

both to your organization and the community. The work you are doing in San Luis Obispo is heroic and truly an inspiration to the nonprofit sector."

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, Biz is a hero to many of us. Her unflagging grace and tireless effort on behalf of the community she serves with daily passion inspires all who know her. For the past 15 years, Biz has headed the EOC in San Luis Obispo County. When Congress founded the EOC in 1965 during the War against Poverty, I am sure that Biz's is the kind of leadership that members of Congress envisioned: one of determination and cooperation and courage.

IN HONOR OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMISSION ON CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ACTION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the thirtieth anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland's Commission on Catholic Community Action.

The Commission on Catholic Community Action was established in 1969 with a mission to protect and promote human dignity and advance justice for all. Successful in their mission, the CCCA has played a pivotal role in the rebirth of Cleveland. Focusing on urban redevelopment, the CCCA has organized, promoted, and made a difference in neighborhood issues such as job training, economic empowerment, environmental justice, and peacemaking.

With an outlook to reduce poverty and discrimination, the CCCA has sponsored and co-sponsored numerous seminars, speeches, and awards banquets. Keynote speakers at these events have educated the public on issues such as the Holocaust and prejudice reduction. Generating community awareness throughout Cleveland, the CCCA has provided participants with a new appreciation for celebrating multicultural diversity within the city.

Through hard work and determination, the CCCA has truly improved life opportunities for urban residents of Cleveland. Upholding this tradition of giving and caring, the CCCA has made Cleveland's urban residents culturally and economically stronger. Congratulations to the Commission on Catholic Community Action for thirty years of service and on continuing their mission into the new millennium.

My fellow colleagues, join me in honoring the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland's Commission on Catholic Community Action as they celebrate their thirtieth anniversary.

STUDENT RESULTS ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2) to send more

dollars to the classroom and for certain other purposes:

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of the Mink-Woolsey-Sanchez-Morella amendment to restore current gender equity provisions from Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to H.R. 2, the Student Results Act. We must ensure that girls succeed in school.

Since the passage of Title IX a quarter-century ago, America's schools have been expected to provide the same opportunities for girls as well as boys. While a great deal of progress has been made, a gender gap still exists in America's schools.

Studies show that more than half of all female students take no high school math beyond Algebra 2. In a global economy, where science and technology advances are paramount, this closes doors on future studies, scholarships and careers for these female students.

This amendment will retain gender equity provisions in current law, including the Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA). The amendment encourages the training of teachers to treat boys and girls fairly in the classroom. It targets dropout prevention programs for at-risk youth, as well as pregnant and parenting teenagers. It also allows the training of teachers to encourage girls to pursue careers and higher education degrees in mathematics, science, engineering and technology.

The amendment is supported by over 70 organizations, including the Girl Scouts of America; the National Education Association; the American Association of University Women; and the National Parent Teacher Association. The National Women's Law Center, which also supports this amendment, writes:

[The] Elimination of the Women's Educational Equity Act signifies the dissolution of the only federal program that specifically targets and tackles the barriers to educational opportunities for women and girls.

They give an example of a 1999 WEEA program that created and implemented an on-line course for teachers called "Engaging Middle School Girls in Math and Science." This program helps to ensure that stereotypes and biases do not eliminate educational opportunities for girls.

However, this is just one of many programs and services provided by WEEA. Generally, WEEA represents the federal commitment ensuring that girls' future choices and success are determined not by their gender, but by their own interests, aspirations, and abilities. It is a comprehensive resource for teachers, administrators, and parents seeking proven methods to ensure equity in their school systems and communities.

Let's do the smart thing. Let's do the right thing. Support the Mink/Woolsey/Sanchez/Morella amendment. We must give all students, girls and boys alike, the chance to learn, excel and achieve.

HONORING THE REDEDICATION OF THE YOUNG ISRAEL SHOMRAI EMUNAH OF GREATER WASHINGTON

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Young Israel Shomrai Emunah of Greater Washington. On October 31st, the members of this congregation will join together to rededicate the facility that has served as their home for the past quarter-century. In addition, the congregation, located in Silver Spring, MD, will celebrate the renovation of its sanctuary and expansion of its building.

Since its creation, the Young Israel has helped to provide its members with a spiritual anchor and a firm foundation upon which to build a Torah observant community. The synagogue truly lives up to its name Shomrai Emunah—"guardian of the faith."

The synagogue, loosely established in 1951, was first located in Riggs Park, in northeast Washington, DC. Its first permanent home was established in 1957. However, a few years later, the community moved to Silver Spring and eventually built two facilities, the first located on University Boulevard. As the community grew, the leadership of the synagogue sought larger quarters, resulting in the construction of a spacious facility on Arcola Avenue. The new facility was completed in 1974.

As we all know, mortar and bricks do not make a community. Rather, the individuals in each community influence its success. Through the foresight of its founding members and the meticulous guidance of the Young Israel's esteemed spiritual leader, Rabbi Gedaliah Anemer, the synagogue boasts a membership of more than 500 families. The synagogue provides a variety of programs to serve its members. The community furnishes classes throughout the year, including an active adult education program. Seniors programs, a nursery school, the youth department, and a vibrant Sisterhood are all supported by the Young Israel.

Mr. Speaker, a synagogue is referred to as a "House of Prayer," a "House of Study," and a "House of Assembly." The Young Israel Shomrai Emunah fulfills all of these definitions. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the entire membership of the Young Israel; Rabbi Gedaliah Anemer; the President of the synagogue, Arnold Sherman; the chairman and co-chairman of the renovation committee, Sheldon Klein and Dr. Howard Schulman; and the board of directors. May they proceed from strength to strength.

TO HONOR DIETRA LEAKE FORD

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the work and exceptional contributions of the late Dietra Leake Ford to the small business community and the entire Federal Government. Ms. Ford passed away on October 21, 1999.

Dietra Ford was a valuable leader in the advocacy of small, minority, and women-owned businesses; she accomplished much in her position as Associate Administrator for Enterprise Development at the General Services Administration. Under her leadership, the Office of enterprise Development won the 1997 North Star Award for excellence and leadership in economic development programs that serve women business owners. This July 1st she had just completed three years at GSA, and in that time contract numbers had tripled with women-owned businesses and doubled with minority businesses.

Ms. Ford was a highly esteemed leader and advocate for small business, not only at the General Services Administration, but also nationwide throughout the federal government and private sector. A powerful crusader for the interests of minority and women entrepreneurs, Ms. Ford served as a liaison with the White House Office of women's Initiatives, the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise, the Small Business Administration, the Office of Management and Budget, other Federal agencies, and Members of Congress.

Prior to going to GSA Dietra Ford had over 15 years of senior executive experience in both the legislative and the executive branches of the Federal Government. She served in the Clinton Administration as Executive Director of the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board from 1993 to 1996. In 1992 she was named as one of the ten cluster coordinators for the Transition Office of the President-Elec. From 1975 to 1993, she was a senior legislative associate for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the District of Columbia.

Ms. Ford was active in many civic organizations. She served as a member of the Board of Directors of Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, DC. She also was a former director for the United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries and traveled and represented this board at numerous international forums.

Ms. Ford held a bachelor's degree from Howard University and a master's degree from Boston University, where she was HUD Urban Studies Fellow.

Dietra Ford has left to the small business community, GSA, and the Federal Government at large an impressive legacy of innovative programs and creative initiatives. She is mourned by her many colleagues and will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING JULIA MARIE FLOWERS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birth of Julia Marie Flowers. Julia is the third child of Major Craig Flowers and his lovely wife Beth, the 16th grandchild of Denzil and Barbara Garrison, the 5th grandchild of Lt. Col. Jim and Nancy Flowers and the younger sister to Kathleen and

Annie. Julia arrived in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, on Wednesday, October 20th at 12:30 p.m., weighing in at a healthy 7 pounds 7 ounces and an impressive 20½ inches. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our heartiest congratulations to the Flowers family and share their happiness with the arrival of darling Julia.

RUSSIAN ASSAULT ON CHECHNYA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in the name of combating terrorism, Russia has again launched a war against Chechnya. It is employing indiscriminate use of force against civilians, and another humanitarian tragedy is unfolding.

In August and September of this year, Islamic extremists based in Chechnya— independent of the government of Chechnya— twice staged armed incursions into the neighboring Russian Federation Republic of Dagestan. In response, the Russian Government has sent its army to reoccupy Chechnya, a region that had won de facto independence from the rest of Russia as a result of a bloody war from 1994–96 invaded.

Now the United States Government recognizes, as a standard of international law, the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation, and Moscow has the legal right to bring to justice those responsible for committing crimes in the incursion into Dagestan. One should also sympathize with the victims of the recent unsolved bombings that killed almost 300 persons in Russia. But neither this terrorism nor the incursions into Dagestan, as reprehensible as they were, justify the use of indiscriminate force against the civilian population of Chechnya and causing the carnage that we are seeing now.

Last week, Russian rockets struck the Chechen capital of Grozny, hitting a marketplace and killing scores of civilians. This was preceded by air raids and artillery shelling of non-combatant villages, homes and farms in the northern part of Chechnya. The Russian Federation Migration Service states that more than 170,000 internally displaced persons have fled Chechnya, mostly to the neighboring region of Ingushetia.

Mr. Speaker, I, along with Mr. WOLF and Mr. FORBES, am introducing today a concurrent resolution calling upon the Government of the Russian Federation to cease unprovoked military attacks on the civilian population of Chechnya and to seek a negotiated solution to the conflict, using the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which helped broker an agreement to end the 1994–96 war. The United States Government should take a stronger stand in support of these goals, as the European Union has done.

Not that the government of Chechnya has been entirely blameless. Since achieving de facto independence from Russia in 1996, Chechnya has degenerated into a morass of lawlessness and violence, with a government powerless to establish law and order. The

economy, which was devastated by the war, has been sustained heavily by criminal activity. Moreover, rampant kidnappings of Russians and foreigners for ransom have caused Chechnya to lose much sympathy and support in Russia and the West.

Russia is entirely justified in using appropriate methods to combat terrorism, but not in launching a war against innocent civilians. Russia is a participating State of the OSCE, and has agreed to certain standards regarding the protection of civilians when addressing internal security matters. Yes, Chechnya is recognized by the international community as a part of Russia, but this is not merely an "internal matter." The 1991 Moscow Document of the OSCE clearly states that commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension of the OSCE are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned.

Moreover, Moscow's current policy is likely to lengthen and widen the conflict, perhaps into Russia and beyond, and it may well jeopardize democracy in Russia if Russian leaders attempt to use "emergency" measures as part of its war policy.

Our resolution also calls upon the Chechen government to make every appropriate effort to deny bases or other support to radical elements committed to violent actions in the North Caucasus. Furthermore, the resolution urges our own government to emphasize to all parties the necessity of resolving the conflict peacefully, under OSCE auspices, and to express the willingness to extend appropriate assistance toward such resolution, including humanitarian assistance, as needed.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to emphasize that this resolution is not "anti-Russian" or "pro-Chechen." Many observers who wish to see a prosperous and democratic Russia have been deeply disturbed by the present campaign in Chechnya. The chairperson of the Moscow Helsinki Group, Ludmila Alexeyeva, has stated that: "Under the pretext of fighting terrorism, a real war is being waged against Chechnya, with tragic consequences for the civilian population. In several cities in Russia, under the same pretext, the authorities are conducting a genuine campaign of ethnic cleansing. These events are no less dangerous for European security than the Kosova crisis caused by the Milosevic regime last spring. In and around Chechnya we are witnessing a humanitarian catastrophe which is alarming, insofar as the international community is paying very little attention."

In a recent statement, Deputy Secretary of State Talbott called upon Russia to use restraint, "taking action against real terrorists, but not using indiscriminate force that endangers innocents, or resuming the disastrous 1994–96 war in Chechnya." President Clinton should back these good words with stronger steps. If Russia does not act with restraint and pursue dialogue, then Chechnya should become the main issue at the OSCE Summit in Istanbul on November 18 and 19.

I hope that the Congress would go on record as supporting these calls, and I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this resolution.