

the Optimist Club, Character Counts! Coalition, St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Heritage Fellowship Church, the Medical Care for Children Partnership, and Reston Community Coalition, a community/school partnership promoting drug and alcohol use prevention. During January 1999, LeCesne chaired Reston's Martin Luther King Jr. Planning Committee for the celebration of Dr. King's birthday.

Patricia Macintyre for her steadfast efforts as a community volunteer. A renowned artist, she has spent more than 30 years volunteering her talent and love of art in many forums and spaces, including art galleries, government buildings, schools, preschools, festivals and celebrations. She spent 17 years as host of "You've Gotta Have Art," a weekly children's television program directed toward teaching Reston youth to appreciate art. Macintyre has spent her life working to preserve and promote the arts in Reston. Every Saturday morning she leads free family workshops in art and culture at the Reston Historic Trust Museum.

USAA for its commitment to a strong work ethic, customer service, and the value of its employees' personal, professional, and family needs. USAA supports efforts to improve the quality of life in its employees' communities, affording them many volunteer opportunities. Through USAA's involvement in the community, research funds have been raised to benefit the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Arthritis Foundation, and others. USAA helps meet the material needs of our community through ongoing collection of food, clothing, books, and school supplies. USAA volunteers support education by giving their time as tutors, mentors, and speakers. A commitment to community involvement is so basic to USAA's corporate culture, that "Public Outreach" is a corporate "Key Result Area."

Jane Gilmer Wilhelm's mission in Reston and her entire career has been to be a vital, clear, caring resource for all people. She has given innumerable gifts of time and passionate presence to all our community's members from her early years in Reston as Director of Community Relations to the speeches she makes to this day, to save buses, libraries, and funding for the neediest. From infants to the elderly, from the homeless and needy, from young students to senior citizens in learning, from our various community organizations, to nature areas preserved by our founders, her caring has permeated her days. Not to mention her frequent visits with many on Lake Anne benches and her tireless volunteer work for our citizens' many concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring the "Best of Reston" Award winners for their dedicated commitment to making Reston, Virginia an exceptional place to live and work. This year's award recipients deserve recognition and gratitude from a very grateful community.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the twenty-ninth an-

nual Earth Day. This spring observation provides the people of our nation and across the globe the opportunity to renew our dedication to environmental protection. We as a nation have a shared responsibility to preserve our vast and diverse natural resources. I have a longstanding commitment to conservation and environmental protection, and I am pleased to join in today's celebration.

While we have made significant progress since the first Earth Day celebration in 1970, we must continue our efforts to improve environmental quality. It is my belief that Earth Day activities heighten awareness about actions that we can take to improve our environment, both locally and globally. Today's observation offers us the opportunity to acclaim our progress, but more importantly, it allows us to renew our commitment to the challenges facing our planet.

Earth Day festivities take place all across the country. I would like to pay special tribute to my constituents in Montgomery County, Maryland who are so active in their support of environmental causes. This is especially true during this month, with activities and programs like the Earth Day Fair in Bethesda, the various stream cleanups across the county, and the Arbor Day celebration in Derwood.

I consider environmental protection to be national priority. I pledge to work with my colleagues to ensure the preservation of our natural resources and the protection of the public's health. And this Earth Week, as we also celebrate the 435th birthday of William Shakespeare, we remember his words, "to nature none more bound." Today, as we observe Earth Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to a cleaner world.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HENRY ATKINSON

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to everyone whose life was touched by Mr. Henry Atkinson, who passed away earlier this week.

Henry Atkinson was one of the most dedicated men I've ever had the pleasure of knowing—dedicated to his friends, dedicated to his community, and dedicated to the students and schools he spent his career serving.

Among Henry's many achievements in 20 years on the Green Bay School Board were his oversight of the transition of junior high schools into middle schools and his work to create a drug and alcohol abuse program for the Green Bay Schools.

Henry was a small businessman who also served on the Green Bay Water Commission, the Brown County Bicentennial Committee and the Northeast Wisconsin Vocational, Technical and Adult Education District Board.

But he is most remembered by the generations of students and educators who witnessed his day-to-day efforts to make Green Bay education a rewarding and memorable experience.

Green Bay lost one of its finest community leaders this week, but he will surely live on in the memories of those who gained so much from knowing him.

THE RICKY RAY RELIEF ACT

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in strong support of funding for the Ricky Ray Relief Act. The time has come for the federal government to accept its share of the responsibility for failing to protect the nation's blood supply and failing to properly regulate the sale of blood-clotting products used by sufferers of hemophilia. As a result of the government's failure more than 8,000 people with hemophilia have been devastated by HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, the financial burden of hemophilia and HIV is overwhelming. The average cost of hemophilia therapy is nearly \$100,000 per year. If a person has an inhibitor, a condition that requires extensive treatment, therapy can exceed \$1,000,000 in a year. These costs are further compounded by the costs of HIV/AIDS care which was estimated to be \$10,000–\$50,000 annually in 1995. These staggering cost are far beyond the financial capacities of most hard working American families.

The Ricky Ray Relief Act was named for a young Florida boy who came to symbolize the tragedy that is hemophilia-associated AIDS. This legislation establishes a \$750 million trust fund from which victims of this tragedy can claim \$100,000 each as partial compensation for their physical, emotional, and financial suffering. This legislation is not about charity, but about acknowledging the government's responsibility for this tragedy.

It has taken almost 5 years for members of the hemophilia community who are living with HIV/AIDS to reach this point. The Ricky Ray Relief Act was first introduced in 1995 and was reintroduced in 1997. When it passed both the House and the Senate by unanimous consent, this bill had the support of 270 bipartisan cosponsors in the House and 61 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate. On November 12, 1998, the President signed the Ricky Ray Relief Act into law.

I was proud to be both a cosponsor and advocate of this legislature. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for the government to admit responsibility for failure to protect our nation's blood supply. We must fund the Ricky Ray Relief Act. The funding of this legislation will make a tremendous difference in the lives of many members of the hemophilia community who have faced and continue to face living with hemophilia and HIV/AIDS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 92: To Authorize the President to Award a Gold Medal on Behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks; rollcall 93: Condemning the Murder of Human Rights Lawyer Rosemary Nelson; rollcall 94: Education Flexibility Partnership Act Conference Report; and rollcall 95: Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act; I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast

my votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 92, "yea" on rollcall 93, "yea" on rollcall 94 and "yea" on rollcall 95.

**DR. CARIDAD PEREZ COMPLETES
THIRTY YEARS OF ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE**

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to pay tribute to Dr. Caridad Perez, a dear friend and an outstanding educator who had completed thirty years of excellent academic achievements.

As Principal of Edison Private School, Dr. Caridad Perez has been a positive influence in the lives of the many students with whom she actively interacts, as well as with the teachers and faculty members who seek her wisdom and experience for guidance.

It is through Dr. Caridad's leadership, hard work and dedication to improving the lives of youth that she has helped scores of students acquire not only an exceptional, solid education, but a strong sense of values and morals that will help carry each student through a lifetime of success.

On Sunday, April 25th, at the Tropicana Fountainbleu Hilton in Miami Beach, many of Dr. Caridad's grateful students and highly appreciative staff will gather for a festive luncheon accompanied by music to honor the loyal and beloved principal of Edison Private School for the praise and honor that she so earnestly deserves.

I ask that my Congressional colleagues join me in celebrating Dr. Caridad's thirty years in educational excellence.

**84TH COMMEMORATION OF
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 84th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. On April 24, 1915, a group of Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were summarily arrested, taken to Turkey and murdered, commencing a dark and solemn period in the history of Armenians. From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire launched a systematic campaign to exterminate Armenians. In eight short years, more than 1.5 million Armenians suffered through atrocities such as deportation, forced slavery, and torture. Most were ultimately slaughtered.

And yet, despite irrefutable evidence, Turkey has refused to admit the Armenian Genocide occurred, and continues to harbor hatred towards its neighbors. In addition to denying the crimes committed against the Armenian people, Turkey continues to block the flow of humanitarian aid and commerce to Armenia.

In the face of this tragedy, children and grandchildren of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide have gone on to positively impact society, while at the same time preserving

their heritage and unique identity. Over 60,000 Armenian-Americans live in the greater Boston area. Within Massachusetts, many of these Armenians have formed public outreach groups seeking to educate society about Armenia's culture. One particular group, Project Save, operates out of Watertown, Massachusetts. "Project Save collects photographs of Armenian people and places in the homeland and the world-wide diaspora." This remarkable organization preserves the Armenian culture and history through restoration of photographs from all over the world. Some of these photographs date back as early as 1893.

Last year, the world, once again, united to condemn atrocities committed towards fellow human beings. Both the United Nations Human Rights Commission and the General Assembly adopted a resolution, introduced by Armenian Ambassador Rouben Shugarian, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the UN Genocide Convention. By adopting the resolution, member nations recognized that "the crime of genocide [was] an odious scourge which had inflicted great losses on humanity and was convinced that international cooperation was required to facilitate the speedy prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide." Here in the United States Congress, I am a proud cosponsor of a resolution honoring the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide and calling for the United States to encourage the Republic of Turkey to acknowledge and commemorate the atrocity committed against the Armenian population by the Ottoman Empire.

It is sad and frustrating that at the beginning of this century, Armenians were murdered en masse, and now at the end of the 20th century the same type of brutal killing of innocent people continues. Since 1988, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has costs thousands of lives and produced over 1.4 million refugees.

Let me say, that as a member of the Congressional Armenian caucus, I will continue to work with my colleagues and with the Armenian-Americans in my district. Together we will demand more accountability from Azerbaijan and Turkey for their persistent bullying of their neighbor and search for a way to end the Armenian people's suffering. We must continue to be vigilant, we must preserve the cultural history of Armenians, and we must work towards ending crimes against all humanity.

EARTH DAY 1999

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as a member of this body, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Earth Day. We have made great strides in elevating the protection and knowledge of our treasured natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, Earth Day matters. It raises the awareness of Americans and is a catalyst for positive change. Since the first Earth Day in 1970, Americans have gathered to celebrate the preservation of our environment and to focus on the work that is left to be done. Earth Day has always been a day to celebrate the environment and our natural heritage. It has also served to mark the importance of environmental protection and responsible living.

Earth Day has been a catalyst for the enactment of some of our nation's most important laws. Laws such as the Clean Air Act of 1970; The Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Act and the Community Right-to-Know laws. These laws have enabled regulatory agencies to better understand what, where, and when pollutants enter our environment.

I am proud of my strong environmental voting record. I strongly support H.R. 525, the Defense of the Environments Act. I challenge my colleagues to work towards its passage. I can think of no better way to commemorate the importance of Earth Day than to pass this comprehensive bill.

I am also proud to support H.R. 960, Endangered Species Recovery Act of 1999. If passed, this bill would ensure the recovery of our Nation's declining biological diversity; reaffirm and strengthen this Nation's commitment to protect wildlife; safeguard our children's economic and ecological future; and provide assurances to local governments, communities, and individuals in their planning and economic development efforts.

Earth Day must also serve as a reminder that even today, we still have a need for improvement. People in our poorest communities are struggling for environmental justice. They continue to struggle for their civil and human rights here and abroad. From Louisiana's "Cancer Alley" to Native American reservations' nuclear problems, and from the plight of the people living along the border in the Maquiladora region to Chicago's West and South Side, millions of Americans live in housing and surrounded by physical environments that are over-burdened with environmental problems from hazardous waste, toxins and dioxins, incinerators, petrochemical plants, lead contamination, polluted air and unsafe water. These factors continue to pose a real and grave threat to our nation's public health.

Environmental Justice matters. We must begin to eliminate the mentality that our nation's poorest communities can be used as dumping grounds for our industrial achievements. We must begin to look at the issues of unequal distribution and disproportional impacts on minorities, as well as the problems of green space and living standards. Low income communities must not bear the brunt of selective environmental standards. Today we must mark a new dedication towards bringing a more proper balance to the widening gap between rich and poor community standards.

I also want to speak briefly about our commitments to the international community. It is clear today, maybe more so than in 1970, that there is a global connection through the environment. Since the formation of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in 1949 and the more recent meeting of the Kyoto convention, we have begun the needed international monitoring and protection of our environment on a global scale. We now must begin to realize the responsibility we have in providing under developed nation with the environmental technology that will allow them to grow as they move towards a more industrialized society.

So today as we mark the 29th anniversary of the first Earth Day, I am reminded that although we in the United States have made major improvements in the last 20 years, we have a way to go and look forward toward this improvement. We must also strive as global citizens toward safer drinking water and cleaner air at home and abroad.