

Street Award. One of them, Saratoga Springs, NY, is in the 22d Congressional District I have the privilege of representing.

The award was well earned. Saratoga Springs has long enjoyed its distinction as a city of thoroughbred racing and fine mansions. But by the 1970's, the city's charm was starting to fade. Fortunately, Saratogians are justifiably proud of their city, and a group of them decided to restore the city's splendor to its fullest.

About a quarter century ago building facades were crumbling and the downtown was lifeless. Fear that a recently constructed nearby supermall would drain the city's commercial blood, a group of citizens responded by forming what was known as the plan of action. Besides encouraging ideas on renovation, plan of action led to a special assessment district, a group of 82 downtown property owners on and along Broadway who paid an additional tax each year for improvements.

These efforts, in turn, led to a spring flowerplanting program and the gathering of residents 4 days a week to dig up sidewalks and plant 250 trees along Broadway. The city also boasts of a new urban center that attracts tourists even outside the racing season.

To make a long story short, Mr. Speaker, the total value of downtown property was valued at \$15 million in the early 1970's and is valued at \$63 million today.

The summer season of thoroughbred racing and Saratoga Performing Arts Center always drew tourists to Saratoga Springs. But the city's finest sons and daughters were not content until they once again had a city worthy of those two attractions.

As the recipient of a Great American Main Street Award, Saratoga Springs will receive a plaque to display along the street, a certificate, a trophy, and a \$5,000 award to be put in a revolving trust controlled by the city's Preservation Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, the spirit that restored Saratoga Springs is the spirit that made America the greatest country in the world. I'm proud of the city, privileged to represent her residents in Congress, and fortunate to have my major district office on Broadway.

Let us now, Mr. Speaker, add our own voices to the growing chorus of tributes to Saratoga Springs, NY, as one of this Nation's truly fine cities.

A TRIBUTE TO TERRI MCNAIR

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true American hero. Terri McNair, a constituent of mine, is the living embodiment of the spirit of charity and giving that this Nation was built on. She has devoted her career, and much of her free time, to easing the pain and the burden on people who are less fortunate.

As the volunteer president of the Community Center in Katonah, NY, Terri McNair coordinates an operation that provides food, clothing, literacy programs, career counseling, and most importantly, a helping hand and word of encouragement to needy people in my district and hometown. The Katonah Community Center is a place of refuge for many people, and she is a beacon of hope for those people who seek out this refuge.

Terri McNair's commitment to the less fortunate does not end when she goes to her full-time job. She is a social worker who coordinates the Family Violence Program at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. As a social worker at New York's only maximum security women's prison, Terri McNair works with inmates who have been both the perpetrators and the victims of violence and she is in a key position to help these women stop this endless cycle of violence.

For her commitment to making her community and our world a better place, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman whose commitment to the less fortunate is unmatched and whose charity and compassion is truly awe-inspiring. Terri McNair, on behalf of myself, my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives and all of the people whose lives you have touched, I want to offer you my most sincere thanks. Terri, you truly are an American hero.

IN HONOR OF SHELL EXPLORER POST 9999, DEER PARK, TX

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the members of Shell Explorer Post No. 9999 in Deer Park, TX, for their many achievements and contributions to our community.

The Shell Explorer Post is sponsored by the Shell Oil Refinery located in Deer Park, TX, and is part of the East Central Exploring District of the Sam Houston Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The post is open to young men and women, ages 14 to 20, who wish to be part of a vibrant, growing, fun-filled organization that explores career opportunities and encourages community involvement.

Shell Explorers learn the value of community service, develop an awareness of our fragile environment, and establish an understanding of the strength we have as a people that fosters pride in themselves and their ability to do good work, both as individuals and as a team.

During the 1994-95 season, they brought their hard work and dedicated service to a wide assortment of community projects.

To help improve our environment, the Explorers cleaned up a stretch of beach front for the fifth year in a row. They then turned their attention to the Armand Bayou Nature Center where they helped to build gates, repair fences, and clear brush vines. Through such activities, the Explorers learned about the ecosystem and wildlife while helping to beautify our community for all of us.

Senior citizens hold a special place in the hearts of the Explorers, and they go out of their way year after year to help better their lives. Whether it be removing old broken sheetrock, helping a carpenter to install a new kitchen counter and sink, patching or painting, the Explorers are always there to extend their valuable services.

Besides doing handiwork, the Explorers can always be relied on to share a friendly smile. During the Christmas holiday, they delivered hot, hearty meals to homebound seniors in Pasadena, Deer Park, La Porte, and the Deer Park Activities Center. The Explorers also brought Christmas cards and kind words for those who lived far from families and were alone for the season.

The Shell Explorers are particularly proud of their \$1,000 donation to the Boys and Girls Harbor Youth Facility in Morgan's Point, TX. Through several car washes, the Explorers had raised this money to finance their yearly activities. However, they later learned that the Boys and Girls Harbor Youth Facility, which helps orphans and troubled youth, was in need so the Shell Explorers donated the funds to help the Facility.

Career opportunities are also a focal point for the Explorers. They visited KRBE Radio to learn the tricks of sound mixing, the art of promotions, and other career opportunities for those interested in a future in broadcasting. The Explorers invite guest speakers to discuss their careers as well as to instill the value of good study habits and the importance of a college education.

The Shell Explorers provide an example of good citizenship for all of us. Through the years, they have learned that by serving others they serve themselves and each member has gone forth with the knowledge that he or she had made a difference.

IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by Tedra Guyett and Harmony Hariman, high school students from Washington County, VT, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

My name is Harmony Hariman, and I'm a Student Area Coordinator for Amnesty International, and I'm an intern with the Vermont Refugee Assistance.

My name is Tedra Guyette; I'm also a Student Area Coordinator for Vermont, and I'm also an intern with Vermont Refugee Assistance.

The first thing we really want to talk about is a Bill that was passed on March 21st in the House, HR 2202. That's really upsetting to me, because it effectively banned people who have genuine political claims . . . from ever entering the U.S., or ever staying, because . . . When a person flees their country with the fear of safety, and they come here, do you think they're going to come off the plane and say, "Whoops, we better get a lawyer and file some papers?" No, they're worried about their safety. And often spend months trying to save their families, and just getting settled, which pretty much bans them from ever filing. The Bill HR 2202 would ensure that any immigrant or refugee who is caught entering or crossing the border illegally will be permanently barred from ever legally entering the country. Yet there are instances where a refugee has no other option. Immigrants lack knowledge about specific opportunities of become a citizen, and often do not understand the process itself, or how to negotiate the I.N.S. bureaucracy.

There is a section of the bill that says that immigrants who are here illegally, or undocumented immigrants, are unable to receive health care through out public system.

And there's a myth that the reason that the health care system is in the ground is because it's the immigrants, it's the poor people that are just dragging it down. But really, immigrants use health care less than the general public. A 1992 U.S. Dept. of Justice report found that immigrants use federally funded services less than the general population, and there have been several studies that show that it's not immigrants that are pulling us down, it's everyone else's stupidity and ignorance about the immigrants. Most hospital care costs for undocumented immigrants were paid by private insurance, which was 47%; or by the immigrants and their families themselves, which was 45%. That only leaves 8% of the immigrants in the country that were paid for by the government.

This Bill would also deny immigrants benefits under any means-tested programs funded by the federal government, or by state government, as well as being ineligible to receive grants, to receive Earned Income tax credits, to receive SSI benefits, Medicaid, Food Stamps, housing assistance, unemployment benefits, college financial aid, among others. Although, undocumented immigrants alone paid \$7 billion per year in taxes. In 1990, undocumented immigrants paid \$2.7 billion in Social Security, and \$160 million in Unemployment Insurance; and this is according to a publication by the Urban Institute. (signal)

I'm just going to do a quick story about a man that I know. He's 18 years old, and is from Sudan, and is now lost in the "war zone" of the American immigration system. He's actually living in Woodbury; he is apparently some kind of dangerous criminal because he came here with a false passport; so, now he's in jail, and the first time I met him I asked him, "Well, how long will you be here?" meaning, how long would he be staying with family that he was staying with. And he misinterpreted me to mean, "How long will you be in the U.S.," and just said, "immigration," and shrugged his shoulders. And that was probably the saddest thing I've ever seen in my life, was this man—just lost.

Due to time restrictions, we are unable to address all the myths and . . . overstatements, but I can say that to blame immigrants is to scapegoat an easy, unpopular target, and to divert responsibility from more proper parties.

Congressman Sanders: Thank you very much. Let me ask you a couple of questions: what does political asylum mean, and why is that important?

Answer. Well, to me, it means someone who because of their benefits, because of their actions, needs to flee their home, needs to leave, whether it's because they were against their government in this country . . . like the [last] girl was saying, or the wrong color, in the wrong country; come to a place where they can be safe, where they can wake up in the morning and know that, "okay, nobody's going to shoot me today." That's what asylum means.

Congressman Sanders: Okay. Were you immigrants?

Answer. Yes, my family was . . . [there's] a history of immigrants in my family.

Answer. Being that we are white, I think we are all immigrants, in this country.

Congressman Sanders: so, essentially what you're saying is that everybody other than the Native Americans are immigrants if we are in this country?

Answer. That's true.

Answer. That's correct.

Congressman Sanders: Okay. Thank you very much—excellent presentation.

UN HABITAT MEETING: A BOOST FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN TURKEY?

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, Habitat II, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements is now underway in Istanbul, Turkey. World leaders, international media, and thousands of NGO representatives from around the planet have assembled to address critical global issues related to sustainable development.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to Habitat II's global significance, the meeting offers an unprecedented opportunity to further develop civil society and democracy in Turkey and raise international awareness of the serious problems which prevent Turkey from realizing its great potential. The gathering affords Turkish NGO's—the building blocks of civil society—an unparalleled opportunity to network, organize coalitions, and develop advocacy strategies. Among NGO's attending the conference, there is a palpable sense that Habitat will catalyze efforts to advance civil society, democracy, and human rights in Turkey. Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that this important conference will also result in concerted international efforts to support human rights and democracy in Turkey and the NGO's which support these ideals.

Mr. Speaker, Istanbul is an appropriate venue to examine sustainable development. A former seat of empires and home to a multitude of cultures and people, Istanbul is a dynamic urban bridge between Europe and Asia, Christianity and Islam, antiquity and the 21st century. From modern high rises and opulent Ottoman palaces to sprawling shanty towns and exploding garbage dumps, Istanbul encompasses all that is wonderful and frightening about today's urban environments.

Mr. Speaker, Istanbul's unforgettable character owes much to a great Ottoman hero, the 16th century soldier-turned-architect, Sinan. During a prolific career that spanned six decades, Sinan-designed many of Turkey's most well-known landmarks. Yet he also built structures throughout the Ottoman empire which were critical to daily lives, including: bridges, wells, warehouses, tombs, aqueducts, baths, residences, and caravan stops. In Istanbul alone, more than 300 Sinan-designed structures have been identified.

Yet while Sinan's heritage provides an impressive Habitat backdrop, the travails of a contemporary Turkish architect reveal a not-so-proud legacy, one that reminds us that Turkey faces severe strains which threaten democracy and the development of civil society.

Yavuz Onen is general secretary of the Turkish Architect's Association and president of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey. The Foundation documents human rights abuses and operates four treatment centers for victims of torture in Turkey. In 1995, Mr. Onen accepted awards on behalf of the Foundation from the International Human Rights Law Group and the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights. Foundation leaders and doctors face constant prosecution and harassment. The Turkish Government's persecution of the Foundation and other NGO's reflect a larger effort to criminalize and silence groups

and individuals critical of government human rights practices, military abuses of the Kurdish population, Turkey's founder Ataturk, or state institutions.

Mr. Speaker, a more immediate attempt to silence criticism during Habitat is evidenced by the police closure of a building used by 35 NGO's boycotting the conference to protest government human rights and Kurdish policies. These groups have organized an alternative Habitat to publicly protest the destruction of almost 3,000 Kurdish villages and creation of almost 3 million refugees. These groups rightly contend that such policies are incompatible with the goals of Habitat and reflect serious threats to democracy and development of civil society in Turkey. Yet instead of allowing open discussion of these serious issues, the Government of Turkey has once again chosen to respond with repression—in full view of the international community.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey has ratified numerous U.N. and European human rights conventions, committed itself to OSCE standards and principles, and is seeking closer ties with the West. Unfortunately, efforts by successive Turkish governments to strengthen democratic institutions and institute legal reforms have failed to resolve underlying sources of human rights problems.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey is an important strategic and economic ally. As a NATO member proximate to the Balkans, Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Middle East, Turkey figures prominently in regional efforts to address water, energy, arms control, terrorism, and environmental issues. Yet while Turkey's government and people are poised to reap political, economic, and strategic windfalls, the potential perils for Turkey, should it move back on the democratic path, loom equally large.

Mr. Speaker, these dangers are very real. As Habitat II convenes, Turkey's minority coalition government verges on collapse, incapacitated since its inception by bitter personal rivalries and corruption charges. The Constitutional Court recently invalidated the parliamentary vote which approved the centrist coalition, and a no-confidence vote this Thursday will likely bring down the government. Turkey's military leaders, who seized power on three occasions since 1960, increasingly express dissatisfaction with the status quo and rising popularity of the Muslim-based Refah Party. Coup rumors abound in the Turkish press. As confidence in the government ebbs, support for Muslim fundamentalist and nationalist parties has increased. Should moderate, secular parties lose power, Turkey could turn away from the West, undergo a military coup or face deepening instability and political violence. All these scenarios set back democracy and civil society, threaten regional stability, and pose obstacles to Turkey's moving closer to Europe and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the Turkish Government's intolerance of NGO's protesting village evacuations and other Kurdish or human rights issues has already marred Habitat. While participants in the official and NGO forums will reportedly not be prosecuted for remarks that violate Turkish law, it is unclear whether individuals and groups speaking outside the meeting will face charges. Mr. Speaker, this leads me to ask what will happen after Habitat, when NGO's energized by the experience attempt to utilize newly established links and implement strategies developed during the conference? It will be very important for all Habitat