

By bringing the vast majority of our troops home in the coming months we will show both the Iraqis and the world that we are serious, that we believe the military mission is done, and that it is time for the Iraqis to take accountability for their country.

Mr. Speaker, by voting to redeploy in the coming months, I vote for accountability in Iraq. We can delay no longer. As a Congress we have a responsibility to support the troops, to honor our commitment to veterans, hold the Iraqi government accountable, and continue to press the President to change course and end this war.

I have made this clear before, and I will repeat it again here, today. Too many lives are at stake: I have crossed the Rubicon on this war.

Yet the President has chosen another path. While the American people continue to throw their hands in the air, this administration continues to ignore the painful consequences of its disastrous strategy. With his own veto last week, the President made clear his strategy will not change—unless we do something about it, here today.

We all know our troops will do anything their country asks—but let us not ask them to sacrifice everything for the wrong mission. We have a responsibility to get it right.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEECHER COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT PROJECT HEAD START

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Beecher Community School District Project Head Start. A community celebration is planned for Friday, May 18th in Flint, Michigan. The celebration will be attended by alumni, current and former staff, parents, students and other members of the community.

The Beecher Community School District is a delegate program of the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department. Over the past 40 years the Beecher Head Start program has served over 6,000 students. It is a comprehensive program providing medical, dental, nutrition, and child development. The teachers and social workers make home visits to assess the needs of the child and work to fully involve parents in the child's progress. This year 357 pupils benefited from participation in the program.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Beecher Community School District Project Head Start on 40 years of successfully preparing youngsters for school and enhancing the social and reasoning skills of thousands of students.

THANKING TINA TATE FOR HER PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to the career and personal achievement

of one of the House's own—Tina Tate, who will retire on May 17 as the Director of the House Radio and Television Gallery after 34 years of service to this wonderful institution.

During the last three and one-half decades, Tina has worked tirelessly with the People's House and the media to chronicle the sometimes tumultuous but always lively day-to-day history of the Congress. She has gracefully assisted Democrats and Republicans in their interaction with the press during a period when technological advances changed the manner in which the media informed the American people about their government.

In 1969, Tina moved from her native Georgia to Washington, DC, with her husband and young son. Three years later, during the Nixon Administration and Carl Albert's Speakership, she was hired as the first female employee of the House Radio and Television Gallery. At that time, there were only three national television news organizations, and it was still one year before CBS radio took the bold step of launching a "news on the hour" service.

In 1981, she was selected Superintendent of the Radio TV Gallery—the first female to head that office. This was the first year of Ronald Reagan's Presidency and the fifth year of Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill's service as Speaker. Since then she has overseen the historic coverage of the transition of power in the House, first from Democratic to Republican hands in 1994, and then a return to Democratic governance in 2006.

During her service, Tina served five Speakers of the House, guiding the House and those who cover it with integrity, honesty and a desire to help all sides succeed in a rapidly changing, frequently challenging environment.

Madam Speaker, Tina has left her mark on Congress and those who cover us for the people. For the press, she has been an advocate and steady hand in working with Congress to expand openness and access. For Members of Congress, she has been a faithful guardian of the institution's interests and the precedents that protect this body.

In addition to helping reporters gather news within the halls of Congress, Tina and her office have helped more than 5,000 members of independent radio and television organizations cover every national political convention. That makes sense, since once a nominee became President she oversaw their subsequent State of the Union Addresses.

Tina not only arranged logistics, she innovated. She developed new platforms for coverage, whether that be utilizing Statuary Hall to allow Members to talk to national and local media, or paving the way for new technologies like HDTV to find their place in the coverage of newsworthy events. She has had a hand in making all of this work and finding new ways to open up our government.

Tina's contribution will continue into the future. Since 2000, she has been working to establish a necessary and appropriate foothold for the electronic media in the Congressional Visitor's Center. As the technology and press have changed in 34 years, so have their needs and the needs of Members of Congress. She foresaw that growth and has worked with us to make the House successful in the years to come.

Let me close by thanking Tina for her service, friendship and gracious guidance. She

leaves the House of Representatives the better for her service.

HONORING BRIDGES . . . A COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEM, INC., AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Bridges . . . A Community Support System, Inc., of Milford, Connecticut, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this outstanding organization dedicated to providing support and mental health services to those in need.

Originally founded in 1957 as the Milford Family Counseling Association, the organization's mission initially focused on addressing the mental health needs of children in the Milford community. The organization expanded and so did its scope of services—including adult psychiatric services, drug and alcohol prevention services and opening its doors to the neighboring communities of Orange and West Haven. As the needs of our communities and its residents changed, so did the agency as well as its name. Designated in the 1990s by the State of Connecticut as the Local Mental Health Authority, the organization made its final name change in 1999 to Bridges . . . A Community Support System to better reflect its purpose and mission.

Today, Bridges, working with local agencies and organizations, is able to provide a multitude of programs to those most in need. From individual counseling to bereavement support; teenage drug and alcohol prevention to vocational and social rehabilitation services, Bridges and its dedicated staff have continually identified the changing needs of our community. The partnerships they have established allow them to provide comprehensive services to their clients—making a real difference in the lives of thousands of children and families.

In building upon the vision first established with the Milford Family Counseling Association, Bridges has been able to provide those coping with the challenges of mental illnesses with one of life's most precious gifts—hope. Through its gift of hope, Bridges has left an indelible mark on our community and the thousands of lives they have touched. In its 50 year history, Bridges has established itself as an invaluable resource as well as respected advocates—not only for their clients, but community leaders and policy-makers alike.

Today, Bridges is continuing its legacy of helping people live more fulfilling and productive lives by providing clients with "Pathways to Health, Hope, and Recovery." For its many invaluable contributions to our community and for all of their work on behalf of our children and families, I am proud to stand today and extend my sincere congratulations to the Bridges . . . A Community Support System on their 50th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO SONIA GUTIÉRREZ

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to take this moment to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the founder and acting director of the Carlos Rosario School here in Washington, DC, Ms. Sonia Gutiérrez.

Carlos Manuel Rosario was the founder of the Program of English Instruction for Latin Americans in 1970, and was based out of the Columbia Heights neighborhood here in Washington, DC. In 1972, he met a woman named Sonia Gutiérrez, a professional educator who had just recently moved to Washington from Puerto Rico, and persuaded her to work for PEILA.

In October 1972, Ms. Gutiérrez became the Director of PEILA and transformed the small, underfunded English as a Second Language (ESL) program into a comprehensive adult education program. In 1974, the Office of Right to Read of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare designated it as one of the best literacy programs in the nation.

At Ms. Gutiérrez's request in 1992, the city council renamed the school after Carlos Rosario, who founded PEILA. The program provides 4,500 students per year with the necessary language, cultural, vocational and job skills to become functional and productive members of society. Their current waiting list stands at 2,000.

The school became a national and international model, and delegations from other states and other nations frequently visited the center to review its operations and curriculum, with hopes of replicating the success of the program.

In 1996, the District of Columbia faced a financial crisis that brought about the elimination of all DC Public Schools adult education programs, including the Carlos Rosario Adult Education Center. Ms. Gutiérrez vowed to rebuild the school for the benefit of her students and her community.

From August 1996 to March 1997, Ms. Gutiérrez worked tirelessly out of the basement of her home and raised \$100,000 dollars from local foundations to reopen the school as the non-profit Carlos Rosario International Career Center. The new school opened its doors in April 1997 with Ms. Gutiérrez as Executive Director & Founder.

Realizing that there were still many in the community who were not being served, Ms. Gutiérrez actively sought for Public Charter School funding to increase the number of classes and opportunities available. She succeeded and in 1998 the school became the first Adult Public Charter School in the nation.

Today, the non-profit Carlos Rosario International Career Center and Public Charter School provides more than 1,200 students with English as a Second Language, GED in Spanish and English, courses in different areas of technology, citizenship classes, culinary arts, family literacy and Spanish classes.

Ms. Gutiérrez has also been very involved in the social and economic development of the Latino Community. In 1977, she founded the Council of Latino Agencies. She was instrumental in establishing the Mayor's Office on

Latino Affairs and presided over the Latino Festival. She is the past President of the Metropolitan Association of Adult and Continuing Education and also for both DC Commission for Women and the Latino Community Development Commission.

These are just a few of her accomplishments as a community organizer and leader. Ms. Gutiérrez should be an inspiration to us all, and should serve as a reminder that one person can make a difference in the lives of many.

I am honored to have a moment to recognize her 35 years of service to the Latino community of Washington, DC.

HONORING ST. PAUL YWCA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the St. Paul YWCA for its 100 years of providing hope, opportunity, and a community gathering place for the residents of St. Paul.

Founded in 1907 by a group of dedicated young women who moved to St. Paul to look for employment opportunities in the factories and mills, the St. Paul YWCA and its programs have continuously evolved to meet the changing needs of the community. The first YWCA was constructed on Fifth Street in downtown St. Paul with a gymnasium, club, classrooms, auditorium, and a 100-bed residence. Since its beginning, the YWCA has maintained its commitment to serve and support women by providing programs in education, business skills, home arts and crafts, and physical fitness.

Over the years, the St. Paul YMCA has helped to foster other community initiatives and organizations. It provided office and meeting space for organizations such as Campfire Girls and the League of Women Voters, and later helped to spur the beginning of community agencies such as the Hallie O. Brown Center, Travelers Aid, International Institute of Minnesota, and Capitol Community Services. The YWCA was a pioneer of the first Festival of Nations grand opening in 1932.

During the Great Depression, the St. Paul YWCA helped to build up the community by offering job assistance and counseling for women in business and industry. Similar efforts were undertaken during World War II, when the YWCA provided support for women entering the labor force as well as support for servicemen and women through the USO and relief efforts.

In the second half of the 20th century, the St. Paul YWCA expanded its community outreach by offering educational and recreational programs, including housing projects as well as emergency shelter for homeless women and children in the state of Minnesota.

In the first 7 years of the 21st century, the YWCA has risen to new opportunities, serving more than 6,000 people through its programs that include wellness services, supportive housing, long-term mentoring, childcare, youth development programs, volunteer services, and community programming. In addition, the YWCA has served over 350 schools, commu-

nity and government agencies, service providers, and businesses through its programs. I look forward to celebrating YWCA's many successes in the years to come.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the founders of the St. Paul YWCA, its staff, board members, and volunteers, and its delivery services that have made a difference for the lives of others, I am pleased to submit this statement for the Congressional Record recognizing the 100th anniversary of the St. Paul, MN, YWCA.

HONORING THE "WELCOME HOME A HERO" VOLUNTEER CAMPAIGN AT THE DFW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON ITS THIRD ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, the United States Army's Personnel Assistance Point at DFW Airport, the North Texas Commission and to DFW Airport's dedicated staff and thousands of community volunteers for reaching the third anniversary of the "Welcome Home a Hero" volunteer campaign.

In June 2004, the DFW International Airport and the North Texas Commission organized the "Welcome Home a Hero" volunteer campaign to honor and serve the brave men and women of the U.S. Army who travel through the DFW Airport on leave for Rest and Recuperation (R&R). The campaign has developed into one of the largest and most respected ongoing community initiatives in North Texas and the U.S. The campaign involves a wide array of business, civic and volunteer organizations, including the USO, churches, corporations, chambers of commerce, the Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts of America and many veterans groups. "Welcome Home a Hero" has been so successful that it has been honored with the George Washington Honor Medal by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and it has received hundreds of messages of gratitude from our servicemen and women who appreciate the patriotism and hospitality of DFW Airport and its loyal volunteers in North Texas.

This year more than 500,000 U.S. soldiers will have passed through the airport and participated in the R&R program and "Welcome Home a Hero" campaign. When these courageous soldiers arrive they are greeted with a warm reception and the thankful words of fellow Americans who wish to honor the enormous sacrifices made by all of our men and women in uniform.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize all those who have made the DFW Airport and Texas an emblem of patriotism to countless troops from around the nation. I congratulate the "Welcome Home a Hero" campaign for three great years and I am proud to witness the raw emotion and thanksgiving that emanates from both the soldiers and those who come here to celebrate their resolve.