

## TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CORPORATION

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the American Honda Motor Corporation and Mr. Eric Conn, Senior Vice President, for establishing the "Honda Player of the Year Award."

This is the eighth year that American Honda has recognized the most understanding professional soccer player in the United States to defend the colors of our country as chosen by 200 members of the press from the United States and abroad.

In addition, American Honda, recognizing the importance of our youth, designated the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), as a beneficiary of their fine program.

Past recipients of this most prestigious award include: Eddie Pope (1997), Eric Wynalda (1996 and 1992), Alexi Lalas (1995), Marcelo Balboa (1994), Thomas Dooley (1993), and Hugo Perez (1991).

The 1998 awards finalists included Kasey Keller, Eddie Pope, and Cobi Jones.

The winner received a New Honda Accord EX and \$5,000, the latter donated to AYSO on his behalf.

It is because of the awareness and dedication of responsible corporate entities in our country, exemplified by the American Honda Motor Corporation, that today's true role models can become more well known.

Please join me in saluting the very important contribution to excellence made by American Honda.

## ON ENTERING A LETTER TO THE HONORABLE DAVID DREIER ABOUT THE DELEGATE VOTE

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to correct an erroneous statement by my good friend and colleague from California, concerning the constitutionality of the Delegate vote in the Committee of the Whole. On January 6, 1999, the gentleman from California, Mr. DREIER, made the remark concerning the Delegate vote in response to my statement on withdrawal of my right to vote in the Committee of the Whole, despite the fact that D.C. residents alone among American citizens pay federal income taxes while lacking full representation in the Congress. He said that a federal court had settled the constitutionality of the Delegate vote against the District. As my letter points out, the opposite is in fact the case. Both the District Court and the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia have ruled that the Delegate vote is constitutional. The text of the letter follows:

*January 7, 1999.*

Hon. DAVID DREIER  
Member, U.S. House of Representatives, Cannon H.O.B., Washington, DC.

DEAR DAVE: I am writing to point out an error in your statement on the House Floor,

as recorded in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that "in 1993 a Federal judge found a House rule change to allow Delegate voting in the Committee of the Whole could be unconstitutional, so that clearly was addressed at that time." I did not realize that you were unaware that the opposite is the case. Both the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia found that Delegate voting is constitutional. In *Michel v. Anderson*, 817 F.Supp. 126 (D.D.C. 1993), and subsequently on appeal in *Michel v. Anderson*, 14 F.3d 623 (D.C.Cir. 1994) the courts that heard the case found that the House is the sole arbiter of its own rules and that it could amend its rules to allow Delegate voting. I assure you that I would have never have been so reckless as to take to the floor and argue for something already declared unconstitutional by the courts.

Delegate voting was originally applicable to all Delegates and included jurisdictions whose residents do not pay federal income taxes. After the vote was withdrawn, several Members, including some on your side, indicated they would support the vote in the Committee of the Whole for District residents because of our federal income taxpaying status. Given the fact that there must be a revote if the Delegate vote proves decisive in the Committee of the Whole, it seems needlessly punitive for a Congress that regards taxes as a priority, to deny this vote, harmless to your side, to Americans who are third per capita in federal income taxes. If, as I believe, the constitutional matter has been cleared up, I hope that you will have occasion to reconsider the Committee of the Whole vote for the District residents.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. RUTH COLLINS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand to congratulate Ms. Ruth Collins Sharp Altshuler, national recipient of the Outstanding Philanthropist Award for 1998. The third Dallasite to win the award, she will receive this honor from the National Society of Fund Raising Executives at its 36th International Conference on Fundraising, April 26 in Miami Beach.

Mr. Speaker, the award is one of meritorious commendation of an individual's commitment and work in philanthropy and fund raising on the behalf of notable causes that help others. Before Mrs. Altshuler, Ross Perot and Cecil H. Green, cofounder of Texas Instruments, were recipients of the award in 1986 and 1994, respectively. Based on her work, she is both deserving of the award and to be noted in such esteemed company.

She is the founder of the local Alexis de Tocqueville Society, whose members nationally give \$10,000 or more to the efforts of the United Way each year.

She has contributed countless time and energy to the Salvation Army, particularly the Carr P. Collins Social Service Center, named in honor of her father. At the Carr P. Collins Social Service Center, many homeless families have access to shelter, food, and rehabilitation programs.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Altshuler is also known for leading the cause of advocacy and understanding on issues of mental illness and mental illness research. She has been able to make individuals more aware of this issue through her ability and courage in sharing her own family experience. Where many families are naturally apprehensive to talk about the subject, she is discussing this issue in a frank and open manner. As a result, many people look at the issue in a different framework, and are feeling positive about developing solutions to mental illness.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to pay tribute to Ruth Collins Sharp Altshuler and her being named as the national recipient of the Outstanding Philanthropist Award for 1998. I thank her for her efforts and wish her continued success.

## IN MEMORY OF MEGHAN ELIZABETH PRICE

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Meghan Elizabeth Price, who was the President of the Student Government Association at the University of Maryland, College Park. Meghan tragically died in a car accident on December 29, 1998. She was a senior Government & Politics major and was preparing to attend law school in the fall. She is survived by her parents, Karlyn "Susan" Price and John "Sonny" Price, as well as her brother Jonathan.

Meghan was a respected student leader in College Park. She served in many leadership positions on campus. Prior to her election as President in October, she held the positions of Vice-President of Campus Affairs, Legislative Director, and the Cambridge Community Legislator for the Student Government Association. While she was the Vice-President of Campus Affairs she helped to found the Flagship Initiative, which is a student initiated effort to lobby the General Assembly for increased funding for the University of Maryland, College Park. She also worked closely with University of Maryland Officials, including the President and the Athletic Director, to improve the quality of life for all of the members of the University of Maryland community.

Meghan's activism began before she arrived in College Park and extended beyond just the College Park community. She attended Southern Garrett High School where she was a member of the Student Council for four years and was the President her senior year. She was also the Drum Major of the Marching Band, and a four-year member of the softball team. In addition she interned at EMILY's List and volunteered on my re-election campaign.

Meghan was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa Fraternity and a graduate of the College Park Scholars Public Leaders Program. She participated in the Blind Skiers Program at Wisp and the annual University of Maryland Holocaust Memorial Vigil.

It is regrettable the such a young, motivated and inspirational leader is lost so early in life. Meghan touched so many people in her short time with us and set an example that will shine forth for all to see, even in her absence.

I join with the University of Maryland community in expressing my sorrow in the loss of a visionary leader and an admired human being. May God bless those she left behind.

IN HONOR OF MONSIGNOR  
MASAKOWSKI

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring a momentous occasion to the attention of my colleagues—the Centennial Celebration of the St. John the Baptist Church in Larksville, Pennsylvania. On Sunday, January 24, the community will gather to commemorate this anniversary and I am pleased to have been asked to participate. His Excellency, the Most Reverend James C. Timlin, D.D. of the Archdiocese of Scranton will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving to begin the festivities.

The church was founded by a group of Polish immigrants, mostly peasant farmers from Galicia, who settled in the Wyoming Valley to work in the coal mines. Toward the end of 1898, a group who had been attending another local church, decided to construct a Polish Roman Catholic Church in Larksville. They formed a committee to meet with the Bishop and obtained permission to begin construction. A wooden frame church was completed in December 1898 with Reverend R.A. Nowicki as Pastor. The church was officially dedicated in February 1899.

A school and parish meeting hall were constructed soon after and the parish continued to grow. On December 18, 1919 tragedy struck the parish when fire destroyed the church, school, and part of the rectory. The sturdy immigrant parish was not to be discouraged and quickly began the task of rebuilding.

Under the leadership of Reverend Paul A. Kopicki, construction of a new St. John the Baptist Church began in May of 1920. On December 25, 1920, the new church was dedicated at midnight mass.

The new church was reborn spiritually as well, with Father Kopicki starting the parish picnic, minstrel shows, and children's talent shows. A choir was formed under the leadership of Benjamin Jachimowicz. By 1928, the church had a new rectory and by 1935, a new school was opened. The school, which was run by Bernadine nuns, closed in 1959 due to a shortage of teachers and lack of space.

Mr. Speaker, the list of priests who have been spiritual leaders of St. John's is lengthy. On September 7, 1971, my good friend Father John Masakowski became the twelfth pastor of the church. Father John is from my hometown of Nanticoke and brought years of experience and wisdom to St. John's. Father Masakowski reinstated the now-famous parish picnic and renovated the interior of the church. He reorganized the church societies and had a grotto constructed to Our Lady of the Pines in the church park. In 1990, Father John was made Monsignor, much to the pride of his faithful parishioners. This year, they will celebrate his Golden anniversary of ordination.

Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed the parish picnic at St. John's many times over the years of my tenure in Congress. Its parishioners are decent, hardworking people, many of whom I

am proud to call friends. I am pleased to have this opportunity to bring the history of this proud and thriving parish to the attention of my colleagues. The history of the church is a testament to their dedication and perseverance. I congratulate Monsignor Masakowski and the congregation on this momentous milestone.

IT IS TIME TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF PERSIAN GULF EVACUEES

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, two years ago, during the 105th Congress, I considered it a duty to introduce private relief legislation on behalf of 62 families who were air-lifted out of Kuwait during Iraq's invasion of that country. These families were brought out of Kuwait involuntarily, most without the opportunity to bring private belongings or assets with them. nearly all have children who are U.S. citizens. As indicated by their having been cleared by the INS and the FBI, the Persian Gulf Evacuees [PGE's] are shown to be professionals who are gainfully employed, none of whom have become wards of the States in which they live, received welfare assistance, or otherwise broken any U.S. laws while in the United States.

Because of their actions in Kuwait at great risk to themselves, to provide safe harbors of Americans trapped that country during Saddam Hussein's attack, these Persian Gulf evacuees deserve our utmost respect and gratitude.

I urge my colleagues to take note of this private relief bill, because the Persian Gulf evacuee families are scattered all over the United States, and one or more families may live in your Congressional District, and they need your support to help get the bill out of committee and enacted into law.

President George Bush, in air-lifting them out of Kuwait during those perilous days just prior to U.S. Military intervention, did so to protect their lives. He gave the evacuees five years of "safe harbor" in the United States during which time the evacuees made every effort to adjust their status to that of permanent immigrant. After President Bush left office, President Clinton extended their stay here for an additional two years.

At the time of the air-lift, more than 2,000 individuals were involved; during the intervening years, all but 62 individuals and families have "adjusted" their status and have gained permanent immigrant status in the United States where, as I have said, they are self-supporting and have brought no financial burden upon the United States for their care and keeping.

These 62 remaining individuals and families have not had their status adjusted in the intervening years because many of them ran into barriers between themselves and the Immigration and Naturalization Service [INS] that kept appropriate interviews from being conducted with the evacuees and further kept the FBI from starting and completing necessary background checks on the evacuees to assure they had committed no crimes while in the United States.

Today, I have reintroduced a Private Relief Bill naming 62 individuals and families who are known as Persian Gulf evacuees [PGE's] and I urge my colleagues to join with me to serve those evacuees who may live in your Congressional District to ensure appropriate action is taken this year to grant them permanent immigrant status in the United States.

IN HONOR OF JUDGE MARILYN MORGAN

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 19, 1999*

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a true humanitarian and an outstanding member of my hometown community of San Jose, California.

Judge Marilyn Morgan has served on the United States Bankruptcy Court with honor and distinction for over ten years. To acknowledge her exemplary service on the bench, as well as her prior service as an attorney and trustee, the consumer bankruptcy community of Division 5 of the Northern District of California is honoring Judge Morgan with the Fresh Start Award. This honor is given to those who have provided outstanding leadership on issues concerning the bankruptcy system and those who strive to improve it. The Fresh Start award also honors those who have worked hard to maintain equity, integrity, fairness and compassion in the system. Judge Morgan is a shining example of the best in our judicial system.

Judge Morgan demonstrated her commitment to fairness and justice even before pursuing her career in the field of law by working in the civil rights movement in Atlanta with (now Congressman) John Lewis and others.

Prior to serving on the bench, Judge Morgan practiced law in San Jose, and was always mindful of the needs of our community. She provided pro-bono legal assistance to underserved members of our community and served as secretary of the Pro-Bono Project. Judge Morgan represented both debtors and creditors in chapter 7 and chapter 13 cases. She also found time to serve as a Chapter 7 trustee, and in that capacity was a founder and officer of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees (NABT).

As an expert on bankruptcy law, Judge Morgan has participated as a panelist or moderator at seminars conducted by groups such as the Norton Institute, the American Law Institute-American Bar Association, and the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys. She also served as a panelist before the National Bankruptcy Review Commission as it studied the need for bankruptcy reform.

While practicing law, Marilyn Morgan participated in the activities of several professional associations, serving as President and Treasurer of the Santa Clara County Bar Association and as a trustee of the Santa Clara County Law Related Education Committee, to name a few. She is an active member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. In addition, she has been an officer or director of many community organizations in San Jose, including the Rotary Club of San Jose, the American Red Cross and the Downtown YMCA.