

teachers and youth group leaders. I believe these young women should receive the public recognition due them for their efforts and their service to their communities and country.

IN HONOR OF THE URBAN LEAGUE  
OF HUDSON COUNTY, INC.'S 19TH  
ANNUAL EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
DAY

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 1997*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable organization, the Urban League of Hudson County, Inc. as it celebrates the 19th anniversary of its Equal Opportunity Day. This annual event, which serves to reaffirm the laudable mission of providing equal opportunity to community members, will be celebrated on April 24, 1997 at the Meadowlands Hilton Hotel in Secaucus.

The Urban League of Hudson County, Inc.'s role as a pre-eminent community institution began over a quarter century ago during a turbulent time in the Nation's history. In 1971, we had just come through a decade when the movement toward civil rights took its toll on the urban leaders of our society: Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, and Malcolm X. Shabazz, all assassinated in their prime. The mission of this new organization was to continue these leaders' legacy and to help ensure equal opportunity for all members of our American family. Since its inception, the Urban League of Hudson County, Inc. has endeavored to provide positive family images to which others could aspire.

Today, Americans living in urban areas are portrayed too often with violence and in economic distress. The Urban League of Hudson County, Inc., under the direction of current president and CEO Elnora Watson, has made tremendous strides in reversing that stereotype through its various programs, such as AmeriCorps, the Adolescent Servicing Center, Adopt-A-Parent, Beginning Alcohol and Addiction Basic Education Studies, Family Development Program, job placement and retention, mentors for youth, Parent Community Mobilization Initiative, and parenting skills workshops. Graduates of these valuable programs will hopefully go on to become productive residents of Hudson County and become beacons of hope for others in their communities.

This year, the Urban League of Hudson County, Inc. will mark the 19th anniversary of its Equal Opportunity Day Dinner. On this momentous occasion, a number of people will be recognized for working tirelessly to dispel the negative images of urban Americans as portrayed by the media. The award recipients for 1997 include: Catherine Easterling Todd, Nantexter Ferguson Sebron, Betty Warren, Mary L. Setzer, Barbara A. Briggs, Patricia Sebron, Kathleen Washington, Pamela O'Neal, Philip Martin Bonaparte, M.D., Blynette Rogers, Patricia Jackson Robertson, Dale Porter, and Blanche McDuffy Smith. Each of these outstanding individuals has made a unique contribution to enhancing the image of the Urban League of Hudson County, Inc.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this special organization. The Urban League of

Hudson County, Inc. serves as an example of what can be accomplished when people when people work toward a common goal. It is an honor to have them providing services to the residents of my district.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
JOHN T. MYERS

**HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 1997*

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the chamber that on Friday, May 9, the Uniontown Locks and Dam, located on the Ohio River between Indiana and Kentucky, will be renamed the John T. Myers Locks and Dam. Uniontown Locks and Dam is just 2 miles south of the confluence of the Wabash River and the mighty Ohio. As John was born and raised along the Wabash in Covington, IN, I can think of no better honor for an individual who dedicated so much of his life to public service, most of that time devoted to watching over our Nation's vast waterways system.

Representative John Meyers served the people of the Seventh Congressional District of Indiana for 30 years before retiring at the end of the 104th Congress. For most of that distinguished career, the citizens of Indiana were fortunate to have him represent them on the House Appropriations Committee. His leadership on the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, in particular, helped ensure that our Nation's waterways, which are so vital to our national economy, remained navigable.

On May 9, John's many friends will converge on the Uniontown Locks and Dam site to officially recognize his contribution to inland navigation by renaming and dedicating this facility in his honor. It is a fitting tribute to a man whose visionary leadership has played such a significant role in the development and maintenance of America's rivers, ports and harbors.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 23, 1997*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the Armenian genocide.

The atrocities committed against the Armenian people in the late 19th century and the early 20th century ranks among the worst such occurrences in human history. As the 19th century drew to a close, authorities in the crumbling Ottoman Empire decided to crack down against a growing movement for Armenian autonomy. After enduring brutal persecution, the Armenians refused to pay the taxes levied by their oppressors. As a result, thousands of innocent civilians lost their lives and thousands more witnessed the destruction of their homes—all because the Ottoman Government wanted to teach them a lesson.

When the Armenians sought to publicize their plight by seizing a government building in Constantinople, government forces instigated

a vicious pogrom during which over 50,000 perished. Several years later during the First World War, Armenian service in the Allied cause prompted the Turkish authorities to order the deportation of almost the entire Armenian population from their homeland to two distant provinces of the Turkish Empire, Syria and Palestine. Well over one million died during this long forced march, many thousands at the hands of government soldiers and many more from disease and malnutrition.

It is unfortunate that we have not managed to escape the consequences of these atrocities. The legacy of bitterness is readily observable in central Asia, where memories of past injustice have complicated the search for peace and stability in Nagorno-Karabakh.

As the horror continued, thousands of Armenians came to this country. Many of their heirs now live in my own State of California, where they have established an enviable record of prosperity and service to the United States. California is home to the largest Armenian-American population in the United States. The California State Assembly designated April 24, 1997 as "California Day of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23, and for the Victims of the Sumgait Pogroms of 1988 and Baku Riots of 1990."

The resolution notes that Armenians in Nagorno Karabagh remain at risk until a peaceful resolution to the Karabagh conflict is reached that guarantees the freedom of security for these people while supporting their right to self-determination.

We join Armenians around the world as we remember the terrible massacres suffered in 1915-23, among one of the worst tragedies to befall a group of people.

Even though this is a day of commemoration for the thousands who perished in the Armenian genocide, we must not forget the great duty of those now living to prepare a better world for generations to come.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE INSULAR  
FAIR WAGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
ACT OF 1997"

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 1997*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to address the systematic, persistent, and inexcusable exploitation of men and women in sweatshops in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a territory of the United States of America.

Despite criticisms from the Congress and Federal agencies, and despite promises by CNMI leaders of sweeping change of aggressive action against abusive employers, these conditions continue today, confirmed by CNMI observers, human rights and religious organizations, and Federal enforcement and oversight agencies. These workers are not free, and are not given the same opportunities and protections every other worker in the United States or its territories is provided. To these workers, the American dream has become a nightmare.

Consumers in the United States and around the world expect that the label "Made in USA" stands for something. American manufacturers

know that label signifies compliance with basic worker protection laws and human rights guarantees. But in the CNMI, that made in USA label is used to conceal systematic exploitation.

Last week, President Clinton and garment industry leaders announced a U.S. apparel industry partnership dedicated to eliminating sweatshop working conditions around the world. Those efforts must also focus on our own soil, on the CNMI, where conditions that could not be tolerated anywhere elsewhere in America flourish with the blessings of the local government.

In the CNMI, human rights and the basic rights all American workers are supposed to enjoy are routinely brushed aside in the pursuit of an economic miracle. The CNMI Government is currently spending in excess of \$1 million in an unprecedented effort to paint a highly favorable picture of its economy.

But the record indicates this is no economic miracle; it is an economic mirage, built on exploited foreign labor.

Freed from U.S. immigration and minimum wage laws, the CNMI—

Uses its immigration policy to open its borders to a flood of foreign workers—from the Philippines, China, and other Asian countries—that now outnumber the indigenous population.

Maintains a minimum wage of as little as \$2.90 an hour for garment workers—and far less for household workers and farmers—despite promises to bring wages to the Federal level.

Ignores employer restrictions against U.S. laws—such as the right to unionize and to receive all wages earned, instead maintaining a bureaucracy that makes it all but impossible for workers to seek redress.

Fails to prosecute aggressively those who mistreat and abuse foreign labor by forcing them into prostitution and other types of involuntary sexual activity, who restrict their expressions of political beliefs, and who deny them the wages they have earned. In fact, many workers have said that speaking out against battery and rape, against unsanitary living barracks, against illegal wage withholdings, long hours or violations of their work contract, can result in prompt deportation and the forfeiture of their wages.

Congress in recent years, on a bipartisan basis, has called upon the CNMI to end these abuses, but with little effect. In fact, the CNMI Government has passed several laws that actually roll back worker protections, and broke a promise to the U.S. Congress to raise its minimum wage across the board, to the Federal level.

This continuing pattern of abuse and indifference to human exploitation demands a rapid response from the Congress and from the Clinton administration. Today, along with several cosponsors, I am introducing legislation to protect the integrity of the "Made in USA" label by only permitting its use when all applicable labor laws are obeyed.

This legislation will increase the minimum wage in the CNMI in stages until it matches the Federal level.

Lastly, this legislation will also bring the CNMI under the Immigration and Naturalization Service which, unlike the CNMI's Government, has the skills and resources to establish credible and enforceable policies that do not sanction the exploitation of men and women.

## HOME EDUCATION WEEK

### HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to voice my support along with the Missouri State Senate and the Missouri House of Representatives for home education. The Missouri General Assembly has designated the second week of May as Home Education Week. Missouri has been recognized as a leader nationwide in the home education movement. Home Education Week is a good way to acknowledge those parents in Missouri who have helped to establish a strong foundation for quality home education.

Home education has always been unique because it provides the opportunity for children to be taught by their parents or someone the parents trust. Home educators are able to meet the individual needs of their children by designing educational lessons for each child. They also provide children in home education numerous opportunities to learn through hands-on activities, where they are able to apply what they are learning in real-life settings. The one-on-one interpersonal ties that are developed in home education between a parent and their children establish solid mentoring relationships.

I know of many families in the Seventh District of Missouri that I represent who educate their children through more than just their textbooks. They regularly take field trips and conduct science experiments so that they can apply what they are learning. I know one family who has entered award-winning projects in the Ozark Empire Fair in science and drawing competitions as well as winning awards regionally and statewide in speech contests. The Will Purvis family is one of many southwest Missouri families who are making a visible difference in the education their children through home education.

I want to thank each parent who has made the decision to educate their children at home. This decision requires a great amount of dedication. This dedication requires planning and preparation that involves many extra hours and late nights of preparation. Their dedication results pay off in home-educated students that do well when they compete with their peers nationwide in private and public schools and in higher education. We should continue to support their dedication as they continue to make a visible difference.

IN HONOR OF TERTULIAS DE ANTANO AND ITS FOUNDER LIDIA GIL-RAMOS: MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS IN NORTH HUDSON COUNTY

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional woman, Ms. Lidia Gil-Ramos and the exceptional organization which she founded, Tertulias de Antano. The contributions of Ms. Lidia Gil-Ramos and

Tertulias de Antano will be celebrated at the group's 23d Anniversary Dinner Dance to be held at Schutzen Park in North Bergen, NJ, on Sunday, April 27, 1997.

Such a well-respected program, Tertulias de Antano, is the result of the unwavering dedication of its founder Lidia Gil-Ramos. Before arriving in Union City, NJ, in 1965, she taught both elementary school and elderly farm workers in her homeland of Cuba. Education was also a personal passion for Ms. Gil-Ramos. She earned her masters degree from the University of Havana. This extraordinary woman then became director of a large nursing home in San Miguel de los Banos, Matanzas in central Cuba.

Upon arriving in America, Ms. Gil-Ramos found employment as an income maintenance specialist for the Food Stamp Program in Jersey City. Her dedicated service to senior citizens began with the Cuban refugee program in her adopted hometown of Union City. There Ms. Gil-Ramos witnessed the difficult process of adjustment experienced by many Cuban seniors in their new environment. Resolved to make a positive difference in the lives of the senior citizens in the community, Ms. Gil-Ramos instituted the Tertulias de Antano recreational program on October 13, 1974.

Ms. Gil-Ramos is the heart and soul of Tertulias de Antano. This invaluable program dispenses information concerning English-language programs, health care issues, and community events to area seniors. Presently, this uniquely beneficial program is applauded by senior citizens from countries throughout Latin America who have found a new home in Hudson County. Ms. Gil-Ramos' vision and commitment to excellence are evident in the pleasure experienced by senior citizens who have benefited from the services of Tertulias de Antano.

It is an honor to have Ms. Lidia Gil-Ramos and Tertulias de Antano as parts of the community in my district. They are shining examples of what can be accomplished when people work together toward a common goal.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on the evening of Thursday, April 17, 1997, during rollcall vote No. 85. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE ISSUES STAMP TODAY HONORING RAOUL WALLENBERG

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today at a extremely moving ceremony at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, a stamp honoring Swedish humanitarian and Holocaust hero Raoul Wallenberg was issued. This is a most appropriate step, and I congratulate the Postal Service for this action. Raoul Wallenberg was