

wish him and his family well with their future success and their commitment to the community.

20 YEARS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the San Diego Housing Commission on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. During these two decades, the Housing Commission has helped to provide approximately a half million San Diegans with quality housing opportunities. In the process, neighborhoods have been revitalized and the economy vastly improved.

The Housing Commission has invested billions of dollars in San Diego, resulting in the development of 10,000 apartment units—including nearly 5,500 designed for lower income San Diegans—and in the stabilization of rents for thousands of San Diegans through rental assistance.

The Housing Commission has been a leader in our nation. Its approach to developing and managing its 1,860 public housing units has earned it acclaim and national awards. The awards recognize the Commission for the design and maintenance of its properties and for the Commission's philosophy of distributing public housing throughout the city.

The residents in San Diego public housing benefit from the Housing Commission's programs that have set national standards in helping residents achieve self-sufficiency. The six learning opportunity centers at the Commission's sites provide a way for residents to escape dependence on welfare.

The residents are active partners with the Commission in improving their lives—the Small Business Administration and San Diego Chamber of Commerce Welfare-to-Work Entrepreneur of the Year in 1998 was won by a Housing Commission resident, Yohannes Miles, who became a painting contractor. Needless to say, Mr. Miles is now a former client of the Commission—he has moved into his own home!

The Housing Commission has improved our whole City. It has helped more than 8,000 families rehabilitate their homes and has paved the way for 3,100 low- to moderate-income people to purchase their first home.

The Housing Commission employees are dedicated—15 have been with the agency since its founding. In its 20 years, Commission employees have helped the agency win countless national awards and honors, including high performance ratings each year from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the first Award of Excellence for Enduring Design from the National Association of Redevelopment Officials, and an award for consensus building in developing public housing.

I want to wish the employees and the officials of the San Diego Housing Commission, and the forward thinking city leaders who started the agency, a happy anniversary. May you provide many others with the basic opportunity and right of housing in San Diego in the years to come.

CALVARY CHILDREN'S CENTER

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor today to recognize an exceptional organization that has made a significant difference in the lives of hundreds of Georgia's children. That organization is Calvary Children's home.

The Calvary Children's Home was founded in 1966 by Reverend Ben F. Turner, and has been located in Cobb County, Georgia, for 33 years. Rev. Turner's first vision of Calvary took place on the streets of Jerusalem, when a poor woman offered to sell her baby to his tour group for money to support her other children. Then, in 1965 a local father and mother of six were returning from shopping when both were killed in an automobile accident. However, as much as the children were disturbed by the loss of their parents, they were equally upset with the prospect of being separated from each other in the foster care system, especially after such a great loss.

In September 1997, Rev. Turner's ultimate dream was finally realized, as the Calvary Children's Home moved from its original dormitory-style complex into three beautiful homes located on 13 acres of land near Powder Springs, Georgia. In January a new administrative center featuring a dining hall, library, and counseling center was completed on the property under the direction of Administrator Snyder Turner. The home has always been funded entirely by generous private funding from churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals dedicated to giving children in need a second chance.

The Calvary Children's Home presently houses 26 children, and has housed more than 400 children since first opening its doors 33 years ago. The center is a nonprofit, charitable organization providing long-term residential care for children who are victims of broken homes, abuse, neglect, or abandonment. The majority of its residents are brothers and sisters who otherwise would have been separated from each other and placed into separate homes through the foster care system.

The Calvary Children's Home is an excellent example of private individuals reaching out and making a difference in the lives of our youth, without public mandates or tax dollars. It speaks well of Georgia's Seventh District that such an organization can survive. I wish Administrator Turner, the staff, residents, and donors well in continuing their commitments to love, spiritual values, and improving the lives of our young people.

IN HONOR OF YOLANDA'S ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DANCE ON ITS 25TH ANNUAL RECITAL AND ITS FOUNDER, MS. YOLANDA FERNANDEZ-QUINCOCES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yolanda's Academy of Music and

Dance on the celebration of its 25th Annual Recital and its founder, Ms. Yolanda Fernandez-Quincoces, for her many accomplishments. She has made every effort to provide a forum in which the young people of Hudson County, and particularly of Union City, NJ, are able to express their interest in the arts.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Ms. Fernandez demonstrated tremendous artistic ability at a very young age. After moving to the United States with her family, Ms. Fernandez begun taking lessons in ballet and piano at the age of five. She continued her training at the New Jersey Ballet, Oneida's Dance Studio, and the American Ballet Theater, where she also excelled in Flamenco dance and piano while attending classes with renowned leaders in the fields of study.

Ms. Fernandez, since receiving her bachelor's degree in Music Education from New York University, has served as a music and dance educator at the Woodrow Wilson School for the Integrated Arts in my hometown of Union City, NJ, where she is known for her remarkable commitment to her student's education.

Ms. Fernandez has demonstrated her dedication to the arts and education through her involvement in such associations as the Dance Educators of America, the Dance Masters of America, the National Guild of Piano Teachers, and the National Education Association. Her participation in the advancement of the arts includes making personal appearances at the New Jersey Opera and on various television broadcasts. In addition, she produced and hosted her own television program called "Art Beat."

Ms. Fernandez's artistic contributions to the community and her unwavering commitment to promoting the arts in our schools have not gone unnoticed. In 1996, she was named "Teacher of the Year" by Union City, Hudson County, and the Governor of the State of New Jersey. In 1996 and 1997, she received the prestigious "Outstanding Choreographer" Award from the Dance Educators of America in New York City.

In recognition of Ms. Fernandez's impassioned devotion to promoting the arts in our schools and communities, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating her, as well as Yolanda's Academy of Music and Dance, on this occasion, the 25th Annual Recital, and wishing Ms. Fernandez continued success in her endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT ALBERT M. ROMANO, JR.

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Senior Master Sergeant Albert M. Romano, Jr., one of 12 U.S. Air Force Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

"Buddy" Romano hails from Oxnard, California, in my district, where he starred in varsity football and baseball at Santa Clara High School and was ranked 32nd in California for motocross racing.

He married his high school sweetheart, the former Jennifer Suytar, also of Oxnard. The

couple now have three children, 12-year-old Tyler, 9-year-old Megan, and 5-year-old Zachary, who must be very proud of their father for all he has achieved.

The Outstanding Airmen Award program began in 1956 during the Air Force Association's national convention as a way to highlight an Air Force military manpower crisis at the time. It proved so popular that it became an official Air Force award the following year.

Competition for Airman of the Year is strenuous. Nominations are sent from each command, separate operating agency, direct reporting unit, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard to the Air Force Manpower Personnel Center. A high-ranking selection board narrows the field, then the final selections are validated and approved by the U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff.

The criteria for this honor is "unique, unusual, or outstanding individual involvement and achievement within the preceding 12 months." Selection considerations include: superior general job performance; job knowledge and leadership qualities applied to a specific Air Force problem or situation; development of new techniques or procedures resulting in increased mission effectiveness; noteworthy self-improvement through on- or off-duty educational studies, participation in professional or cultural societies/associations, or development of creative abilities; participation in social, cultural, or religious activities in the military and/or civilian community which contribute directly or indirectly to community or group welfare, morale, or status; other significant achievements on- or off-duty which by their nature or results clearly distinguish the Airman from others of equal or higher grade; Air Force or civilian awards in recognition of personal service or contribution; and demonstrated ability as an articulate and positive Air Force spokesperson.

Buddy Romano must have been an easy selection.

He joined the Air Force in 1981 and quickly established himself as an outstanding airman. In 1983, he was named NCO of the Year. In 1984, he earned the Distinguished Graduate Award from the 15th Air Force NCO Leadership School at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota. He maintained a 96 percent fully mission capable rating during his first year—his unit's highest—as Dedicated Crew Chief at the 388th Fighter Wing, Hill Air Force Base, Utah. In 1987, he served in Operation Desert Storm. In 1988, he earned the NCO of the Year for the 548th Aircraft Generation Squadron, while maintaining a place on the Dean's List for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. In 1992, he earned his degree in Aircraft Maintenance from the Community College of the Air Force.

Somehow, he has free time. Buddy has filled it by coaching or umpiring during almost every intramural varsity, high school, or youth basketball and baseball season since he became an airman. He has volunteered countless hours to the Equal Opportunity and Treatment Program, Anglo American sports day, Special Olympics, Arrive Alive Program, Toys for Tots Program, Top Three events, and countless other Air Force-sponsored events.

His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, with two clusters; the Air Force Commendation Medal, with one cluster; the Air Force Achievement Medal; the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, with five oak

leaf clusters; the National Defense Service Medal; the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal; and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of recently meeting with Senior Master Sergeant and Jennifer Romano. They serve as a model for military couples, dedicating their lives to their family and their country. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting Albert M. Romano, Jr., for earning the respect and gratitude of his peers, his officers, and his country.

RECOGNIZING BORUNDA INC. AND PLAZA VENTANA RESTAURANT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Borunda as President and CEO of Borunda Inc., along with Plaza Ventana Restaurant. Borunda Inc. is a corporation specializing in the food service business; and Plaza Ventana is a product of David's perseverance to become an entrepreneur.

David Borunda originally established his business in 1977 by opening Plaza Mexican Restaurant. Due to the tremendous success of the restaurant, Borunda was invited to join the food court at Fresno's Manchester Mall, in which his operation became the largest volume food operation in the facility. Borunda's career further escalated in 1984 when he was invited to join the food court at Fresno's Fashion Faire Shopping Center. Thus, he opened his third location and immediately assumed the number one volume store in the food court. Branching away from food courts, Borunda opened a full sit down restaurant located in the Times Square Shopping Center in Fresno. Plaza Ventana was well received and immediately became a success. As a result, this location was expanded by an additional one thousand square feet, which included a full service bar and an additional dining area.

Borunda was born and raised in Fresno, California and is well rooted in the community. He served as president of the California Restaurant Association Fresno Chapter in 1993 and 1994, and has over 50 employees. As proof of Borunda's enormous success, one has to look no further than the three Best Mexican Restaurant award, given by the California Restaurant Association, he has won.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor David Borunda for his tremendous success as an entrepreneur. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing David many more years of continued success.

QUALITY CARE FOR THE UNINSURED ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in supporting this bill that ad-

resses the problem of the rising number of Americans who cannot afford health insurance. Under this plan, we will be able to extend health care options to the 44 million people in our country who remain uninsured.

We know that most people without health insurance have one thing in common: they cannot afford health care. They are either self-employed or they work in a small business that cannot afford to pay for health benefits.

The Quality Care for the Uninsured Act creates Association Health Plans to combat the high cost of health care in our country. Small businesses and self-employers will now have the ability to join together under the umbrella of trade and professional organizations to buy health insurance for themselves and their employees.

Association Health Plans will bring more choices and greater flexibility to those who need it most. Estimates show that small businesses will save between 10 and 20 percent on health care costs with Association Health Plans. By cutting costs, we can expand health care coverage for the millions of hard-working Americans that are currently uninsured.

I commend Representative TALENT and Representative SHADEGG for their dedication to this important issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

THE PENSION REDUCTION DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1999

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce bipartisan legislation, developed with my colleague on the Ways and Means Committee Mr. WELLER and in conjunction with the Administration, which will provide increased notice to employees when their employers convert their pension plans from traditional defined benefit plans to so-called "cash balance" plans.

The Pension Reduction Disclosure Act of 1999 revises existing section 204(h) of ERISA and adds related ERISA and tax provisions providing for the following: (1) a basic advance notice must be given for amendments that reduce the rate of future benefit accrual in a pension plan; (2) an enhanced advance notice must be given when applicable large plans are converted to cash balance plans or otherwise amended to reduce the rate of future benefit accrual; (3) individuals receiving the enhanced notice have the right to receive supporting general plan information, such as the plan's benefit formula and actuarial factors; and (4) individuals receiving the enhanced notice also have the right to receive individual benefit statements relating to the projected effect of the amendment on them. In general, the information required to be provided under the Act must be written in a manner calculated to be reasonably understood by the average plan participant. The Act imposes minimum notice and information requirements; employers may choose to provide information (in the required notice or otherwise) that is in addition to that required under the Act.

Basic advance notice: Current law requires 15 days' advance notice for amendments that reduce the rate of future benefit accrual in a