

DELAURO COMMENDS SISTER ANN  
MATTHEW LORUSSO AND WIL-  
LIAM IOVANNE FOR THEIR WORK  
IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speakers, on Sunday, October 27, 1996, the American Committee on Italian Migration will honor Sister Ann Matthew Lorusso and E. William Iovanne with the 1996 Community Service Award. I am very pleased to rise today to recognize the great work of the American Committee on Italian Migration and the wonderful contributions to the community made by Sister Ann and Bill. Both of these individuals have deep roots in the New Haven community and have made great efforts to give something back to the city and the people who live here.

Sister Ann has been with the hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven since 1968 and her tenure there has produced unique programs and projects. A dedicated nurse, Sister Ann spent years in nurse management at St. Raphael's because she loved to be with the patients and to work with people. She is now the parish nurse coordinator for the hospital. She oversees an interdenominational program which puts a nurse in synagogues and churches to meet the wellness needs of the congregation. Sister Ann has referred to the program as "community nursing" and she focuses on educational programs to prevent illness and disease. As health care becomes increasingly difficult to access, Sister Ann is heading a program that reaches out to people and makes sure they get the care they need.

In addition to work at the Hospital of St. Raphael, Sister Ann has served on the Mayor's Commission on Aging since 1994. It is in this capacity that she is able to address the needs of the area's elderly. Sister Ann speaks passionately about finding ways to tap into community resources to ensure that our elderly community is provided for. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated educator and advocate working on behalf of the people of New Haven.

This tribute is a most appropriate honor for Bill Iovanne because he is so proud of his Italian heritage and is deeply committed to the Italian-American community here in New Haven. A lifelong resident of Wooster Square, Bill took over the business his father started. His tenure as president of Iovanne Funeral Home has earned him the respect and admiration of many. I have known Bill for many, many years and our families remain closely connected. He has never failed to help families in their time of need. The loss of a loved one is such a trying, difficult time but Bill provides comfort and support to everyone. Indeed, Bill is not only passionately devoted to his own family, he has a reputation for treating everyone like a member of the family.

I am very proud to join the American Committee on Italian Migration as they honor these two remarkable individuals. They have dedicated their lives to working with and for others and I commend them for their commitment to their Italian-American heritage. They make me proud to be a member of the Italian-American community.

TRIBUTE TO FDA COMMISSIONER  
DAVID KESSLER, M.D.

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, David Kessler represents the best in public service. He did his job with one purpose: to protect and promote the public health. He did so with unmatched passion, intensity, and courage. Dr. Kessler understood that the Food and Drug Administration is a scientific agency and that politics have no place in the agency's decisions. David Kessler would also be the first to tell you that he could not have accomplished anything without the hard work and dedication of his colleagues at the Food and Drug Administration.

Those accomplishments are significant and are making real differences today in the health and safety of Americans. We now have food labels that give us meaningful information we can use to improve our diets. The agency is approving new medicines at a rate that was unimaginable when he came to the agency in 1990. Today, we are protecting our children against the terrible scourge of the diseases brought on by tobacco use. Dr. Kessler has set the standard for excellence and accomplishment in government. Thank you, David Kessler, for your public service.

TRIBUTE TO AIDA ALVAREZ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great joy to extend my congratulations to Ms. Aida Alvarez on her confirmation to lead the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Ms. Aida Alvarez is the first Puerto Rican woman, also the first Hispanic woman, appointed to a Cabinet position in U.S. history.

Throughout her long and distinguished career, Ms. Alvarez has acquired the experience and expertise that makes her exceptionally well qualified to lead the Small Business Administration [SBA]. "Small business is the heart and soul of the American economy," Ms. Alvarez said during her acceptance speech after President Clinton nominated her to head the SBA.

Ms. Alvarez was born in Aguadilla, PR, and raised in New York City. She learned first hand the importance of small businesses to fulfill the entrepreneurial spirit, build stronger communities, and spur economic growth. While still a high school student, she helped her family by working as a waitress in her mother's restaurant.

After graduating cum laude from Harvard College, she worked as a reporter for the New York Post and Channel Five in New York. Her reporting of guerrilla activities in El Salvador won her an Associated Press Award for Excellence and an Emmy nomination.

Ms. Alvarez held executive positions as an investment banker at the First Boston Corp. and Bear Stearns and, later on, as Vice President of the New York City Health and Hospital Corp.

Ms. Alvarez served as commissioner on the New York City Charter Revision Commission,

member of the Governor's State Judicial Screening Committee, and as a member of the Mayor's Committee on Appointments. In addition, she has served on numerous boards including, the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, the New York Community Trust, and the National Civil League.

Prior to her confirmation as Administrator of the SBA, President Clinton appointed Ms. Alvarez to head the newly established Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight [OFHEO] in 1993. At OFHEO, she implemented regulations to insure the financial safety and soundness of the two largest housing finance institutions in the Nation—the Federal National Mortgage Association [Fannie Mae] and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation [Freddie Mac]. Her leadership is characterized by efficient management.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Ms. Aida Alvarez for her outstanding achievements and in wishing her continued success as Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM  
MACLAUGHLIN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. BERMAN and I are honored today to pay tribute to Judge William MacLaughlin who last week was named 1997 Judge of the Year by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. Judge MacLaughlin has a reputation among his co-workers as a fair, hard-working judge who brings a common sense approach to the bench. Throughout his life he has shown exemplary service to his country and community.

Mr. MacLaughlin received his bachelor's degree and law degree from Yale in 1957 and 1960 respectively. After passing the bar exam he joined the U.S. Army first in a full-time capacity and later as a reservist, attaining the rank of captain in 1969. He then entered the legal profession, quickly becoming a partner in the firm Stone & Davis. Later in his career Mr. MacLaughlin went into practice on his own. Representing both plaintiffs and defendants, his years as an attorney saw him focus on personal injury, business, construction, and environmental areas of law. After many years and a well respected tenure as an attorney, he was appointed by Gov. Pete Wilson to the Los Angeles superior court.

In January 1992, Mr. MacLaughlin took his position on the bench. In the 5 years since, he has earned the respect of colleagues and co-workers alike as a hard-working and conscientious judge. Judge MacLaughlin is known for, among other things, conversing at length with prospective jurors, clearly explaining their role and how they fit into the larger process. When dealing with conflicting parties in a case he has commonly been known to encourage them to work together toward a solution, recognizing that a resolution reached through compromise is better than any decision imposed upon them. The judge's reputation for common sense, middle-of-the-road rulings

have earned high praise from numerous attorneys who have entered his courtroom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the accomplishments of Judge William MacLaughlin. Truly, his even-handed administration of justice is an example to us all.

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM KATZBERG

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William Katzberg for being honored by the Middle East Network on the occasion of his 1,000th weekly, consecutive column for the Jewish Journal. For the past 20 years, William Katzberg has provided his readers fair and objective literary works on issues relating to Israel and the Jewish community. His journalistic contribution stems from his dedication to straightforward journalism and enduring love for the State of Israel.

In 1987, the Middle East Network in south Florida, formerly known as the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, was concerned about erroneous news reports the American public was receiving regarding the Arab Infatada. The media reporting from the Middle East had fabricated the news in an attempt to capture America's interest in the battle transpiring in the Middle East. The media's deception was widely considered as a war of information—a war as devastating as the war being fought between Israel and the Arabs because it was turning world opinion against Israel. The Middle East Network held an organizational meeting to put an end to the fictitious news reports and generate fair and impartial reporting regarding Israel. William Katzberg was an invited guest because of his journalistic integrity and support of Israel. He immediately recognized the grave impact of the deceptive reports and called on the Jewish Federation of Greater Fort Lauderdale to help promote accuracy in Middle East reporting.

Over the years, William Katzberg has written a great deal about Israel and the Jewish community. His column appears in the Jewish Journal, and, on occasion, in the Miami Herald and the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel. He has become quite popular among residents in south Florida as a media journalist, a speaker, and a leader. In addition to his column, William Katzberg has helped organize mass meetings for the Middle East Network, has acted as a meeting moderator, and has produced a series of documentary films on Israel including: "Israel Under Siege," "the Hope, the Struggle, and the Miracle," "From Ellis Island to Jerusalem," and "Israel, Between Terror and Peace." These films have been shown to synagogues, churches, and colleges and universities in south Florida to help increase awareness of Israel and her people.

William Katzberg remains actively involved in the Jewish community in south Florida. He is a member of the board of directors and on the executive advisory community of the Jewish Federation of Greater Fort Lauderdale. Through his involvement at the federation, he has helped to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the United Jewish Appeal. He also participates in leading group trips to Israel for

the Jewish Federation of Greater Fort Lauderdale and for the Temple Beth Torah, where he is also a member of the board of directors. His activity in both Jewish affairs and journalism has earned him a seat on the Jewish Telegraph Agency Board of Directors as well.

I wish William Katzberg the best on receiving this prestigious honor from the Middle East Network. I know he will continue to be an effective voice and journalist for the Jewish community in south Florida and in Israel.

#### THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY ACT

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support legislation regarding one of this Nation's most important and effective conservation programs, the Conservation Reserve Program.

Under the Conservation Reserve Program Flexibility Act, H.R. 861, producers whose contracts expire and whose bids to re-enroll are not accepted under new USDA rules for the CRP, will be allowed to extend, for up to 1 year, their existing contracts at the county-wide rental rate as established under the new enrollment criteria.

In Kansas, the Conservation Reserve Program protects 2.9 million acres of environmentally sensitive land by encouraging farmers to dedicate this land to conservation use. Contracts covering almost 2 million acres of Kansas CRP land will expire by September 31, 1997. Unfortunately, the timing of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rulemaking process does not always coincide with needs of farmers. For producers of fall crops, like winter wheat, the enrollment decision date is simply too late.

This legislation would allow producers to explore the full range of grazing and cropping options as they bring their CRP land back into production. Due to extensions over the last 2 years, contracts representing nearly 22 million acres of this program are now expiring at once. At this point, we do not know exactly what land will be accepted, but it is estimated that 20 to 25 percent of the currently enrolled acres will not even be eligible. This represents around 4 million acres that we know will not be in CRP and will be back into production.

Mr. Speaker, adding 4 million acres into production with a limited range of planting options could be disastrous. This sort of market disruption can be avoided if we allow producers across the country to explore all of their options on how to bring this land back into production.

There are several important realities that this bill acknowledges. Under this legislation, the enrollment cap is not changed. As sign-up progresses, 36.4 million acres will still be the statutory limit on acres in the program. Even with the continuous enrollment for filter strips, riparian areas, and other high-priority areas, the current enrollment is only 32 million acres. Allowing a 1 year extension would not limit sign-up of new acres going into the program.

Another important factor is the payment rate. Under this 1 year extension, the payment will be either the new enrollment rate or the

current rate, whichever is lower. This bill is not designed to give farmers the incentive to extend for 1 year at a substantially higher rate, it is designed to keep CRP benefits enrolled in a cost-effective manner and allow for an orderly return of this land back into production.

Mr. Speaker, massive changes have occurred in this Nation's agricultural programs within the last year. With any program changes, a smooth transition is both necessary and desired. This legislation will allow producers to make sound, market-based decisions as they bring their land back into production. Again, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this much needed legislation.

#### DELAURO HONORS SAGE SERVICES OF NEW HAVEN

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 1997*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 25, 1996, Sage Services will celebrate its 25th anniversary. The organization serves people over the age of 55 with a number of different programs. I am delighted to rise today to honor Sage Services and to recognize the important work they are doing.

The mission of Sage Services is twofold. The organization aims to enable older people to maintain their independence, to continue to develop their skills and abilities, and to help them feel that they are valued members of the community. In addition, Sage Services educates the community to value older people, to benefit from their contributions, and to understand and address the concerns and issues older people face.

Sage Services provides a number of valuable job training and job placement programs. The organization is committed to keeping the skills older people possess up to date. For example, several computer training classes are offered which teach word processing, keyboarding and data base, and spread sheet skills. I can imagine that it gives participants a great deal of self-confidence and self-esteem to be able to keep up with the information age and the proliferation of computers.

Sage Services also offers all sorts of job placement programs. Older people are hired by local businesses for everything from office work to repairs and maintenance work. I am so pleased to see local businesses working with the organization because older people have so much to offer. If we do not reach out to them we are losing a great resource. Their talents, abilities and experiences remain relevant to the job market and it is to our advantage to tap this resource.

In addition to these great programs, Sage Services links older people with all sorts of services and assistance. I am impressed with the Sage Home Share Program which helps people remain in their homes by putting them in touch with someone who is in need of housing. Older people receive companionship and assistance and those sharing housing are able to find reasonably priced housing. I think this program goes to the heart of what Sage Services is all about; people helping each other. Sage Services keeps the idea that we are all family and we are all responsible for each other at the heart of everything it does.