

infancy still face a life of dependency on medications, medical procedures, and open-heart surgeries.

For this reason, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and help reduce these families' burden and allow them to focus their resources on providing the best possible care for their child.

COMMEMORATING ISRAEL'S MEMORIAL DAY AND 53RD INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, these are troubling and arduous times for Israel. Over the past seven months, the continuous clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have claimed the lives of more than 70 Israeli citizens. Car bombings, mob attacks and widespread terrorism in residential areas have caused an outbreak of panic and worry among the residents of Israel. Men and women fear that an ordinarily simple trip to their local shopping center will result in tragedy. Children no longer feel safe to ride their school buses, for they fear that they will be the next targets of this senseless bloodshed. Sadly, terrorism and fear are everywhere, and the violence continues to escalate.

Two weeks ago, Israelis commemorated the 53rd anniversary of their independence and mourned the lives lost as they marked their Memorial Day. Grieving countrymen gathered together to remember the thousands of men and women who sacrificed their lives in the fight for Israel's existence. Those commemorating these events were reminded that despite their independence, Israel must continue in their struggle for recognition and liberty.

Before and since being elected to Congress, I have supported a strong Israel. America has had for a long time, and should continue to have for a long time, a unique relationship with Israel—the only democratic nation in the region, our most important strategic ally in this volatile area, and a nation whose founding and existence clearly makes the world a better place. I believe that the United States must continue to voice its support for Israel and for the peace process that the Israelis have courageously undertaken. As I have stated many times before, the United States must be prepared to provide the diplomatic, military, and economic support that Israel needs.

The United States plays an essential role as a broker of peace in the region. However, we must not let that role keep us from speaking the truth. I am saddened to see that optimism for quick and lasting peace in the Middle East has been thwarted by the Palestinians' continued violence. I believe it is time for our government to acknowledge that the Palestinians are contradicting the promise Chairman Arafat made in January—a promise to continue working for peace. It is time for our government to exert pressure on the Palestinians to persuade them to put an end to the uprising and to prevent terrorist attacks on Israel. If the Palestinian leaders act as the Palestine Liberation Organization of old, seeking conflict rather than peace with Israel, then we must be clear in our disapproval and resolute in our efforts to once again promote peace negotiations.

Most importantly, the Palestinians must end the violence against the Israelis, and Israel must respond, as I am confident it would, with corresponding steps to reduce the level of violence on its side. That is the only way to get back to the peace table. Only peace discussions can achieve the lasting, just peace that will best serve the interests of all Israelis, all Palestinians and indeed, all of us throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, my personal sense of commitment to Israel has only been strengthened by recent developments. We must put an end to this terror and return to a period of goodwill. I believe the same is true for many of my colleagues. Let us reaffirm our solidarity with Israel as they commemorate their independence and struggle for freedom.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I express my support for 34th annual National Nursing Home Week. When the very first National Nursing Home Week began, the theme was to let millions of Americans know the "fuller life" elderly lead in America's nursing homes.

Mr. Speaker in Woodmere, New York, there is an outstanding nursing home that I commend for giving Long Island's elderly a fuller life. Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center offers incredible rehabilitation services and skilled nursing services to Long Islanders. This year, Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center celebrates its 30th year and I am proud of their work they do.

I especially thank Director Anthony Matese, whom made changes and improved the Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. The 2001 theme is the effect Nassau County nursing boxes have on the community and that nursing homes in the Nassau County area have had on the community, and how the administrators are striving to create a warm, homelike environment without an institutional atmosphere.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center on their success and wish them and all our nursing homes the best during National Nursing Home Week.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA A. PHILLIPS, 2001 ATHENA AWARD HONOREE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today to honor Judge Virginia A. Phillips, the recipient of the 2001 ATHENA of the Inland Valleys Award, which recognizes Judge Phillips for her professional excellence, community service and mentoring of fellow women.

The ATHENA Foundation Award Program originated in 1980 by Martha Mayhood Mertz,

who realized that in the 75 years of presenting community awards, her Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, of Michigan, had only once honored a woman. This realization led her to establish ATHENA so that focus would be given to the incredible number of professional women found throughout our communities nationwide.

In the 43rd congressional district Judge Virginia Phillips not only epitomizes all that the ATHENAs stand for but also all that we could possibly hope for in a role-model for the young women of today.

Judge Phillips received her B.A., Magna Cum Laude, from the University of California, Riverside in 1979, and later obtained her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law. Additionally, her professional and community activities include: Board of Directors member of the Federal Bar Association—Inland Empire Chapter; Chairperson of the City of Riverside Law Enforcement Policy Advisory Board; Board of Directors member with the Riverside Youth Center; member of the Riverside Human Relations Committee; and much, much more. Judge Phillips' life long commitment to the Inland Empire community is obvious and compelling.

Presently, Judge Phillips serves as the first female district court judge from the Inland Empire appointed to the Central District of California, which encompasses over 18 million people, with more than three million people in the Eastern Division—the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino, California. And Riverside County, while being one of the fastest growing areas in the nation, has over 1.5 million people alone. In this position, Judge Phillips fills a critical need given the sheer number of cases that come before the Central District each month.

Mr. Speaker, my district is fortunate to have a dynamic and dedicated community leader in Judge Phillips. She has given her time and talents providing motivation and inspiration to the young women with whom she comes into contact.

Judge Virginia Phillips' outstanding work makes me proud to call her a community member and fellow American. I know that all of Riverside, including myself, is grateful for her contribution to the betterment of our community and salute her on May 10th with the 2001 ATHENA Award.

I look forward to continuing to work with her and the many professional women of Riverside County for the good of our community. I would like to close with the ATHENA Foundation motto by Plato: "What is honored in a country will be cultivated there."

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MARIA OCHOA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Maria Ochoa, Ph.D. Dr. Ochoa has been director of the Sun Gallery in Hayward, California, for five successful years and is leaving to conduct art history research. Her exemplary leadership at Sun Gallery will be missed.

Sun Gallery is a community based gallery that obtains its funding through foundation

grants and community support. Through Dr. Ochoa's numerous programs and outreach activities Sun Gallery has become a true community based art gallery in which individuals feel invested and point to Sun Gallery with pride of ownership.

Dr. Ochoa was hired in April 1996 to serve as the Director of Sun Gallery. During her tenure, the growth at Sun Gallery has been remarkable. She developed a comprehensive educational program for children, increased the Gallery's funding base, brought a wide range of internationally and nationally regarded artists to exhibit at the gallery, and most importantly, brought the community to Sun Gallery. She tripled the number of school children served annually by the gallery.

Sun Gallery's classroom field trip program is now regarded as one of the premiere art education programs in the region. Dr. Ochoa also developed, in tandem with local artists and teachers, a bronze-casting curriculum that is now offered in high schools in Hayward, California.

Dr. Ochoa has stated that she is quite honored to have been selected to bring Sun Gallery into the 21st Century and is deeply humbled to have been able to serve the community, while working in a visual arts setting.

We are honored that Dr. Ochoa chose to lead Sun Gallery with her energy, commitment and talent. She leaves a legacy and her indelible mark on Sun Gallery. I join her friends and admirers in thanking her for a job well done.

HONORING ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL HOSPITAL'S NATIONAL MAGNET AWARD

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital for earning a Magnet Award, the highest honor a hospital can receive for patient care. St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital is the first hospital in Houston and one of only 31 hospitals nationwide to win this coveted distinction. This Magnet Award is presented by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for the patient care provided by the St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital's nursing staff. As the representative for St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, I want to congratulate the entire nursing staff for the quality health care services that they provide not just to local residents, but also to patients from throughout the world.

On Monday, May 7, 2001, I participated in the Magnet Award Ceremony at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital to honor these dedicated nurses who provide top quality care. I can personally attest to the care provided at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital through my family's experience. Several years ago, my uncle former Senator Lloyd Bentsen was treated at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital where he received the best available care to treat his illness. Also participating at this Awards Ceremony to honor the nursing staff of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital were two prestigious patients, former Houston Mayor Bob Lanier and Nolan Ryan. In addition, the Ceremony included former Houston City Councilman

Judson Robinson's wife, Mrs. Margarette Robinson. Mrs. Robinson was the first African American nurse to work in the surgical facilities at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

In a time when many hospitals are facing difficulties in recruiting and retaining their nursing staff, this Magnet Award demonstrates that St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital is providing a nurturing work environment where all employees work collaboratively toward the common goal of providing quality health care services to their patients. A recent Wall Street Journal article recommended to its readers that they should seek care at a magnet hospital in their area.

The Magnet Award program began in 1993 as a means to recognize centers of excellence in nursing care. This program reviews the management philosophy and practices of nursing staff; adherence to standards for improving the quality of patient care; leadership in supporting continued competence of nursing personnel; and attention to the cultural and ethnic diversity of patients and their significant others.

Clearly, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital has worked hard to provide the resources and personnel needed to accomplish this goal. The nursing staff is the backbone of any hospital and the nurses at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital have earned a distinction worthy of special praise.

CONGRATULATING ESTONIA, LATVIA, AND LITHUANIA ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago with the collapse of the Soviet Union, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania threw off the yoke of Soviet domination and regained their independence. Between World War I and World War II, they had been sovereign nations and respected members of the international community. In 1939, however, they were illegally partitioned between Hitler and Stalin as part of the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement. Based on this agreement, Hitler gave Stalin the green light to seize the Baltic states. I am proud to state that the illegal incorporation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the Soviet Union was never recognized by the United States Government.

Stalin's NKVD killed or exiled thousands of Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians who resisted the takeover and subjugation. If not murdered outright, tens of thousands of Baltic citizens were rounded up and loaded into railroad cars to be shipped to distant regions of the Soviet Union. The current president of Estonia, for instance, grew up in Siberia. The President of Latvia, whom I recently had the pleasure of meeting, grew up in a refugee camp in Germany where her family had fled from the Soviet incursion. Almost 300,000 Lithuanians were deported to Siberia in the 1940s and 1950s. Those Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians who remained in their homelands saw their native languages and cultures denigrated in favor of Soviet "culture" and linguistic "Russification."

Among the political prisoners in the post-Stalin GULAG, the Balts were well represented. We still remember the names of Baltic political prisoners such as Mart Niklus, Gunars Astra, and Nijole Sadunaite, and many others willing to sacrifice their freedom and, in some cases, give their lives to resist Soviet oppression of their homelands.

But the Soviet system was doomed and the people of the Baltic nations knew it. "Glasnost" and "perestroika" gave them the opportunity to resolutely, but peacefully, work to regain their independence. In August 1989, on the 50th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement, about one million Balts created a human chain the "Baltic Way," stretching about 400 miles from Estonia, through Latvia, to Lithuania to protest Soviet rule over their nations. Two years later, after a bloody but ultimately fruitless attempt by Moscow to regain armed control over its unruly subjects, the people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania had regained the independence they had dreamed of for so long.

And now, ten years after that momentous event, the Baltic nations are again sovereign nations, respected members of the international community. Their David-and-Goliath struggle is an inspiration to enslaved peoples everywhere.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am joined by Mr. HOYER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, in submitting a resolution which congratulates the people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the restoration of their full independence. This resolution also calls upon the United States Government to continue the close and mutually beneficial relations with these countries that have existed since the restoration of full independence.

I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO STETSON UNIVERSITY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, as the State of Florida recently celebrated its 156th anniversary, Stetson University and President H. Douglas Lee, along with the Dean Gary Vauss of the School of Law, recognized the occasion by hosting an event attended by Floridians in Washington, D.C.

Stetson University was founded in 1883 with a population of only 13 students. It established Florida's first professional schools in Business, Law and Music.

The University, with 2,491 students and a student-faculty ratio of 11 to 1, embraces six core values of education: (1) Ethical Decisions, (2) Religious and Spiritual Life, (3) Environmental Responsibility, (4) Diversity and Global Awareness, (5) Community Service and (6) Gender Equality. The School of Law, with 708 students and a student-faculty ratio of 18 to 1, has established centers of excellence in Advocacy, Elder Law, Dispute Resolution Health Law and Litigation Ethics. It also ranks in the top three of accredited Law Schools in the United States for Trial Advocacy.