

Raritan's 2002 Women of Distinction and Girl Scouts of Distinction honorees and their significant contributions to Central New Jersey.

Through its efforts, the Girls Scouts of Delaware-Raritan serve over 12,000 young women across Central New Jersey. Tonight's honorees exhibit and exude the altruistic ideals that our Nation needs now, more than ever. These ideals, no doubt grew from their involvement in Girl Scouts and the grounding principals of the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law which read as follows:

THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

THE GIRL SCOUT LAW

I will do my best to be
Honest and fair,
Friendly and helpful,
Considerate and caring,
Courageous and strong, and
Responsible for what I say and do,
And to
Respect myself and others,
Respect authority,
Use resources wisely,
Make the world a better place, and
Be a sister to every Girl Scout.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, we honor each of these recipients for their hard work and dedication and we celebrate the legacy they have created for women and women's history in Central New Jersey.

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION/GIRL SCOUTS OF DISTINCTION

World of Corporate Leadership, Ms. J. Andrea Alstrup, Johnson & Johnson and Ms. Erin McKinley, Senior Troop 1099, Princeton.

World of the Arts, Ms. Deborah Ford, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and Ms. Megan Copenhaver, Senior Troop 1703, West Windsor/Plainsboro.

World of Education, Dr. R. Barbara Gitenstein, Ph.D., The College of New Jersey and Ms. Melissa Shulman, Senior Troop 523, Old Bridge.

World of Industry, Ms. Margaret Guillian, Inland Paperboard & Packaging, Inc. and Ms. Amirah Patterson, Senior Troop 308, Somerset.

World Citizen, Ms. Katherine M. Kish, Market Entry, Inc. and Ms. Maryanna Vicente, Independent Senior, Mojasphe.

World of Science, Dr. Elaine Leventhal, M.D., Ph.D., UMDNJ-RWJ Medical School and Ms. Victoria Rollins, Senior Troop 3038, Piscataway.

World of the Environment, Ms. Mary T. Shell, NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection and Ms. Kristen Schechter, Senior Troop 399, Somerset.

World of Women, Ms. Melanie Willoughby, NJ Retail Merchants Association and Ms. Sweta Patel, Senior Troop 308, East Brunswick.

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise to celebrate, honor and commend these outstanding New Jerseyans. I have personally observed the effective work of some of these honorees and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their invaluable contributions to our community and to New Jersey.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, it has been six months since the September 11th attacks. During that time, millions of working people in the United States have lost their jobs. Even before the attacks, our economy was slowing down and unemployment was on the rise. House leaders responded to the economic downturn with calls for deeper tax cuts for the wealthy and tax breaks for businesses. Congress even enacted a measure to bail out the airline industry. However, it continued to ignore the very individuals who need the assistance the most: the unemployed. With the consideration of H.R. 3090, the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act, I am pleased that the House is finally voting on a bill that will truly help workers.

The 13-week extension of unemployment benefits provided in this legislation will bring much needed relief to the many displaced workers across the country whose benefits are near exhaustion. It will be particularly helpful in my district, where unemployment in some cities is well above the national rate of 5.5%. In South El Monte alone, for example, the unemployment rate is 10.3%. It is time that we help people in this city and others across the country as they struggle to make ends meet during these difficult times. It is the very least that we can do for them.

While I support this measure, I am disappointed that it does not include additional benefits for unemployed individuals. Compensation for unemployed part-time and low-wage workers and health insurance for displaced workers are among the benefits that should have been included in this economic stimulus bill. Also, my proposal to provide an immediate one-time payroll tax rebate up to \$300 to lower income working individuals should have been included. Working families need all the help they can get and unemployment benefits are sometimes insufficient to meet the day-to-day necessities. Inclusion of the above proposals would have strengthened the economic security of millions of unemployed workers until they found jobs. As the House continues to monitor the economy and its impact on working families, I urge it to consider these important proposals.

Although this legislation does not reach its full potential as a true worker assistance measure, it is a step in the right direction and will be enormously helpful to many hard working individuals and their families. In this regard, I support it and urge its passage.

IN HONOR OF EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S PLACEMENT ON THE AMERICA'S BEST COLLEGES LIST

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Eastern Illinois University in

Charleston, Illinois, of my district. This Fall, Eastern Illinois University moved from the second tier to the first tier of the Midwestern Regional Universities in US News and World Report's 2002 annual guide to America's Best Colleges, placing it among the top public universities in the Midwest.

Eastern Illinois University is the only public university in the State of Illinois listed in the first tier of four tiers of 145 institutions in the "Best Universities—Masters (Regional Midwest)" ranking category—universities that offer a full range of undergraduate degrees and some master's degree programs, but few, if any doctoral programs. In addition, the magazine also rated Eastern fifth among all public Midwestern universities with master's programs, compared to seventh place of last year. The rankings are based on schools academic reputation, student selectivity, faculty resources, graduation and retention rates, financial resources, and alumni giving.

One of the most impressive statistics regarding Eastern Illinois University is that they have an average graduation rate of 67 percent. This rate reflects their strong commitment to the students that attend Eastern, and the effective leadership provided by interim president, Louis V. Hencken. Mr. Speaker, these graduates leave Eastern Illinois University with a quality education that makes them desired candidates for jobs within my district and the entire State of Illinois.

It is an honor to represent the city of Charleston, Illinois, and I offer my congratulations to the entire faculty and staff of Eastern Illinois University and commend them on this tremendous achievement.

HONORING EARLENE HILL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Earlene Hill as she retires after 29 years as a Registered Nurse with General Motors. During her career she has provided outstanding patient services to the employees of General Motors. Mrs. Hill will be honored at a celebration on March 14th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

As a certified Occupational Health Nurse, Earlene has been on the front lines of health care in the workplace. As a member and past president of the Flint Association of Occupational Health Nurses she always abided by the high criteria imposed by that organization. The times I have met with her, I was impressed with Earlene's commitment to cultivating professional standards and her compassion for the workers in her care. As an Occupational Health Nurse she was charged with the awesome responsibility of assessing work environments for potential health or safety problems. Earlene has been an excellent advocate for safeguarding workers at Fisher Body Number 1, Flint Metal Fabrication, the Buick City Complex and the GM Regional Medical Complex.

Earlene's efforts on behalf of the workers under her protection resulted in her promotion to Manager of Health Service Administration at General Motors. This enabled the entire GM Health Service staff to draw on her expertise. Her retirement will leave a gap in the accumulated wisdom of the Health Service Administration. Her concern for others extends beyond

the jobsite. Her work with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society and Christ Fellowship Baptist Church are testimonials to her warmhearted benevolence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in wishing Earlene, her husband James, and her family all the best as she begins this new phase of her life.

IN RECOGNITION OF HISPANIC AMERICAN ATHLETES AT THE 2002 OLYMPICS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the United States Latino athletes in the 2002 Winter Olympics. At these Olympic games we have seen a number of outstanding United States athletes from different ethnic and racial backgrounds. We have witnessed a number of "firsts" in our minority communities. These athletes have risen to the Olympic challenge against incredible odds, and for this, I honor them. I again recognize Mrs. Vonetta Flowers who won a Gold medal; in bobsledding at the Winter Olympic games, becoming the first African American to win a Gold medal for the United States in a Winter event.

In addition to those accomplishments made by the African American community, I also commend those achievements of Hispanic American athletes as highlighted in the Daily News article on Latino Olympians. The article follows this statement and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Olympians' reference in it. Mr. Parra, 31 years old, is a Mexican American speed skater from Orlando, Florida. He began his athletic career as an inline skater and only picked up speed skating on ice five years ago. Considered the first Hispanic American to ever win a medal in the Olympic games makes Parra incredibly unique, but Parra did not just medal. Parra came in first, receiving a Gold medal and breaking the world record for his performance in the 1,500 meter. He also received a Silver medal in the 5,000 meter race.

In addition, Jennifer Rodriguez of Miami, Florida became the first Cuban-American to medal in the Winter Olympics. A former inline skater—now speed skater, like Parra—Rodriguez competed in the women's 1,000 race and won a Bronze medal. Our nation's Puerto Rican heritage was also represented at the Salt Lake City Games. Though the two-man bobsled team was unable to complete in the end, Puerto Rico's presence was felt and we look forward to their full participation in 2006.

Parra, Rodriguez, and the Puerto Rican athletes have performed to commendable heights. They are a tribute to everything the Olympics stand for: courage, athleticism and national and international unity. I thank them for their hard work and perseverance. These, along with African American and Asian American, athletes are great examples to our future athletes, especially our minority communities. Their faces reflect the composition of our country and are an inspiration to countless young people who might believe the Olympics are not for them. Thank you again and congratulations.

[From the New York Daily News, Feb. 21, 2002]

LATIN OLYMPIANS GOOD AS GOLD

Global warming has affected the Utah Winter Olympics in unexpected ways. And all of them seem to be good.

For one thing, there are all these warm-weather people heating up the ice at Salt Lake City. And doing their part to make the medal count grow for the U.S.

Take Derek Parra.

Believed to be the first Hispanic ever to win a medal in the Winter Games, Parra, a 31-year-old Mexican-American, lives in Orlando, Fla., where Mickey and Donald are found all over the place, but snow is as rare as, well, speed skating.

He is 5-foot-4 and weighs 140 pounds, but Parra accomplished what many bigger men had unsuccessfully attempted before. He broke a world record to take the gold in 1,500 meters speed skating Tuesday in such spectacular fashion that even his competitors were thrilled.

"It sounds stupid, but I enjoyed [seeing] it," said Jochem Uytdehaage, of the Netherlands, who won silver, after Parra broke the world record he had set a few minutes before.

The reverse had taken place the opening day of the games, when Parra set a world record in the 5,000 meters. Uytdehaage destroyed it a few minutes later.

"It is just an amazing thing," Parra said after his 1,500-meter victory.

CUBAN-AMERICAN PIONEER

Now take Jennifer Rodriguez.

Born in sunny Miami to Cuban parents, Rodriguez is believed to be the first Cuban-American to compete in the Winter Games.

Rodriguez not only competed but won the bronze in the women's 1,000 meters. Another American, Chris Witty, won the gold and established a new world record.

That no Cuban-American had competed in the Winter Olympics before is not at all surprising. After all, in Miami, ice is usually found only in drinks. Not exactly an ice-skating paradise.

Baseball, football, swimming, boxing, soccer—all of them are pretty popular in warm, heavily Latino Miami. But a Cuban-American speed skater? Rodriguez's and Parra's feats will do wonders to change that.

Parra and Rodriguez—as did Apolo Anton Ohno, for that matter—got their start as inline skaters. Actually, Rodriguez didn't train on ice until six years ago, and Parra made the switch only five years ago.

The young Mexican-American also was a phenomenal in-line skater, becoming national champion three times in the 1990s and holding world records in short- and long-distance events.

And then take the case of the Puerto Rican bobsled team.

Yes, I know, you are asking yourself what in the world was the Caribbean island—average temperature 85 degrees—doing in Salt Lake City, where freezing weather is their daily bread? Did these sun-tanned, warm-weather guys stand a chance against all those cold-weather-seasoned athletes?

We'll never know.

BOBSLEDDERS BLOCKED

On Friday evening, the Puerto Rican Olympic Committee dropped out of the two-man bobsled competition hours before it began. The reason: Michael González, one of the two team members, was not able to demonstrate to the island's Olympic committee that he had lived on the island for the required three years.

Ironically, the International Olympic Committee was satisfied with the two years and one month he was able to prove.

"He's a great, great guy, but those are the rules," said Héctor Cardona, president of the

island's national Olympic committee. "We have to follow the rules. As president of the Olympic committee, I took him out, according to our constitution."

Maybe next time. And count on it, there will be a next time.

HONORING HOLLY JOHNSEN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Holly Johnsen for being recognized by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards as a Distinguished Finalist for her impressive community service activities. The award is presented by Prudential Financial, with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and seeks to honor students who show exceptional achievement in the areas of community service.

Holly Johnsen, a sixteen-year old student at Bullard High School, has been recognized for initiating a "Lunch Buddy" program. The 30 Junior Ladies Auxiliary for Retarded Citizens (LARC) Club members that are involved in this program introduce special-education students to other groups, accompany them on field trips, and organize parties at school. Holly has shown top-quality leadership and organizing skills. The club operates at their school with a shared presidency between Holly and Molly Hopkins. Holly believes the club will make an impact through peer contribution. She encourages students to play a part in the program by taking special-education students to classes, club meetings, and lunch with them.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Holly Johnsen for being honored by Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Holly for her outstanding ingenuity and service to the community and wishing her continued success in all future endeavors.

HONORING MR. RICHARD FIMBRES ON HIS SELECTION AS "MAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE TUCSON METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2001

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize an outstanding individual who was recently recognized for his exemplary work and dedication to his community. On February 27, Mr. Richard G. Fimbres was honored by the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce as their "Man of the Year."

Mr. Fimbres' work throughout the community is evidenced by the time and energy he devotes to so many organizations throughout the City of Tucson and Pima County. The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Knights of Columbus, the Tucson/Pima Arts Council, the Pima Youth Partnership, the United Way, and the Childrens Action Alliance are just a few of the entities he commits his energies to.