## CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION

### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 1997*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which will correct a longstanding injustice to the Chugach native people of my great State of Alaska. Twenty-six years ago, Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act [ANCSA] to settle the aboriginal land claims of Alaska natives. ANCSA, though not perfect, was a bold and innovative approach to settle the issue of native land claims. Its main purpose was to convey lands traditionally used by Alaska natives to a native regional or native village corporation for their use to secure long-term cultural and economic benefits for their shareholders.

In 1980, I worked with many of my colleagues in this body to pass the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act [ANILCA] which, among other things, contained a provision which guaranteed access to Alaska Native corporations to their ANCSA lands. Without this access to their native lands selected under ANCSA, the act itself would become meaningless.

Twenty-six years after the passage of ANCSA, and 15 years since the U.S. Forest Service and the Chugach Alaska Corporation entered into the ''1982 Settlement Agreement'' to convey to Chugach Alaska Corporation their lands and guarantee them access to these lands, the U.S. Forest Service has yet to provide the easements needed for such access. This is unacceptable and will soon produce irreparable harm to Chugach Alaska Corporation.

My legislation will simply direct the U.S. Forest Service to fulfill their commitment to provide Chugach Alaska Corporation access to their ANCSA lands. The U.S. Forest Service is required to process the easement to accomplish access for Chugach Alaska Corporation. There has been considerable delay by the U.S. Forest Service to process this easement. Mr. Speaker, I plan to take this issue up when Congress is back for the 2d session of the 105th Congress and to pass this legislation. Both my colleagues in the Senate, Senator STEVENS and Senator MURKOWSKI support this endeavor and will work for passage.

## RECOGNITION OF REV. BOB SWEET'S RETIREMENT FROM OLD BEDFORD VILLAGE AFTER 21 YEARS OF SERVICE

### HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 1997*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise, Mr. Speaker, in honor of one of the outstanding people from my congressional district, Rev. Bob Sweet of Bedford, PA.

Bob Sweet served as the treasurer of Bedford County from 1963 to 1966. In 1967, he became Bedford County Commissioner, where he served the community dutifully for 8 years. It was in this capacity during the beginning of my congressional career that I became acquainted with him, and I have been fortunate enough to count him as one of my true great friends over the years. Bob has been a reliable friend and outstanding citizen of the community for more than three decades. He is a past chairman of the Bedford County Republican Committee and past president of the Bedford County Republican Club. He is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, and a member of countless civic and religious groups, which indicates his commitment to the less fortunate in our society. Reverend Sweet is a selfless man who always seems to put the welfare of others in front of his own, and has provided moral guidance and a sense of vision upon which the community has built itself a great place to live and work.

Today, I want to pay tribute to an outstanding man of vision and perseverance, and a valued friend. Not only did Bob envision what would become a memorial to the founding fathers of Bedford County and a successful tourist attraction, he dedicated his time and enthusiasm to making his dream a reality. Bob Sweet's tireless commitment to the community in which he lives is a testament to his love of Bedford County. He and his wife have two married daughters and 4 granddaughters, all of whom serve their community with pride. I will close by thanking Bob Sweet for his endless energy and constant support, and wish him a long and healthy retirement.

## FR. GEORGE G. PASSIAS HONORED FOR TWO DECADES OF SERVICE TO ST. NICHOLAS GREEK CHURCH

### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 1997*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with my constituents and members of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church as they gather to honor Fr. George G. Passias for two decades of service to our community.

Originally a native of Chicago, Fr. George received his early education in Morton Grove, IL. At the University of Illinois, he received his B.S. in structural science and mechanical engineering, and an M.S. in theoretical and applied mechanics. Against this background of intensive education, he married Mary Ellen Orlando and maintained an active participation in the parish of St. John the Baptist in Des Plaines where he served as a teacher in the church school, was the GOYA advisor, a parish council member and executive board member.

In 1976, answering to a higher calling, Fr. George left his doctoral studies and with his wife moved to Boston to enter the Holy Cross School of Theology to undertake a master of divinity degree. He graduated in 1979 and received the Massachusetts Bible Society Award. At this point in their lives and with two children, Fr. George moved his family to Bayside, NY, and became assistant pastor of St. Nicholas.

The next 20 years were not only years of dynamic growth for the parish, but also for Fr. George. He devoted his efforts to help in making St. Nicholas a parish known for caring, learning and serving people in fulfilling themselves. Under his efforts, the church's educational programs were expanded and the William Spyropoulos Greek American Day School was formed. In addition, he spearheaded the formation of the young adult league, adult Bible classes and retreats for members of all ages.

In 1982, he was appointed pastor of St. Nicholas and undertook a program that rapidly expanded the physical building of St. Nicholas, increased its membership and brought to the parish a most warm and compassionate sense of dedication and involvement. It is now the largest parish in the archdiocese.

After two decades of service, Fr. George has been appointed chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Church of America. In all his years as a priest, Fr. George has been endowed with a spiritual warmth that not only made him a builder of a church, but a builder who combines all the good and positive feelings in a person that leads to success and fulfillment. As he now assumes the chancellorship of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this man who will now spread his warmth and compassion throughout our great country.

## KATRINA

### HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 1997*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when I reviewed the remarks in the September 29, 1997, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding a lady named ''Katrina,'' I immediately felt that Congressman ABERCROMBIE had relied on an erroneous and misleading article published by the Reader's Digest some months ago. I have so advised him and he has certainly agreed to look at all the facts.

The Katrina described by a report from Robert B. Dunlap II, attorney general of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [CNMI], is one that I hope Congressman ABERCROMBIE will examine. I have high professional, political, and personal admiration for NEIL ABERCROMBIE—and I want him to have the full facts at his disposal.

The gentleman from Hawaii, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, described a situation which was reported in the Reader's Digest article this past summer. In the report by CNMI Attorney General Dunlap in response to the allegations asserted by that article, General Dunlap writes, ''the article specifically stated that she was forced to dance in the nude. It is extremely important to note that the complainant had been dancing in the nude in a Manila nightclub for several years before she came to Saipan. Her entry to the Northern Marianas was a fraud as her passport and birth certificate were doctored.''

The CNMI Attorney General further asserted: ''The complainant filed a case with the CNMI Department of Labor. Since the CNMI does not have the authority or jurisdiction to prosecute violations of federal child labor laws, the CNMI Department of Labor addressed only her wage and hour complaints.'' Furthermore, the article alleges that she was forced to perform lewd sex acts with customers before a video camera. The attorney general's report further states ''In fact, the said tape was produced during her interview for the position—it was learned that the said tape was

produced in the Philippines when she was applying for the said job in Saipan. During the interview with Katrina it was in fact learned that she wanted to do nude dancing, and her mother encouraged her to do so to support her family.''

The CNMI official report also stated: ''The allegation that one of the club owners worked for the CNMI government is untrue. It should be noted that all the club employees and its owners are Philippine citizens. The Northern Marianas could have filed charges against the owner, as well as have both owners and complainant charged with immigration fraud. The CNMI DoL did not take further action after having been informed by U.S. Government officials that they themselves would prosecute the owners under further child labor law.'' I am told that the CNMI government will file charges after the Federal case is completed depending on its outcome.

I intend to seek further information on matters as reported by the Reader's Digest author—and I would hope that a fair minded person like Congressman ABERCROMBIE would accompany me early next year if, and when, we can both work a visit into our schedule—a visit that would not involve the expenditure of any American tax dollars. He has indicated that he will check his schedule and be open to full information.

I have high regard for the CNMI officials. Saipan, and the rest of the CNMI, are very important to the United States, and are very loyal to the United States and very strategic to the United States. We should support their entire leadership, and help them to address the problems set out in the Reader's Digest article. They are entitled to accurate and verified reporting—and a chance to correct any such tragedies as reflected by the ''Katrina'' story—true or untrue.

## HONORING PASADENA-BAY AREA JUNIOR FORUM

### HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 1997*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the members of the Pasadena-Bay Area Junior Forum for the many contributions they have made to our community, especially to helping disabled people in East Harris County, TX. I am pleased to join the city of Pasadena as they pay tribute to the Forum on November 25, 1997, at an event appropriately themed ''Goals Through Challenge.''

The Pasadena-Bay Area Junior Forum was organized in 1961 to promote greater interest among women in civic, educational, and philanthropic fields. While forum members have provided volunteer work and financial support for many community activities, from schools to nursing homes, over the years they have come to focus on helping disabled people make the most of their lives. Forum members have devoted more than 33,000 hours to serving mentally and physically disabled individuals in our community.

In their very first year, forum members volunteered in special education classes for mentally retarded children. The next year, they helped to develop the opportunity center, which provided classes for mentally retarded children unable to attend public schools. In 1971, the forum purchased an acre of land with the dream of building an education center for the mentally retarded, and on August 21, 1979, the dream became a reality with the formal dedication of the Pasadena Junior Forum, Inc., Education Center. In 1980, a country store was established at the education center with a workshop to provide incentives for learning and development. In 1986, the Forum received a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant to build two residential facilities for mentally retarded adults, which were opened in 1988 under the name ''Wichita Cottages, Inc.'' Through these various efforts, the forum is providing independent living training that gives individuals the tools they need to reach their full potential. Through their devoted service, the women of the Pasadena-Bay Area Junior Forum have made a tremendous impact in the lives of disabled people throughout our community.

Today, the Pasadena-Bay Area Junior Forum continues to serve the community in a variety of ways. They have provided support for many community projects, including Texas Special Olympics, puppet presentations to educate children about disabilities, scholarships to San Jacinto College, and sponsoring and volunteering in programs at the city of Pasadena Multipurpose Recreation Center, where the November 25 tribute will be held.

Because of the creativity, caring, and hard work of its members, the Pasadena-Bay Area Junior Forum has grown in significance over the years. Each member of the PBAJF understands the importance of community, that it thrives on involvement and starves from apathy. They understand that it is our government, our schools, our churches, and our neighborhoods we make better when we take the time to get involved. They understand that, when we take an hour, a day, or a week to give back to our communities, the effects are felt for much longer.

I commend the good work of the Pasadena-Bay Area Junior Forum and their efforts to make a difference in the lives of disabled people and many others in our community. They are examples for all of us.

## TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN AIRLINES

### HON. SONNY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 1997*

Mr. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a great partnership that has lasted for 30 years. The partnership between America's premier desert resort community and one of America's premier transportation companies—American Airlines. As a longtime resident of Palm Springs, I was blessed with the opportunity to serve as mayor, and now am Palm Springs' Federal representative in Washington, DC. During my time in office, I have tried to help build the opportunities for people to advance themselves, build economic growth, and to develop our desert community. During this time, one of the most important partners in this effort was American Airlines, and thus I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting American.

For 30 years, American has proven itself as a valuable member of our community, good corporate citizen, and important economic partner. Its presence at Palm Springs has grown into a year-round service linking the desert communities with hundreds of cities throughout the U.S. and around the globe. Local tourism and business have benefited greatly. In turn, we have grown our own oasis out of a desert.

Palm Springs is fortunate and proud to have American Airlines air service, and we congratulate American for assisting Palm Springs and the desert community grow into the exciting destination it is for a healthy vacation and business environment. This milestone is important and I ask you not to celebrate it for merely the service that we have enjoyed but also for the limitless opportunities it promises for the future of our desert communities.

## TRIBUTE TO ERA REAL ESTATE FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 1997*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the ERA Real Estate brokers, agents and staff members across the country who have dedicated their time and energy to the Muscular Dystrophy Association for twenty years.

With its headquarters in my home state of New Jersey, ERA Real Estate, and its parent company HFS Inc., has truly made a difference in the lives of Jerry's Kids. Since 1977, ERA has been the sole corporate sponsor of MDA from the real estate industry. According to MDA National Chairman Jerry Lewis: ''ERA brokers and other caring individuals are the reason MDA is making rapid progress toward treatments and cures for 40 neuromuscular diseases. I'm proud to have ERA on our team.''

ERA Real Estate founder and then President Jim Jackson chose MDA because of its commitment to the people it served. In 1978, ERA created its first national fundraising event, ''MDA Day in May,'' and challenged all ERA offices to do something for MDA on the same day. This tradition continues and, each year, ERA offices gather to support MDA during May. To help people with neuromuscular diseases, ERA members have raised nearly $25 million to send hundreds of children and adults to MDA summer camps, provide leg braces and wheelchair assistance, and help fund the research that found the genes that cause the two most severe forms of childhood dystrophy.

Through its commitment to community, ERA and its brokers and agents, have demonstrated there is more to real estate than buying and selling homes. Building community is what ERA has been doing for 25 years, and by supporting MDA, ERA is using the strength of those communities to fight against neuromuscular disease. However, ERA's relationship with MDA goes beyond raising money to support the organization. It is about helping children and adults with neuromuscular diseases who need a little extra time, energy and support from others. Together, MDA and corporations like ERA help ''Jerry's Kids'' live longer, more productive lives.