

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF VAHAK AND  
PARIS HOVNANIAN

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2003*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of Mr. and Mrs. Vahak Hovnanian, who are this year's recipients of the Artistic Eminence Award presented by Pacific Encore Performances, for their outstanding commitment to the arts and music. These two remarkable individuals have served their community through numerous contributions to the economy, culture, and education.

Together, this couple's service to local, national, and the world community has been nothing short of extraordinary. In 1976, they began the Hovnanian School that started with only thirteen students in a church basement. Today the school consists of 200 students with a curriculum that focuses on multicultural studies as well as art, music, and theater. In 1998, the Hovnanians together with the Armenian Minister of Culture sponsored competitions in all cultural arts. Later, Mr. and Mrs. Hovnanian started the Sayat Hoa Festival where Armenian artists could showcase their talent.

Mr. and Mrs. Hovnanian are remarkable individuals in their own right, and should be celebrated for their personal accomplishments as well as those they accomplish together. In 1952, Mr. Hovnanian emigrated from Baghdad to America in pursuit of higher education. After receiving his degree in physics, he and his three brothers formed the Hovnanian Brothers Corporation, building homes in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, New Jersey. In 1969, the brothers chose to separate and form businesses of their own. It was at this time that Mr. Hovnanian became the founding chairman and president of the widely recognized residential and commercial real estate and development corporation, Hovbilt Inc. and Adelphia Water and Sewer Company. In addition, he and his son Shant created the V.S. Hovnanian Group, elevating them to a prominent status amongst New Jersey real estate developers, entrepreneurs, and philanthropists.

Yet, Mr. Hovnanian's ambitions did not stop with his business endeavors. He went on to become the president of the Howell Township Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the local Rotary Club, a Monmouth University trustee, and Chairman of the Monmouth Conservation Foundation. In 1988, Mr. Hovnanian sponsored the first New Jersey Waterfront Marathon and underwrote the banquet honoring Olympic Marathon Trials.

Mrs. Paris Hovnanian has also accomplished much to be proud of. Born in Jerusalem, she too immigrated to America to further her education. She completed her Bachelors Degree in sociology and education and later attended Columbia University on scholarship for graduate studies. Mrs. Hovnanian is a co-founder of the New York Academy of Art

and an active participant in a host of charitable organizations where she exhibits her strong and effective leadership skills.

Mr. Speaker, Vahak and Paris Hovnanian have given back so generously to their community. Their tireless and selfless efforts have benefited those in America and around the world. Accordingly, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in honoring these remarkable individuals, Mr. and Mrs. Vahak and Paris Hovnanian.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAUMEE, OHIO  
KIWANIS CLUB

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2003*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 1953, the Maumee, Ohio Kiwanis Club was chartered. This year, the organization proudly celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. Its members through the years have fostered its growth, and "have demonstrated that service, hard work, and good fellowship bring individual satisfaction" according to its guide.

An integral part of Maumee's fabric, the Kiwanians have contributed much to the community in the club's half-century. Many students have received scholarships that have enabled them to further their higher education. Other young people have been able to participate in sports because of the Kiwanis Club's gifts and team sponsorships. Still more youth have had the opportunity to attend summer camp and recreational activities thanks to the Maumee Kiwanis. Senior citizens, too, have been helped by Kiwanis' donations to the Maumee Senior Center. The community at large has also benefited from Kiwanis civic offerings such as park maintenance and purchases to restore buildings of the Maumee Historical Society.

The Maumee Kiwanis Club is an able embodiment of the international organization's motto, "We Build." Through its efforts, all of the residents of Maumee but especially its children, have been built up and strengthened. Truly, Maumee Kiwanians have proudly upheld its theme: "Serving the children of the world." I am very pleased to recognize the achievements of the Maumee Kiwanis Club and congratulate its members past and present on 50 years of service as we look forward to 50 more. Onward.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE SHOULD ISSUE A POSTAGE STAMP COMMEMORATING THE FISK JUBILEE SINGERS

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2003*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce a resolution calling on the U.S. Postal Service to honor the Fisk Jubilee Singers with a commemorative stamp.

The Fisk Jubilee Singers are true heroes in the fight for civil rights and racial equality in education. Their heritage goes back more than one hundred and thirty years to just after the Civil War. These singers are part of a unique group of former slaves who made it their passion to achieve the kind of education that they did not have access to before emancipation. Their spirit has been felt all across this nation and around the world, and it is my honor to stand before you today to tell you about the legacy of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, whom I hold near to my heart.

The Fisk School was founded in Nashville, Tennessee, just after the end of the Civil War. This school was intended to transcend the racial divide, with the founders of the University opening the doors of education to all persons, regardless of their race. Recently emancipated slaves, ecstatic at the limitless possibilities for freedom offered by learning, took it upon themselves to create in the Fisk School an educational institution that would give to them a sense of profound moral purpose in the great American democracy. The sale of slave paraphernalia paid for the opening of the school, and in 1867 the Fisk School became Fisk University, now the oldest university in Nashville.

Fisk University's accomplishments in the advancement of educational opportunities for African-American's is far too long to mention here. I will tell you briefly that some of the most honored African-American artists, thinkers and activists attended or were involved with Fisk, including W.E.B. DuBois, Booker T. Washington, Charles Spurgeon Johnson, James Weldon Johnson, and Thurgood Marshall, to name a few of the more distinguished African-Americans. Indeed, Fisk University played an enormously profound role in the advancement of black learning and culture in America. I am both humbled by and proud of the time that I, too, spent at Fisk University. Many of the values I hold dear to my heart today I learned from my colleagues and professors at Fisk.

It was in 1871 that a group of students at Fisk University formed a choral group that they named the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

Mr. Speaker, the Fisk Jubilee Singers have made a lasting contribution to racial equality

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

and black culture in America. They introduced the spiritual as a musical genre, and demonstrated a truly unique commitment to their education. It is time that we in Congress honor their incredible achievements in such a manner that all of America will come to know of their commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to pass my resolution encouraging the Postal Service to issue a postage stamp commemorating the legacy and achievements of the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN  
DONALD M. PAYNE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2003*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to one of our distinguished colleagues, Representative DONALD M. PAYNE from New Jersey's 10th District. Congressman PAYNE is this year's recipient of the Justice for Cypress Award presented by the Cypress Federation of America. This award is presented to an individual who has exhibited exemplary leadership and has advocated for the liberation of Cypress from the Turkish occupation forces and the restoration of the human rights of the Cypriot people. I can think of no one more deserved of this award than my friend, Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

Congressman PAYNE has represented his district in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1988, when he was elected as New Jersey's first African American Congressman. In 2002, he was re-elected to serve an eighth term to represent the people of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District in the 108th Congress.

Congressman PAYNE is a member of the International Relations Committee and its Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere and Subcommittee on Africa, where he holds the position of ranking member. Through these committee assignments, Congressman PAYNE has become a key player in the arena of International Relations. He has been one of the leading advocates of the restoration of democracy and human rights in many nations throughout the world. Congressman PAYNE lead an effort among pharmaceutical companies to donate over \$2 million worth of medicine to war-torn Somalia. Similarly, Mr. PAYNE also introduced the Sudan Peace Act, which facilitated famine relief efforts and a comprehensive solution to the war in Sudan.

In addition, Congressman PAYNE has proven himself to be an influential member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Congressman PAYNE is a leading advocate of education and has played an instrumental role in the passage of key legislation aimed at improving elementary and secondary schools.

Congressman PAYNE has also worked diligently on important issues like healthcare and the environment. Congressman PAYNE was a major influence in directing attention towards the AIDS epidemic and the rising incidence of tuberculosis in many nations. He has also devoted much time and energy to the elimination of poverty and was a key sponsor of the minimum wage increase and the Family and Med-

ical Leave Act. Furthermore, Congressman PAYNE's record on environmental conservation issues has been rated one of the best in Congress.

Before being elected to serve in the House of Representatives, Mr. PAYNE had a distinguished career that included service on the Newark Municipal Council and the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Mr. PAYNE was also an executive of the Prudential Insurance Company, Vice President of Urban Data Systems, and an educator in the Newark public school system.

Congressman PAYNE, a native of New Jersey, graduated from Seton Hall University and pursued graduate studies at Springfield College in Massachusetts. He holds honorary degrees from Chicago State University, Drew University, Essex County College and William Paterson University. Congressman PAYNE is a widower, father of three and grandfather of four.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman PAYNE's contributions to his community, our nation and the world have been numerous and successful. He is a man of great character and a true asset to the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in honoring my dear friend and colleague, the Honorable DONALD M. PAYNE.

TRIBUTE TO THE FIREFIGHTERS  
OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2003*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2003 communities all across America held observances to remember those who fell in the events two years before. In my own hometown of Toledo, part of our observance included a reading of the names of those who died on that fateful day, and inspirational readings and poems. I would like to quote one of these poems for the record. It is a special tribute to firefighters, written by Toledoan Ernest Fodor and entitled "Just Because You Call."

There is a well-known fact in heaven  
All the firefighters tell  
When they put out their last fire on earth  
They did their job so well  
Some how they had the strength  
To do what they could do  
Sometimes they even gave their life  
For the likes of me and you  
But now that they're in heaven  
If they hear a fire call  
They would try so hard to come back  
And bravely save us all  
There are so many people  
With lives that are much brighter  
Just because a call was answered  
By a firefighter

Thank you Ernest Fodor for remembering, and for your inspired words.

RECOGNIZING THE DESIGNATION  
OF THE CAPITAL CHILDREN'S  
MUSEUM AS THE NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2003*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to support enactment of H.R. 13, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003. In addition to authorizing Federal funding support for our Nation's museums and libraries, the bill contains a small provision with great importance to the District of Columbia. It designates the Capital Children's Museum as the National Children's Museum which will be a new state-of-the-art, interactive museum offering a national model for exhibits oriented and dedicated to children. The purpose of the museum will be to explain the Nation's institutions and ideas to American children, providing a gateway of understanding not only for children in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, but also for the millions of school children and families who visit the Nation's capital from across the Nation and the world.

The National Children's Museum designation is critical for several reasons. The designation enables the museum to highlight its activities and exhibits, and expand the reach of its educational experiences to children both in the United States and abroad. The museum serves as a flagship for the Nation's children's museums, and the Association of Children's Museums supports the designation because it increases public understanding of the purpose of all children's museums. In addition, the designation will help facilitate partnerships for the National Children's Museum with other regional museums to create models for innovative learning experiences.

For almost 30 years, the Capital Children's Museum has been serving the children of the Nation's capital. I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking the Capital Children's Museum on its service to children for these many years, and in congratulating the museum on this designation and its commitment to the creation of the National Children's Museum.

RECOGNIZING MR. BENON V.  
SEVAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, Jr.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 30, 2003*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the accomplishments of Mr. Benon V. Sevan, and his 38 years of service to the United Nations Secretariat. Mr. Sevan, a national of Cyprus, is the recipient of the Life Time Achievement Award presented by the Cypress Federation of America.

This award is given to an individual that has shown how valuable and effective they have been during their time with the United Nations. It is clear to me that Mr. Sevan is truly deserving of this award because of his dedication and diligence with every project that he has taken on. Over the years, Mr. Sevan has worked in several departments at the U.N. and has held several positions within the U.N. Secretariat.