KEEPING THE ARTS ALIVE IN THE CONEJO

HON. BRAD SHERMAN
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to pay tribute to those who preserve the dream of the arts and delivering artistic entertainment to local people of our community. It is therefore with great pleasure that I honor the Twilight Award honorees, Rob O'Neill, Ann Hammerslag, Bob Lewis, Alex Fiore, and our Special Achievement Award recipients, the Medders family, for their dedication to the arts. These individuals have given their souls to promoting the performing arts in our community.

The Twilight Awards ceremony provides the Gold Coast Performing Arts Association an opportunity to honor and thank several individuals each year who, in their own way, have encouraged or inspired the realization of our collective dream of bringing the performing arts to the Conejo. The gathering also gives Gold Coast and its subsidiary groups, Cabrillo Music Theatre, Santa Susana Repertory Co., Young Artists Ensemble, and the Gilmore Conservatory a public occasion to display its successes.

Rob O'Neill is a member of the board of directors of the Arts and member of the board of directors for the Cabrillo Music Theatre, the preeminent theater company presenting full seasons of Broadway musicals at the Probst Center for the Performing Arts. As an active member of these associations, Rob has dedicated his own musical and production expertise to the production of "Pump Boys and Dinettes" and next year's musical, "A Little Night Music." These musicals provide local performers the opportunity to show off their skills and also allow local audiences to enjoy popular musical productions. I thank Rob for his great work.

Ann Hammerslag is commonly known as the brains and heart of the theaters department. She has managed the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza's business since before the plaza opened. As executive secretary of the theaters department of the city of Thousand Oaks, Ann has the experience and motivation to make the Gold Coast Performing Arts Center the success that it is.

Bob Lewis, the former mayor of Thousand Oaks is now chairman of the Alliance for the Arts. As chairman he oversees the management and growth of an endowment for local arts-related programs and education outreach. Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza and the realization of our collective dream of bringing the performing arts to the Conejo. The gathering also gives Gold Coast and its subsidiary groups, Cabrillo Music Theatre, Santa Susana Repertory Co., Young Artists Ensemble, and the Gilmore Conservatory a public occasion to display its successes.

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Alex Fiore is considered the individual most instrumental in bringing the dream of the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza to reality during his 30-plus years on the city council. Today, Alex guides the arts plaza's progress from front lines on the board of governors of the Civic Arts Plaza.

This year, the Twilight Awards gathering presents its first annual Special Achievement Award to the Medders family, who represent the highest tenet of volunteerism. Mardy is active on numerous boards of directors, including the Gold Coast Performing Arts Association, Alliance for the Arts, and the New West Symphony Guild. John is a physician and administrator for Kaiser Permanente, who is also active in our community. Their children, Lyndsey, Brian, Emily, and Brett, follow in their mother's footsteps in assisting in every Gold Coast Performing Arts Center production and event. The Medders family is truly a gift to the arts in the Conejo.

Mr. Speaker, colleagues, please join me in honoring these individuals for their dedication to the arts in our community. I stand proud to recognize Ann Hammerslag, Alex Fiore, Bob Lewis, Rob O'Neill, and the Medders family for their dedication to the arts.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, let us not forget to rise today to pay tribute to those who preserve the dream of the arts and delivering artistic entertainment to local people of our community. It is therefore with great pleasure that I honor the Twilight Award honorees, Rob O'Neill, Ann Hammerslag, Bob Lewis, Alex Fiore, and our Special Achievement Award recipients, the Medders family, for their dedication to the arts. These individuals have given their souls to promoting the performing arts in our community.

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

E1763

September 16, 1997

IN HONOR OF THOMAS F. CATAPANO
HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 11th Annual Greenpoint/Williamsburg Columbus Day Parade and in particular to commend Thomas F. Catapano upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the parade, which is to be held on October 12, 1997.

Mr. Catapano has been chosen by the Federation of Italian-American Organizations of Greenpoint/Williamsburg under the direction of President Gerard DePaola, Chairman Anthony Pastena, and Parade Chairman Vincent Martello. Mr. Catapano, a resident of Brooklyn, attended St. John’s University and the State University of New York College in Old Westbury.

He began his distinguished career in public service as the Assembly-House Operations’ Regional Coordinator for New York City and Director of the Assembly-Speaker’s Field Services Division; in 1982, he was elected to the first of five terms as a Member of the Assembly, representing the 54th District.

As an Assemblyman, Mr. Catapano chaired the Assembly Committee on Real Property and Taxation, on Ethics and Guidance, the Subcommittee on Volunteer Ambulance Services, on Housing for the Elderly, and the Task Force on New Americans. He was also an active member of the Assembly Committees on Aging, Social Services, Banking, Consumer Affairs, Government Employees and Housing, and was instrumental in enacting legislation which established the first State-funded nursing home for veterans in New York City, codifying procedures for the licensing of real estate appraisers statewide, and developing new financing opportunities for the elderly.

Mr. Catapano is currently executive director of the New York State Conference of Italian-American legislators. He has served as a valued public servant on the advisory boards of Operation UNIFY, the Italian-American Legal Defense Fund, Council of State Governments, Cypress Hill Local Development Corp., Coalition of Italian-American Organizations, and the Northern Brooklyn Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise in honor of the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the parade, and again congratulate Thomas F. Catapano upon the occasion of his selection as Grand Marshal of the parade.

HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AND REDEDICATION OF ST. MICHAEL’S CATHEDRAL, SPRINGFIELD, MA
HON. RICHARD E. NEAL
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to have this opportunity to congratulate both the Roman Catholic diocese of Springfield and the parish of St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield, MA on their sesquicentennial celebration and September 28, 1997, rededication. This cathedral is a magnificent place of worship located proudly near the center of downtown Springfield. For over a century, St. Michael's has served a diverse body of parishioners and has catered overwhelmingly to the needs of its faith community.

I would be honored to share with you some of the history of the parish of St. Michael’s Cathedral. St. Michael’s Church originally occupied a simple structure on Union Street in Springfield where a small group of people joined together to worship. Soon enough, this community of believers outgrew the edifice and orchestrated the purchase of land at the corner of State and Eliot Streets. In 1860, on the feast of St. Michael, the cornerstone of a new church was laid. Dedicated on Christmas morning in 1861, this church was eventually consecrated in 1866.

In response to an ever growing parish family, the Diocese of Springfield was established in 1870. St. Michael’s Church was at this time named the cathedral church of that new diocese.

On the occasion of its centennial, at the brink of a second century of service, St. Michael’s Cathedral underwent interior renovation. Further additions to the cathedral have been witnessed recently with the completion of the Bishop Marshall Center. This unique addition to the church complex provides a forum where the cathedral and the diocese can collaborate to plan increased service to its parishioners, members of the diocese, and the city as a whole. The Bishop Marshall Center is equipped with handicapped access meeting rooms and contains the Holy Spirit Chapel from which the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is televised.

Just as it did 150 years ago, St. Michael’s Cathedral continues to foster a true spirit of Christian fellowship within the greater Springfield area. The parish and its members have made invaluable contributions to both the diocese and the city. I am delighted to offer these remarks in honor of the cathedral and once again congratulate the parish of St. Michael’s on its upcoming sesquicentennial and rededication.

COMMEMORATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
HON. WALTER H. CAPPs
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proclaim this the International Day of Peace. Today is the second annual celebration hosted by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation in the city of Santa Barbara, CA. It highlights efforts by local organizations who are working to bring peace to both Santa Barbara and the global community.

The International Day of Peace was adopted by the United Nations in 1981 “to commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and people.”

As the Representative of the 22nd district in California and a former professor of Religious Studies at the University of Santa Barbara I strive every day to achieve these goals.

Currently I am working to ban antipersonnel land mines around the world, devices which