

IN RECOGNITION OF THE METROPOLITAN JEWISH GERIATRIC CENTER

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 1999

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, in 1907, a group of women in the Brownsville/East New York section of Brooklyn, concerned about the health and well-being of their elderly neighbors, joined together to organize the Brooklyn Ladies Hebrew Home for the Aged.

In 1913, the name of the institution was changed to the Brooklyn Hebrew Home for the Aged, and a year later the first Home for the Aged opened and the first residents were admitted. The total capacity, 70 residents.

Concurrent with the increased demand for services, the Home grew steadily over the years until, in 1968, it became an affiliated agency of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies and was formally renamed Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center (MJGC).

To more precisely convey its mission, MJGC is now known as the Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Foundation—an organization that provides financial support for the 36 participating agencies and programs of Metropolitan Jewish Health System (MJHS).

Collectively, MJHS agencies and programs serve the health care needs of more than 20,000 chronically ill people. MJHS is acknowledged to be the premiere integrated health care delivery system serving the Greater New York Metropolitan Area.

The Adult Day Health Center; the Phyllis and Lee Coffey Boro Park Primary Care Center; the Hospice of Greater New York; the Jewish Hospice; Caregivers; the Center for Rehabilitation and Transitional Care; Elderplan, a Social/Health Maintenance Organization; and the Institute for Applied Gerontology, which is engaged in research, education, and service, are but a few of the programs and services in the MJHS consortium.

And while MJHS applies its knowledge and experience toward serving patients of all ages, it has not lost sight of the mission of its founders nearly a century ago.

The Phillip and Dora Brenner Pavilion in Boro Park and Shorefront Jewish Geriatric Center Weinberg Pavilion in Coney Island together provide comprehensive health care, social support and recreational and cultural services and programs for some 1,000 residents and patients. Both are part of the "continuum of care" that is the hallmark of Metropolitan Jewish Health System.

On September 7th, at the Waldorf-Astoria, the Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Foundation held its Annual Gala Dinner, an event that celebrated 92 years of service to the community, and paid a well-deserved tribute to Mark L. Goldstein, immediate past chairman of MJHS and a distinguished community leader. The event also honored Arletha Andrews, Herman Frazier, Pastor Roman, Murray Scherer, Willie Simpkins, and Gene Simpkins, each of whom has given dedicated service as an employee of an MJHS participating agency for 35 years or more.

MJHS excels not only in the quality and scope of its care programs; it is recognized also for its vision, its innovative spirit, and the skill, the dedication and the compassion of all those involved in meeting patients' health care needs.

If past is prologue, I am confident that MJHS will continue to burnish its leadership role, with the support of MJGF, record even more impressive accomplishments in the service of the community in the new millennium.

CONGRATULATING THE TEAM FROM KAHUKU HIGH & INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ON ITS PERFORMANCE AT THE WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION 1999 NATIONAL FINALS

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate the team of students from Kahuku High & Intermediate School of Kahuku, Hawaii, on their participation in the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution national finals held in Washington, DC, May 1–3, 1999.

The team members—Syreeta Ho, Sarah Lautaha, Alvin Law, Tanya Ludlow, Kimberlee Maeda, Matthew Marler, Lea Minton, Kaitlin Palmer, Jessica, Preece, Siulia Purcell, Darren Salomons, Kimberly Smith, Bruce Walker, and Nadine Zettl—competed against 50 other classes from throughout the nation and demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional government.

The We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution competition simulates a congressional hearing on an issue requiring application of constitutional principles. Students must succinctly present their positions and then answer unscripted questions.

The Kahuku High & Intermediate School team won at the Congressional District level and the State level before making it to the national finals. I join the people of Hawaii in expressing my pride in their impressive achievement.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CARL J. LATONA

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, today Carl J. Latona will retire after 25 years of outstanding leadership and commitment to improving the community through his work with Highfields. During those years, Carl Latona has touched the lives of countless young people and their families—encouraging, advising, inspiring and serving as a role model.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Highfields, Inc., he was actively involved not only in the administration of the many excellent services offered by Highfields, but also program development, fundraising and public policy in the field of child welfare. He has been a tireless advocate for youth and always could be counted on to speak about the importance of prevention. He has served on countless committees and boards and continues to give his time to many community efforts.

Carl Latona persevered with his message of caring for youth despite roadblocks along the way. When one door closed, he would look for other doors until he found an opening. I have the utmost respect for his commitment to youth and his belief that any person can turn their life around with the proper support and caring attitude. He has always been an excellent resource whenever I have made public policy decisions on issues involving youth.

I would like to thank Mr. Latona personally for his contribution to improving this community and offering support to families in need. It is largely through Mr. Latona's vision and direction that Highfields has grown, constantly developing innovative new ways to reach out to young people through schools, the community and when necessary the courts.

On behalf of Michigan families, I thank Carl for his commitment to the community and his service to so many important family organizations. His courage, vision and friendship mean a great deal to me and many others in Michigan.