

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 major 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

years, Mary is retiring and leaving her position as Chief Financial Officer of the Center.

As Mary retires and leaves the day to day work at the Madison Medical Center, she leaves an indelible mark on the entire Madison County region. For 25 years she has dedicated her professional life to improving health care affordability, accessibility and service. Her contributions have been a source of great pride and satisfaction for the Madison Medical Center and have resulted in such community-wide recognition as the Administrative Management Award for her hard work as a health care provider in Madison County.

There is no doubt that Mary, a graduate of Greenville High School, who has spent a great deal of time and energy helping others, will not simply rest on laurels now that she is retiring. Instead, I'm sure that she will spend time on both new activities and favorite pastimes. Specifically, I am referring to enjoying time with those people who mean the most to her—her husband Hershel and her children, David and Dennis. But most of all, I am certain that those individuals who will benefit the most from her retirement will be her four grandchildren: Mallory, Chelsea, David Scott and Dustin.

It's often been said that success is not measured by great wealth or material treasures. Instead, success is measured on the person you are, the life you live, and how your life influences the lives of others. If that is true, and I believe that it is, then we are all richer for knowing Mary Bess.

While Mary may be leaving the Madison Medical Center, her contributions to the organization are timeless and will endure. She leaves the Madison Medical Center far stronger, smarter and richer than it was when she joined it and that is a legacy for which she can be proud.

Mr. Speaker, on this very special occasion, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Mary on this milestone and wish her every happiness for the future.

DANGER AHEAD: SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION IS BREAKING THE PROMISE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House is considering a resolution stating our commitment to maintain the promise of Social Security by guaranteeing lifetime, inflation-proof benefits to current and future beneficiaries.

I am not surprised that we feel the need to do so tonight in light of today's dangerous recommendations by the President's Social Security Commission, that we feel the need to reaffirm our commitment to Social Security on the same day that the Commission is suggesting that we break that promise.

We should assure Americans—current retirees, future retirees, persons on disability, survivors and dependents—that we will not abandon them, cut their benefits, raise their retirement age, change benefit formulas, reduce COLAS, or take any other step that jeopardizes their financial security.

We should assure Americans that we will reject the recommendations of the President's Social Security Commission.

We all know that this Commission was handpicked to include only those who favor privatization and individual accounts. It does not include representatives of seniors' groups, women's groups, or consumer groups. It held closed-door sessions in subcommittee meetings" designed to circumvent government in the sunshine requirements. But even this Commission agrees that you cannot have privatization without cutting benefits.

Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to meet with members of the Commission at an event sponsored by the Women's Caucus. At that meeting, we were told that the Commission's recommendations would not guarantee current benefits to all current and future retirees. We were told that only those 55 years or older would be guaranteed current benefits. For everyone else, benefit levels could be lower.

In fact, the Commission's recommendations would lower Social Security benefits for future beneficiaries by between 30 percent to 48 percent. Who would be hurt? Persons with disabilities, children, low-wage workers, persons of color and women.

As we know, Social Security is of special importance to women, who are 60% of all recipients. Without Social Security, over half of older women would live in poverty. Women understand that value of Social Security, we know that we must protect it now and in the future.

Therefore, we should listen to what women's groups have to say about the Commission's recommendations issued today.

Martha Burk, chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations, says that "The President's Social Security Commission proposes major cuts in guaranteed benefits that will not be made up by the stock market gains from individual accounts."

Heidi Hartmann, head of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, says that the recommendations "risk the future economic security of younger workers, particularly women.

They are joined in opposing these recommendations by groups like the Older Women's League, the National Organization for Women, the American Association of University Women, and Business and Professional Women, USA.

In light of the widespread public opposition to privatization, I am not surprised that the Republican leadership is bringing up a resolution that distances this body from the Commission's recommendations.

I only hope that we will do more than voice our commitment to the future of social Security. I hope that we will put privatization proposals to rest for good.

BIPARTISAN TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY ACT OF 2001

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SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the diligent efforts of Chairman THOMAS, my colleagues and their staff members in drafting and sponsoring H.R. 3005, the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2001.

H.R. 3005 is being referred to as the most environmentally and labor responsive legisla-

tion regarding Trade Promotion Authority (Fast Track) to be sponsored by the U.S. Congress. However, I share the concerns raised by many of my constituents that H.R. 3005's labor and environmental standards do not go far enough to ensure a level playing field in our proposed trade agreements.

H.R. 3005 refers to environmental and labor provisions as negotiating objectives. Our trade history reveals that during the past 25 years including labor rights, and now environmental rights, as "negotiating objectives" do not guarantee that these provisions will actually be included in any proposed trade agreements. The geopolitical and trade landscape has changed, of the 142 members comprising the World Trade Organization (WTO), 100 are classified as developing nations and 30 are referred to as lesser-developed nations. Why is this important? It is important because with China's accession into the WTO, the 130 nations will become more forceful in promoting their trade agendas, and an opportunity for a more favorable trade agreement becomes apparent if a nation lowers its environmental and labor standards. Many nations' standards are sub-standard at best.

As drafted, the overall negotiating objective of H.R. 3005 is to promote respect for worker rights. My constituents report that the worker rights provisions do not guarantee that "core" labor standards are included in the corpus of prospective trade agreements. By core labor standards, I refer to the International Labor Organization's 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work: freedom of association, the right to organize and for collective bargaining, and the rights to be free from child labor, forced labor and employment discrimination, which many people throughout the world are confronted with.

My constituents are troubled that H.R. 3005 does not require a signatory to an agreement to improve or even to maintain that its domestic laws comport with the standards of the International Labor Organization, in practice an incentive is created for lowering them. Among H.R. 3005's principle objectives is a provision entitled labor and the environment, which calls for the signatories to trade agreements to enforce their own environment and labor laws. The United States, as a leader in the global trade community must set the example by raising the labor and environmental standards of its trading partners. In the end, it will be the United States who is called upon to provide the resources to clean-up environmental disasters.

Through their first-hand accounts, my constituents report that workers in many nations that we seek to enter into bi-lateral and multi-lateral trade agreements are subjected to exploitation, harassment and worse for exercising their rights to collective bargaining, and are forced to work under abusive conditions. For example, in our own hemisphere more than 33% of the complaints filed with the International Labor Organization's Committee on Free Association originate in the Andean region. I understand that new labor laws in Bolivia, Ecuador, Columbia and Peru undermine the right to collective bargaining, and there are scores of reports from NGO's regarding unconscionable violations of the most fundamental rights for workers and their union representatives. The AFL-CIO reports that since January 2001, more than 93 union members in Columbia have been murdered, while the perpetrators have gone unpunished.