

As a teacher, consultant innovator, inventor, and businessman, Mr. Tischler has charted new territory in the field of medical electronics. In his desire to save lives, he has been generous in sharing his knowledge and expertise with the medical community around the world through lectures and visits.

Born in Newark, NJ, Mr. Tischler attended the Johns Hopkins University and graduated from the University of Maryland. An outgrowth of his research at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland has been his pioneering work in science education. He has used his talents to develop and design educational materials and training programs that have been used in teaching science and electronics in elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, and technical schools. He has succeeded in his goal of simplifying very complex systems as an aid to teaching.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Morris Tischler, a true Renaissance Man, on his outstanding career as inventor, teacher, innovator. His energy and creativity have made medical history and helped save millions of lives around the world. His contribution to the field of medical science has set an example of dedication and caring that is hard to match.

THE NATIONAL PARKS CHECKOFF ACT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have reintroduced the National Parks Checkoff Act today.

The National Parks Checkoff Act will amend the Internal Revenue Code to require the IRS to place a line on income tax forms which will allow taxpayers to donate one or more dollars toward the care of our national parks. This legislation will provide more money for the care of our national parks at no cost to the Federal Government.

I introduced this bill during the 104th Congress, and I heard from a number of people and organizations from around the country who supported this legislation.

In addition, this bill had bipartisan support and it was also backed by the National Parks and Conservation Association, the American Hiking Society, the National Tour Association, American Outdoors and other organizations.

A study released by the National Parks and Conservation Association indicated that nearly 8 out every 10 people surveyed would be willing to increase their tax contribution by \$1 to benefit the National Park System.

A similar checkoff for Presidential campaigns has raised over \$200 million in the last 3 years. I believe that our national parks are far more popular than Presidential campaigns. Therefore, I think we could raise hundreds of millions of dollars for our national parks through this type of checkoff on income tax forms.

I believe there is at least one easy choice that can be made which will provide our parks with additional funding—the choice to allow taxpayers the opportunity to donate money for the care of our national parks.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation which will help us improve the quality of our national parks.

TRIBUTE TO LYDIA MALDONADO DIAZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce my colleagues to Lydia Maldonado Diaz. Ms. Diaz reflects the type of community commitment and civic duty that our society desperately needs.

After residing in New York City for 32 years, she and her husband moved to the community of Cypress Hills, Brooklyn, where she was confronted with a host of illegal activities. Lydia joined the local block association and began to make a difference.

Today, Lydia is actively involved in the Community Coalition to Restructure P.S. 76, an abandoned school building on her block, and she has presided as the chairman of that organization.

For 24 years she worked for the Cornell University Cooperative Extension as a community educator; a position from which she retired in April 1995. Throughout her personal and professional pursuits, Lydia has been guided by her strong spiritual convictions. She is the proud mother of four adult children, and the grandmother of six. I am pleased to recognize her positive contributions to the Brooklyn community of Cypress Hills.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD PASSENGER PROTECTION ACT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Child Passenger Protection Act which would prevent injuries to children in motor vehicles and ultimately save lives through improved child passenger education safety programs. This bill would provide grants to experienced child passenger safety organizations to carry out effective child restraint education programs.

With more than 50 different kinds of child restraint designs and numerous seat belt configurations, putting children in properly-used safety seats can be a complex process. As a result, over half of parents who are conscientious and careful enough to use child restraints are unaware that they have made installation errors, putting their young children at risk.

So many combinations of seats and car models exist that parents cannot easily figure out what is safe. A seat that works well in one car may not work well in another. Consequently, too many children riding in child restraint seats are at risk.

I have been working on initiatives to educate families across the country about the safety seat incompatibility problem. I have been working with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) in getting the word out about the proper installation of safety seats to parents, grandparents, and anyone who transports a young child. One of my goals is to provide NHTSA with enough money to fully carry out its child passenger safety program.

I also have been working with the D.A.N.A. (Drivers' Appeal for National Awareness) foundation and its founder, Mr. Joseph Colella. D.A.N.A. was "established in memory of Dana Hutchinson, age 3, who died in an automobile accident while secured in a child safety seat."

It was a rainy day in the fall of 1994 when Dana's mother strapped her into her child-safety seat for a trip to her grandmother's house. As always, Dana's father checked to make sure that the seat was held tightly, sure that he was doing everything possible to keep his little girl safe.

Dana's mother was driving; the roads were slick and slippery. Their car collided with a pick-up truck. Dana's car seat pitched forward and her head struck the dashboard. The police report stated an opinion that her child safety restraint was improperly secured.

Dana's father, looking for an answer, called his local dealership and was told that everything he did was correct. Then he looked in his owner's manual. After pages of information he found the answer: the seatbelt system in their car was incompatible with their child safety seat.

Joe Colella is Dana's uncle, and it is through his tireless work and the establishment of the D.A.N.A. foundation that efforts are being made to alert the public about the compatibility and misuse problems that exist between child restraints and vehicle seat belt systems.

I am pleased to introduce the Child Passenger Protection Act, which I call "Dana's bill," and I am committed to continue working with Joe Colella and with NHTSA to encourage parents to properly use child restraints to protect our Nation's children.

ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to honor the 50th anniversary of Americans for Democratic Action.

Fifty years ago, just after the end of the Second World War, Eleanor Roosevelt gathered with some of America's top leaders and thinkers to discuss the state of liberty, equality, and opportunity in America. From that meeting, Americans for Democratic Action—or ADA—was born.

Some people may not be aware of ADA. They may not be able to recall the succession of ADA's leaders. But every American has seen the results of dedicated ADA work.

In 1948—less than a year after it was founded—ADA was instrumental in including a civil rights plank in the 1948 National Democratic Party platform.

At that 1948 convention, then Minneapolis Mayor Hubert Humphrey and later a distinguished U.S. Senator and Vice President—an ADA founder and vice chairman—called for "the Democratic Party to get out of the shadows of States' rights and walk forthrightly into the bright sunshine of human rights."

While we are still walking toward that bright sunshine of human rights, we are all safe in the knowledge that it was the 1948 Democratic platform—and the work of ADA—that

helped put national politics on the path of civil rights achievements.

ADA built upon that achievement, demanding action from President Kennedy after dogs and hoses were used on peaceful marchers in Birmingham, AL, in 1963. Soon, Rev. Martin Luther King's march on Washington captured the entire Nation's attention. And, in 1964, the Civil Rights Act was passed.

ADA's work has not been limited to civil rights. Americans for Democratic Action has long been the champion of what is fair and what is just.

In 1965, ADA was the first major national organization to publicly oppose the Vietnam war. Beholden to no political party, Americans for Democratic action stood up to President Johnson and called for an end to the war. Unfortunately, it took the Nation more than 8 years and thousands of lives to finally put an end to the fighting in Southeast Asia.

In 1973, as much of the Nation was still discovering just how serious the Watergate coverup was, ADA was the first national organization to call for the impeachment of President Richard Nixon—reaching out to restore the bonds of trust between the White House and Main Street America.

These are just a small sampling of the specific issues that ADA has been a leading force in. The ADA's sphere of involvement and activism goes even deeper into the everyday lives of modern America.

Americans for Democratic Action has been a leading force in areas such as full employment, women's rights, and protecting the rights of workers.

ADA has also reached across the seas, fighting for justice throughout the world. Hardworking people have led the fight for arms control and foreign policy decisions rooted in international human rights. And ADA was a leader in opposing apartheid in South Africa.

When debate on these issues first began, ADA's positions were initially turned away. But over time, our Nation's leaders—be they Democrat or Republican—have come to recognize that Americans for Democratic Action has been at the forefront of promoting liberty, equality, and opportunity.

That is why we are gathered here today. I, for one, wish to applaud Americans for Democratic Action for its tireless work during the last half century. ADA is not the flashiest group—not the first group out there jockeying for political headlines or demanding instantaneous credit.

Instead, ADA is out there fighting for American principles. ADA is promoting the very basic American ideas of life, liberty, and equality. And it is reminding those in power that the Constitution created a national Government to act for the common good.

Those core beliefs are the foundation of this Nation. And they are the high principles that Americans for Democratic Action was founded on and designed to protect.

I congratulate ADA for 50 years of work for this Nation. I look forward to even more productive years as we work toward a century of distinguished service.

TRIBUTE TO JOANNE MATEER WEAVER

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 1997

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding leader in my congressional district, Joanne Mateer Weaver. I make these remarks in conjunction with the retirement of Joanne from the Abington Township School District, after 40 years as a teacher, administrator, and principal.

Joanne Weaver is known throughout Montgomery County and across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for her dedication to her friends and family, her commitment to the improvement of her community and the way she cares for the children in her charge.

She was born on May 21, 1930, the first child of Kenneth Hall Mateer and Jean Weakley Mateer. Joanne's family was full of teachers and educators. Her grandmother on her mother's side was a teacher. Her uncle was a teacher, coach, and principal. And as a child, Joanne spent 1 full year in school with her mother as her teacher and her father as her principal.

Despite a childhood plagued by extremely poor vision, Joanne worked hard in school. As a result, she was consistently a top ranked student, while also active in varsity sports and school clubs.

Joanne's greatest influence throughout her life was her parents, and in particular, her father, the late Kenneth Hall Mateer. Born to a family of working poor steelworkers, Ken Mateer's ability to achieve in both sports and academics brought him statewide acclaim. At the high school in Coatesville, PA, he earned as many as five varsity sports letters each year, and captained the baseball, football, and basketball teams. In one basketball game, Mateer scored 54 points—a feat unheard of at that time. Mateer was also an outstanding scholar. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Shippensburg State Teachers College—Now Shippensburg University—and a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Ken Mateer went on to become a teacher and a high school coach. When Joanne was a child, Mateer's football teams won national recognition. But his heart was that of an educator. He rose to become a career principal, and later, a school superintendent. At the peak of his career, he planned and founded what is now the Great Valley School District in the western suburbs of Philadelphia.

Joanne's mother, the late Jean Weakley Mateer, was also a central figure in Joanne's life. Jean Mateer was a wife, mother, and a teacher when few women were able to balance a career and a family. Although a quiet counterpoint to the more outgoing Ken Mateer, Jean was a strong and supportive parent to Joanne. Joanne's only sibling was a younger sister, Sarah Jane Mateer, known to the family as Sally.

Joanne Weaver earned a Pennsylvania State senate scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania—an education which her family could not afford on its own. At Penn, Joanne studied hard and earned superior grades—all while working part time to defray her ex-

penses. She also was active in her sorority and other extracurricular activities. At one point, Joanne was coeditor of the University of Pennsylvania yearbook, along with a young man who is now the senior U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, ARLEN SPECTER.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in education, Joanne began her teaching career in Ridgewood, NJ, a suburb of New York City. In 1955, she married Robert E. Weaver. During their marriage, Joanne and Robert had three children: Karen Elizabeth, May 25, 1958; Mark Robert, January 9, 1961; and Laurie Ann, May 2, 1964.

In the late 1950's, Joanne and her family settled in the Roslyn section of Abington Township, a northern suburb of Philadelphia. She began teaching at the Ardsley Elementary School. By that time, she had earned a master's degree in reading from Temple University and was teaching mostly reading.

Joanne's leadership skills were quickly noticed and she gained administrative responsibilities early in her career. In the late 1960's, Joanne was promoted to curriculum specialist, this time at North Hills Elementary School. She served in this position until the mid-1970's, when she was elevated to a district-wide position, as coordinator of the district's Human Development Program—an ombudsman-type position which was used to educate staff, teachers, and students about conflict resolution, interpersonal communications, and other related issues.

Around that time, Joanne suffered two personal tragedies. Her marriage to Robert ended in divorce and her sister Sally committed suicide. These two events truly tested Joanne's character. But like so many other times in her life, she summoned the inner strength to carry on. Her resilience was a positive example to her three young children—as well as the two daughters Sally left behind. In nearly every way, Joanne became a surrogate mother to her two nieces and took it upon herself to watch out for them as they matured.

Following these difficulties in her personal life, Joanne faced significant challenges in her professional life, as coordinator of Abington School District's Human Development Program. This post—which Joanne helped create and was the first to hold—came into great importance in the 1970's. Abington High School experienced racial strife due to two unrelated deaths of Abington High School students. The district's high school campus was in an uproar and racial conflict was feared. As coordinator of the Human Development Program, Joanne led the district's response, including conducting inservice and assembly programs aimed at quelling the rumors and unrest. Her efforts were successful, and a crisis was averted. She was credited by many for helping to solve the problem.

It was shortly after this incident that Abington Township officials approached Joanne about starting a township commission to deal with potential race, religious, and ethnic strife in Abington. As a result, Joanne was appointed by the board of commissioners as the first—and to this date the only—chairman of the Abington Township Community Relations Commission, a position she still holds today.

One of the first crises Joanne dealt with in her new position was a racially motivated firebombing in the community. Acting as a mediator and working with law enforcement officials, Joanne helped calm the community while the offenders were brought to justice.