

TRIBUTE TO NEW YORK STATE
SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE ASSOCIATION

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on October 12, 13, and 14, 2001, the New York State School Food Service Association will mark its 50th anniversary at its annual statewide conference in Syracuse, New York. The New York State School Food Service Association is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1951 whose goal it has been to provide wholesome meals to children in New York State schools.

Today, the association has 3,700 members and serves 1.6 million lunches and 450,000 breakfasts per day. In addition to providing nutritious meals, the association has fought for increases in the number of free and reduced-price meals served to children deemed to be in severe need as well as breaking down impediments to participation in the School Breakfast Program.

On behalf of the people of the 25th Congressional District in the State of New York, I extend my appreciation to the New York State School Food Service Association for their decades of tireless work on behalf of New York State's children. Additionally, it is my honor to congratulate the association on their semi-centennial anniversary conference and wish it continued success in "Feeding America's Future."

CHRISTO'S "RUNNING FENCE"

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those who worked on Christo's "Running Fence" on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. A project of the internationally renowned artist Christo and his wife Jeanne-Claude, the "Running Fence" was completed in Sonoma and Marin Counties on September 10, 1976, after 42 months of collaborative efforts.

These efforts included participation of the affected ranchers, 18 public hearings, three sessions at the Superior Courts of California, the drafting of a 450 page Environmental Impact Report, and the temporary use of the hills, sky, and ocean. The "Running Fence" was 18 feet high and its 24.5 miles in length crossed 14 roads, 59 ranches, and the town of Valley Ford. It extended from near Freeway 101 in Sonoma County to the Pacific Ocean at Bodega Bay. As promised, the project was removed 14 days after its completion and all the materials given to the ranchers.

The beauty of the "Running Fence", constructed of 240,000 square yards of white nylon, and the beauty of the California countryside complemented each other perfectly to create a breathtaking artistic vision.

Mr. Speaker, although the "Running Fence" was designed to be temporary, Christo's project will live forever in the imaginations of those who saw it and in its identification with the landscape of Sonoma and Marin Counties.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
BILL MAZEROSKI

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Bill Mazerowski will be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday, August 5, 2001 at 1:30 in the afternoon at the legendary Cooperstown, New York; and,

Whereas, Bill Mazerowski grew up in Turkeyfoot and Rush Run, Ohio where his dedication to the game lead him to perform arduous tasks for his Uncle so that he could earn enough money to purchase his first baseball glove; and,

Whereas, his professional career began as a second baseman for the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1956 and ended 17 great years later in 1972; and,

Whereas, Bill Mazerowski is an eight time Gold Glove winner and holds the major league record for the most double plays for a second baseman; and

Whereas, Bill Mazerowski became the first player ever to end the World Series with a home run; and,

Whereas, Bill Mazerowski is a National League all-time All-Star; and,

Whereas, his career total included 2,016 hits and a .983 field percentage at second base; and,

Whereas, he went on to cultivate new baseball talent as a coach for the Pittsburgh Pirates and later for the Seattle Mariners;

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Bill Mazerowski, an exceptional athlete, one of Baseball's all time greats, and an Ohio Valley legend.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT HAUTMAN

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a resolution honoring artists participating in the Federal Duck Stamp Program, especially Minnesota's very own, Robert Hautman.

Robert has successfully won his second Federal Duck Stamp competition with a winning pintail design after winning his first award in 1997-1998.

Robert and two of his brothers, James and Joseph, have seen their art featured on thirty-five state and federal stamps.

From the Oval Office to the Smithsonian Institute, their creations have been displayed in prominent places throughout Washington, D.C.

Congratulations Robert on this well-deserved award.

INDIAN RACISM EXPOSED AT RACISM
CONFERENCE—PRESENTATION MOVES CONFERENCE TO
TEARS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, at the World Conference on Racism in Durban, Dalit and Kashmiri activists showed up to exert pressure against India's racist caste system. The caste system, which discriminates against people merely because of the group into which they are born, is one of the most racist systems in the world.

The demonstrators handed out literature, buttons, and headbands demanding equal rights for all peoples. They have been chanting and drumming to force the caste system onto the agenda for the conference.

India argued for keeping casteism off the agenda in Durban, saying that there are laws against caste discrimination on the books. This is true, but unlike our civil rights laws, the anti-caste laws are never enforced and are routinely violated. Dalits are forced to use separate facilities, such as tea shops. Dalits are forced to endure separate living areas, separate burial grounds and restrictions on their movements. They cannot enter the temple. A few years ago, a Dalit constable entered a Hindu temple on a rainy day to seek refuge from the rain and he was stoned to death by the Brahmins in the temple. In another incident, a Dalit girl was blinded by her teacher after she drank water from the community water pitcher. This kind of racism is unforgivable, especially in a country that calls itself a democracy.

According to a report in Canada's National Post, a Dalit woman named Murugesan Manimegalai spoke at the Durban conference. She told the story of how her husband, with a tenth-grade education, was elected Sarpanch of their village—the president of the village council, similar to the mayor. Almost immediately, they received death threats from the upper-castes. "We will see how the president functions without a head," said one note. After he had been in office six months he was followed home on the bus. A group of men surrounded the road and told everyone "except Dalits" to leave. Then they grabbed Mr. Manimegalai and stabbed him in the stomach. Despite his pleas not to kill the other Dalits, they chopped up the six other Dalits in front of him. Then they murdered Mr. Manimegalai, chopped off his head, and threw it in a well. Unfortunately, incidents like this are all too common in India.

I would like to take this opportunity to salute the protestors for their success in bringing India's racism to the world's attention. That is the first step towards ending it.

Mr. Speaker, India must learn that a democracy respects the basic human rights of all people, not just those in a position of power and privilege. It must transcend its Brahminocracy and bring real democracy to all the people. How can people continue to live in the facade of Indian democracy when they cannot enjoy even the most basic rights?

America can help this process along. We should maintain the existing sanctions on India. We should stop all aid to India until the

full range of human rights can be enjoyed by all the people there, not just the Brahmins. We should declare our overt support for the 17 freedom movements currently operating within India's borders. We can do so by supporting a free and fair plebiscite, under international supervision, on the question of independence for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the other minority nations living under the boot of Indian oppression. Former President Carter might be a good person to head an international monitoring team.

The Council of Khalistan has issued a press release praising the demonstrators who are bringing the issue of Indian racism to the forefront. The Information Times has also run an excellent article on the demonstrations. I would like to place them both into the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues. In addition, I would like to insert the National Post article into the RECORD.

[From the National Post, Sept. 6, 2001]
UN RACISM CONFERENCE MOVED TO TEARS,
NOT ACTION—RACE VICTIMS TELL STORIES
(By Corinna Schuler)

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA.—In an oft-ignored chamber of the cavernous convention centre, the real victims of racism struggle to have their stories of suffering heard.

This is not one of the dozens of rooms where international negotiators spend days behind closed doors, locked in debate about where to place a comma or whether to spell "Holocaust" with a capital "H."

Here, persecuted people from every corner of the globe take their turn on stage between 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. every day to tell simple stories about real suffering—the only forum at this massive United Nations gathering where the personal pain of discrimination is laid bare.

One day, the speaker was an escaped slave from Niger. The next, an aboriginal woman from Australia. Then, a migrant worker from Brazil.

Yesterday it was Murugesan Manimegalai's turn. The 29-year-old mother of four is a member of India's lowest caste, so impoverished she had never left the confines of her squalid settlement before boarding a plane this week for Durban. "I was very worried that it might fall," she confides with a shy smile. But she pushed her fear aside yesterday, took a deep breath and told the story of her husband's horrifying murder to a crowd of 200 human rights activists and a few journalists. By the time she was done, even the moderator was blinking back tears. "We are Dalits"—untouchables—began Ms. Manimegalai.

As one of India's 1.4 million lowest-caste people, she grew up in a segregated village— forbidden to draw water from the communal well or to attend the same temple as upper-caste people.

Her husband had only a Grade 10 education, but became an eloquent activist and was elected president of a village council. Members of the upper caste warned he would not last six months. "We will see how the president functions without a head," said one written death threat.

After six months in office, when Mr. Manimegalai took a trip into town, upper-caste people followed him home in a bus. A crowd of men blocked off the road, screaming wildly for everyone to run away—"except Dalits."

"They grabbed my husband by the shirt and stabbed him in the stomach. Even then, my husband pleaded with the dominant caste people not to kill the rest of the Dalits. They ignored him, and chopped the [six] others in front of his eyes." Ms. Manimegalai did not

stop for a breath as the next words tumbled out. "Even after my husband's death, the anger, the bitterness, the caste-fanatic feeling did not subside."

"They cut off his head and threw it in a well nearby." Witnesses were too terrified to come forward and it was only after three years of protest that some of the attackers were finally jailed. "We strongly demand," Ms. Manimegalai concluded, "that the caste system in our country be abolished. We demand education for our children, job opportunities—and dignity." The roar of applause continued for a solid minute. When the diminutive Ms. Manimegalai stepped off the stage, a burly African woman grabbed her in a bear hug, sobbing. Ms. Manimegalai was overwhelmed as others waited in line to give a hug or shake her hand. Tears streamed down her face as she stood in the glare of the TV lights.

It was not the first time the Voices Forum has borne witness to such raw emotion. But many of the 1,100 journalists in Durban to cover the UN's World Conference Against Racism have been too preoccupied by arguments over Israel and demands for reparations for the colonial-era slave trade to take much note.

The armies of suited government officials working to write up a "historic" blueprint for fighting racism and intolerance were not present to hear Ms. Manimegalai's demands.

Many were in a room down the hall, arguing about whether words such as "descent" and "ethnic origin" should be included in the list of grounds for discrimination.

At the end of her speech, a moderator thanked Ms. Manimegalai and other presenters for having the courage to speak out. "You should never doubt raising your voice in this chamber," she said assuringly. "Never doubt the importance of doing that."

The sorry truth is that the powerful testimonies heard in the Voices Forum have little chance of being incorporated into the UN's final declaration on racism, or its program of action.

"Cast out Caste" posters have been plastered all across Durban and activists have handed out thousands of information brochures in an effort to highlight the injustice of the caste system in Hindu society. But India has fought all attempts to include any mention of caste, and neither the UN nor any government is pushing the point. The strongest language in the draft declaration comes in a single paragraph that refers to discrimination based on work or descent—and even those watered-down words seem set to be withdrawn. Likewise, Eastern European countries refuse to acknowledge the discrimination endured by the Roma, or gypsies, no matter how many emotional stories they have told in Durban this week.

The African slave girl who told her story moved an audience to tears, too.

Inside conference rooms, however, African government delegates are so engrossed in debate about the slave trade of centuries past there has been almost no talk of how people like 17-year-old Mariama Oumarou and 20,000 others in Niger could be spared the horror of slavery today.

Will this conference change Ms. Manimegalai's life? The document under such hot debate is not an international treaty or a UN resolution. In fact, it's not a legal document of any kind and—if agreement is reached here by tomorrow—countries are free to ignore it.

But, Ms. Manimegalai lives with the hope her presence here will help the suffering Dalits of India break free from their oppression. "I am destitute," she said. "My house is just a matchbox and I do not have enough money to care for my children. They are living with relatives."

"But when I saw the big crowd in the room today, I was not afraid. I was happy. At least I can tell the world our story. There are many people back home who are relying on me here."

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE FOR VALLEY HOSPITAL IN RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Ms. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, New Jersey, on the momentous occasion of their 50th anniversary of service to northern New Jersey. From a small and difficult beginning, the Valley Hospital has become a premier example of quality and commitment to medical excellence. This weekend, in celebration of their golden anniversary, the Valley Hospital "Old Fashioned Fair" will be held in the town of Ridgewood.

This remarkable hospital was once only a dream for the northwest New Jersey community. However, due to the perseverance of a small group of concerned community members, this vision of a hospital was transformed into a reality. Plans began nearly forty years before ground was even broken. In 1910, community groups gathered to raise money for a hospital, however the stock market crash and the Great Depression stalled their attempts. With the leadership of the Women's Auxiliary in 1944, local residents rallied again to donate almost \$1,000,000 to break ground in 1949. Today we are able to congratulate the Valley Hospital on fifty years of outstanding service to northwest New Jersey. A passage from The Sunday News, dated June 19, 1951, illuminates the struggle and success of the hospital:

There has been discouragement and heartache, delay and disappointment. There have been set-backs of every conceivable variety during these years of construction but now at long last, comes the fulfillment of the dream—a community hospital completely equipped with every facility that modern medicine and modern science have developed, ready to take its place along with the best in the country in caring for those who are ill.

In August of 1951, the first patient walked through the doors of the Valley Hospital. That first year, over 4,000 patients entered those doors. In the following fifty years, the Valley Hospital expanded to meet the constantly changing needs of the growing community and implemented cutting-edge technology. Last year, the hospital administered to 42,540 patients and welcomed 3,221 babies. Thirty-five physicians of the Valley Hospital were named in the "Best Doctors in New York" list of the New York Magazine this year; a list compiled by their peers throughout regions of New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut. This month the Valley Health System, the hospital's umbrella organization, will be the nation's first health provider to feature Mayo Clinic health information on their website. As one can tell, this is a phenomenal group of people involved with the hospital.

The Valley Hospital has risen to preeminence on the national level in health care