

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, Mr. Speaker, I have long admired the human rights activity of Amnesty International and am proud to work with the organization in combating human rights violations. I welcome Amnesty's special concern for the human rights concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. This important aspect of human rights has not been given adequate attention, given the dimensions of the problem. I welcome the fact that a renowned human rights organization like Amnesty is taking a lead in this area.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to work with me and with Amnesty International in promoting awareness of human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation and mounting a forceful campaign against such injustices. I look forward to working closely with Amnesty and its OUTFRONT Program in the coming years, and I wish them great success in developing this important program.

TRIBUTE TO VICTORIA DELGADO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the great accomplishments of Victoria Delgado.

As the Director of Bilingual/Multicultural Programs for Community School District 32, Vicky, as she is affectionately known, is one of New York City's education veterans. She led the charge on behalf of bilingual education and contributed to nurturing and developing new teachers and supervisors through her teachings, coaching and mentoring. Vicky has made her mark on New York City as an effective and committed proponent and advocate for quality bilingual instruction, equal access and opportunity.

Vicky is no retiring from the New York City Board of Education. She will be forever known for her contributions to the education of children with limited English proficiency. I want to offer my congratulations and best wishes to Vicky on her retirement.

IN HONOR OF TED RADKE'S 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ted Radke on the occasion of his 20th year of service on the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors.

We all owe Ted a debt of gratitude for his successful and tireless efforts to preserve and protect precious lands in the Bay Area for generations of Californians.

Ted was originally elected to the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors in November, 1978 and has been re-elected every four years since that time. He served as Board President in 1986, 1987 and 1995. He

ably and energetically represents the residents of Ward 7, which currently includes Antioch, Bay Point, Bethel Island, Brentwood, Byron, Crockett, Discovery Bay, El Sobrante, Hercules, Martinez, Oakley, Pacheco, Pinole, Pittsburg, Port Costa and Rodeo.

Ted has been a member of the Board's Executive, Finance and Workforce Diversity Committees, the Contra Costa Water District/EBRPD Liaison Committee, Contra Costa County Liaison Committee, Martinez JPA, North Contra Costa County Shoreline JPA and Pinole/Hercules JPA. His preferred Board Committee is the Legislative Committee over which he has expertly presided since 1983. He serves on intergovernmental Boards such as the Delta Science Center and the Carquinez Regional Land Trust, and is an active participant in the Pt. Molate Base Closure process, the Park District's East Contra Costa County Task Force, and the Concord Naval Weapons Station Joint Use Committee.

An active supporter of local, state and federal efforts to raise funding for the acquisition of park and open space lands and the preservation of natural habitats and endangered species, Ted has worked on state bond acts, Proposition 70, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Park District Measure AA (1988), Measures KK and LL (1996) and Measure W (1998). He has played a pivotal role in the acquisition of a number of key regional parks and trails, including Martinez Regional Shoreline, Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline, Big Break Regional Shoreline and Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, significantly contributing to the Park District's acreage increasing by 40,000 acres since 1978. Ted provided a leadership role in opposition to the development of solid waste landfills at future proposed parkland sites at Round Valley and Black Diamond in East Contra Costa County.

Ted continues to seek opportunities for park and open space acquisition through partnerships with agencies such as the National Park Service (John Muir National Historic Site), Muir Regional Land Trust (Franklin Hills), and the Federal Government (Ozof Fuel Depot and Concord Naval Weapons Station).

I know I speak for all the Members of this chamber when I congratulate Ted Radke for his 20 years of service to the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors, and when I thank him for the many contributions he has made to our community.

HONORING THE BEACH CITIES SYMPHONY

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important organization in my district, the Beach Cities Symphony. For the last 50 years, this group has entertained the people of the South Bay with its classical music.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Beach Cities Symphony continues to promote the musical arts through volunteering time and talents for the enjoyment and enhancement of both the performers and the audience.

Two individuals have been with the symphony since its inception. They were among

the 20 original members who wanted to form a symphony that would bring classical music to the community, free of charge. I commend the dedication of Bob Peterson and Norma Gass; they have helped make the Beach Cities Symphony what it is today. Their commitment to the arts has enriched the community.

Each year the symphony performs four free concerts for the residents of the South Bay. The concerts are held at the 2,000 seat Marsee Auditorium on the campus of El Camino College.

I congratulate Music Director and Conductor Barry Brisk and the entire symphony on this milestone. Thank you for your contributions to the community. I wish you continued success.

JOE MANZANARES' GIFTS TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a man who has given selflessly of his time and effort to help others. Joe Manzanares, for the past forty-two years, has volunteered to better his community, primarily through his work with Neighborhood Housing Services of Pueblo, Colorado in the Third Congressional District.

Mr. Manzanares has accomplished several achievements through his voluntary work, including the development of El Pueblo Pride Park which is a five acre neighborhood park in Pueblo's west side. Following a tragic auto accident in his neighborhood that killed a child, Joe Manzanares and his granddaughter, Cecily Bustillo, worked to create this park out of nothing, lobbying the state to purchase the land, which was then turned into a park.

Joe Manzanares has been recognized by others for his inspirational dedication to revitalizing neighborhoods. This week, he will travel to Oakland, California to receive additional recognition for his achievements. There, Mr. Manzanares will receive the Dorothy Richardson Award for Resident Leadership Development from the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation. He will be one of nine people receiving the award, selected from thousands of volunteers for nonprofit organizations across this country.

I cannot think of a more fitting and deserving recipient of this honor than Joe Manzanares. I wish to extend my congratulations to Joe Manzanares upon the occasion of this award honoring the commitment that he has made to his neighborhood in Pueblo, his home since 1962. Mr. Speaker, let me close by extending my own appreciation—thank you, Joe Manzanares, for your work to improve our community.

GAO REPORT URGES IMPROVEMENTS OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN OF MIGRANT FARM WORKERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of my colleagues of a

General Accounting Office (GAO) report which I requested. The report—entitled “Migrant Children: Education and HHS Need to Improve the Exchange of Participant Information”—has just been released. The GAO study reports problems with federal education programs which have been established to help children of migrant farm worker families. The two largest federal education programs, Migrant Education and Migrant Head Start, help over 660,000 migrant children overcome educational hardships. The report concludes that federal education programs created to help children of migrant farm worker families, could better serve migrant children.

Mr. Speaker, migrant children routinely suffer poverty, inadequate housing, social isolation, pesticide exposure, and disrupted schooling as their families move from place to place and from state to state in search of work. The fresh produce and rich variety of canned and frozen foods on our American tables would not be available without the labor of migrant farm worker families, but migrant children, many of whom labor in the fields along side their parents, frequently do not share in this bounty. We need effective programs which can help these children.

According to the GAO report, migrant workers are diverse, young, and mobile. Although most are Mexican and Mexican-American, there has been an influx of workers from Central America. At the same time, a substantial portion of the migrant labor force includes English-speaking, white U.S. families; Bengali-speaking workers harvesting grapes and fruit in California; Russian-speaking workers fishing and logging in the Northwest; and Gullah-speaking, African-American families shrimping in Georgia. Over the years, the workforce has become younger, and today most migrant farm workers are under 35. In particular, the number of teenage boys who migrate without their families—many as young as 13 years of age—continues to increase.

Mr. Speaker, about half of all migrant workers travel with their families. Most migrant farm worker families live in two or more locations per year, disrupting the education and preschool experience of children. This not only disrupts regular education, it can also disrupt special services available to migrant children. In part this is because children who may be eligible for special education services in one location are not eligible when they move to another location and in part because critical information, such as immunization records and special education needs assessments, are not transmitted or are not accepted at the new school. Because children of migrant farm families are in an area for a relatively short time, they may not receive the services they need and they may receive unnecessary immunizations or diagnostic assessments. An additional problem for older children is satisfying the courses requirements for high school graduation. Requirements differ from school district to school district and records of courses completed must be transmitted to the new school district, and frequently this does not happen or it happens only with considerable delay.

Mr. Speaker, the GAO recommends that to help all migrant infant and preschoolers get the services they need, the Secretary of Health and Human Services expand its definition of eligible agricultural occupations available for Migrant Head Start (MHS) programs to harmonize with those listed under Migrant

Educational Program (MEP). Currently, only children of crop workers are eligible for MHS, whereas those eligible for MEP include children of dairy workers and fishers, as well as crop workers. As a result of MHS' narrower eligibility requirements, fewer infants and preschool migrant children are eligible for MHS than for MEP.

The GAO's second recommendation, to make sure that critical information is transmitted to the receiving school or center when it is needed. In order to assure that this is done, GAO recommends that the Secretaries of Education and of Health and Human Services to develop an electronic nationwide system that would allow schools and MHS centers to readily access or request educational and health information migrant children. Currently, the absence of a national system often results in inappropriate classroom placements, delays in receiving services, repeated immunizations, or failures to complete high school graduation requirements.

GAO's third recommendation is that the two cabinet Secretaries include in their respective research and evaluation plans studies that measure the outcomes of MEP and MHS and the extent to which programs are meeting their goals. It is important that we know if migrant education and head start programs are working. Although both Education and HHS collect substantial amounts of program data, none of the current data enables either department to evaluate how much their programs are helping migrant children.

Mr. Speaker, copies of this important report are available. I urge my colleagues to read the GAO's important new report on migrant children and join me in working to implement these important recommendations.

HONORING ELIZABETH MCINTOSH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the achievements of community activist, Elizabeth McIntosh.

Mrs. McIntosh is a native of Aiken, South Carolina. She received her formal education in Jacksonville, Florida and came to New York in 1935, where she was employed in the garment district. Later, she was employed by the New York City Transit Authority and retired from NYCTA after thirty years of service.

She is a dedicated and faithful member of Universal Baptist Church, where she serves as a deaconess. Mrs. McIntosh enjoys working with and helping others whenever and wherever she can. She contributes her time to the Stuyvesant Heights Landmark Senior Citizen Center where she is also a member and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of the Community Service Society.

For many years, Mrs. McIntosh has made significant contributions to the growth and development of the Unity Democratic Club. Her exemplary leadership and commitment as Chaplain, a member of the Executive Board, The Women's Auxiliary and numerous other committees related to campaign and election activities is an inspiration to the Club.

In addition, she is a member of the National Council of Negro Women, The 81st Precinct

Community Council, The Good Neighbor Block Association, The Church Women United of Brooklyn and the NAACP. Elizabeth McIntosh has shown courage and determination in whatever task she undertakes. She leaves an indelible impression on everyone she meets. The strong desire to help and a love for humanity keeps Mrs. McIntosh on the move.

I commend the accomplishments of Elizabeth McIntosh to the attention of my colleagues.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA'S MINORITY-OWNED INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY FIRMS NAMED AMONG THE 100 LARGEST BY BLACK ENTERPRISE MAGAZINE

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues from Virginia in commending the work of a group of Virginia's most innovative companies. Included in Black Enterprise Magazine's list of the 100 largest minority-owned companies are 13 information and technology firms. Nine of the 13 call Virginia home. These businesses represent the very best of the Information Age true superstars in the information technology arena that is helping to fuel the economy in my home state of Virginia and across the entire nation.

These nine enterprises are fostering the emergence of an exciting new market for African American entrepreneurs. At the top of the IT industry, Universal System Technology Inc. (UNITECH); Digital Systems International Corp; SENTEL; Innovative Logistics Techniques, Inc.; Advanced Resource Technologies, Inc.; Houston Associates, Inc., and Armstrong Data Service, Inc. (ADS) are transforming Northern Virginia into one of the world's leading technology hubs.

It is not by chance that African-American-owned businesses are finding their success stories in Northern Virginia. Our region's concentration of fine colleges and universities provides a vast pool of potential employees. Emerging businesses may also choose from a large number of former government employees seeking high-tech jobs in the private sector. Furthermore, close proximity to our nation's political center renders opportunities for government contracting and access to key decision-makers.

The area also boasts a plethora of organizations that provide resources to emerging businesses. The Northern Virginia Technology Council hosts networking sessions, helping young companies build relationships with large, established IT firms. The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority and the Center for Innovative Technology provide technical, financial and business assistance.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to send my sincere congratulations to the African-American entrepreneurs who are using Northern Virginia's existing resources well, while creating jobs and contributing to the area's supportive community and excellent quality of life. We celebrate their entrepreneurial spirit, we honor their commitment to the state of Virginia and applaud their vital role in the information and technology industry.