Cleveland, as they celebrate 20 years of educational assistance and support within the Hispanic community of Cleveland. I also stand to recognize Esperanza's celebration of their 13th Annual Fiesta of Hope.

Esperanza, Inc. is the only nonprofit organization in Ohio dedicated to the promotion and advancement of Hispanic education. This organization attracts hundreds of volunteers who tutor, mentor, and provide scholarship assistance to students of all ages.

Since its formation in 1983, Esperanza, Inc. has celebrated its diversity through a yearly ''fiesta.'' Every year, the leaders and members of Esperanza, Inc. awards dozens of scholarships that provide critically needed financial assistance to students. Esperanza, Inc. focuses their resources, time and talents in promoting the most vital component of a productive and healthy individual and a productive and healthy society—educational opportunities for all.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Esperanza, Inc. of Cleveland. For the past 20 years, this significant agency has uplifted the lives of thousands of youth within the Hispanic community, and continues its mission through its dedicated staff, volunteers, and equally dedicated students. Esperanza, Inc. provides financial support, technical resources and career guidance focused on students in the primary grades through college. Moreover, Esperanza, Inc. offers hope and opportunity, and underscores the notion that despite hardships and obstacles—support, encouragement and faith in a child will raise that child far above mediocrity to new heights of personal achievement—to a place where their dreams are realized.

HONORING DR. JAN BILLINGS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the current state of healthcare in this Nation as it relates to the Hispanic community.

Figures released by the Census Bureau last Wednesday placed the Latino population at 38.8 million in July 2002, an increase of nearly 10 percent from the 2000 census.

Unfortunately, over half of all Hispanics in the United States do not have health insurance. This is about 20 percent higher than the national average of approximately 30 percent.

I am especially concerned about the health of many of our Nation's Hispanic seniors. Over 2.2 million Hispanics currently receive Social Security benefits.

Each time that a new tax cut is passed, we put our Social Security trust fund in further danger, thus eliminating future benefits for all Social Security recipients.

Moreover, without Social Security, over 55 percent of Hispanic seniors would be forced to live under the poverty rate.

I hope that those who supported tax cuts for the wealthy can sleep well at night knowing that their misguided policies may force millions of seniors to live in poverty.

TOWN OF DECATUR

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as the American people saw on national television this morning, the Indiana flood of 2003 moved forward at a heartbreaking, record-setting pace.

The St. Mary's River in Decatur, IN, crested last night at nearly 28 feet, an all-time historic high for that river and the Wabash River as well.

But, because of the work of local heroes like Decatur Mayor Fred Isch, Fire Chief David Brinneman, State Master Sergeant Roger Popplewell, and National Guard Unit Leader Sergeant Mike Heister, thousands of volunteers filled more than 176,000 sandbags in Decatur, IN alone.

And when the St. Mary's River crested, it did not break the levee. There are so many to be commended, but I remember two in particular—Decatur police officer Mark Cook, who organized the sandbag filling at the Wal-Mart parking lot and even 13-year-old Melanie Vergary who went out and worked and stuffed bags.

The chaplain said today that ''unless the Lord watches over the city'' and surely, Mr. Speaker, we would ask the Lord to watch over this city and all the cities in Indiana affected by the flood of 2003 and all those who labored to protect them.

IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY J. CELEBREZZE, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Anthony J Celebrezze, Jr., devoted family man, accomplished public leader, and admired friend and mentor. Mr. Celebrezze's integrity, expertise and deep dedication to the people of Cleveland and the State of Ohio has left an indelible and positive mark within our community and throughout our state.

Mr. Celebrezze was born and raised in Cleveland and chose to remain in Cleveland to raise his family throughout his years in office. In recent years, he relocated to the Columbus area where he pursued his passion of competitive racing. The life of Mr. Celebrezze reflects great accomplishment, focus and achievement—academic and professional. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy, a Master's degree from George Washington University, and a Law degree from Cleveland-Marshall Law School.

Instilled with the values of public service from his father, Anthony J. Celebrezze, Sr., who served as a popular Mayor of Cleveland, Mr. Celebrezze sought a life in service to others. He was elected to the State Senate in 1976. In 1980, Mr. Celebrezze was elected to serve as Ohio's Secretary of State. Mr. Celebrezze was elected as Ohio's Attorney General two years later.

Throughout his years dedicated to uplifting the lives of Ohio residents, Mr. Celebrezze made significant improvements regarding a wide range of environmental and consumer protection issues. Because of Mr. Celebrezze's commitment to Ohio consumers, auto buyers in Ohio are protected by the ''lemon law.'' A staunch protector and advocate of Ohio's natural environment, Mr. Celebrezze worked tirelessly for strict control of waste shipment into Ohio, and clamped down on industrial pollution.

Anthony J. Celebrezze, Jr.'s steadfast integrity, kindness and humble nature reflected his character and defined his tenure as public servant. His humble nature belied his deep intellect, vision and keen political savvy. Though immensely successful, title and accolades did not hold significance for him—care for his family and service to community did. Anthony J. Celebrezze was a true leader in every sense—a genuine individual whose modesty and strong sense of self cast a rare and steady beacon of light across the shadowy game of politics. He consistently disregarded political pressures and kept focused on improving the lives of his constituents, working tirelessly on behalf of his constituents.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mr. Anthony J. Celebrezze, Jr., an exceptional man and caring leader whose life profoundly impacted the lives of thousands. His passing marks a deep loss for countless who called him friend—including me. Mr. Celebrezze's commitment to others is clearly evidenced within our consumer protection laws and cleaner environment, and will remain so for all time. His radiant legacy of consumer advocacy and environmental protection will be remembered always by the people of Ohio. Moreover, it was the power of his kindness, grace, tenacity and heart that uplifted and enlightened every facet of our community.

I extend my deepest condolences to Mr. Celebrezze's beloved wife, Louisa; his beloved children, Anthony J. III, Charles, David, Catherine and Maria. Anthony J. Celebrezze, Jr.'s exceptional life will serve as a timeless example of leadership, and service to others—and although he will be deeply missed—his indelible legacy—fueled by the power of kindness, grace and heart, will forever resound throughout our community and throughout the State of Ohio.

HONORING ARTURO MORENO

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Arturo Moreno, the new owner of the World Champion Anaheim Angels.

Mr. Moreno's purchase of the World Series champions not only made him the first minority with a controlling stake in a major league team, it made him the first Latino owner in major team sports.

In a league where 28 percent of the players are foreign born, this is an important step in continuing diversity in Major League Baseball.

When Jackie Robinson entered the League in 1947, he broke baseball color barriers. Today, I'm proud to say that Mr. Moreno is

continuing that tradition at the helm of the Angels. It is my hope that it will drive more minorities to sports management and to the Anaheim ballpark.

I'm told he bought the Angels not just because he loves sports, but because he loves to win—exactly what we need for a second championship victory.

As a die-hard Angels fan, I would like to welcome Mr. Arturo to the Anaheim family. I hope his first year includes another championship.

RECOGNIZING THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN, ILLINOIS

HON. RAY LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. LaHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the City of Lincoln, in the 18th District of Illinois, for their one hundred and fiftieth anniversary.

Whereas the city of Lincoln, Illinois, is celebrating its sesquicentennial;

Whereas such an occasion commemorates the life and times lived by those citizens who influenced or nurtured the development of the nation, state, county, and individual communities in which they lived;

Whereas the city of Lincoln, Illinois, has planned sesquicentennial activities to commemorate its founding;

Whereas an official celebration will occur August 21 through August 31, 2003 in downtown Lincoln, Postville, and Lincoln College, and will include commemorative displays as well as the Annual Art and Balloon Festival;

Whereas the history of the settlement of the original thirteen colonies along the Atlantic seaboard was one of people seeking a promised land—a land with freedom and opportunity;

Whereas Logan County, Illinois, was established as a result of the American westward movement across the Appalachian Mountains, through the Ohio River Valley, and onto the broad expanse of the Illinois prairies;

Whereas founded in 1853 as a result of that American westward movement, Lincoln, Illinois has had an illustrious history which has strongly influenced the city's citizens' way of life;

Whereas since its founding, the citizens of Lincoln, Illinois, have come from all walks of life and have represented all races, creeds, and nationalities;

Whereas, from the time of the original settlers of Lincoln, Illinois, and through the passage of time, the citizens of Lincoln have shared a common dream that their children would enjoy a better life than they themselves had;

Whereas that dream became the legacy, which remained throughout the economic, political, and social development of Lincoln, Illinois;

Whereas Abraham Lincoln was the embodiment of that dream whereby a person can transcend from a ''dirt floor cabin'' background and become a symbol of hope to the citizens of Lincoln, Illinois, the United States, and throughout the world;

Whereas Lincoln, Illinois, was the only town or city named for Abraham Lincoln before he ever achieved any prominence or fame;

Whereas Lincoln College was the only educational institution in the world named for Abraham Lincoln during his Presidency from 1861 to 1865;

Whereas the founders of Lincoln, Illinois—Robert B. Latham, John D. Gillett, Virgil Hickox—were close friends of the 16th President of the United States and named the city after him;

Whereas Abraham Lincoln spent many hours in both Postville, which is now a part of Lincoln, and in Lincoln, Illinois, when handling his legal cases while riding the Eighth Judicial Circuit from 1839 to 1861;

Whereas Abraham Lincoln served as Presiding Judge while hearing several legal cases in Lincoln, Illinois, and was also a landowner in his namesake city;

Whereas, like Abraham Lincoln, there have been many citizens of Lincoln, Illinois, who have endeavored to pursue the causes of humanitarianism, justice, freedom, and true democracy;

Whereas the cornerstone of the heritage of Lincoln, Illinois, might be described by the words said by Abraham Lincoln during a time of great personal tragedy, ''faith-love-hope''; and

Whereas such ''faith-love-hope'', along with determination and hard work have become the qualities which have enabled the citizens of Lincoln, Illinois, to develop the city into an entity in which each person can be proud.

Therefore, I ask that Lincoln, Illinois, and its residents be commended for their contributions and investment in the Nation's future and for the opportunities that the city and residents have to continue to reaffirm those principles which have served them well during the past 150 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FAIRVIEW AUXILIARY BOARD TO FAIRVIEW GENERAL HOSPITAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Fairview Auxiliary Board to Fairview General Hospital, whose selfless efforts exemplify a model of benevolence and altruism.

Over fifty years ago this organization was founded under the auspices of providing essential resources to the hospital for equipment, building funds, and scholarships. Today, this organization has blossomed to staff over 140 volunteers dedicated to this proposition. Their hours of volunteered time have resulted in astounding success. Volunteers have contributed over 30,000 hours and raised more than $600,000 in the past ten years alone.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in commending the members of the Fairview Auxiliary Board. We must encourage organizations such as theirs to continue to volunteer their time and effort in the interest of the betterment of the world.

HONORING THE GARDEN GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Garden Grove Unified School District.

For the second year in a row, the Garden Grove Unified School District has been selected as one of five finalists out of 16,000 districts, to receive the Broad Prize for Urban Education. The school district has won $125,000 for college scholarship funds, but could win $500,000 if it is selected as the best in the country.

The Broad Prize was set up by Eli Broad, and was given out for the first time last year. A panel of 12 judges made up of business, government and philanthropic leaders determine the winner of the final award.

To qualify, schools must improve test scores in reading and math over a three-year period, exceed gains of similar poverty levels, and narrow the achievement gap.

More than half the students I represent in Garden Grove are learning English and 59 percent are low income. The fact that their test scores continue to rise is a testament to the strong commitment the Garden Grove School District has made to improving the education level of their students.

This award will help many young students follow their dreams of pursuing a higher education, I am very proud of the dedication and hard work by the students and faculty of the Garden Grove Unified School District.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR JAMES ''CHOCKS'' EWALD

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major James ''Chocks'' Ewald of the Michigan Air National Guard for the valiant decisions he made when his aircraft was struck by a surface-to-air missile while flying over Baghdad. On April 8, 2003 Major Ewald was leaving the Baghdad area after collecting vital intelligence about Iraqi ambush positions when he was suddenly struck by a surface-to-air missile that left his aircraft only marginally flyable. Major Ewald flew a wounded-bird for 12 minutes, while also completing several battle damage checklists, identifying critical aircraft system operations, making tentative plans for aircraft recovery, gathering important information about threats affecting future Close Air Support operations, and hastily preparing for an injury-free ejection. The quick-thinking Major then evaded potential capture and was soon rescued by fellow U.S. Army forces.

While serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom he flew over 30 combat sorties. Major James Ewald entered active duty with the Air Force in January 1989 and served active duty until July 1998 when he joined the Michigan Air National Guard. During his active duty career, he flew in support of contingency operations over Bosnia, Operation Deny Flight, in support of United Nations Forces in the Republic of Korea, and over Iraq in support of Operation Southern Watch.

Major Ewald and so many like him have unselfishly pledged to protect the United States. No matter the time, place, or circumstance, the men and women of the United States Armed Forces have always answered the call to duty. ''Chocks'' represents the best of the