TRIBUTE TO CHESTERFIELD SMITH, ESQ., ON THE DEDICATION OF THE CHESTERFIELD SMITH CENTER FOR EQUAL JUSTICE

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a distinct honor to pay tribute to one of Miami-Dade’s unsung heroes, Attorney Chesterfield Smith. The dedication of the Chesterfield Smith Center for Equal Justice on April 23, 1998 is a well-deserved honor.

Attorney Smith represents the best of our community. Having dedicated a major portion of his life to making the justice system work on behalf of the less fortunate in Miami-Dade, he was relentless in his development of pro-bono legal services program that responded to the crying needs of our community’s poor. His was a crusade that maximized his knowledge, focusing his energies to enhance the well-being of a community he learned to love and care for so deeply.

His undaunted efforts in the legal system through his tenure as President of the American Bar Association helped shape and form the agenda of many legal organizations. His word is his bond to those who dealt with him, not only in moments of triumphal exuberance in helping many of the poor turn their lives around, but also in his relentless quest to transform Miami-Dade county into a veritable mosaic of vibrant cultures and diverse peoples converging together into this great experiment that is America.

Numerous accolades with which various organizations have honored him symbolize the unequivocal testimony of the utmost respect and admiration he enjoys from our community. Attorney Chesterfield Smith, lawyer par excellence, truly exemplifies a one-of-a-kind leader whose courage and resilient spirit that genuinely dignifies the role of a community servant.

Today’s dedication is genuinely deserved! I truly salute him on behalf of a grateful community.

TRIBUTE TO KATE McLEAN
HON. ELTON GALLEGLY
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to a woman who has made her mission in life to help our society’s most vulnerable find some sort of warmth in a world that can often be so cold. Kate McLean of Ventura, California, is an extraordinary person who has touched the lives of thousands, leading the charge of a successful organization which has been the saving grace to many in her community.

Kate did more than recognize the social ills that so often ruin lives. Instead of extending fleeting sympathy, Kate McLean actually made a difference—a difference in the lives of the abandoned and the abused. She has helped the homeless find shelter and runaways find refuge and understanding.

Kate has achieved these and countless other compassionate deeds through an organization called Interface Children Family Services, a non-profit which she co-founded. To name just a few of their services, this organization offers assistance to families in crises, a 24-hour hotline for troubled teens, and shelters for battered women and their children. Under Kate McLean, hundreds of thousands of children and families have been helped at the Interface from 1973 to 1990. Today, Interface Children Family Services continues to aid those in crisis situations, expanding on the foundation Kate McLean helped to start.

After Kate left Interface in 1990, she took her vast experiences to help the Ventura County Community Foundation, which under her supervision, increased the County’s endowed resources for charities from $300,000 to more than $16 million.

April 24, 1998 marks the 25th anniversary of the Interface Children Family Services. On this special occasion I want to recognize Kate McLean as a shining example, and to thank her for doing what others may have the yearning to do, but not the ambition. I want to thank Kate McLean for being such a vital part to the Ventura County Community, and for being our angel of hope.

EARTH DAY
HON. EARL F. HILLIARD
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you on this Earth Day to commend our nation on how we have left a legacy to our children by protecting the natural resources of our national parks, wildlife refuges and national forests. However, it is just as important for us to double our efforts to protect the habitat of our urban areas.

I am proud that our nation has made tremendous progress over the past 25 years in the area of environmental management. Our rivers and lakes, our children’s fish, swim and boat are significantly cleaner; the air in which we breathe is improved and tremendous progress has been made in cleaning up...