

TRIBUTE TO THE 4TH ANNUAL  
FAMILY DAY MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION

**HON. JOSE E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2000*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy that I pay tribute to the "4th Annual Family Day Millennium Celebration" on Saturday, June 3, 2000.

Family Day in the 21st Century at Crotona Park is a celebration that will take place near the lake at Crotona Park from 12 pm to 6 pm. Family Day provides an opportunity for the residents of this community to claim Crotona Park as a playground and entertainment place for the family, free of crime and vandalism.

Mr. Speaker, the Family Day celebration is an event that gives Crotona Park and the neighboring communities an opportunity to embrace and recognize the importance of their families. It also gives them the opportunity to claim ownership of Crotona Park.

The CES 4x and CS110 marching band with their cheerleaders and baton twirlers, will walk through the park demonstrating family pride and unity, accompanied by parents, teachers, and classmates.

This event is sponsored by Phipps Community Development Corporation—Crotona Park West, Friends of Crotona Park, Mount Hope Housing Corp., Mid Bronx Desperados, Aquinas Housing, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Partnership for Parks, Bronx Lebanon Hospital, The Bronx Healthplan, 42nd and 48th Precinct Community Affairs Dept., CES 4x, Goodwill Baptist Church, Councilman Jose Rivera, Assemblywoman Gloria Davis, Morrisania Revitalization Corp., Community Board #3 & Community Board #6, Community Action for Human Services, 105.9 Caliente Radio Station, and the GAP.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the individuals and participants who are working to make the "4th Annual Family Day Millennium Celebration" not just possible but successful and fun.

IN HONOR OF SEAN BOLAND,  
PRESIDENT OF THE CLEVELAND  
FEIS SOCIETY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the memory of Sean Boland, President of the Cleveland Feis Society, who helped to develop the Cleveland Feis into one of the largest traditional Irish dance competitions in the country.

Mr. Boland lived an exceptionally full life. In addition to his first job, purchasing supervisor for the Ohio Lottery Commission, he also served on the board of directors of the Michael Coleman Heritage Center, a museum in Ireland that honors internationally known Irish musicians. He was also a member of the Irish Northern Aid Society, the East and West Side Irish American clubs and has volunteered his time at events like the Irish Cultural Festival.

Mr. Boland's most recent accomplishments were working with the Cleveland Memorial to the Great Hunger Committee to erect a monument in the Flats in memory of those who died in the Potato Famine and being named 1994's Irish person of the year.

America is known for being a melting pot society. Mr. Boland selflessly volunteered his time to help others feel the same pride and honor he did when looking back at the glorious Irish heritage. Mr. Boland's inspirational life has left a lasting legacy. He will be missed. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, two sons, a daughter, and many loving relatives and friends.

I ask you, fellow colleagues, to join me today in honoring, Mr. Sean Boland, a deeply dedicated, committed man who was an inspiration to us all.

MS. ARACELY GURROLA, A PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD WINNER

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2000*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young Arizona student from my district who has achieved national recognition for outstanding volunteer service in her community. Ms. Aracely Gurrola of Phoenix has just been named one of my state's top honorees in The 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. An eighth grader at Lowell Elementary School, Aracely is being recognized for having initiated "Line Up to Help," a fund-raising project at her school to benefit victims of Hurricane Mitch. An active community volunteer on projects such as clean-ups, food drives, and car-wash fund-raisers, she felt compelled to do something special after watching news reports of the devastation Hurricane Mitch had left behind. She approached her principal and received approval to collect change from fellow students for two days as school let out. Aracely coordinated her efforts with the local St. Vincent DePaul Society, which made arrangements to get the donations into the right hands. Then she recruited several student volunteers to help her with flyers promoting the fund-raiser and to collect the money. In just two days, she collected \$250 in loose change from fellow students, money that most students would usually spend on candy. Aracely should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud her for her initiative in seeking to make a positive impact on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

IN HONOR OF DEBORAH KAPLAN,  
ESQ., ON THE OCCASION OF HER  
INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT  
OF THE WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION  
OF THE STATE OF NEW  
YORK

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2000*

Ms. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I pay special tribute to Deborah Kaplan, Esq. Ms. Kaplan is a dedicated lawyer who has worked tirelessly for a more just and humane society and an improved quality of life for countless New Yorkers.

Ms. Kaplan contributes greatly to the New York justice system in her current position as a Principal Court Attorney in the office of the Honorable Juanita Bing Newton, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives. Ms. Kaplan has also guided many litigants toward fair and just resolutions of grievances as an arbitrator for the Small Claims Court of the City of New York.

As a Senior Trial Attorney for the Criminal Defense Division of The Legal Aid Society, Ms. Kaplan is committed to helping those with the greatest need for knowledgeable legal representation. As a former president of the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association and a committee member for the First Department Committee on Character and Fitness of Applicants for Admission to the Bar, Ms. Kaplan has further dedicated herself to enhancing the quality and character of the legal profession.

Ms. Kaplan consistently displays a deep concern for the New York community. She serves as vice chair of the Community Advisory Council at Beth Israel Medical Center, serves as chair of the Health, Human Services Committee of Community Planning Board Six, and participates with the New York City Board of Education as a Statewide Mock Trial Coach.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the New York community and to the legal profession, Ms. Kaplan has received, among many, the Orion S. Maraden Award and the Honorable Sybil Hart Keeper Award. On May 5–7, 2000, Ms. Kaplan will be installed as the President of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the life and work of Ms. Deborah Kaplan, Esq., and I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing her contribution to the legal profession and the New York community.

HMONG VETERANS'  
NATURALIZATION ACT OF 2000

**HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2000*

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday the House passed H.R. 371, the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000. As a cosponsor of this legislation, I was pleased to support its passage. Many of these brave men have settled in Rhode Island where they make great contributions to their communities. It is time that we recognize the contribution of the Hmong and pass this legislation.

From 1961 to 1975, the Hmong were a significant factor in the U.S. war efforts in Laos and Vietnam. Throughout the conflict in Vietnam the United States recruited the Hmong to fight alongside U.S. soldiers, gather data, conduct reconnaissance, and participate in clandestine missions. During that time, tens of thousands of Hmong were killed or wounded fighting for American interests.

As part of the agreement between the U.S. and the Hmong soldiers, certain promises were made. Among those was the possibility of U.S. citizenship for those who served on behalf of the U.S. However, because they did not have a written language, it is nearly impossible for many of these Hmong to pass the language section of Immigration test. This bill provides the necessary relief for these courageous men.

The time has come to recognize the Hmong and honor our commitment to them.

#### TRIBUTE TO ZENY C. CUSTODIO

##### HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2000*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the island of Guam bids farewell to an esteemed community leader. Zeny C. Custodio, a colleague in the field of public administration, was recently called to her eternal rest.

Born on April 18, 1938, in the Republic of the Philippines, Zeny eventually raised her family in Guam and made the island her home. She attended, the oldest pontifical university in the Philippines, the University of Santa Tomas, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Laws degree. In addition, she took special courses on International Banking laws at the University of the Philippines and the Institute of Finance and Management at Ateneo de Manila University.

Although a lawyer by profession, Zeny's legacy lies in the field of community and public service. Aside from being the first woman to be appointed as director of the Guam Department of Labor, Zeny also served the Government of Guam in a variety of capacities and positions. On separate occasions worked as a special assistant to the Chief of Customs and to former Guam Senator Elizabeth Arriola. She also served as executive director for the State Advisory Council on Vocational Education and as Segundo Suruhano at the Guam Suruhano's office. She was a board member for the Guam Visitor's Bureau and, until her retirement in 1998, the executive director of the Bureau of Women's Affairs.

Her civic activities and affiliation include leadership and membership posts with the Guam Lytico and Bodig Association, the So-optimist International of Guam, the Guam Women's Club, the Filipino Ladies Association of Guam, the Guam Council of Women's Club, the Filipino Community of Guam, the Federation of Asian Women, the Metro Manila Association of Guam, the UST Alumni Association, the International Women's Club, the Women's Lawyer Association of the Philippines, the Kundirana Association of the Philippines, the Cavite Association of Guam, the Batangas Association of Guam, and Beauty World Guam Limited. For her efforts on behalf of the com-

munity, she has garnered a host of honors and awards—the most prestigious of which are the Banaog Award presented other by former Philippine President Fidel Ramos and the Ancient Order of the Chamorri presented to her by the lieutenant governor of Guam, Madeleine Z. Bordallo.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I join her husband, Narcisco, and her children, Roland, Yvonne, Raymond, and Maria in celebrating her life and mourning the loss of a wife, mother, community leader, and fellow public servant. Adios, Zeny.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE RETIREMENT OF STANLEY SMITH AS SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

##### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2000*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Stan Smith who is retiring after twenty-five years of distinguished service as Secretary-Treasurer of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council.

Stan was elected president of Glaziers Union Local #718 in 1958 after only five years in the glazing trade. He was then elected Field Representative of Local #718 in 1965. In 1975, his peers elected him to his current post as Secretary-Treasurer. In this position, he has overseen all of the construction unions in San Francisco for the past quarter century and has done so with a skill that belies the complexity of the task. In addition, Stan has been an active member of the community and has served on countless boards and committees whose collective theme has been to give less fortunate members of the community new opportunities in life through the construction trades.

Stan Smith is a fighter for America's working families. Throughout his tenure with the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council he has made a significant contribution to organized labor and to the greater San Francisco community. I commend him for his outstanding leadership and wish him all the best in his retirement.

#### TRIAL OF IRANIAN JEWS

##### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2000*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to denounce the treatment of the 13 Iranian Jews who have been charged with espionage on behalf of Israel and the United States. To begin, the legitimacy of these charges is highly questionable. The Iranian government, run by the Ayatollah and his Islamic fundamentalist regime, has historically garnered domestic support for their anti-Israel policies by making similar dubious accusations against members of their own Jewish population. The judgments handed down from these "trials" over the past 20 years has meant the execution of 17 Iranian Jews. Such

atrocities are reminiscent of Nazi Germany and it is America's duty as a leader of the free world to condemn such acts and ensure the fair treatment of these individuals.

The evidence provided thus far has proven to me the impossibility for these individuals to receive a fair trial in their home country. Aside from the charges being apparently baseless (it seems as though they were singled out for teaching classes on Judaism and the practice of Jewish rituals), there have been pre-trial events that have effectively denied these suspects the right to counsel, the right to a speedy and fair trial, and the right against self-incrimination. Last month, the accused were brought before a judge in a closed-door session. It was then announced that the trial would be postponed with no explanation. In spite of reports to the contrary, 10 of the 13 are still being denied the right to select their own lawyers. Several of the attorneys have allegedly stated that their clients have confessed while the families consistently state this is not so. The denials of the families of the victims have led most to believe that these confessions were either coerced or never happened. To further illustrate the prejudicial nature of this legal process, it should be mentioned that one court appointed lawyer reportedly has objected to being forced to represent a Jew.

The international human rights community has advocated the release of these individuals in order to protect their most basic liberties, and I give my utmost support of this effort. Iran is struggling in the face of revolution and will continue violating the basic rights of their people in order to gag the voice of democracy that is spreading throughout the nation. The West must utterly condemn such guerrilla tactics. We must send the message that the new-found relationship between Iran and the United States will not compromise our values. Such a message is not only significant out of concern for these 13 men, but is vital to our own national security. What kind of message does it send to the Ayatollah that we are willing to bend some of our core democratic beliefs in order to placate the Iranian government? Such weakness is not what has made us a world leader. Blatant human rights violations must have a zero-tolerance level and must be confronted head on. Therefore, I strongly urge Secretary Madeline Albright and the Department of State to do all they can in order to save these innocent men.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2000*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, due to a speaking engagement outside the Capitol I was unable to cast a vote today on H. Res. 488, the rule to waive the two-thirds requirement for same day consideration of H.R. 434.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

I share the concern of America's workers that the Caribbean Basin Initiative contained in H.R. 434 will jeopardize American jobs.