

education centers at the St. Petersburg Junior College's Caruth Health Education Center.

Pamela Jo Davis, the Chairman of the college's Board of Trustees who nominated Dr. Kuttler for this award, said, "He personifies the 21st Century president, demonstrating all the global vision and community caring that balanced, successful leaders must have."

In presenting the association's most prestigious award to Dr. Kuttler, Ray Taylor, the President of the Association of Community College Trustees, said, "I only wish all of the Nation's 1,100 community colleges had somebody as outstanding as Dr. Kuttler."

Mr. Speaker, speaking for the people of the 10th Congressional District I represent, I can say that we are proud and fortunate to have an educational leader who is as committed to his students, faculty, and staff as Carl Kuttler. It is a most fitting honor that his peers across the country have recognized him with such a great honor this month.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE SONIA
SOTOMAYOR

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and to pay tribute to Judge Sonia Sotomayor, an outstanding individual who has dedicated her life to public service. She was confirmed today by the Senate for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Clinton nominated Sotomayor in June 1997 and after an arduous process, the Senate ratified her nomination by voting 68-28. The 2nd Circuit Court includes New York, Connecticut and Vermont.

Judge Sotomayor was born and raised in the South Bronx. After graduating summa cum laude from Princeton University, she earned her Juris Doctor from Yale Law School. I have known her personally for many years, and I am very familiar with her background, experience, character, and personality. She is a person of the highest personal and professional integrity.

Mr. Speaker, since her appointment to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York by President George Bush in 1992, Judge Sotomayor has distinguished herself and has received continuous recognition for her outstanding performance. During her tenure, she has been reversed only six times in what is considered perhaps the most litigious and scrutinized district court in the United States.

Being the first Hispanic woman to serve on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, Judge Sotomayor is well known and highly respected by her peers and the different communities for her sensitivity, professionalism, integrity and sound judgment. Her confirmation brings to the Court an outstanding judge at the same time that it expands its ethnic composition.

This is the kind of issue that should be discussed in the classrooms. She is a role model for all Hispanics. Judge Sotomayor has set an example of how success is available for all of those who persevere to achieve their goals. She is an inspiration for many Puerto Ricans and for the people in the Bronx who are trying to break the cycle of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Judge Sonia Sotomayor for her outstanding achievements and in wishing her continued success as Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

THANKING THE HEROES OF THE
STORM OF '98

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, this past Labor Day my home district endured one of the most furious storms ever to assault Central New York. A violent line of thunderstorms, which the National Weather Service calls a "derecho," began their attack just after one o'clock in the morning. With swirling winds surpassing one hundred miles an hour, Mother Nature unleashed her wrath—ripping roofs off buildings, smashing trees against houses, snapping telephone poles and leaving a path of desolate neighborhoods and a fractured infrastructure.

As the gusts finally deteriorated into breezes and the rain subsided, the members of the Central New York community showed their true spirit. People helped one another remove the debris from their yards and newspapers were full of stories about neighborhood heroes. But there is a group of "professional" heroes, too—the utility workers, telephone linemen, postal workers, the National Guard, fire fighters, local police and state, county, city and town public works crews. Not to mention the "official" heroes, those elected representatives of the people who did their jobs with the energy and skill we always expect. Emergency workers from all municipalities and members of the New York Air and Army National Guard emerged to aid those in need. New York Governor George Pataki, Onondaga County Executive Nicholas Pirro and Syracuse Mayor Roy Bernardi took immediate action to guarantee a rapid recovery for all affected. Working in conjunction with utility company crews on loan from all over New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maine, New Jersey and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the members of local fire and police departments, emergency and medical personnel and employees of local telephone and cable companies as well as the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation toiled for countless hours to restore power and phone service.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of my office's role in working with Federal Emergency Management Agency Director James Witt to mitigate the aftershock of this disaster. Indeed we were on the phone within eight hours of the end of the storm and FEMA responded quickly and professionally. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending those who contributed their sweat, tears and labor to the recovery effort in Central New York during this time of crisis.

POLKA POWER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to a man whose musical talents

have brought much joy and laughter to all who know him, Mr. Roger Balcer. On Sunday, October 4, Roger Balcer will be inducted into the Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame.

Born in 1940, the oldest son of Barney and Henrietta Balcer, music was in young Roger's blood. Following in the footsteps of his uncle Leo Balcer, Roger too wanted to become a celebrated accordion player. He began to develop his skills early on, beginning accordion lessons at age eight. Even at this young age, everyone realized Roger had a talent. He took this talent and formed a band with his high school friends, Jerry Kolsowski, Fred Lenisz, and Tom Reder. In their first engagement, these four charmed the crowd at the Polish Falcon's Club of Saginaw.

However, Roger did not stop here. Along with playing in the band, Roger began signing with Choir Chopin under the directorship of Polish National Alliance Conductor Ted Nedzielski. Being a member of the acclaimed Choir Chopin gave Roger the opportunity to share his music with audiences in cities around the country.

As Roger grew older, his musical career continued to blossom. An electrician by day, Roger was a musician by night. He became a member of the Ray Massicotte Orchestra, playing at the "Shamrock" four nights a week. He soon began playing weekend engagements at the Washington Club. Roger also played Mexican Polkas at the Savoy in Saginaw as a member of Mike Luna's Band. Roger recorded albums with Tom Reder and John Lipinski that were played on Otto Hubner's Polka Program. He spent sixteen years as a member of the Kings Four Group playing at various country clubs around Michigan. After taking a few years away from his music, Roger became a favorite entertainer of the Seniors at the State Hospital in Caro.

In 1984, Roger and his uncle Leo became representatives for the lorio computerized accordion. He traveled to countless polka festivals demonstrating this instrument and expanding his exposure to many types of music. Today, Roger still performs at numerous functions playing music ranging from Jazz to Irish folk music. However, his first love is still polkas. Roger also spends time with his charming wife, Mary Ann and his four sons, Matthew, Steven, Mark and Vincent.

Mr. Speaker, Roger Balcer has dedicated his life to bringing music and joy to others. I ask you and our colleagues to roll out a barrel of applause and recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Roger Balcer as he is inducted into the Michigan Polka Music Hall of Fame.

THE HIGH COST OF PRESCRIPTION
DRUGS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the "Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act of 1998." It is a cruel fact that America's senior citizens are the subject of widespread price discrimination. While the federal government and large HMOs pay little, our seniors pay twice as much for their prescription drugs.