

IN HONOR OF THE RETIRED AND
SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
OF ESSEX COUNTY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I've always considered it a great privilege of this job to learn about and recognize the tremendous achievements and service of various civic programs that define our communities and what it means to be an American. Well, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you about one such program in Essex County in the beautiful Adirondack mountains of my congressional district which does so much for their communities and for the older, retired residents of their towns.

I'm talking about the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Essex County which is celebrating its 23d year of service. The RSVP program, as it's called for short, is a national program which has a dual purpose that makes it so unique. First, it offers a way for retired persons, age 55 and over, to stay active and contribute to the welfare of their community and neighbors. Mr. Speaker, we all know how important it is to remain active after we leave the working world. There is nothing more tragic than to see capable, enthusiastic people become virtual shut-ins just because they no longer get to the workplace. All too often in this day and age, we get caught up in the rat race and become consumed by our job or career. Well, this program makes sure that doesn't happen to those who upon retirement may have the time to devote to helping others who really can't help themselves. And in areas like Essex County, that is so important. You know, this program really dates back to the days of the pioneer spirit when Americans and neighbors looked out for one another and for the betterment of their community.

Now one might ask how much this program really accomplishes. Listen to this, Mr. Speaker. Over the 23 years that RSVP has been active in Essex County, it has grown from 95 volunteers who provided 6,000 volunteer hours of service, to 530 volunteers performing a whopping 75,817 hours of service. Imagine that. Imagine what can be done with that many hours committed by capable, experienced adults who volunteer because they really want to help out. There's no limit really.

And that's another great part. These volunteers commit time when they can and they have proven to be reliable, dependable public servants. In other words, these giving men and women have seized the opportunity to help solve various community problems by capitalizing on their wealth of lifetime experiences and wisdom. That's the true spirit of public service and giving.

Mr. Speaker, I have one word that describes all the blessed volunteers who have orchestrated and participated in this program throughout its 23 year history, heroes. I have always judged people based on what they return to their community and by that measure, all who have given of their time during their well-deserved retirement are not only heroes, but great Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the Essex County RSVP will hold their annual volunteer recognition ceremony this coming Wednesday, September 24, 1997. The recognition of their peers and their

community is certainly warranted. However, I ask that you and all Members of the House join me at this time in paying our own tribute to this proven, outstanding program. It defines those uniquely American qualities of pride, patriotism, and voluntarism that make this country great. May it continue on throughout all of our lifetimes and beyond. Congratulations to all their volunteers for a job well done.

WELDON RECOGNIZES ANOTHER
MILESTONE FOR QVC

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of my colleagues to a major company in southeastern Pennsylvania as it approaches an important milestone in its history—QVC, Inc.

In the 1890's, the Sears Roebuck & Co. produced our Nation's first mail order catalog, revolutionizing the lives of millions of Americans by allowing them to shop from home through mail. Nearly 100 years later, QVC has established itself as a pioneer in the home shopping industry, providing consumers with the luxury of shopping from the comfort of their own living room.

Thanks to QVC, customers nationwide have the luxury of shopping at home for items that range from fashion and jewelry to home furnishings and electronics. Not only can individuals make purchases while watching products demonstrated live on television, but now consumers can make purchases through QVC's interactive shopping over the Internet.

Founded in 1986 by Joseph Segal, QVC quickly established a national name for itself, racking up \$112 million in revenue in its first full fiscal year of sales, a new American business history record. In just 7 years, QVC became the No. 1 U.S. electronic retailer.

On Wednesday, September 24, QVC will reach yet another milestone, as it celebrates the grand opening gala of its new state-of-the-art broadcast facility, Studio Park. Located in West Chester, PA, Studio Park will usher in the next century for QVC, allowing it to continue to both expand and improve the quality service that it provides the American public.

And QVC is indeed expanding. In fact, QVC's customers continue to grow by over 100,000 individuals per month. And where QVC shipped more than 51 million products to customers throughout the country in 1996, the company expects that number to increase to 63 million by the end of this year. That's two packages of every second of every day for an entire year.

And QVC's expansion has had a profound impact upon the region's local economy. First established in West Chester, PA, QVC has remained true to its founder's roots. As the studio expanded from 20 people when it first opened in 1986, to 197 employees 11 weeks later, to roughly 7,000 employees 11 years later, it has been the residents of the Delaware Valley who have felt the benefits of increased employment.

The expansion and success of QVC, I am sure my colleagues in the House will agree, is simply amazing. Through close interaction between the management and the work force,

QVC has established itself as a nationally respected company. I ask my colleagues to join me today in applauding QVC for its past accomplishments, while wishing the company and its employees continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR.
EPHRAIN KAHN

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 1997

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, with sadness and a powerful sense of loss, to pay tribute to Dr. Ephrain Kahn, a man who was well respected by many in our bay area community. Dr. Kahn's unwavering belief in justice, peace, and equality for all enabled him to become an innovative leader during the changing political climate from the 1960's to the present. Although common place now, his ideas of school integration, the dangers of pesticides, and the need for protecting our environment were considered radical and caused him to clash with several agencies during the governorship of Ronald Reagan. However, Dr. Kahn did not allow social pressure to block him from what he believed to be true and just. Ephrain once said, in response to negative publicity, "I have the hide of an armadillo when I know I am right." He was a strong advocate for universal health care and was consistently active in national organizations concerned with issues of nuclear arms control, civil rights, and environmental hazards. His dedication inspired everyone with whom he came in contact.

Dr. Kahn received his medical degree from New York University College of Medicine in 1940 in time to serve with the 77th Infantry Division in the Pacific during World War II. He returned to complete his residency in 1948 at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx, and with his family moved to northern California. In addition to his work as a physician, his interest in public health led him to obtain a master's degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley, after which he served as an environmental epidemiologist in the California Department of Health. He was named by Gov. Ronald Reagan to head a task force investigating mercury levels among fish and fowl in the delta and the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. It was in that capacity that he ignited a controversy within the agencies regulating California waterways.

Ephrain Kahn was greatly valued as a giant of compassion by all who knew him. He will be missed by his patients, his family, his friends, and by all of us who had the opportunity to work with him and to know him. He leaves behind his wife of 57 years, Barbara Kahn; his two daughters, Kathleen and Georgia; his son, Michael, and two grandsons, David and Ethan. Dr. Kahn lived 81 years and in those years he spent most of it attempting to make this world in which we live a healthier, safer, and more humane place. We will all miss him profoundly.