

is done by Bristol Community College. As the Globe editorial correctly noted, "Bristol Community College in Fall River has been performing . . . superbly for more than 30 years and is a model for other community colleges . . . as they strive to prepare Massachusetts residents for the jobs of today and the future."

Dealing with a changing economy, in which workers lose their jobs through no fault of their own because of technology, globalization, and other factors, is the single most important issue facing us as a nation. The private sector is a great creator of wealth, but it does not by itself resolve the problems that are created by this ongoing transitional process, especially at times such as now when economic transitions are even more rapid than at other times.

This is why a well-funded, vigorous public sector is important to work along with the private sector in enhancing the quality of life for all Americans. And in the economic sphere, as Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan frequently points out, community colleges have an essential role to play. I was therefore very pleased that the Boston Globe Editorial Board recognized Bristol Community College for the wonderful work it does.

I have been fortunate to be the Representative of Bristol Community College in Congress since 1983, and I have had numerous occasions during that time to see how well the people at BCC perform. To former President Eileen Farley and current President John Sbrega, I send my congratulations, along with my congratulations to all of the faculty, administrators and students who have done so much to make this institution an educational model.

Mr. Speaker, community colleges are an essential part of the way in which we should be responding to economic change, and because Bristol Community College is such a good example of how to do this, I ask that the editorial from the Boston Globe be printed here.

[From the Boston Globe, Apr. 22, 2004]

A MODEL TWO-YEAR COLLEGE

Community colleges have a threefold mission: They prepare some students for further schooling, they educate others for immediate entry into the work force, and they enhance the skills of those who have already been working for years. Bristol Community College in Fall River has been performing these roles superbly for more than 30 years, and is a model for other community colleges around the state as they strive to prepare Massachusetts residents for the jobs of today and the future.

"This school is wonderful," said Janet Maynard, 39, who is getting an associate's degree in nursing after a 19-year break from school. "The staff is incredible. They don't leave anybody behind." Maynard, one of 6,600 students at Bristol, is juggling a paid job—one day a week at St. Anne's Hospital in Fall River as a unit secretary—with the hard work of rearing five daughters. St. Anne's, which has worked with Bristol's nursing program for decades, is paying Maynard's tuition in the conviction that it is investing in a more skilled work force.

Jason Brilhante, 21, attends Bristol because "it's extremely affordable"—\$2,544 a year—"and has high standards." After graduating from the two-year business program, he'll go on to Bryant College in Smithfield, R.I., with the aim of becoming a certified public accountant. Bryant will give him a partial scholarship, confident that his fine work at Bristol will continue in later years.

"We partner with them all the time," said Irene Olsen, retired personnel manager for

the AT&T call center in Fairhaven and now a consultant with the union-management Alliance for Employee Growth and Development. Bristol offers business-related courses to 40 AT&T employees at the Fairhaven workplace. If students can't come to the beautiful Fall River campus, Bristol goes to them.

No wonder that Judith Gill, chancellor of higher education, praised Bristol in draft assessments of the 15 Massachusetts community colleges last fall—along with Middlesex and Holyoke community colleges—as a high-performing institution.

Other colleges complained that the six criteria used for the ratings were too few, so Gill took away the "high performing" designation from all three colleges. Gill promises that by 2006 the Board of Higher Education will devise better assessments based on 30 criteria. When that is published, the differences between high-performing colleges and those not doing well should be clear.

Assessments are important as community colleges make the case that they are vital to the development and maintenance of an educated work force in Massachusetts. They should never again have to endure the deep cuts in state aid—nearly 20 percent—they have experienced since 2001. Not all community colleges follow the example of Bristol in providing essential services to students and the wider communities they serve. Those that do earn the support and gratitude of everyone in Massachusetts.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MARY LADESIC

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of Mary Ladesic, who was the first woman elected to countywide public office in Wyandotte County, Kansas.

Elected as Wyandotte County Treasurer in 1980, Mary Ladesic served in that position until her retirement in 1997. She died at her home on April 17. Born in Kansas City, MO, she lived in Kansas City, KS, for most of her life.

As Wyandotte County Treasurer, Mary Ladesic was a nationally recognized, innovative manager, starting a "tag team" program for marketing license plates that became a model for other Kansas counties and a successful amnesty program for collecting back taxes.

Mary Ladesic also was active in partisan politics at the county and state levels, as a member of the Southside Democratic Club and all Democratic clubs in Wyandotte County, a lifetime member of the Kansas Federation of Women's Democratic Clubs, vice chair of the Wyandotte County Democratic Central Committee, and was awarded the Georgia Neese Gray Award by the Kansas Democratic Party in 1997. As the Party's official description of that award states, it is

reserved for presentation to Kansans who have served in elected office at the municipal and/or county level and who have performed outstanding service to their local community in the pursuit of the principles of the Kansas Democratic Party. Such service commends a lengthy and broad participation in public service endeavors to the city, county and state. This award shall be considered the highest honor which can be bestowed by

the Kansas Democratic Party to its municipal and county elected officials.

Survived by her husband, William, 3 children and 10 grandchildren, Mary also was a member of Stony Point Christian Church and an active supporter of Maur Hill School in Atchison, Kansas. I commend her for a life full of support for her community and service to others, and include in the RECORD a recent article from the Kansas City Kansan detailing her life and good works. Mary Ladesic will be missed by all who knew her.

[From the Kansas City Kansan, Apr. 20, 2004]

MARY LADESIC, FIRST WOMAN ELECTED TO COUNTYWIDE OFFICE, DIES

(By Mary Rupert)

The first woman elected to a countywide public office in Wyandotte County, former Treasurer Mary P. Ladesic, died Saturday.

Ladesic, 68, held the post of county treasurer for 17 years in Wyandotte County, beginning in 1980 and retiring in 1997. She died at her home in Kansas City, Kan.

"She liked the job of county treasurer because she loved people," remembered her husband, William Ladesic.

He recalled that as county treasurer, Mary always kept \$100 of her own money in a drawer for people who didn't have quite enough money to pay their taxes. She'd give them \$20 or \$15, and tell them they could come back and repay her later, he recalled. They always did, he said.

"When she left that office, she took the \$100 with her," he said. "She trusted the people. She wouldn't say anything bad about anybody. She was just a beautiful person."

Ladesic said his wife was a good campaigner.

"She treated people all alike, it didn't make any difference," Ladesic said.

He remembered that she used to tell him that people would sometimes complain to the treasurer about their taxes.

"Any time they complain, I can't say they're wrong, because any time you're taking money away from people, they should be angry," he remembered her telling him.

Ladesic said Mary was an innovator in her job, starting a "tag team" program and an amnesty program for back taxes. She worked to get state laws changed in order to implement the programs, he said. The license tag program raised \$3 million in the first six months here, he said, and it won awards and became a model for other counties.

She also assisted in training new county treasurers at the state level, he said.

Ladesic recalled that Mary did volunteer work with her church at the food kitchen.

"She'd do the work of three people and wouldn't stop," he recalled. She also did volunteer work for Maur Hill School in Atchison, Kan., and for local Democratic events, he said.

"Mary was a pioneer in being the first woman elected to public office in Wyandotte County," said Don Denney, media relations specialist for the Unified Government. "She was a dedicated public servant and will never be forgotten for what she accomplished."

She received the Georgia Neese Gray Award and other national awards.

"She was a diehard Democrat who worked hard for her party," Denney said. "My heart goes out to her husband, Bill, and the rest of the family."

Ladesic was a member of the Southside Democratic Club, and other Democratic clubs in Wyandotte County, and had served as vice chairwoman of the Wyandotte County Central Committee of the Democratic Party.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Stony Point Christian Church,

149 S. 78th St. Visitation is from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the church.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the genocide of Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

Starting in 1915, the Ottoman Empire tortured and murdered up to one and a half million Armenians. More than half a million were forced to leave and went into exile.

The Armenians settled across the world lending energy and strength to their adoptive communities.

It is important to recognize the historical atrocities perpetrated against the Armenians. We must teach our children about the fear, torture, mass graves, and expulsions of the Armenian people.

Through education and commemoration, our children can grow up to be better citizens and better Americans.

By recognizing genocide for what it is, the world can wake up to the obscene nature that sometimes grips nations and work to prevent the mass killing that devastated the Armenian people.

With this year's commemoration of the Armenian genocide, I urge all Americans to be vigilant and watchful. We must prevent hatred and bigotry. We must do all we can to prevent genocide. By commemorating the past, we can make the future a better place to live.

HONORING JACOB ANISH

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate ten-year-old Jacob Anish of Chicago for his recent act of bravery and for the honor of receiving the Heroism Medal awarded by the Boy Scouts of America.

Jacob achieved this accolade for the courage he demonstrated on the evening of May 21, 2003 when a fire broke out in his family's home. Awakened by the smoke, Jacob maintained his calm despite the danger all around him. At a time when many boys of Jacob's age might have panicked, his first thought was not to run for safety but to save his sleeping younger brother, Gary.

As the smoke thickened, Jacob swiftly found his brother, then lifted him up and carried him from one side of the house to the other. The house faded into darkness as Jacob fought through the danger to find the rest of his family.

Jacob did not hesitate, nor did he waver from the Anish family fire plan which called for him to carry his younger brother to the neighbor's house and out of harm's reach. He maintained his composure throughout the fire like a young hero and natural leader.

Though their home was lost, Jacob's steadfast courage and sharp instinct made the difference in saving each of his family members,

including their pet Dalmatian. Jacob's selfless act of valor is why the Boy Scouts of America are honoring him this year.

Mr. Speaker, I join his family, his Cub Scout Pack 3943, and all the people of the fifth district of Illinois in recognizing Jacob for his courage and for receiving the Heroism Medal. I am confident that Jacob will continue to set a strong example for his brothers and sisters, his peers, and young men and women across Chicago. I am very proud of Jacob Anish.

HONORING THE LATE KEITH CYLAR

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Keith Cylar, a fearless, passionate and extraordinarily effective advocate for persons with AIDS. Keith Cylar dedicated his life to the health and well-being of the most underprivileged and neglected elements of our society, and his passing at the age of 45 is a terrible loss to the city of New York and indeed to the entire Nation.

A social worker by training, Keith Cylar was the co-founder and co-President of Housing Works, one of the largest and most prominent non-profit organizations in the Nation dedicated to helping persons with AIDS. Through his leadership at Housing Works, Mr. Cylar helped to find housing for 15,000 New Yorkers. He also oversaw and managed the delivery of social services, such as job training and health care referrals, to thousands of our most underprivileged citizens, who often had few other resources upon which to draw.

Keith Cylar was also a leader of uncommon courage, an advocate who never hesitated to speak truth to power. Out of the fiery passions that drove the AIDS activist group ACT-UP, he and his partner Charles King forged a new kind of social service agency, one managed and operated by people who themselves were battling AIDS and HIV. Ultimately Keith Cylar helped transform Housing Works into one of the Nation's premier agencies providing housing to those afflicted by the AIDS epidemic. He accomplished this with caring and compassion, balancing a practical business acumen with a passionate advocacy that sometimes could be confrontational and uncomfortable for elected officials and bureaucrats alike. Indeed, because of the many demonstrations to protect City funding for programs serving people with AIDS that were organized in part by Housing Works, part of Park Row by New York's City Hall is still officially recognized to this day as "People with AIDS Way." Passionate and uncompromising in his advocacy for the underprivileged and afflicted, Keith Cylar never wavered from his mission or failed to deliver for the clients who counted on him and Housing Works.

Because of his notable achievements on behalf of those battling disease and poverty and his indomitable and distinctive presence, Keith Cylar's spirit and determination have inspired us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting his remarkable life and career, and recognizing him as a great American.

GUARDSMAN AND RESERVISTS FINANCIAL RELIEF ACT OF 2003

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, the passage of H.R. 1779 is a welcome first step in addressing the serious problems facing our National Guard and Reserve today. But as we once again mobilize more troops and send them off to fight, and possibly die, in an increasingly hostile environment, we must ask ourselves why legislation such as H.R. 1779 has become a necessary stopgap measure.

The very fact that Guard and Reserve members feel compelled to withdraw funds from their IRA's in order to pay the bills at home is unacceptable.

Yet, this is precisely the problem: Current compensation and benefits programs for the National Guard and Reserve were developed more than 50 years ago, when it was expected that they would be mobilized only in the most dire national emergency. Over the past dozen years, the Guard and Reserve contract has changed dramatically, with more than 40 percent of members being called to duty and in some cases, being repeatedly deployed without fulfilling the requisite off-duty time period. H.R. 1799 is a band-aid measure temporarily mending a broken system. Congress must and can upgrade Guard and Reserve compensation and benefits to better offset the demands and sacrifices imposed on the Guard and Reserve community.

It is a great injustice that those who selflessly and voluntarily serve our country are not repaid in kind. By this I mean that Guard and Reserve members are ineligible for military health coverage, except while on active duty or after age 60. Although covered by TRICARE when mobilized, many Guard and Reservists and their families are faced with changing doctors and dropping private coverage. We must provide adequate and comprehensive health care coverage for the Guard and Reserve community. It is my hope that this year's Defense Authorization Act will include permanent authority for a fee-based TRICARE coverage for all drilling Guard and Reserve members, and offer all such members the option to have the government pay part or all of their employer coverage premium during extended activations.

Loan forgiveness and increased education infrastructure funding for Guard and Reservists and their families should also be a top priority during this year's budget deliberations. Earlier this year, I received a letter from one of my constituents and his wife who are both Guard Members. Both were more than willing to serve their first tour of duty in Iraq, knowing full well that this would delay by a semester their graduate course studies. Six months later, both were facing yet another extension of active duty. Along with delaying their studies and future career path, they are now also incurring interest on a loan which is not being utilized. Congress must improve educational opportunities and benefits for Guard and Reservists by providing deferments and interest payments for borrowers of student loans who are called to active duty.

Health care, timely compensation, and education funding are only a few of the many