

since 1975, NOMBL maintains operation and city ownership while having access to new buses and equipment, technologies, natural gas fueling capabilities, and garage space, enabling the line to better serve customers. Evolving through appearance changes, service expansions and various partnerships, NOMBL has remained committed to dependable and faithful service, with much thanks given to and appreciation for its dedicated and responsible employees.

Mr. Speaker, let us recognize the achievements of the NOMBL, which will be honored at the 70th Anniversary Luncheon on March 1, 2001, for 70 years of service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EXCELLENCE OF THE READING JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ESTEEM TEAM

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Reading Junior-Senior High School Esteem Team, which received Ohio's 2000 BEST Practices Award on October 10, 2000. The BEST Practices Award honors groups that improve the performance of Ohio's students through innovative, effective approaches to common education challenges.

The Esteem Team has an outstanding record of positive results. I have met and worked with several members of the Team, and I can say firsthand that their work has made a very significant difference in the Cincinnati community.

The Team was founded in 1989 by three senior students at Reading Junior-Senior High School. The goal of the program is to instruct and motivate other students to lead safe, healthy lifestyles. The group is student-run, and, since 1989, it has blossomed from a handful of members to its current count of almost 90. Molly Flook Woodrow, who teaches special needs students at Reading Junior-Senior High School, serves as the Team's advisor and has done so since the Team was established.

The Esteem Team members play a critical role in our community by serving as role models and contributors to safe, drug-free lifestyles for other students. The Team primarily educates elementary and secondary students by providing current, accurate information on the dangers and often life-threatening effects of drug abuse. Through organized workshops, group discussions, role-playing and informative skits, these young leaders have developed an effective message that teaches students to make good decisions and to be responsible.

The Esteem Team has been instrumental to efforts to reverse substance abuse trends in our area, and we are very fortunate for the hard work of its members. All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate the Esteem Team on receiving Ohio's 2000 BEST Practices Award.

HONORING FAIR LAWN
COUNCILWOMAN FLOSSIE DOBROW

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2000

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a longtime resident of the Borough of Fair Lawn, New Jersey who is completing her 24th year of service to our community as a distinguished member of the Borough Council. Mr. Speaker, I honor Councilwoman Florence Dobrow, who is better known as Flossie to her many friends and supporters.

Flossie became politically active as part of the Fair Lawn Independent Democrats and was first elected to the Borough Council in 1976. In July of 1981, Flossie became the Borough's 18th Mayor and served one term.

Having earned the support and respect of the people of Fair Lawn, Flossie has been re-elected time and again to the Borough Council and today is recognized in the Hall of Fame of the New Jersey League of Municipalities for her year of public service.

Flossie's accomplishments in Fair Lawn are legendary. The Dobrow Field Complex, which for years has been used by youngsters to play a number of sports, is named in honor of her contributions to our community.

As a founder of the Fair Lawn Garden Club, Flossie created what is popularly known as "Flossie's Posse," to engage local community members in making certain that shrubs and flowers throughout the Borough are being managed properly.

Simply put, Flossie is a local treasure, much as her cousin Abe Stark was a treasure to Ebbets Field, where his "Hit Sign Win Suit" was a legend of a different kind. With her late husband Saul and her son Ira, she has contributed to Fair Lawn in every respect. Today, Flossie's grandson is the object of her love and devotion.

I understand that Flossie's remarkable years of service to the Borough of Fair Lawn will be the subject of a testimonial dinner that will be held on December 7, 2000. As a proud resident of Fair Lawn, I join my fellow Borough residents in saluting Flossie and the outstanding example she has set for others to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Flossie Dobrow on the occasion of this well deserved tribute and wish her health and happiness in the years to come.

REGARDING INDIA'S FIGHT
AGAINST TERRORISM

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2000

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, the terrorist attack on the U.S.S. *Cole*, in which 17 young American sailors lost their lives, and 39 were seriously wounded, was but the latest tragic reminder of the threat that the world's democratic nations face from the specter of terrorism. For many years, the United States has worked with our friends and allies to combat the scourge of international terrorism. This cooperation recognizes the mutual enlightened

self-interest of democracies that face common threats to develop common means of responding to those threats.

Few countries have suffered as much from international terrorism as India. India, a nation with deeply rooted democratic traditions, must remain vigilant against an ever-present threat of terror fomented from many of the same forces that seek to attack U.S. interests and cause harm to Americans, such as Osama Bin-Laden and the forces associated with his international terrorist network.

That is why I am encouraged to see that cooperation between the United States and India on the anti-terrorism front has been strengthened and deepened. At the two U.S.-India summit meetings this year—one here in Washington the other in New Delhi—a framework for bilateral cooperation in the war against terrorism has been adopted, including establishment of a Joint Working Group on counter terrorism. We should see to it that this cooperation is strengthened and that this Joint Working Group continues to meet productively on a regular basis.

In particular, I am encouraged that the U.S. and India have decided to expand the mandate of the Joint Working Group to include discussion on such issues as narco-terrorism and Afghanistan. During his visit to Washington in September, Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee raised the situation in Afghanistan, India's concerns about the nature of the Taliban government and its connection with international terrorist organizations, concerns which the United States shares. Our two nations agreed to set up a framework for talks to deal with our common concerns about Afghanistan, and I will work to encourage progress on this front.

For nearly two decades, India has suffered from cross-border terrorism in Punjab, in Jammu and Kashmir and in other parts of India. Thousands of lives have been lost to the terrorists' bombs and guns. Last December, an Air India jet was hijacked by individuals subsequently identified as Pakistani nationals with possible links to ISI, an intelligence organization of the Pakistan Government.

On a recent report on the CBS news magazine "60 Minutes," Marine Corps General Anthony Zinni, outgoing commander of U.S. forces in South Asia told reporter Steve Kroft that he believes it is "very possible" that nuclear weapons in Pakistan could wind up in the hands of extremist religious leaders.

These are the kinds of threats that India faces on an ongoing basis.

The U.S. State Department has indicated its growing concerns about terrorism in the South Asia region. Congress must, if necessary, urge the State Department to act on designating those Pakistani-based militant groups that have so far escaped designation as Foreign Terrorist Organizations. Otherwise, those very groups will take the lack of action on our part as a signal that we are tolerating the very terrorist actions our laws are intended to interdict, thereby encouraging further terrorist action against innocent populations.

Like the United States, India recognizes that terrorism represents an assault on the very notion of an open, democratic society. And like the United States, India is not about to surrender to those forces that seek to murder innocents, exact blackmail and tear the fabric of civil society. We have long worked with the other great democracies of the world to make

a common stand against those forces. We must see to it that the beginnings of cooperation we have seen with India, the world's largest democracy, will move forward to protect the lives of our people and build a more secure future for both of our great nations.

IN HONOR OF GRACE F. SINAGRA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the memory of Mrs. Grace F. Sinagra, a long-time resident of Lakewood, OH who passed away on November 22, 2000 at the age of 87.

This remarkable woman owned and operated Sinagra's Food Market in Lakewood for 51 years along with her husband of 60 years, Nate Sinagra, who passed away in 1990. The couple was known locally for their tremendous generosity and concern for their fellow citizens. During the Great Depression, the Sinagras frequently extended credit to those in need, so that they could afford to feed their families. However the end of the depression did not mark the end of the Sinagra's charity. The two continued to donate food on a weekly basis to the Sisters of the Poor Clares.

For Grace Sinagra, this altruism began at a very early age. In 1916, when she was only 3 years old, Sinagra left the comfort of home in Alexandria, Virginia and traveled with her family to Sicily to bring her grandmother to the United States. However, due to the outbreak of World War I, the family was forced to delay their return until 1919. This experience must have made a significant impression on her, for she continued this type of heroism and selflessness for the rest of her life.

Mrs. Sinagra is survived by her son Anthony Sinagra of Lakewood, OH, her daughters Theresann Santoro of Lyndhurst, OH and Sister Annette of Adrian, MI; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one brother.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in remembering Grace F. Sinagra. The memory of this great woman will surely endure in the hearts of all those whom she touched.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF FORMER
CONGRESSMAN HENRY B. GONZALEZ

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of former Representative Henry B. Gonzalez. He was a good friend and a respected colleague during the course of our service together in the House of Representatives. I wish to extend my sympathies to his wife, Bertha, and their children. I wish them well as they continue life without their beloved "Henry B."

Henry Gonzalez's long career in public service was a distinguished one. He was the first Hispanic to be elected to the San Antonio City Council. He was the first Hispanic elected to

the Texas State Senate. He was the first Hispanic elected to represent Texas in the U.S. Congress. He tirelessly and passionately represented his constituents for more than half a century. He became particularly well known as a champion of the poor and the downtrodden.

The high point of Henry Gonzalez's 37 years as a member of this body was when he became chairman of the Banking Committee, a post he held for three terms. As chairman, he played a key role in resolving the savings-and-loan scandals of the 1980s. He also made his mark advocating for the expansion of affordable housing opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, as I bring to a close my own career in the House, I frequently reflect on the issues, the legislation, and the people that engaged me here the most. Henry Gonzalez ranks high. I will miss him a great deal.

RECOGNITION OF BEN VINSON III

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2000

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recommend to my colleagues a fascinating article written by Ben Vinson III, entitled, "Blacks in Mexico," published in *El Aguila Del Hudson Valley*. Ben Vinson, a native of Johnstown, PA, is an Assistant Professor of Latin American History at Barnard College, Columbia University. He has just completed a book on black soldiers in Colonial Mexico, "His Majesty's Men." I am extremely proud of the fact that Ben once was an intern in my congressional office and I submit the following article into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From *El Aguila del Hudson Valley*, Nov. 2000]

BLACKS IN MEXICO

(By Ben Vinson III)

As Hispanic Heritage month and the Dia de la Raza are still present in our memory, it becomes important to reflect upon the full diversity of Latin America. Few other regions in the world are as racially rich, and few have achieved the same level of cultural accomplishment. From music and the arts to politics and science, people of Latin American descent have made significant contributions. Names such as Oscar Arias Sanchez, Jorge Luis Borges, Diego Rivera, Che Guevara, Rigoberta Menchu, and Celia Cruz, are just a few of the famous figures who have had a tremendous impact on our times. But what is often overlooked is the role that Africa has played in the region's heritage and the development of its people. With over 450 million inhabitants, Latin America has one of the world's largest populations. Yet what is not as well known is that up to 1/3 of all Latin Americans today can claim some African ancestry, according to research conducted by the Organization of Africans in the Americas (OAA). In 1992, there were as many as 82 million Afro-Latinos in the hemisphere, with some living in unlikely places such as Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia. Even in the United States today there are between 3.5 to 5 million Afro-Latinos residing in the country.

What does this mean? Simply that one cannot celebrate the Hispanic heritage without celebrating the connection with Africa, regardless of one's national origins. Mexico is an excellent example. With so much empha-

sis on the country's Indian history, it has become easy to overlook links with an African past. But these links exist. When Columbus first sailed to the coast of southern Mexico between 1502-1504, he could not have imagined that within a hundred years, this land would become the largest importer of African slaves to the New World. Between 1521 and 1650, Mexico alone imported nearly half of all the black slaves introduced into the Americas. They worked in a variety of professions, including the farming industry, on tobacco and sugar plantations, as domestic workers, and in silver mining trades. Anywhere that the Spaniards lived, they took African slaves with them. Because of this, Mexico's black population was spread out everywhere, from the northern frontier towns near the current U.S.-Mexican border, to the southern villages near Guatemala and along the coast of the Yucatan.

Blacks mixed quickly with the indigenous and mestizo populations. Some of this had to do with the condition of slavery itself. Not many women were brought from Africa, which forced many men to marry non-black women. After 1650, the number of black inter-racial marriages had increased so much that some scholars believe that Mexico's version of mestizaje owes a great debt to Africa. According to Dr. Patrick Carroll, it was essentially blacks that fused the indigenous and white races together, since both Spaniards and Indians frequently had sexual relations with blacks. Sometimes these relations were more frequent than they had with one another.

Blacks were not just slaves in Mexico. African slaves were commonly released from bondage through buying their freedom, using small amounts of money that they were able to save on their jobs. Sometimes masters also freed their slaves because of their good services, or because they feared that they would be punished by God if they kept them. By 1800, Mexico possessed one of the largest numbers of free-blacks in the world, just behind countries like Brazil. In fact, the total number of blacks in Mexico numbered over 370,000, representing nearly 10% of the population.

What happened to Mexico's blacks? We don't see much of them in the media, nor has there been a strong effort to write about them in history textbooks. The percentage of Afro-Mexicans has grown smaller over time. Although there are almost a half a million blacks in the country today, they represent less than 1% of the national population, and they live mainly in the coastal areas of Veracruz, Oaxaca, and Acapulco. The general Mexican population is often aware of a small black presence in their country, especially in Veracruz. But oftentimes these people are viewed as foreigners, mainly Cuban immigrants, who are not truly a part of the nation. While Cuban immigration at the end of the 19th century was significant towards increasing the number of blacks in Mexico, the descendants of Mexican slaves still remain an important part of the Afro-Mexican population.

When one travels to the west coast of Mexico we can see these roots, as I did during a research trip four years ago. In the village of Corralero, Emiliano Colon Torres (age 99) spoke about how he participated in the Mexican Revolution along with other Afro-Mexicans, and even black Cubans. But times were difficult, both before and after the war. As he and several others noted: "Some [darker] blacks, especially one Cuban musician, found it difficult to marry because of their race. A very popular musician who had migrated from Cuba died without ever marrying." Such comments reveal a phenomenon that exists not just in the black areas of Mexico, but in other places in Latin America where