

A TRIBUTE TO PARK SLOPE
NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY CENTER

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the Park Slope Neighborhood Family Center on the occasion of its Annual Dinner Dance.

This event is not only a festive happening, it is a chance for all of us to celebrate and pay tribute to a group of individuals who embody the spirit of community service. This year's honorees truly represent the best of what our community has to offer.

The Park Slope Neighborhood Family Center (PSNFC) is home to five community organizations serving thousands of south Brooklyn residents. PSNFC was founded in 1983 by a small group of neighborhood residents in response to the need for safe, affordable space shared by local community organizations. By placing a variety of social service programs under one roof, PSNFC encourages the creation of innovative intergovernmental and multicultural programming while answering the interrelated needs of many agency clients.

Martin Gomez serves as the Executive Director of the Brooklyn Public Library, the nation's fifth-largest library system. He is an elected member of the American Library Association Executive Board and a board member of the Metropolitan New York Library Council. He established the Library's first foundation board to raise private funds for library programs and was instrumental in creating an on-line wide-area network providing free public access to the Internet at Brooklyn's 60 public libraries. With a lifelong commitment to encouraging diversity in libraries, Martin has designed programs for the California Literacy Campaign and its Minority Services Recruitment and Scholarship program.

Tupper Thomas serves as the administrator of Prospect Park where she is responsible for the ongoing operation of the park. In addition to overseeing the ongoing restoration of Prospect Park, Tupper Thomas has been instrumental in increasing the park's usership through special events, public information and outreach programs. Tupper Thomas also serves as the president of the Prospect Park Alliance, an organization dedicated to funding activities and services for park visitors, landscape projects, and selected capital projects.

Judith D. Zuk serves as the president and chief executive officer of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. An horticulturist with experience as an educator, researcher, and administrator, she heads one of America's preeminent public gardens. With members in every State and 52 foreign countries, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden attracts 800,000 visitors annually. She is active in a number of professional and civic organizations and serves as the chairman of the Cultural Institutions Group. Judith also serves on the boards of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Chase Manhattan Regional Advisory Board, Greenwood Cemetery, New York City Street Tree Consortium, and the New York City Water Conservation District.

All of today's honorees have long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those with whom they come into contact. Through their dedicated efforts, they have

each helped to improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations on their being honored by the Park Slope Neighborhood Family Center.

PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION SERVICES IN INTEGRITY ACT OF 1999

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I are proud to introduce the "Partial Hospitalization Services Integrity Act of 1999" that will enact much-needed reforms to Medicare's partial hospitalization benefit.

Partial hospitalization is an important component of Medicare. In-patient hospitalization for psychiatric treatment is expensive and disruptive to the person's life. Therefore, Congress created partial hospitalization as a cost-effective alternative for treating seniors with acute psychological disorders. The program allows them to live at home and receive intensive treatment.

Unfortunately, many dishonest individuals have abused the partial hospitalization program and defrauded the government of millions of dollars. On October 5, 1998, the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General issued a report that exposed egregious waste, fraud, and abuse by many partial hospitalization providers. The report quickly gained national attention. Later that evening, NBC News featured the report in their "Fleeing of America" segment.

The results of that audit represent a clear case of greed and fraud committed by dishonest mental health care providers. For example, the total program costs increased by approximately 482 percent between 1993 and 1997, from \$15 to \$349 million per year! More distressing is the fact that much of this was squandered on unreasonable and unnecessary services, given to people who were not eligible, and provided by organization that were not certified to provide the services.

The bill that I am introducing will correct the conditions that lead to the abuse of the program. The Partial Hospitalization Services Integrity Act of 1999 clarifies the current definition of the organizations that can provide partial hospitalization services and includes clear civil monetary penalties for fraudulent claims. The legislation represents a broad consensus of interested parties that include the Administration, representatives of qualified partial hospitalization providers, and patient advocates.

It is time to act quickly and decisively to preserve a valuable service and to stop the waste, fraud, and abuse perpetrated by unscrupulous operators.

HONORING ALL THE PEOPLE WHO
OFFERED ASSISTANCE DURING
THE AMTRAK TRAIN TRAGEDY
IN BOURBONNAIS

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kankakee County Sheriff Tim Bukowski;

Bourbonnais Mayor, Grover Brooks; Bourbonnais Police Chief, Joseph Beard, Bourbonnais Fire Chief, Mike Harshbarger; employees of Riverside Medical Center; employees of Provena St. Mary's Hospital; paid and volunteer firefighters and emergency personnel; employees of Birmingham Steel; employees of Farm & Fleet; all policemen and firemen in Kankakee County; as well as all those who reside in the Kankakee River Valley for their acts of heroism during the recent Amtrak train tragedy in Bourbonnais.

The Village of Bourbonnais is known as the "Village of Friendship". The Village as well as the entire Kankakee River Valley has proven worthy of the title. Both local and national news accounts were filled with stories of heroism and acts of kindness. The world was watching and Bourbonnais arose to the occasion. People of all ages rose to the occasion. Half a million pennies collected by Kankakee County school children during the past year even helped save lives. The pennies were recently used to purchase a night vision camera which was used to help see in the night through the fumes and smoke from the wreckage.

I have been told of small acts of kindness throughout the Kankakee River Valley. Anyone who took part in the rescue effort would not be allowed to pay for their own meals in any area restaurant. Food, clothing, and toy donations poured into the local hospitals for over 8 hours. Offers of assistance came from all surrounding communities and counties. Even local teenagers donated blood to the Red Cross.

The Village of Bourbonnais was incorporated in 1875, nearly two centuries after French explorer Cavalier de La Salle established contact with the Potawatomi Indians who lived there. According to Village history, the town takes its name for an early pioneer, Francois Bourbonnais, Sr., a French-Canadian Fur trapper who set up a trading post in 1830. Today, Bourbonnais is a growing community and was named by Reader's Digest as one of the best communities in the United States in which to raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other towns and villages in their own districts whose actions have so greatly proven to be a community which works together during both good and bad times.

AND THE WINNER IS, ANGELIN
BASKARIN

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, while our nation continues to grieve over the school tragedy in Littleton, Colo., I'd like to turn our attention for a moment to a middle school student from Galveston, Texas, who is already making contributions toward advancing our understanding of the aging process at age 13.

All too often we only hear about the problem children in our society. As a former high school teacher, I know that there are hundreds of kind, intelligent, and productive students, like Angelin Baskarin, who are working hard to become the next generation of scientists, professors, and even Members of Congress.

I'd like to congratulate Angelin, who has won awards at the Galveston County Science and Engineering Fair, the Houston Science and Engineering Fair, the state of Texas Science and Engineering Fair, for her research project, entitled "Math Semantics." She has been selected to present her research findings, which looked at how age, gender, and profession affect math proficiency, at a national science fair here in Washington, D.C., in June.

It is the bright future and promise of students like Angelin, who make teaching worthwhile and rewarding experience. Good luck at the national competition, Angelin!

84TH COMMEMORATION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, April 24 marks the commemoration of the massacre of the Armenian people in Turkey during and after the First World War. More than 1.5 million people were expelled from their homes and marched to their deaths in what is recorded as the first of this century's state-ordered genocides against a minority group. Tragically, at the close of the century we again bear witness to the universality of human cruelty and fanaticism as the Kosovar Albanians are ethnically cleansed from their homeland.

We must remember, we must reflect and we must learn. One of the great thinkers and advocates of our time—indeed, the conscience of this century—Elie Wiesel, has said that "indifference makes humans inhuman; indifference is always the friend of the enemy; indifference is not only a sin, it is a punishment." We must not be indifferent, Mr. Speaker, we must also act.

We remember the Armenians and their suffering, the incomprehensible magnitude of their loss. We honor those who perished. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we also remember the survivors and are inspired by their sacrifice, their strength and their creativity in building a future for the Armenian people. Today, independent Armenia guarantees the security and future of the nation and is a beacon of hope to Armenian people everywhere. Its people work tirelessly to strengthen democratic institutions and build a flourishing market economy to ensure peace and prosperity for generations to come. It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that those to come will not have to sacrifice as their ancestors have. It is also my hope that the parties to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh will renew and redouble their efforts to reach a negotiated settlement and to help bring peace and prosperity to the entire region.

Mr. Speaker, the Armenian people did not "disappear," as their persecutors intended. They survived and they flourished. Their strength of spirit, endurance and prosperity of the Armenian people give hope for the future to all of us—especially those who suffer now.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month. There is nothing more important than the safety and protection of our children. To highlight the seriousness of this issue, the month of April was declared Child Abuse Prevention Month by President Reagan in 1982.

In 1997, nearly one million children were victims of either neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse. In many cases, the children experienced all of these abuses. What is even more shocking is that in 1996, a little more than three children died each day as a result of child abuse or neglect. These numbers are startling and in my opinion are unacceptable. Our children deserve to grow up in an atmosphere that is not filled with fear and violence.

The good news is that child abuse is preventable. Through the proper assistance we can put an end to this monstrous action. Children represent the most vulnerable and precious part of our society and we must do what we can to protect them.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the seriousness of this issue and supporting actions to prevent this problem from getting bigger.

IN HONOR OF THE SHERWIN- WILLIAMS CO.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sherwin-Williams Co., and its charitable arm, the Sherwin-Williams foundation, as one of Cleveland's most charitable corporate partners.

The company not only employs thousands of people in the greater Cleveland area, but also contributes significant funds and strong support for some of the region's most deserving organizations. The CEO of Sherwin-Williams, Jack Breen, has just completed his twentieth year with the company. Mr. Breen has been the recipient of a number of awards, including top honors from the Wall Street Transcript in the Building Materials Industry. In 1996, he was inducted into the Business Hall of Fame sponsored by Cleveland Magazine's Inside Business. This award is presented to individuals who not only have achieved business success, but who generously shared that success with the community. Mr. Breen is a native Cleveland, and during his time with the Sherwin-Williams Co., the stock price has increased about 50 times and earnings per share have increased dramatically.

Beginning on April 26, 1999, Sherwin-Williams will again demonstrate its commitment to the Northeast Ohio community through a week-long "Spruce Up Our Parks" program which will benefit Cleveland's Lakeshore State Park. Working in conjunction with Keep America Beautiful, Inc., Sherwin-Williams will underwrite the cost of paints and supplies that will

be used to beautify various structures throughout Edgewater, Gordon, Euclid Beach, Villa Angela, Wildwood, and Mentor Headlands parks.

Sherwin-Williams will also coordinate with Keep America Beautiful to oversee the work of more than 500 students from area high schools who are serving as volunteer painters for the event. The participating high schools include: Lakewood, St. Edward, St. Ignatius, Glenville, John Hay, Collinwood, Benedictine, Villa Angela-St. Joseph, Harvey, Riverside, Kirkland, and Mentor High Schools.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the good work the Sherwin-Williams Company is doing to help beautify the Cleveland area and parks across the country.

ROUND TOP, TX, DEDICATES A NEW POST OFFICE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, dedication ceremonies will soon be held in Texas to mark the completion of a new postal facility in Round Top, TX. This is the first new post office in this city since the 1968 dedication of the old one.

The route this new post office took from blue print to completion expresses the basis of being a Texan and an American. The U.S. Postal Service approached Round Top with a pre-designed post office building that had apparently been designed in Washington without the input of the people of Round Top. In true Texas fashion the people of this city stood up to say this new building would be in their town for their use and therefore insisted that it reflect the city in which it would be built. As a result, they now have a beautiful new building that reflects their history as a community and as Texans. Since Round Top has had a post office since the days of the Republic of Texas, it is only fitting that this new building points to the proud heritage of our great state.

Our Founding Fathers intended for decisions to be made as close to the people as possible. By rejecting plans that had no connection to their city, the people of Round Top continue to live up to this great tradition.

Mr. Speaker, Postmaster Carol Oritz and her community are deservedly proud of their new post office and the history behind it. As our great state continues to grow and our major cities get even larger, we would be wise to remember the people of Round Top and other such communities.

It is fitting that the new post office in the Texas town of Round Top today flies an American flag that very recently flew over our nation's capitol building.