

and he couldn't be more proud of his new status.

The journey that began in India brought him to Texas where he graduated from Texas A&M with a bachelor's degree in Economics. He then graduated from Michigan State University with his law degree, and from there he went on to Georgetown University where he received his Master of Laws in Securities and Financial Regulations.

Sujej is a member of the New York Bar and his background and understanding of banking and financial matters made him an invaluable source of information for my staff. He has also proved to be an important asset as we have worked on and studied issues of importance to the small business community.

My staff and I have greatly enjoyed having Sujej on our team and I would like to think we have taught him some valuable lessons about American life. For instance, thanks to my staff, Sujej has developed an appreciation for the finer things in life like Wyoming Honey Candy. I haven't been able to convince him to read fiction novels or that Wyoming is the center of the sports universe but that will come with time. All in all, I don't think he'll ever be the same. But one thing is for certain, and that is the drive and focus he placed on achieving his dream of life in the United States.

Now his apprenticeship is over, and he has received the greatest honor our Nation has to bestow—American citizenship. I know he will carry it proudly and with purpose in the years to come.

Sujej knows full well that being an American Citizen is not only a great honor, but that it brings with it both great freedoms and rights—and great duties and responsibilities. He will become very familiar with them both as he continues to take part in one of the greatest experiments in government the world has ever known—the American democracy.

Congratulations, Sujej. By your example you have reminded us that we are very fortunate to be American citizens. By your heartfelt dedication and commitment to earning your citizenship you have taught us that citizenship is a great honor and we should never take it for granted. Good luck and God bless.

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Women's History Month. As an outgrowth of International Women's Day, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women planted the seeds of Women's History Month during the week of March 8, 1978. The task force established an agenda of events and celebrations that included a multicultural perspective recognizing the contributions made by all women. Soon thereafter the idea spread, as many Sonoma area schools

began holding similar week-long programs.

In 1979, Molly Murphy MacGregor, Director of the Sonoma County Commission, spoke so eloquently during a Women's History Institute Conference about the importance of this recognition that, by the end of the conference, participants vowed to promote the idea of Women's History Week within their own organizations and to secure a Congressional Resolution declaring the week of March 8, National Women's History Week.

By the end of 1980, Maryland's own Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, then a Member of Congress, sponsored a joint congressional resolution declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. That same year, President Jimmy Carter issued a presidential message to encourage recognition and celebration of women's historic accomplishments during the week of March 8.

In 1987, at the request of women's organizations, educators, and others, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand these celebrations to the entire month of March. Upon bipartisan approval of the National Women's History Month Resolution, National History Month was born, affording us the opportunity to focus each year on areas of accomplishment and inspiration—and to honor the many great women leaders from our past and present who have served our Nation so well.

As scientists, writers, doctors, teachers, and mothers, women have shaped our world and guided us down the road to prosperity and peace. For far too long, however, their contributions to the strength and character of our society went unrecognized and undervalued.

Women have led efforts to secure not only their own rights, but have also been the guiding force behind many of the other major social movements of our time—the abolitionist movement, the industrial labor movement, and the civil rights movement, to name a few. We also have women to thank for the establishment of many of our early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions.

I would like to take this time to single out a few women from the State of Maryland whose work and accomplishments are very much in line with this year's theme "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility." These individuals are from different professions, different age groups, different backgrounds, but they all represent what it means to inspire.

Edith Houghton Hooker, a member of the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, truly embodied this year's theme. Ms. Houghton Hooker was convinced that progressive reform would occur much more quickly and completely if women achieved the right to vote. In 1909, in the midst of Maryland's suffrage movement, Hooker organized the Just Government League and affiliated her or-

ganization with the National American Woman Suffrage Association, NAWSA. In 1910, the defeat of suffrage in the Maryland General Assembly led Hooker and others to believe that, although they should continue to urge suffrage legislation at the State level, the passage of a national constitutional amendment should be the priority of their organization's efforts. Ms. Houghton Hooker also realized early on that while there were several local and statewide suffrage organizations, these groups would have to present a united front in Annapolis and that activists would have to engage in an effective and collaborative public information campaign.

With that in mind, in 1912, she created the Maryland Suffrage News as the official organ of the Just Government League, which served to address each of those needs: unity, a statewide presence, and public information. The News became the weekly voice, not just for the Just Government League, but for the entire suffrage movement in Maryland. In addition to developments regarding suffrage, the News informed its subscribers, most of whom were from the middle class, of the needs and circumstances of working class women, and the problems associated with education, crime and corruption. And, in 1917, largely because of her work in growing the News, Hooker was named President of the Maryland Suffrage Party of Baltimore. Now, the many bound volumes of the Maryland Suffrage News reside in the Maryland Historical Society, where our generation and future generations can learn about the struggles of the suffrage movement, the dedication of suffragists, and the importance of the result.

The late Rachel Carson, another Maryland woman and scientist, inspired the Nation as pioneer of the modern conservation movement. Carson, a well-known naturalist, wrote *Silent Spring*, which became a key symbol of the new environmental movement in this country. After World War II, Ms. Carson became concerned about the increased use of synthetic chemical pesticides and took it upon herself to alert a national audience to the environmental and human dangers of hazardous use of these chemicals.

In the tradition of women inspiring and helping others, I would be remiss if I failed to mention Clara Barton, founder and first president of the American Red Cross. While recuperating from illness in Europe, she learned of the Treaty of Geneva, which provided relief to sick and wounded soldiers. Upon her return to the U.S., her crusading ensured the signing of the Geneva Treaty in 1882. Ms. Barton founded the American Red Cross in 1881, where she served as its first president. Several years later, she wrote the American Amendment to the Red Cross Constitution, which provided for disaster relief during peacetime as well as war. As part of her legacy, the American Red Cross continues to provide relief work in times of famines,

floods, and earthquakes in the United States and throughout the world.

I also want to mention some of today's heroes from Maryland. Sol de Ande Mendez Eaton serves as an activist for the Maryland Hispanic/Latino community. Ms. Eaton convened the first Maryland Statewide conference on civil rights as co-chair of the Maryland Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She has worked at the local and State level as a pioneer in the areas of women's health and domestic violence. Every day, she continues to inspire us to work for the rights of others by seeking to reduce discrimination in employment, housing, education and health.

June Bacon-Bercey, another Marylander, the first African American woman to receive a PhD in Atmospheric Sciences, inspires us as well. As a television forecaster, she is also the first African American woman, and indeed the first woman to receive the American Meteorological Service Seal for television-radio weather-casting. In 1979, Ms. Bacon-Bercey became Chief Administrator of Television Activities for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency.

She is a scientist, an international expert on weather and aviation, as well as a wife and mother. Recognizing the difficulties that other women would face in pursuing her profession, she has chosen to go beyond her substantial personal achievement to help other women reach their goals in weather-related professions. In fact, she donated her winnings from a game show to create a scholarship plan for young women wanting to join meteorology. In view of this year's theme, I commend Ms. Bacon-Bercey not only for her example and inspiration to other women, but for her generosity in directly helping others reach their dreams.

Since the first woman received a medical degree from a United States medical school, in 1848, female doctors have helped shape and change the course of medicine. A model physician in the State of Maryland, Dr. Marie Amos Dobyns, has worked in Maryland for over 20 years and served over 3,000 patients. As an Eastern Cherokee Native American, she integrates her heritage into her medical practice and her vision of a partnership between patient and physician has inspired would-be physicians across the country to seek out innovative approaches to offering comprehensive patient-centered care.

I am privileged to speak in honor of the mothers, wives, daughters, friends and neighbors that have inspired and opened up possibilities for us all. We should take this month to redouble our efforts to ensure that their work has not been for naught. In that regard, I ask us all to take Women's History Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of women, but also as a time to refocus on how much needs to be accomplished to achieve full equality.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### TRIBUTE TO MARY F. DIAZ

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, yesterday I paid tribute to Mary Diaz, who died on February 12 in New York after a long battle with cancer. Mary was executive director of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, an affiliate of the International Rescue Committee, and one of this Nation's most effective and most compassionate advocates for women and children throughout the world.

I ask to have printed in the RECORD the attached articles, including a tribute to Mary from the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, an article by the International Rescue Committee, as well as articles that appeared in the New York Times and the Boston Globe.

The articles follow.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children]

#### TRIBUTES TO MARY

I was most saddened to learn of the death of Ms. Mary Diaz, the Executive Director of the Women's Commission. Mary's death touches us at UNHCR profoundly as she was known and admired by many colleagues.

Her death will be a great loss to those who work for the cause of refugees. Ms. Diaz was a tireless and committed advocate for the rights of displaced women and children whose voices are so often unheard. Last year I was pleased to honour Ms. Diaz as a recipient of the UNHCR Gender Equality Award for her work in promoting the equal rights of refugee women. Under her leadership, the Women's Commission made a considerable contribution to UNHCR's policies on refugee women and children, most recently in our efforts to address sexual and gender-based violence. She will be greatly missed.

On behalf of all my colleagues at UNHCR, I offer you and the staff of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children our sincere condolences.

—Ruud Lubbers, UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

I wish to express PRM's sincerest condolences to you and the colleagues and family of Mary Diaz. Mary's dedication, commitment, passion and leadership had a tangible impact on the lives of millions of refugee women and children around the world. Mary was truly admired by many, including by those of us in the bureau that knew her well. She was a shining example of what it means to be a true humanitarian.

Mary has left behind a legacy that will continue to bear fruit for many, many years. We will miss her tireless spirit and everlasting smile. Please know that we share your grief.

—Arthur E. Dewey, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

On behalf of the staff at Human Rights Watch, we would like to express our deepest sympathy and support for you all at the loss of our wonderful colleague, Mary Diaz.

Mary was one of a kind. She was not only an outstanding champion for the rights of women and children in the most difficult circumstances, but a warm and loving person who brought great humanity and humility to her work. She touched many of us deeply—as

colleague, friend and mentor. We drew special inspiration from the courage, dedication and grace with which she faced these last difficult months. Be assured of our support at this difficult time. We will continue to work closely with you on these issues to which Mary gave her life.

—Kenneth Roth, Jo Becker, Widney Brown, Diane Goodman, LaShawn Jefferson, Iain Levine, Rory Mungoven, Alison Parker, Rachael Reilly, Joanna Weschler, Lois Whithman—Human Rights Watch.

[From the International Rescue Committee, Feb. 19, 2004]

#### MARY DIAZ IS MOURNED AS TIRELESS ADVOCATE FOR REFUGEE WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Mary Diaz, executive director of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children died February 12 in New York after a long illness. She was 43.

During her 10 years as leader of the Women's Commission, an affiliate of the International Rescue Committee, she earned an international reputation as an effective and knowledgeable advocate for refugee women and children.

George Rupp, president of the IRC, said, "Mary was a remarkable person. She cared deeply about the women and children whose cause she served, and on their behalf she used her exceptional advocacy and organizational skills to ensure that their needs were addressed at the highest levels. Under her creative leadership over the last 10 years, the Women's Commission continued to grow in stature and influence.

"Mary enjoyed the respect, admiration and affection of everyone who had the opportunity to work closely with her. It was a pleasure to be in her company. She will be greatly missed."

A tribute published in the New York Times on Feb. 13 by the IRC's board of directors said, "Mary was among the world's most eloquent, devoted, tireless and effective advocates for the protection and empowerment of women and children affected by war and persecution. Her courageous work and vibrant spirit touched the lives of tens of thousands of vulnerable refugee women and children."

[From the New York Times, Feb. 18, 2004]

#### MARY F. DIAZ, 42, HEAD OF COMMISSION FOR WAR REFUGEES, DIES

(By Wolfgang Saxon)

Mary Frances Diaz, the executive director of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, died last Thursday at Columbia Presbyterian Center of New York-Presbyterian Hospital. She was 42 and lived on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

The cause was pancreatic cancer, the commission announced.

Ms. Diaz's organization, a volunteer group that works to provide a voice for women and children in war zones, is a nongovernmental group that advocates for refugees before the United Nations and around the world.

Mary Diaz had led the group since 1994 and continued her work until late last year.

The Commission, working under the auspices of the International Rescue Committee, was founded in 1989 by the actress Liv Ullman. Ms. Diaz became its chief investigator, strategist, watchdog and lobbyist.

She deployed volunteers in Africa, the Middle East, South America and trouble spots like Kosovo and Afghanistan. She often went to the scene herself, visiting refugees in Bosnia and Burundi fleeing to the relative safety in Tanzania.

Mary Diaz was born in Newport News, Va., and grew up in suburban Pottstown, Pa.

She focused on international relations at Brown, graduating in 1982. She took a job at