

Soo Yeun Kim. Jericho High School will receive a special \$5,000 grant in her name. The school's principal, Mathew Mandery, said the news of Soo's award was welcome, but it also brought back the sadness of her loss.

"I guess in moments like this, we are undeniably proud of her accomplishments, but just wish she were here for us," he said.

As the number of students entering the Westinghouse competition has mounted, teachers in both city and suburban schools have tried to encourage students to look upon research as an activity to be enjoyed for its own sake, rather than for winning prizes. Ward Melville High School's research program has adopted the motto, "To Be In It Is to Win It." The Bronx High School of Science takes a similar approach.

Some educators worry, nonetheless, that students who don't win at least semifinalist status might become discouraged, especially in light of the fact that many devote two or more years to their projects. "Kids who might have the potential to be wonderful researchers later on might come away from this experience with a bad taste in their mouth," said Carole Greene, an assistant principal at Bronx Science.

Others insist that most students involved in Westinghouse competitions have wide enough interests that they are unlikely to become unraveled over a single contest.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARIA VICTORIA

### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 16, 1995*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and pay tribute to Ms. Maria Victoria, the newly selected Mr. Amigo.

Every year, members of the Mr. Amigo Association, who represent the city of Brownsville, TX, travel to Mexico City to select a new Mr. Amigo to serve as honored guest of the Mr. Amigo festivities in Brownsville, TX. The Mr. Amigo festivity is a 4-day international event in which the United States and Mexico are joined in celebration of the cultures of these neighboring countries. During the Mr. Amigo celebration, which originated as a pre-Lenten festival, Brownsville citizens participate in a series of parades, dances, and parties to demonstrate the goodwill of both countries. It is a well planned, major function which is enjoyed and eagerly anticipated by many south Texans as well as our winter visitors.

Ms. Maria Victoria is the 31st Mexican citizen to be honored by the Mr. Amigo Association. She has been a successful artist whose talent dates back to the Golden Cinema Era of Mexican music and films. At the tender age of 9, with the encouragement of her two sisters, Maria debuted in "La Carpa Mexico" for which she was paid 9 pesos. In 1949, however, she launched her enormously successful adult career at the Teatro Margo in Mexico City. Her first hit, "Soy Feliz", catapulted her to the top of the popularity charts. Then there followed an avalanche of musical hits, to name but a few: "Esta Sellado", "Eso", "Como un Perro", "Mi Ultimo Fracaso", "Mil Besos", "Sabes Que Te Tengo Ganas" . . . She has appeared in such classic Mexican films as: "Serenata de Acapulco", "Sí mi Vida", "Mujeres de Teatro", "No me Vuelvo a Enamorar", "Monte De Piedad". For 14 uninterrupted years, Maria Victoria has turned to comic roles such as TV series, "La Criada

Bien Criada". Maria Victoria has made 48 movies, turned out more than 100 albums, starred in numerous TV programs, and has made five theater performances on the stage of Mexico City.

Ms. Maria Victoria is the perfect recipient of the Mr. Amigo award, for she has, over the long period of her career, taken her unique song, screen, and stage performances to numerous countries, including sold-out performances in the United States. A true ambassador of her country and her culture, she has been praised by numerous organizations for her unconditional commitment to improve mutual understanding and cooperation between Mexico and the United States. Ms. Maria Victoria should be recognized for both her artistic ability, and for her contribution to the commitment of understanding between nations.

Mr. Amigo, Ms. Maria Victoria, will receive the red-carpet treatment when she visits Brownsville as the city's honored guest during the upcoming Mr. Amigo celebration. During her stay on the border, she will make personal appearances in the parades and at other fiesta events. Official welcome receptions will be staged by organizations in Cameron County, TX, and the cities of Brownsville, TX, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Ms. Maria Victoria for being honored with this special award.

IN HONOR OF SGT. LEWIS J.  
PERRY, JR.

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 16, 1995*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today I'm pleased to honor a distinguished citizen from Hamden, CT, Sgt. Lewis J. Perry, Jr. After 25 years of exemplary service, Sergeant Perry will retire this week from the Hamden Police Department.

I have known Lew Perry for many years and have always found his dedication and compassion inspiring. Lew is well known to our community for his extraordinary commitment to his public responsibilities. An exemplary police officer and a caring individual, Lew finds the time to help at every level. During his long career, Sergeant Perry has received over 35 commendations and letters of recognition for exemplary performance.

In 1982, he was honored as the Police Officer of the Year and earned the respect of his superiors who promoted him in September 1992 to administrative assistant to the chief of police. Lew Perry stands out as a shining example of the positive effect that one person can have in his community.

Sergeant Perry is also a prominent leader in his hometown of Clinton, CT. He serves as a selectman and as chairman of the Democratic Town Committee. He has given of his time in the past as a member of the Board of Finance and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Lew Perry has compiled a remarkable public record and I know that his wife, Pamela, and his two sons, Michael and Lewis, take great pride in his many accomplishments. Sergeant Perry is admired by all who benefit from his work and his public commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute and honor Sgt. Lewis J. Perry, Jr. I commend him

on a lifetime of invaluable service to the citizens of our community and wish him well in his new position as associate director of public safety at Southern Connecticut State University.

GO AFTER THE CROOKS AND CHISELERS WHO ARE DEFRAUDING THE FEDERAL FOOD STAMP PROGRAM; SUPPORT THE FOOD STAMP TRAFFICKING AND PENALTY ACT OF 1995

### HON. RON WYDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 16, 1995*

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Food Stamp Trafficking and Prevention Act of 1995, a measure which will step up the penalties levied on criminals intent on tearing large holes in this Nation's most valuable social safety net.

Each year, waste, fraud and abuse in the Food Stamp Program costs taxpayers as much as \$2 billion. Laundering for cash, or exchanging food stamps for contraband items such as guns or drugs, accounts for hundreds of millions of dollars of that total. Occasionally, this activity occurs through retailers who have been initially certified as bona fide grocery stores, but which are, in effect, no more than fronts for the processing of illegal stamp transactions.

This activity not only denies fundamental nutrition to some of our Nation's most vulnerable citizens. It also destroys public confidence crucial to the continuation of a very valuable program.

I have long been a critic of our Government's lackluster efforts to investigate food stamp fraud, and bring to justice persons who are ripping off the system. Our investigative strength at the Food and Consumer Services Division, for example, is about half of what it was a dozen years ago—despite steady growth in food stamp use and fraud. These personnel cuts make no sense. We need more cops on the beat. Improvements in anti-fraud technology such as the electronic benefits transfer program will not produce maximum results until we have more people to make cases and bring the crooks to trial.

I have recently pressed my case on this subject with White House domestic advisors. I am hopeful that the administration's welfare reform efforts will improve our capacity to police fraud in this important program. I believe my position has strong, bi-partisan support in this House.

Beyond increasing our investigative effort, we must also look to establishing real penalties that will cause real pain for the chiselers who are, quite literally, taking food from the mouths of this Nation's poverty-stricken elderly, working poor and defenseless, destitute children.

The Food Stamp Trafficking Prevention and Penalty Act has three important elements.

First, we will strengthen current forfeiture provisions to allow the Government to take all assets resulting from, or involved in the commission of food stamp trafficking. I have devised this language in close cooperation with