

Tree" that could be viewed by our troops, no matter where they were stationed. In fact, Cindy used every message to decorate real Christmas Trees, too! She is anxious to get going on "Trees for the Troops 2002."

I commend this web site to you, Mr. Speaker, and our colleagues. It can be found at <http://www.iwillsoaragain.com/>. There are many things to see and read, including samplings of Cindy's poetry. By scrolling down to the bottom, one can find "Trees for the Troops 2001" and read the heartfelt greetings submitted by thousands of grateful people.

"I Will Soar Again" is one person's way of saying God Bless America. I commend this site to our colleagues, staffs, families and constituents, so they can contribute to the next Christmas Tree.

HIP HOUSING MARKS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO SAN MATEO COUNTY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Human Investment Project for Housing (HIP Housing) of San Mateo, California, on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary. For the past 30 years, this outstanding organization has been addressing the need for affordable housing.

Founded in 1972, HIP Housing was established to create programs to assist the disadvantaged and disabled living within San Mateo County. In 1979, recognizing a lack of affordable housing in the community, HIP Housing developed its "Homesharing Help and Information Program" and began to focus on expanding the pool of affordable housing in the community. Since then, HIP Housing has made over 12,000 homesharing placements and today serves over 2,500 people each year, 500 of which are children.

Mr. Speaker, the high cost of living in my congressional district is well documented. High housing prices have forced some out of their homes, leaving many with only expensive temporary housing options. HIP Housing has come to the rescue of thousands of people, finding permanent housing for seniors, single-parents and their children, persons with disabilities, the homeless and working persons.

Fortunately, HIP Housing has long been recognized for its great work. In 1985, the organization received the "Best Practices Award" from the American Society on Aging; in 1990 HIP Housing was appointed the Northern California liaison to National Home Equity Conversion Counseling Task Force; the California American Institute of Architects awarded the organization the "Community Assistance" award in 1991; and in 1998, HIP Housing received HUD's Blue Ribbon Best Practices Award.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to emphasize just how vital HIP Housing has been to San Mateo County. Through its wide variety of housing programs and incredible generosity, HIP Housing has made a world of a difference for tens of thousands of people and it continues to do so every day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, from June 17 through 19, 2002 I had the honor of traveling to the United Kingdom on a Congressional Delegation as the Vice Chairman of the Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations. While in London, visiting the British Parliament's House of Lords, I had the opportunity to discuss policy-related issues and the ongoing war on terrorism with some of my distinguished British counterparts. Specifically, we held the first U.S. Congressional hearing ever in British Parliament on the subject of Gulf War Syndrome. I was excused by the Speaker to participate in this extraordinary experience, which prevented me from voting on legislation that came before the floor of the House of Representatives during that time. Had I been available to cast my vote I would have done the following:

Rollcall Votes: (1) #230—Journal—Yea; (2) #231—H. Con. Res. 415—Recognizing National Homeownership Month and the Importance of Homeownership in the United States—Yea; (3) #232—H. Con. Res. 340—Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Meningitis Awareness Month—Yea; (4) #233—H.R. 327—Small Business Paperwork Relief Act—Yea; (5) #234—H.R. 4794—Designating the Ronald C. Packard Post Office Building—Yea; (6) #235—H.R. 4717—Designating the Jim Fonteno Post Office Building—Yea; (7) #236—Journal—Yea; (8) #237—H.R. 3389—National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002—Yea; (9) #238—Hastings of Florida Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 3295—Help America Vote Act—No.

CONGRATULATING NAVY LEAGUE OF UNITED STATES ON ITS CENTENNIAL

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 2002

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support House Concurrent Resolution 416 and congratulate the Navy League of the United States for 100 years of outstanding service.

The Navy League is a civilian organization that provides a valuable service to military communities across the United States. Their programs, such as the Naval Sea Cadet and the Navy Junior ROTC programs, are dedicated to increasing the educational and life experiences of this country's youth. Each year, many deserving high school students are the beneficiaries of generous Navy League scholarships and awards.

I am fortunate enough to have 2 separate Navy Leagues in my district, the Jacksonville Navy League and the Mayport Navy League. The members of both of these organizations dedicate their time, skills, expertise and other resources to help improve the lives of the men and women of the Navy, Coast Guard and

Marines and their families. The Mayport League has sponsored commissioning of local new ships, most recently the USS *Roosevelt*; and both leagues have honored local Navy, Coast Guard and Marine personnel through the Sailor of the Year luncheon and the annual Midway Memorial Dinner. This resolution allows Congress to honor the commitment to this nation by the Navy League and its dedicated members.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride today that I say happy 100th birthday to the Navy League, especially the local Jacksonville and Mayport councils.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey as it celebrates its 90th Anniversary Year as the region's premier provider of community health services, serving more than 100,000 clients each year. The organization that is now VNA of Central Jersey began with a meeting of volunteers on June 24, 1912 at Brookdale Farm, Geraldine Thompson's estate in Lincroft, NJ.

First known as the Monmouth County Branch of the State Charities Aid and Prison Reform Association, the young organization set out to improve prison conditions and achieve a more humane approach to public assistance. It successfully campaigned for a tuberculosis hospital (Allenwood Sanitarium), and was appointed agent for the NJ Tuberculosis League.

From the beginning, the health care needs of women and children were a paramount concern. In its first decade, the agency completed a study of mentally handicapped children in the public schools; it launched child welfare programs and established mobile dental clinics and mobile mental hygiene clinics. Public health nurses were added to the social work staff, and the agency established a county district health office.

The name was changed to the Monmouth County Organization for Social Service in 1918. However, the agency has always been a voluntary, nonprofit organization and is not a branch of county government.

Accomplishments of the second decade included the addition of three satellite health centers and a continuing focus on services for children: well-child conferences, nutrition and parenting programs, and establishment of a children's shelter.

The 1930s brought a training program for student nurses, nursery and play schools at the Hartshorne Health Center in Belford to assist working mothers, and an expansion of services for handicapped children. The agency also assisted Fitkin Hospital (now Jersey Shore Medical Center) in establishing a social service department.

During the war years, MCOSS spearheaded a medical-dental plan for veterans. In the late 1940s the agency participated in organizing the Cancer Society, Heart Association and Cerebral Palsy Treatment Center in the county. The agency's program to provide health

care for migrant workers received national recognition.

In the following decade, the agency participated in the Salk vaccine testing program and gave field training to graduate nursing students from Rutgers University and Columbia. The Thrift Shop opened its doors in Manasquan in 1960. Also in the 1960s, the agency and the Monmouth County Board of Freeholders worked out a plan for countywide bedside nursing care.

The high quality of nursing, the aging of the population, the growing costs of hospital care and advances in home care technology led to explosive growth in home care services in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1979, the agency formally changed its name to MCOSN Nursing Services. In 1988, service was expanded to Middlesex County through acquisition of the Visiting Nurse Association in Middlesex. In an effort to make the organization's identity clear in both Middlesex County and Monmouth County, the agency's trustees voted in December 1993 to adopt the name Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey. (A visiting nurse association is a freestanding, community-based, nonprofit organization governed by a volunteer board of trustees, providing intermittent care in the home and helping to support itself through fund-raising.)

Significant developments of the 1980s and 1990s included creation of VNACJ Community Services, the administrative umbrella for grant-funded services and fund-raising programs; the foundation of the hospice program; growth of the rehabilitative services department; and establishment of primary care centers staffed by nurse practitioners. In 1988, the hospice program was certified by Medicare, and now serves more than 700 terminally ill patients and their families annually.

From mobile health clinics in the 1920s, services to migrants in the 1940s, hospice care in the 1980s, primary care in the 1990s, expansion of school-based clinics in 2000 to the introduction of advanced home care technology in 2001, the venturesome spirit of that early group of volunteers continues to infuse an organization which has consistently been in the vanguard of community health in this nation.

As VNA of Central Jersey celebrates its 90th year, it also pays tribute to Judith Stanley Coleman on her 25th anniversary as Chairman. First as trustee and then as the agency's sixth chairman, Mrs. Coleman has been an outstanding leader, advocate and supporter of the organization. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that the voluntary nonprofit agency continue to honor its commitment to provide care to all in need, regardless of their ability to pay.

COMMENDING MR. LOWELL R.
OVERTON

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Mr. Lowell R.

Overton, broker and co-owner of Coldwell Banker Realty in Diamond Bar, California.

Mr. Overton graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in 1976 with a bachelor of arts degree in social science followed in 1977 with a bachelor of science degree in behavioral science, accompanied with a criminal justice and corrections certificate.

After graduation from Cal Poly Pomona, Mr. Overton started his career in real estate at Goldenwest Realtors and Associates in Diamond Bar, where he quickly became office "Top Producer." He later joined Prudential California Realty in 1989. During his tenure there, he was honored with a total of eight Pinnacle Awards, representing placement among the top ten individuals nationally. In 1993, he was named National Champion of Prudential Real Estate Affiliates topping more than 38,000 agents nationwide. In doing so, he personally closed \$35 million in residential income and a total of 187 homes, becoming the first person in company history to generate more than 1 million dollars in gross commission income. In 1995, he was the recipient of the prestigious Legend Award, which is given to agents within the company exhibiting extraordinary "perseverance, expertise and consistency" in the course of their careers.

As an alumnus, Overton has been a strong supporter for many years of the Behavioral Sciences Department and the College of Letters Arts and Social Sciences at Cal Poly Pomona. He has provided an endowment to fund a scholarship for an outstanding psychology, sociology or behavioral science major, which has enabled the department to make nine awards to date. He is also the founder of the CLASS Alumni Chapter Endowed Scholarship Fund and the Behavioral Sciences Department Endowed Scholarship Fund. He has also endowed the Lowell Overton Award for the Presidents Council Scholarship for the College of Letters Arts and Social alumni chapter, currently serving as the chapter's president. He is a director on the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation, a member of the Kellogg Voorhis Heritage Society and the President's Council. Overton has also participated numerous times in the Professor for a Day Program and the Behavioral Sciences Department Honors Luncheon. He has also brought Cal Poly Pomona together with local statewide political leaders, most recently co-sponsoring a reception for California State Attorney General Bill Lockyer.

Thank you, Lowell for all of your hard work and dedication to California State Polytechnic University Pomona and to the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL
CONNECTION COMMITTEE OF
THE ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SO-
RORITY, INCORPORATED

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Rep-

resentatives to join me in paying tribute to the members of the International Connection Committee of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated for their outstanding years of service as leaders in the community.

For 60 years, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., a registered 501(c)(7) nonprofit, nonpartisan fraternal organization, has been an active participant in fostering political activities. The Sorority's involvement has ranged from organizing the Nonpartisan Lobby for Economic and Democratic Rights to press for political, social and economic justice for African Americans to the establishment of the Office of Governmental Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Recognizing the importance of engaging its members in public policy initiatives and political campaign activities, the International Connection Committee became a reality in 1980 at the International Convention. The Committee's first major initiative was a nationwide "voter blitz" to mobilize the African American community to vote in the 1980 General Election. In 1998, members joined with the NAACP for the Mass Demonstration at the U.S. Supreme Court to protest the lack of minority law clerks employed by the Justices. To build on the success of the inaugural committee, the 1998–2000 International Connection Committee continued to move the public policy program by implementing a wide range of events including voter education and registration activities, training sessions for members who sought elective and appointive office, and AKA Lobby Days.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize the members of the 2000–2002 International Connection Committee of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for their efforts to continue the work of an organization rich in both history and service. The members are Juanita Orr, Chairman; and representatives Lenora Gerald, North Atlantic Region; Leyser Morris-Hayes, South Eastern Region; Vivian Burke, Mid-Atlantic Region; Jenelle Elder-Green, Central Region; Vertelle Middleton, South Atlantic Region; Tari Bradford, South Central Region; Nancy Quarles, Great Lakes Region; Kimberly Scott, Mid-Western Region; Dawn Bobbitt, Far Western Region; Frances Molloy, International Region; Dorothy R. Jackson, Resource & Washington, D.C. Chairman of Millennium Public Policy Conferences, and Dr. Norma Solomon White, International President. I also acknowledge with pride and respect the many Connection Committee activists who preceded the current Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me in honoring the members for their exceptional service to our community. We are fortunate to have noble citizens like them to provide essential services and support to our society.