

contributed to the nourishment and strengthening of our community. Her memory was honored on October 17 for her outstanding contributions to the communities at the Eighth Annual Salute to Excellence Awards Dinner hosted by the 163d Street Improvement Council, Inc. in New York.

Years of experience, dedication, and hard work led to her 1984 appointment as director of Community Boards and Affairs in the administration of Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer, the position she held at the time of her passing last year.

Previously, Ms. Hamilton served as the second vice chairperson for the Bronx Model Cities Program Committee from 1968 to 1972. She assisted in the development of proposals in physical development, education, multi-services, safety and sanitation for the Bronx. Her involvement in the Model Cities Program inspired and motivated her to pursue a career in urban planning.

Besides her service for the Model Cities Program, Ms. Hamilton was a member of Community Board #3 which includes the Morrisania community. She served as chairperson of the board and went on to become its district manager.

From 1973 to 1981, Ms. Hamilton was director of Labor Sherman Daycare in the Bronx. The center serves 235 children in daycare and after-school programs. She stressed the need to provide educational and housing workshops to parents and their children at the center. Many parents who initially were welfare recipients had enrolled in college by the time their children graduated from the daycare center.

Ms. Hamilton was born in 1934 in Norfolk, VA. She relocated to the Bronx in 1958 and attended Hunter College where she earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in urban planning.

She married Winston Hamilton and had four daughters, Pamela, Winifred and twins Joan and Joy. She had four grandchildren Malik, Yusef, Shani and Ziad. Ms. Hamilton left a legacy of courage, faith, hope, responsibility, love, and commitment to her family and community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying homage to the life of Veralyne Hamilton, who still remains with us through the many people she served and touched.

CONCERNS REMAIN OVER CASSINI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, in the weeks prior to the launch of the Cassini spacecraft, I heard from many of my constituents who were greatly concerned about the use of plutonium in Cassini and its potential hazard.

I wrote to President Clinton before the launch, urging him to review the safety of the mission and address the concerns of Americans worried about the possibility of exposure to plutonium. I was greatly disappointed that he chose not to do so before Cassini was launched.

Thankfully, Cassini was launched without incident. But there are still important concerns

about the use of nuclear power in space that need to be addressed. Furthermore, Cassini's trajectory will take it close to earth, and many are worried that this poses an additional threat of nuclear contamination.

I have been asked to submit a resolution, adopted by the City of Monterey on October 7, in opposition to the Cassini mission. It represents the concerns of many of my constituents, and raises important questions about the Cassini mission. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that this resolution be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CITY OF MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

Resolution No. 97-185

Resolution of the City Council of the City of Monterey calling for the cancellation of the planned National Aeronautics and Space Agency [NASA] Cassini Space Probe launch and communicating the council's position to President Clinton and our congressional Representatives.

Whereas, as elected officials of the City of Monterey dedicated to the safety and protection of the public, we call for cancellation of the launch of the Cassini Space Probe which plans to carry 72.3 pounds of Plutonium-238 into space; and

Whereas, NASA's environmental impact statement outlines several scenarios in which Plutonium might be released including an explosion of the Titan IV rocket, which is to loft the Cassini Space Probe into orbit, or an explosion of a small rocket, a Centaur, which is to propel the Probe on to Saturn; and

Whereas, presently NASA's environmental impact statement warns that "approximately five billion of the estimated seven to eight billion world population could receive ninety-nine percent or more of the radiation" if an inadvertent reentry occurred; and

Whereas, scientists and medical experts indicate that the "number of cancer doses are so high as to make calculations extraneous" and that the speed at which the Cassini Space Probe would hit the Earth's atmosphere would completely disintegrate the Probe and release all the Plutonium; and

Whereas, there is no medical disaster plan in place that could be adequate in case of a Cassini Space Probe accident; and

Whereas, worldwide fallout would contaminate much of the globe for generations and severely damage all living things; and

Whereas, there is no need to use deadly Plutonium at all due to a breakthrough in the development of new high-performance solar silicon cells for use in the future for demanding deep space missions. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the City Council of the City of Monterey calls on the President and the Congress immediately to stop NASA from launching the Cassini Space Probe.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, due to the serious illness of my sister and her passing on October 10, I was unable to be in Washington, DC from October 7, through October 9. I would appreciate having the record reflect that I would have cast the following votes, had I been present:

H.R. 1122: PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION—YES ON VOTES 499 AND 500

Over the years I have been a strong supporter of the unborn and consistently cast my vote in favor of pro-life issues. This is an issue that I feel very strongly about. I voted in favor of H.R. 1122 earlier this year, and during the 104th Congress. Had I been present, I would have again voted yes on H.R. 1122 to end the horrific practice of partial birth abortion.

H.R. 901: AMERICAN LAND SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION ACT—NO ON VOTES 498, 501, 502, 503 AND YES ON 504

As a cosponsor of H.R. 901, I strongly support this measure which would ensure congressional approval is given before any U.S. land is designated as a World Heritage Site, a Biosphere Reserve, or is given any other U.N. designation. Had I been present, I would have opposed any weakening amendments and voted for final passage of this important legislation.

H.R. 2158: VA, HUD APPROPRIATIONS ACT CONFERENCE REPORT—YES ON 505

I supported this measure when it was passed by the House, earlier this year. This final version continues to increase support for veterans programs while controlling spending in other areas as agreed to in the Balance Budget Act.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT ON H.R. 2169—YES ON 506

I would have supported this motion to instruct the conferees on the State Department Reauthorization Act to prohibit the use of any Federal funding by private organizations that promote abortion. Once again, I would have voted yes to protect the unborn and prevent any efforts to promote abortions worldwide.

H.R. 2169: TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS ACT—YES ON 507 AND 510

While I support efforts for long-term improvements to the surface transportation funding system, I was pleased that this bill increases spending for infrastructure necessities next year, and would have voted yes.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL—YES ON 509

H.R. 2607: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT—NO ON 511, 512 AND YES ON 508, 513, AND 514

I would have supported this measure because it includes important, necessary changes to the education system in the District of Columbia, such as the implementation of voucher programs for students. I would have voted against efforts to prevent the voucher program from moving forward. Had I been present, I would have also opposed the Vento amendment that in my view, would delay repair work at dilapidated District schools.

IMMIGRANT ADOPTIVE CHILDREN IMMUNIZATION

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Chairman LAMAR SMITH for committing his time and effort to swift passage of H.R. 2464. Chairman SMITH played a vital role in responding to the concerns of adoptive parents and moving H.R. 2464 through the committee process. I would also like to thank my colleague, Rep. DELAHUNT, for his active interest in this issue and for his support of this legislation.

One of our Nation's resounding successes is our vaccination policy. By age 6, almost 95 percent of children in the United States have received their recommended vaccinations. It is no less than amazing that we have been able to curtail such childhood diseases as polio, mumps, whooping cough and diphtheria—diseases which once killed hundreds of thousands in the United States.

But, if we are to continue to protect our children from such deadly diseases, we cannot let our guard down. Many may remember the 1990 U.S. measles outbreak which killed 89 people. Measles is a prime example of a disease that is completely vaccine preventable which continues to hospitalize and kill people in the United States. In fact, it is estimated that over a million people die worldwide from measles every year, with tens of millions of cases reported.

We simply cannot become lackadaisical about vaccinating against diseases, such as measles, which remains a potent killer in the rest of the world. That is why I authored a provision in last year's Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act to require incoming immigrants to receive certain immunizations before entering the United States. That provision took effect as of July 1, 1997.

Soon thereafter, I heard from numerous parents of internationally adopted children that the foreign immunization requirement posed a unique risk for young orphans adopted from abroad.

After carefully reviewing their concerns, and taking into consideration the fact that these adoptive parents are not familiar with the foreign medical community or with the medical histories of these young orphaned children, I introduced H.R. 2464 to exempt internationally adopted children under age 11 from the immigration vaccination requirement.

In addition, these adoptive parents will sign an affidavit stating that they will have their adopted children immunized within 30 days of entering the country or as soon as medically appropriate. This affidavit will primarily serve to remind parents of the vital importance of having their children immunized once they arrive in the United States. Since most children in the United States receive their vaccinations by age 6, it is essential that these adopted children receive their vaccinations as soon as possible and I am confident that these American parents will responsibly honor the affidavit.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that enactment of H.R. 2464 will serve the dual purpose of protecting internationally adopted children from foreign vaccination risks while ensuring that these children receive vaccinations once in the United States. I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 2464.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT DEREK DANIEL DIAZ

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor bravery and to congratulate Sergeant Derek Daniel Diaz on his reception of The Citizens' Choice Award. This award is presented to America's finest officers who have gone be-

yond the call of duty to ensure that our communities are secure and our children are safe. The following story illustrates Sergeant Diaz's heroism and serves as an extraordinary example of his dedication to our community.

Danger is always a heartbeat away for police officers, and May 24, 1996 was no exception for Sergeant Diaz. At 4 a.m., a woman called 911 and reported that she had just been shot and gave descriptions of the suspects and their vehicle. Sergeant Diaz volunteered to handle the call with the assistance of five other units. He quickly spotted a car fitting the description, and followed it until the two suspects jumped out of the moving vehicle which then crashed.

The suspects who were now on foot split up and Sergeant Diaz chased the driver and tackled him in an alley. Officer Byron Joseph then arrived on the scene, and despite the combined strength of the two officers, a violent struggle ensued with all three falling to the ground. Suddenly, the suspect produced a pistol and shot Sergeant Diaz in the base of the neck and Officer Joseph in the arm.

Sergeant Diaz, wounded and on the ground, looked up to see the suspect preparing to shoot Officer Joseph again. Fearing for the life of his fellow officer, Sergeant Diaz prevented the suspect from killing Officer Joseph and with a single shot, fatally wounding the suspect. Sergeant Diaz then collapsed to the ground.

Sergeant Diaz's courage and will to survive undoubtedly saved the life of Officer Joseph as well as his own. But in spite of this heroic act and countless others, Sergeant Diaz refuses to accept The Citizens' Choice Award only for himself. Rather, he is a custodian of this award for all police officers who put their lives on the line every night and every day.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Sergeant Diaz for his bravery and heroism and upon reception of The Citizens' Choice Award. This recognition is long overdue.

TRIBUTE TO MARY CLARDY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mary Clardy, an extraordinary young woman whom, I am proud to say, is a constituent of the 18th Congressional District of Texas. I want to congratulate Ms. Clardy for her selection as the 1997 Peter J. Salmon National Blind Employee of the Year by National Industries for the Blind.

The Peter J. Salmon Award is given annually by the National Institute for the Blind to a blind employee working at one of the institute's 87 associated agencies throughout the country. The award recognizes outstanding achievement at work by a blind employee and this year is given to Ms. Clardy for her desire to, in her own words, "make it on her own."

Mary Clardy is dedicated and determined. Blind since birth, Ms. Clardy, age 37, has excelled professionally as a telecommunications operator at the Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in Houston, TX.

Ms. Clardy's supervisor at the VA says that Ms. Clardy represents everything that a good

employee should be. Her exemplary performance at work, and her dedication and enthusiasm for her job are an inspiration.

Ms. Clardy has said, "I found out that, despite a misdiagnosis that I was mentally retarded, despite the fact that I have epilepsy, and despite the fact that I can not see, I can learn and I can work. It's that simple."

At an early age, Mary Clardy was told that she would be lucky to land a job as an assembly line worker. Today, however, she handles up to 70 calls an hour at the VA's switchboard, many requiring emergency response techniques.

Mary Clardy was born prematurely in Hobbs, NM in 1960. She developed retrolental fibroplasia at birth from a high level of oxygen emitted from an incubator and lost her sight. She graduated in 1978 from the School for the Blind in Muskogee, OK, moved on to Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind in Little Rock, AR, and then attended the Crisis Cole Rehabilitation Center in Austin, TX.

In 1983, the Lighthouse of Houston hired Ms. Clardy to work on contract assembly jobs. She says, "I worked for almost 10 years at a job that everyone thought I was suited for, but it wasn't what I wanted."

When a clerical program started at the Lighthouse, Mary Clardy convinced her counselor at the Texas Commission for the Blind to enroll her. Over the next year, she learned to type and operate a computer. She then pushed to be one of the first students at the Lighthouse's customer service training program. That led her to her current position at the Lighthouse as one of six telecommunications operators working at the VA Medical Center. Ms. Clardy credits the Lighthouse for helping her to develop the skills for this job, which she views as another step toward competitive employment. "If you want something bad enough, there is always a way to achieve it," she says. This is a winning attitude and one that has carried Mary Clardy to great success.

Congratulations, Mary Clardy, on your receipt of this award. I commend you for your hard work, your dedication, and your strength of spirit.

TRIBUTE TO BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bronx Community College, part of the City University of New York and an invaluable Bronx institution, which will celebrate its 40th anniversary on October 22.

Back in 1957, thanks to the efforts of some civic-minded groups in the Bronx to meet the need for increased higher education facilities in the "Borough of Universities and Progress", Bronx Community College was established. An energetic president, Dr. Morris Meister, launched an enterprise that was ultimately to help tens of thousands of ambitious people find a place a advance in the business world. Classes began in February 1959 at the former site of the Bronx High School of Science at Creston Avenue and 184th Street.