

\$520 million. Through private sector funding, the government has established shelters for over 5,200 families. Some \$430 million has been allocated for quake victims for rent subsidies, and an additional \$3.3 billion has been provided for rebuilding loans for quake victims and their families. In quake-affected areas, the government has made major efforts to repair damaged roads and bridges.

Mr. Speaker, realizing that reconstruction is a long term project, Taiwan's new President, Chen Shui-bian, established a cabinet-level special commission on June 1 of this year to oversee reconstruction efforts in home design, engineering, infrastructure, and sanitation. The commission will also oversee public welfare and counseling of survivors. Members of this commission will be drawn from different government agencies and ministries. The goal of the commission is to coordinate all relief operations and to form a comprehensive plan to enable quake victims and their families to rebuild their lives.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark this anniversary, I urge my colleagues to join me in extending condolences to the victims of this horrible tragedy. I also invite my colleagues to join me in commending the government of the Republic of China in Taiwan and its leaders for their extensive efforts in providing immediate and long-term assistance to the victims affected by last year's tragic earthquake in Taiwan.

TRIBUTE TO GILBERT DE LA O

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of an outstanding citizen of Minnesota's Fourth District, Gilbert de la O. Mr. de la O is being honored on September 22 for his contributions to our community, as the recipient of the first National Alumnus of the Year Award from the United Neighborhood Center of America (UNCA).

UNCA is a voluntary, nonprofit, national organization with neighborhood-based member agencies throughout the United States. The program works in partnership with neighborhood centers to find solutions to social problems that prevent productive community life.

Mr. de la O, once considered a juvenile delinquent, credits his turn-around in part to the caring workers at the West Side Neighborhood House community center. For the past 30 years he has remained involved with this organization by working in the child care center and taking part in activities geared toward young people in the community—young people Mr. de la O can relate to, having once walked in their shoes.

Beyond his work at the center, Mr. de la O is active in many other capacities in our community. Whether it's teaching diversity training to the Saint Paul Police Department, serving on the Saint Paul School Board, or working with groups such as the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts or the Saint Paul Public Library, he always seems to have the best interest of the community at heart.

Gilbert de la O is truly an example of what can be accomplished when we look beyond ourselves and strive to benefit others. So many in Saint Paul have been touched by his

work and I am pleased that he is being recognized with such a prestigious national honor. I thank him for his dedication and wish him the very best of luck in his future endeavors.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND RICHVILLE, MICHIGAN

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Richville, Michigan and St. Michael's Lutheran Church in that community.

In the beginning, the town and the church grew from the same source, springing forth as a haven for poor young men and women denied the chance to marry in their native Germany because they lacked property.

This sad situation in Germany in 1850 prompted Pastor Wilhelm Loehe to propose a fourth colony in mid-Michigan to be called Frankenhill, which later became Richville, to allow Lutheran men to acquire land and money to marry, raise families and practice their faith. Richville was the last of four Michigan Franconian colonies established by Loehe. Postal authorities later renamed the town to avoid confusion with Frankentrost, Frankenlust and Frankenmuth.

Unfortunately, many of the first German Lutheran settlers who made that pilgrimage of faith to Richville left shortly after arriving. However, two families persevered and in the fall of 1851 three more families joined them, along with Pastor John Diendorfer. On the second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 1851, Pastor Diendorfer preached to the first congregation gathered at St. Michael's.

In time, the colony and the church welcomed more members. By 1875, the congregation built a second church to seat up to 500 members and later they also opened a school. Other structures followed. Since its founding, the congregation has outgrown the community, with 1,600 baptized members and 300 residents. The school now has 11 full-time teachers and 200 students.

Mr. Speaker, this clearly is a church with its foundation firmly embedded in the rock of Christian love. The guiding principles of Christianity have provided past and present members of this congregation with a spiritual sense of community that will serve future generations well, taking those who practice it a step closer to God.

HONORING ELEANOR AND FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA AND HANDS ACROSS THE VALLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize two extraordinary residents of my congressional district whose tireless humanitarian efforts will ensure that hundreds of individuals and families in our Napa Valley will not go to bed hungry tonight.

On Saturday, September 23rd, Eleanor and Francis Ford Coppola will once again host the 7th Annual Hands Across the Valley benefit to raise funds for local food programs. The Coppolas have made countless contributions toward improving our community but none are as significant and far-reaching as their efforts regarding this monumental event.

The Coppolas' hospitality in opening up their beautiful Niebum-Coppola Estate Winery is the driving force that has made this event the success that it is. In 1995, Eleanor and Francis hosted the event at their home in Rutherford. Joined by 650 guests, the benefit gained statewide and national acclaim. Due to the event's tremendous popularity, the Coppolas agreed to host the benefit in 1996 at their then newly-acquired Niebaum-Coppola Estate Winery where 1,000 guests enjoyed Napa Valley's finest wines and foods.

Thanks in large part to the Coppolas' incredible hospitality, this year's event is expecting nearly 2,000 guests. Mr. Speaker, it is little wonder why Hands Across the Valley has now become a tradition of our Northern California community.

And, Mr. Speaker, it is no surprise that the Coppolas have put their heart and soul into this worthwhile cause. Despite the media perception of Napa as a community for the wealthy, more than 7% of the county's population is below the poverty level and more than 21% is near the poverty level. A recent survey by University of California and the Redwood Empire Food Bank found that 43% of individuals seeking food assistance each month at Napa food pantries and soup kitchens are children. The average household seeking assistance has four people. More than 30% do not have a stove or oven and 28% do not have a refrigerator.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fitting and appropriate to honor the service these two distinguished individuals have given to our community. Thanks to the Coppolas and many of their friends, Hands Across the Valley has raised over \$600,000 to feed Napa's hungry families. I commend all of those involved in this annual benefit and wish them great success on Saturday. We are all better off because of their efforts.

TRIBUTE TO MARY GRIFFIN ON HER RETIREMENT AS SAN MATEO COUNTY SUPERVISOR

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues in the House to the remarkable public career of my dear friend Mary Griffin, who will shortly retire as a county supervisor of San Mateo County, California. I have known Mary for over twenty years, and during that time I have seen how her contributions have enriched our community and helped many individuals on a very personal level.

Mr. Speaker, Mary began her career as a teacher—in the Santa Rosa Public elementary schools (1954–1957), as an instructor in education at San Francisco State University (1957–1959), and as a teacher in the South San Francisco Unified School District (1973–

1987). She began her public service in 1976 when she was elected to the Millbrae City Council. She served on the City Council for 13 years, and was twice elected as mayor (1980, 1984).

In March of 1987, Mary Griffin was elected to the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County. She was re-elected to a full term in 1988, and then was reelected for two additional terms in 1992 and 1996. Mary served as President of the Board of Supervisors in 1989, 1993, and 1999. She served as President of the Association of Bay Area Governments (1991–1992) and as Vice Chair of the Bay Area Economic Forum (1995).

Mr. Speaker, during nearly thirteen years of leadership on the Board of Supervisors, Mary has demonstrated her outstanding leadership and commitment to dealing with issues of critical importance in maintaining the quality of life on the Peninsula. She has worked to deal with serious transportation problems in our area. She served on the Transportation Authority Board and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (1989–1998), where she made important contributions to improving Peninsula transportation in a period of intense economic growth in our area. Reflecting her concern with issues involving the San Francisco International Airport, which is a critical transportation hub contributing to the economic vitality of our entire region, she made important contributions as a member of the Airport Land Use Committee, the Regional Airport Planning Committee, and the Airport Community Roundtable.

Mary has been in the forefront in protecting our fragile environment. In her first year as County Supervisor, Mary took the lead in county recycling efforts as the first and only chair of the County Recycling Task Force. She served on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, as a member of the Congestion Management and Air Quality Committee, and Joint Air Quality Policy Committee.

The needs of children are at the top of Mary Griffin's agenda, and she has frequently emphasized that how we care for our children's needs today will determine our nation's tomorrow. As a child of a widow who worked for the minimum wage, Mary still remembers those hard times, and she has focused on helping families and children make a better future. She has established or taken a leading role in a number of programs to help children—the "Share-a-Bear Program" for abused and neglected children in San Mateo County, the Children's Dental Program to assure that impoverished children with severe dental needs are cared for, and the Children's Executive Council to improve communication and cooperation among children's programs throughout the county.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Griffin has received numerous awards recognizing her commitment and contribution to our community—a PTA Honorary Life Service Award, Woman of the Year of the California Federation of Women's Clubs, Woman of Distinction of the Soroptimist International of Millbrae-San Bruno, Directors Award of the State Department of Social Services, and many, many others.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in extending our warmest congratulations to Mary Griffin on the occasion of her retirement as a member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. Her commitment to public service is an inspiration and an example to

all of us. We wish her well now that she will have more time to spend with her family: her husband, Walter Ramseur, her three children—John, Mary and Zachary—and her five grandchildren.

IN HONOR OF JERRY HAYES FOR HIS REMARKABLE RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise sadly to salute a courageous public servant from my district who passed away recently, a man who changed my life as well as the lives of numerous people with disabilities.

Thomas G. (Jerry) Hayes of Excelsior, Minnesota, was confined to a wheelchair since 1976 because of a mysterious virus which left him paralyzed from the waist down.

But when it came to issues of importance to people with disabilities, Jerry's mobility and spirit knew no bounds. He was a powerful, articulate and highly effective advocate for people with disabilities right up to his death earlier this month. His son, Tom, called Jerry a "professional volunteer."

Jerry was a highly successful business leader as head of Jersey Ice Cream and a food sales company. He viewed his disability not with regret or bitterness, but as an opportunity, an opportunity to help other people with disabilities and the poor.

I was a young State Senator when I first met Jerry Hayes, who quickly became one of my role models and a key member of my Disabilities Advisory Committee. Issues important to people with disabilities have been among my highest priorities since entering public service, and Jerry is one of the principal reasons why.

Jerry was well liked by everyone he met and his well-researched, heartfelt positions moved many lawmakers to change their thinking when it came to critical issues affecting people with disabilities.

Jerry used the very same assets that made him so successful in business—his dynamic personality, boundless energy and tremendous leadership skills—to increase public awareness of the daunting obstacles faced by people with disabilities as they tried to lead more independent lifestyles.

Jerry Hayes changed minds, softened hearts and, literally, moved buildings.

His relentless hard work led to buildings becoming more accessible for people with disabilities, just one of his many accomplishments. He was particularly interested in making churches more accessible.

When then President Bush signed the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act, Jerry Hayes received a personal invitation from the President to attend the event.

His life's work and volunteerism on behalf of people with disabilities read like a "Who's Who" of Twin Cities organizations which are there to help. Touched by his vision, energy and work ethic were the world famous Courage Center, where he was a member of the board, United Handicapped Federation, Qual-

ity Transit Coalition, Regional Transit Board, Catholic Charities, where he was also a board member, Special Olympics, Minnesota Board on Aging, Minnesota Governor's Planning Council on Physical Disabilities and others.

Jerry Hayes was also a veteran of the Army. A grateful nation owes him a tremendous debt of gratitude for his dedication to freedom for the people of the world and all Americans with disabilities.

I will always be grateful to Jerry Hayes for his exceptional leadership, visionary guidance and treasured friendship through the years. My thoughts and prayers are with his wonderful family: Mary, his wife of 46 years; son Joe and daughters Jean, Molly and Abbie; his eight grandchildren; his sister Mary and brother John.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SEVENTH ANNUAL KIDS DAY AMERICA

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the seventh annual Kids Day America. This weekend youngsters will gather in Silverdale, Washington to commemorate this day by learning about health, safety and environmental issues. Local law enforcement officers, doctors, dentists, lawyers, and community leaders will volunteer their time to help children develop healthy habits and an awareness of their environment.

I am heartened by this special event for several reasons. Kids Day America pools the collective resources of many talented adults for the common cause of passing knowledge to our children. Through this exercise we strengthen the bonds of our community—and it is this more than anything that will guide our children toward healthy and full lives. As we in Congress work to make our communities safe and beautiful with clean air and clear water, it is inspiring to know that children across the country are learning to protect these natural assets. Furthermore, as we struggle with health care costs for our elderly, it is vital that the habits of a healthy lifestyle are taught to our children.

Mr. Speaker, I commend all who have helped organize this important day. Their dedication and leadership truly distinguishes my Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO THE HUNGER PROJECT

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of an outstanding group called the Hunger Project. The Hunger Project is a strategic organization and worldwide endeavor focused on ending hunger throughout the world. The Hunger Project strives for a more permanent, wide reaching solution to assure that all of us, including the citizens of underdeveloped societies in Africa, Asia and Latin America will one day know a world without hunger.