

IN HONOR OF NANCY J.
WEISGERBER

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise and pay tribute to Nancy Weisgerber, who has served the Fairfax County public schools system for the past 26 years as a teacher, counselor, and principal. June 3, 1997 marks the retirement of this exceptional member of our local community, who has dedicated years of service to Fairfax County, and its students.

After receiving her bachelors degree from Muskingum College in 1964, Nancy began her long and distinguished career in Fairfax County, as a health and physical education teacher at Falls Church High School. She received her masters of education from the University of Virginia in 1971, and became a counselor at Falls Church High School. In 1976 she was appointed an assistant principal at Falls Church. In 1989, she was appointed to her current position as principal of J.E.B. Stuart High School, a high school noted for its ethnic diversity and innovative programming. In 1995, Nancy was recognized for her priceless knowledge and skills by her election by her peers to the position of president of the Fairfax County High School Principals.

Nancy's numerous, notable accomplishments with the Fairfax County Public Schools has helped mold the future of the school system. Her participation in numerous conferences and seminars such as the NASSP Assessment Center Seminar, Family Life Education Advisory Committee and the Marketing Education Advisory Board has shaped the educational curriculum in our community. In particular, Nancy recently participated in the Workforce 2000 Advocacy Council to determine how best to equip our students for their future in our changing economy.

Nancy's membership in the Phi Delta Kappa Educational Fraternity, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Association for Supervision of Curriculum & Development, and the Northern Virginia Secondary School Administrators Association has given her valuable knowledge and insight into the changing nature of education today.

Nancy has enriched our community through the many presentations she has given, and her team building skills, bringing business partnerships to her school and bringing an ethnically diverse community together. Nancy has offered a wide variety of material on counseling, the international baccalaureate, block scheduling and on the role of a principal. In particular, her seminar on violence prevention instructed schools on how to provide a safe and drug-free environment for learning.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me in applauding Nancy Weisgerber for her extraordinary efforts to provide the citizens of Fairfax County a school system which brings quality education to our children. Although her presence will be sorely missed, we wish her great success in her future endeavors.

HONORING SUSAN AMIRIAN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Susan Amirian of Clifton, NJ, who is being honored tonight by the Clifton Optimist Club in recognition of her outstanding community service to the city of Clifton. Susan began the fundraising efforts to obtain high-tech infrared imaging fire helmets for the Clifton Fire Department which cost \$25,000 each and thanks to her extraordinary efforts, Clifton firefighters are now able to see through smoke, observe body heat from victims, notice heat behind walls, floors and ceilings and move swiftly through unfamiliar surroundings. In recognition of her accomplishments, Susan has received numerous awards statewide and was Citizen of the Year for the New Jersey Firefighters Association.

Susan is a native of New York State and received a citation from the mayor of New York and the New York Police Department for volunteer work at the 72d Precinct in Brooklyn. She obtained her bachelor of fine arts from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and received her master's degree from the New School for Social Research. She was also a regional finalist in the White House Fellowship Program during the administration of President Ronald Reagan.

Always eager to serve the community, Susan served on the Crop Walk committee this past fall to raise funds for the hungry. She also conducts workshops on recycled materials at the Hackensack Meadowlands Environment Center and takes part in first night activities in Montclair. Susan is also on the board of Clifton Hospice and is a Sunday school teacher and church council member at the First Lutheran Church. Currently, she is assistant director of the office of publications at Montclair State University and is responsible for the production of catalogs, manuals, brochures, newsletters, and posters for the university.

Susan and her husband, Armen, an electronics shop worker at the Metropolitan Opera Co. and freelance writer, are the proud parents of their 10-year-old son, Garen.

Mr. Speaker, I would like for you to join me, our colleagues, Susan's family and friends and the city of Clifton in recognizing Susan Amirian's outstanding and invaluable service to the community as she is presented with the Clifton Optimist Club's Judge Joseph J. Salerno Award.

**AN AWARD FOR NATURAL SOCIAL
WORKERS FROM THE UNIVER-
SITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 1997

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the first Crystal Stair Award from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work. This award is given to natural social workers—those volunteers and professionals from any discipline who have

worked passionately for social justice and the elimination of prejudice and oppression.

The four recipients include Marian Wright Edelman, a nationally known advocate for children, C.B. Kimmins, an activist from a drug ridden Philadelphia neighborhood, and Jeffrey Lobach and Craig Trebilcock, two attorneys whose pro bono work assisted Chinese refugees.

Marian Wright Edelman is founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund [CDF], based in Washington, DC. She has been an advocate for disadvantaged Americans her entire professional career, which began as the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar. Ms. Edelman founded the Washington Research Project, a public interest law firm and the parent organization of the Children's Defense Fund, which under her leadership has become a strong national voice for children and families.

C.B. Kimmins, is executive director and chief of staff of Mantua Against Drugs, Inc., and chief executive officer and president of C.B.'s Role Models, both based in Philadelphia. Mr. Kimmins has become a Philadelphia institution, who has made Mantua Against Drugs, Inc., well known beyond these city limits through his efforts to bring diverse elements of the community together to work with law enforcement to wage the war on drugs. Mr. Kimmins has the ability to empower neighborhoods to take back their communities.

Jeffrey D. Lobach and Craig T. Trebilcock are attorneys from York, PA, who have provided pro bono advocacy for years on behalf of Chinese refugees from the freighter *Golden Venture*, who were detained in York County prison. During Mr. Lobach's presidency of the York County Bar Association, Mr. Trebilcock chaired its pro bono committee on Chinese refugees. Mr. Lobach is a 1981 graduate of the law school at Penn.

Each of these recipients worked tirelessly against significant odds for the benefit of others. They have demonstrated extraordinary leadership in moving us forward collectively as a society. In doing so, they have touched all our lives and exemplified the spirit of the Langston Hughes poem "Mother to Son" from which the award derives its name.

In his poem, Hughes writes of a mother's encouragement to her son: In a world where "life ain't been no crystal stair," a natural social worker struggles unremittingly to bring light from darkness and create a crystal staircase, one stair at a time. It is this quality of determination and commitment that the Crystal Stair Award recognizes.

The award, given April 16, 1997, highlights the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work and the profession of social work, encouraging and inspiring others to join this effort. The award's benefits go well beyond the important work of calling attention to the selfless efforts of these recipients. Funds for scholarships and research will also be generated because of this award to further the objectives of Penn's School of Social Work.

I hope that all Members will take time to learn more about this important award and encourage its recognition as our Nation moves forward in its effort to mobilize citizens to volunteer time to their communities.