

people, for the people, and by the people. As such, we determine our own future.

You and I are some of the most important people in this country. What we want today is what America will be tomorrow. Washington does not tell us what we will be, we tell them.

But as wonderful as it sounds, our government requires a lot of work from each of us. And no one knows that better than the mayors who are with us today. They are really on the frontlines.

If we want a drug-free society, we have to fight for a drug-free society. Thinking about it won't make it happen.

If we want a better education system for our children, we have to fight for it. Thinking about it won't make it happen.

If we want our American military to be the best in the world and not be thrown away piece by piece in little battles that serve no national purpose, we have to fight for it. Thinking about it won't make it happen.

Freedom and democracy require a lot of work from each of us, and you do not have to wear a uniform or carry a weapon to defend them. You just have to do what you're doing right now, taking an active part in America. And to the mayors here, I offer the full support of the VFW.

That's the purpose and that's the message of Loyalty Day. It's a day on which we discuss the future of America, and the part each of us will play in reaching those goals.

It's a day to take pride in yourself, our community, our nation and our flag.

And I thank you for taking part in our Loyalty Day celebration. God bless you, and God bless America.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH NEAS AND THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ralph Neas and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, true leaders in the fight for civil rights. For the last 45 years the conference has worked diligently on this effort and has been successful in accomplishing some of the biggest civil rights victories in our Nation's history.

Many of these victories were won during the past 14 years under the successful leadership of Ralph Neas. Ralph has directed the lobbying, grassroots, legal research, and media efforts of the largest, oldest, and most broadly based civil rights coalition in this Nation. Ralph always believed his professional training as chief legislative assistant to two Senators and his triumph over Guillan-Barre syndrome had adequately prepared him for the challenges which were ahead for LCCR. During his tenure, Ralph served as a coalition builder as he kept the conference's diverse leadership united and effective. Through his work with LCCR, he has earned respect for his ability to build bridges between disparate communities of interest and across the spectrum of political ideologies.

The first major victory which Ralph and his LCCR colleagues won was passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1982. Bipartisanship, creativity, and leadership were all necessary to win this uphill battle. The Leadership Conference, led by Ralph exhibited all of these qualities during the almost 2-year campaign to

enact this major piece of legislation. The hard work of LCCR set the stage for what would be numerous victories throughout his next 14 years as executive director.

Ralph Neas was one of the first leaders of the mainstream civil rights movement to recognize the civil rights struggle of people with disabilities. He brought disability issues to the forefront of the civil rights struggle and was instrumental in securing the enactment of the first civil rights laws for people with disabilities, the Americans With Disabilities Act. This would not have been possible without Ralph's vision, leadership, and commitment.

Ralph is also well known as a brilliant legislative strategist. Using that skill, as well as creativity and leadership, he led the fights which resulted in the passage of several additional major legislative initiatives. These initiatives include: the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the fair housing amendments of 1988, the Japanese-American redress bill, and the Civil Rights Restoration Act.

Not only did Ralph Neas experience great legislative success as the executive director of LCCR, he also experienced great institutional successes. His astute management led to a massive growth of the conference. The organization's budget grew seven fold since 1981 and added more than 50 new national organizations. Currently, 180 national organizations with memberships totaling more than 50 million Americans now belong to the conference. This significant growth has allowed LCCR to meet new challenges as an even stronger, more united, and effective group.

In addition to his duties as executive director, Ralph Neas managed the Leadership Conference's education fund, an independent organization that supports educational activities relevant to civil rights. In this capacity, he has supervised projects promoting tolerance and diversity, has led a successful children's antidiscrimination campaign, and published books and reports on emerging civil rights issues.

This month, Ralph will step down as executive director of the Leadership Conference and will embark upon new challenges in his life and career. We can all be assured that the new challenges which lie ahead for him will be marked by continued commitment to justice and equality for all Americans.

It is my pleasure to join many Americans in thanking Ralph for his unselfish service to his Nation and its people. It is also my distinct pleasure to congratulate the Leadership Conference on its 45th anniversary. Due to the Ralph Neas and the Leadership Conference's commitment and dedication to the civil rights movement, the past 45 years have been a strong, legislative, bipartisan reaffirmation of civil rights. We are a greater Nation because of the many successful battles fought and won by Ralph Neas and the Leadership Conference on civil rights, and I know that Ralph and the LCCR will continue to lead the way towards a nation of equality, justice, and strength.

TRIBUTE TO GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to salute a group of outstanding young women who will be honored with the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Gold Award by Kickapoo Council of Girl Scouts in Peoria, Illinois.

All are being honored on May 7, 1995, for earning the highest achievement award in Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Girl Scout Gold Award can be earned by girls aged 14-17, or in grades 9-12.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.6 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Gold Awards to Senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must fulfill five requirements: earn four interest project patches, earn the Career Exploration Pin, earn the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, earn the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling the requirements of the award is created by the Senior Girl Scout and is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult Girl Scout volunteer.

The earning of the Girl Scout Gold Award is a major accomplishment, and I believe all of these girls should receive the public recognition due them for this significant service to their community and their country.

Following are the honorees: Jodi King, Kelly Cox, Buffie Icenogle, Monica Knapp, Marcy Mattern, Jolene Zessin, Jennifer Isaacs, Stacey Utley, and Rachel Moreno.

CARNEGIE HILL NEIGHBORS' 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Carnegie Hill Neighbors, Inc. on this, its 25th anniversary. On May 1, Carnegie Hill Neighbors celebrated two and a half decades of outstanding service to the city of New York.

For over 25 years, the group's record of achievement in community service has been outstanding. Carnegie Hill Neighbors has been a major force in protecting thousands of New York City's most important buildings, and improving the aesthetic surroundings that we in New York have come to enjoy.

Carnegie Hill Neighbors represents a district that traverses from Museum Mile up to Third Avenue and from 86th Street to 98th Street. As the proud Member of Congress from this area, I know first-hand how Carnegie Hill Neighbors has strived to preserve 19th century brownstones, museums, prewar limestone apartment buildings, and other institutions that make up one of New York City's most unique architectural districts.