

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CHALDEAN FEDERATION OF AMERICA IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 20th Anniversary Celebration and 9th Annual Awards Banquet of the Chaldean Federation of America. This anniversary marks 20 years of the federation's distinguished commitment to the Chaldean community in Michigan and 9 years of presenting awards to exemplary citizens within the community.

The Chaldean Federation of America was established in 1980 as a nonprofit organization, as part of the nationwide group of the Association of Chaldean Americans. The federation is a beacon of support for Chaldean American citizens living in the metropolitan Detroit area, providing valuable assistance to the Chaldean American community. Today the Chaldean Federation of America represents over 120,000 Chaldean Americans living in the Detroit metropolitan area.

Community and public service are tenets of the Chaldean Federation of America. Their organization provides help for Chaldeans seeking to adjust comfortably into American society. The organization is also involved in numerous community action programs, including, but certainly not limited to, serving needy families, protecting civil and legal rights of all Chaldeans promoting volunteer opportunities, offering language enhancement classes, promoting greater understanding of cultural differences, and working with youth to ensure they have an equal opportunity. Services like these are why we must all look with great pride upon the work on behalf of the community done by the Chaldean Federation of America.

Without an organization like the Chaldean Federation of America, the large population of Chaldean Americans living in Michigan would be without one of the greatest resources within the community. Too often we tend to ignore minority groups, forcing them to live in isolation from the whole community. The Chaldean Federation of America is committed to breaking down walls that at times exist between communities, fostering great understanding of cultural differences, and providing Chaldean Americans with valuable services that benefit not only Chaldeans, but the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Chaldean Federation of America for 20 years of outstanding support in the community and I ask that all of my colleagues join me in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

RECOGNIZING RED RIBBON WEEK AND ENCOURAGING AMERICA'S YOUTH TO STAY DRUG-FREE

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this fall I was invited to share a Red-Ribbon Week Message with students in Missouri's Eighth Congressional District. Although my congressional responsibilities required me to remain in Washington, I wanted to share with our students why I believe it's so important to learn from your parents, teachers, community leaders and your peers about the danger of drugs and why you should stay away from drugs—now and forever.

I know that it seems like parents, educators, and grownups have been telling you forever that drugs lead you one way—the wrong way. You might even think that you've heard it all before and that we are nagging you because we keep bringing it up. I mean you get it from everywhere right? Your parents tell you at the dinner table about the dangers of drugs. Your teachers tell you at school that drugs lead you to a life of loss and destruction. And others, like your local law enforcement officers tell you that drugs lead to death and destruction.

Well, you know that? They are all right. And believe it or not, they aren't hollering at you just because they have to, they are hollering at you because they love and care about you and they want you to have productive, happy and healthy lives.

Now, even though I think parents, teachers, and other grown ups are doing a good job of warning you about the dangers of drug use, I believe kids can help keep other kids from using drugs. In fact, I think that each of you can lead the way in the fight against drugs by teaming up and sending the rest of America a message. The message is this—not everyone is trying drugs and using drugs is not normal. And to prove that point, you aren't going to use drugs—and neither are your friends.

It works like this. Imagine that you are at a party or just hanging out with a group of kids after school. Someone, maybe even another student, starts smoking marijuana. They ask you to join in. They tell you it's great, that it won't hurt you and that you are a loser if you say no. What would you do?

You know deep down that the best thing to do is say no and walk away. But as a mom, and believe it or not, someone who was once a kid, I know that it's really tough to be the only one that says no. You feel alone and you feel like everyone else won't think you're very cool.

But you know what? If you, as friends make a pact to be a team—to say no and leave—then you have made a real statement. Not only are drugs not okay for you, but they aren't okay for your friends either. These tips and suggestions were developed by students like you. They call it, "keepin it REAL." And for them, REAL stands for:

R. Refuse—a simple "no" goes a long way—but it goes even further when you all say "no" together.

E. Explain—You can say, "I am not that kind of person, or that is not for us." And if you are forceful, your "no" will go a very long way.

A. Avoid—You know just as well as the police and others, that there are places where the likelihood that drugs are around is more prevalent in some places than others. If you know where those places are, then you'll know to avoid them. In other words, stay away.

L. Leave—Like the story I mentioned earlier, you can leave—and you should leave.

You can keep it real, and you can get some of the support you need in that effort from your parents, your teachers, your teammates and others in the community. One of the organizations in your area that is helping out is PAWSPT/Narc with a Bark. PAWSPT or Prevention Awareness With Students, Parents and Teachers is a unique program using trained canines to sniff out drugs in your school. They also come into your schools to teach you about the danger of drug use. The program is run by Rosa and Doug Wallis and is a great effort on their part to open up the lines of communications about drugs and drug use prevention. I encourage every one of you to learn more about what they've been doing to help keep drugs out of your schools.

Mr. Speaker, before I go, I want to leave the children of Missouri's Eighth District and the children of our Nation with one more thought. You students are the most valuable and important resource that we have—you are the future leaders of our country. But this year, more than 2.4 million students just like you will try drugs. But if you all team up and stand together to refuse, explain, avoid, and leave drug-related situations, then you have a REAL chance to have a wonderful life full of promise, hope and success. I believe you can do it and so do your teachers, parents, and your community leaders. We're depending on you and if you need help, then I hope you know, you can depend on us.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to Charles County public schools. The Charles County public schools received the Daisy Bates National School District Award for its minority achievement program. Under the direction of Superintendent James E. Richmond, Charles County public schools have made the success of all students a major priority, and addressing the performance of minority students is a major component of this effort. Charles County public schools has developed a 5-year plan for academic achievement, personal responsibility,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and career readiness. In this plan, everyone is responsible for successful attainment of the objectives. The superintendent, board members, instructional staff, principals, certificated and support staff, all play major roles in addressing the "success for all" approach.

Designing programs that best meet the needs of the students is a major key of their success. In order to make programs like these work, systems must first look at the needs of the students and then develop the programs. Charles County public schools sought to fit the program to the students, not the students to the program. Their programs are successful because of the dedication and commitment of their teachers. They truly believe that all children can and will learn to read if given instruction and additional time to read and write in an environment that supports and challenges them. This system provides continuous training for teachers and assistants, limits class size, and provides current, appealing, and appropriate materials for their schools.

Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, please join with me in wishing the Charles County public schools continued success and congratulations on their achievements toward the academic success of their students.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR NANCY HEIL

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tireless worker and a devoted public servant. After eighteen years of public service, Nancy Heil, who began her service on the city council in 1983 and has served as Mayor of Westminster, Colorado, for six years, is retiring.

Throughout her public career, Mayor Heil's priority has been preserving the quality of life for Westminster residents. During the forty years she has called Westminster her home, she has watched it grow from a small suburban town of 12,000 residents to a city of over 100,000. Ensuring that people are still able to enjoy the lifestyle they came to Westminster for has always been of top importance to the Mayor. She has been a constant, positive force in the community, displaying an unmatched passion for the welfare of her citizens.

Mayor Heil was a leader in focusing attention on the importance of removing the radioactive wastes from the U.S. Department of Energy's Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Facility—which is located just west of Westminster. She spoke out about the importance of finding secure locations to remove the dangerously contaminated material from such a well-populated urban area and thereby safeguard the millions of people in the Denver-metro area.

She was also one of the leaders and original proponents of preserving the open space resources at Rocky Flats and in calling for the site to be transformed into a National Wildlife Refuge once it is cleaned up and closed. In such a fast growing area of the Denver metropolitan region, Mayor Heil saw an opportunity to keep much of this area as a natural asset for future generations.

Through her ability to forge coalitions and collaborate with neighboring communities,

Mayor Heil was able to bring out the best in other leaders and ensure that it was always the citizens that benefited. I am proud to have had the opportunity to work with a community leader of her quality. She put the people first and I consider it an honor to represent her and her community in Congress. She is an example of what we all should look for in our leaders: commitment, selflessness, and passion. It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to recognize her and thank her for her years of dedicated service. The city of Westminster and indeed the state of Colorado have greatly benefited from her contributions and leadership. Her talents and resourcefulness will be sorely missed.

Her accomplishments and the esteem in which she is held were recently reported in the Denver Post. For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching a copy of that report.

[From the Denver Post, December 11, 2001]

HEIL LEAVES OFFICE ON HIGH NOTE

(By George Lane)

WESTMINSTER—When Nancy Heil first took her seat on the City Council in 1983, she might have been one of the most naive politicians around.

Consider that she wondered if "Dr. Cog" might be a family physician. DRCOG is the acronym for the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

Since then, Heil's growth and political maturity have resulted in her twice being named Westminster Woman of the Year and becoming the city's first elected mayor.

Now, after almost two decades of service, in the middle of the term to which she was elected in 1999, Heil is resigning from office Dec. 31. She says it's time for something new.

"These are extraordinary times, and they have caused me to re-think the importance of the office of mayor," she said during a recent interview. "I have willingly given 18 years of my life to work for the city I love. I have given it my best, and now I believe it is time for me to take a new direction."

Councilman Ed Moss, recently elected mayor pro tem, will complete Heil's unexpired term, as dictated by the city charter.

Government observers here say following Heil won't be easy.

"Nancy, she's a class act," said Adams County Commissioner Elaine Velente. "Her shoes are going to be tough to fill. I think she's done a tremendous job representing the city of Westminster."

Heil was a teacher in upstate New York before she met her husband, Jay, and moved to Colorado. Jay Heil is a Colorado native who went back East for dental school. The couple now have four adult children.

The mayor said that Westminster was a town of about 15,000 people when she moved here about 40 years ago, and there was almost no place to live. She now points proudly at a city of more than 100,000, the Westin Hotel that opened several years ago and Westminster Mall, where sales tax has been Westminster's major source of revenue for a number of years.

The mayor said she has resolved some health problems over the past few years. During the past year, she also has faced a sometimes-divided City Council over whether one of their own should be removed because of expense-account irregularities.

"She had a good vision for the city, wanted the city to improve its image and it did, wanted the city to be known as a good place to live and I think she achieved that," said Vi June, mayor from 1985 to 1991.

HONORING DR. HUGH C. AVALOS
OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Hugh C. Avalos of Morris, Illinois as he prepares to retire at the end of this year. For more than 40 years, Dr. Avalos has served his community in a great many ways.

First and foremost, Dr. Avalos has always demonstrated the greatest concern for and commitment to his patients. A physician of great skill, Dr. Avalos received a solid education at the University of Mexico, the Little Company of Mary Hospital in Chicago and Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Avalos has displayed his professional dedication throughout his career by pursuing additional educational opportunities on four continents and winning Board certification in English, Spanish and German.

Although not a native of Morris, Illinois, Dr. Avalos has spent the past 42 years working to better his adopted community. Active membership in service organizations such as the Moose, Shriners and especially Rotary International, which he served as president of the local club, has been a large part of his volunteer efforts along with important leadership positions at the local bank and hospital.

A very special interest of Dr. Avalos, though, has been serving the youth of the City of Morris. For more than 30 years, Dr. Avalos used his considerable professional skills to protect the health and condition of the youth of Morris as the team physician for the Morris Community High School football, basketball and baseball teams.

From a personal perspective as a resident of Morris, I am proud to have been able to consider Dr. Avalos a good friend now for well over a decade. I am well aware of the great esteem in which he is held by his patients and our community as a whole. It gives me great pleasure to both congratulate Dr. Avalos on a tremendous professional career and also to wish him much happiness during his retirement years.

Mr. Speaker, using the life and career of Dr. Hugh Avalos as an example, I urge the Members of this body to identify, recognize and honor other individuals in their own districts whose actions have greatly benefitted our communities and nation.

RECOGNIZING MARY BESS, CHIEF
FINANCIAL OFFICER, ON HER
RETIREMENT FROM MADISON
MEDICAL CENTER (FREDERICK-
TOWN—MADISON COUNTY)

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, H. Jackson Brown Jr.'s book *On Success* reminds us to "remember that overnight success usually takes about fifteen years." Well, if that is the case, then Mary E. Bess is an overnight success and then some. Having served the Madison Medical Center in Fredericktown for 25