of LLRW. That legislation, which was endorsed by President Clinton during his tenure as Governor of Arkansas, and Interior Secretary Babbitt during his tenure as Governor of Arizona, has failed to produce solutions to one of the most pressing environmental needs facing our country today, the safe, permanent storage of low-level radioactive waste.

There is no greater illustration of the failure of this statute than the 10-year effort to locate a storage site at Ward Valley, CA. While the Southwestern Disposal Compact, the National Academy of Science, State officials, and other notable scientific and medical authorities, have given the green light to transferring the Federal site to the State of California, the Clinton administration and California's junior Senator have sought to delay the land transfer out of political, rather than safety considerations. They have chosen emotional political demagoguery over sound science.

The pressure to delay the construction of the Ward Valley site arises not from the most noted experts in the field of LLRW storage, but from a well-financed environmental lobby that has made Ward Valley a political symbol to demonstrate its control over the Clinton White House.

The University of California—which has nine campuses across the State—is one of the largest generators of low-level radioactive waste. These campuses produce a combined 22,065 cubic feet of waste material annually. The majority of this material is presently stored on or near each campus. The two largest producers of waste are located in the urban centers of Los Angeles and San Francisco. Other waste producers, including hospitals and biotech companies, currently store their waste in temporary storage facilities throughout the State. Needless to say, these temporary sites do not meet the test of providing safe, long-term permanent storage. In fact, a fire came very close to igniting waste in a highly populated suburb of Los Angeles during the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

Let me make one point abundantly clear: California's junior Senator is placing in jeopardy the health and safety of the public she claims to care so much about. With the assistance of the Secretary of the Interior, she has orchestrated a campaign to delay the transfer of Federal land to the State. She has not proposed an alternative site. She ducks, weaves, bobs, and delays, but she does nothing to address this long-term problem that affects potentially every citizen in California. Rather than

addressing solutions, she ignores the advice and counsel of those who know the subject best and actively pursues a political agenda for its own sake, attempting to frighten, distort, and confuse the public every step of the way.

Presently, in the State of California, there is a very real need to find a permanent storage facility for low-level radioactive waste presently being stored in over 2,000 locations across the state. We can wait no longer. In lieu of that, the only responsible action is to determine locations for safe, interim storage sites. And where will they be built, Senator? Los Angeles? San Francisco? What alternatives do you suggest to responsibly address this problem? I believe California would be better served by less political rhetoric and demagoguery and greater emphasis on commonsense, pragmatic solutions.

It is now painfully clear, based upon recent words and actions, that the Clinton administration, like California's junior Senator, believes that the Federal Government is best suited to act as caretaker of low-level radioactive waste. After a great deal of thought and series of discussions with noted experts, I have decided to grant the administration its wish. The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Federal Responsibility Act of 1996 provides the Secretary of the Interior—one of the strongest advocates of waste storage and leading opponents of the Ward Valley site—the authority and sole responsibility of disposing of low-level waste. It is time for the Clinton administration to demonstrate through actions and not empty political rhetoric that it cares more about public health and safety than financial promises made to its Presidential campaign by the most extreme environmentalist.

California is now close to realizing an environmental crisis that endangers the public health and safety of its citizens. In the 16 years since enactment of the Low-level Radioactive Waste Act, not one new compact facility has begun receiving waste. That approach, once favored by the President and the Secretary of the Interior, has failed. This legislation, which I am introducing today, grants the Secretary the sole responsibility to dispose of low-level radioactive waste. It is time for the Secretary to act. It is time to quit the emotional demagoguery of California's junior Senator which does nothing more than further endanger the citizens of our State.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GHENT VFW

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to commemorate the golden anniversary of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 5933. This post, I am proud to say, is based in Ghent, NY, in the heart of my congressional district, and is celebrating its 50th year of service. This post personifies the outstanding efforts of the entire nationwide membership to promote a strong national defense and to help veterans and their families. And that is one reason I was so pleased to be awarded the VFW National Commander's Congressional Award several years ago.

The VFW, Mr. Speaker, has been an organization of exceptional merit and service to the