In recognition of Mary Petro

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 8, 2000
Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Petro as she is honored by the Jefferson Democratic Club of Flushing for her many years of dedicated service as a District Leader. The Jefferson Club is one of the oldest Democratic clubs in Queens County, New York. Mary Petro served valiantly and with great distinction as a District Leader from 1976 until she stepped down last year. In this capacity, Mary played an instrumental role in local New York City politics for nearly a quarter of a century, through devoted service to her community, to the Borough of Queens, to the Jefferson Club and to the Queens County Democratic Organization. Mary’s service to her community and her involvement in civic affairs are legendary in the Borough of Queens.

In 1968, Mary moved to Flushing, and immediately became an active member of the community. Mary has volunteered her time and her energies to countless community organizations and charitable endeavors, predominantly among them the Police Athletic League. For her work as the chief PAL fundraiser for the 109th Precinct, and as an officer of the 109th Precinct’s Community Council, Mary was named a “Civilian Patrolman of the Month.”

Despite her tireless community service, Mary Petro has been a faithful employee of Con Edison for more than four decades, and a caring and devoted wife to her husband, Jimmy, for more than 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the pleasure of knowing Mary Petro for a quarter of a century. I have been constantly amazed by her boundless energy, and her innumerable good works done on behalf of her community and her party.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in extending our thanks and appreciation to Mary Petro as she is honored by the Jefferson Democratic Club of Flushing for her many years of service to the people of Queens County.

Representative Lee: Politician Who Makes a Difference

HON. FORTRNY PETE STARK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 8, 2000
Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article for inclusion in the Congressional Record. It aptly describes my good friend and colleague, Representative Barbara Lee, as someone who makes a difference because she thinks globally and acts locally. Her compassion for those who are less fortunate is matched by her legislative skill. We are most fortunate to have her as part of the Bay Area delegation.

[From the Oakland Tribune]

REPRESENTATIVE LEE: POLITICIAN WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE

By Paul Cobb

Congresswoman Barbara Lee is one woman who makes a difference because she acts and thinks globally and locally simultaneously.

During her young career in the United States Congress as a member of the powerful Banking and International Relations committees, she has often stood alone with her “votes of conscience” on issues like Cuba, Colombia and banking legislation.

She has often disagreed with President Clinton, her own party and members of the Republican Party. Yet, she has won their respect by making them realize they need her because she knows how to meld pressing social and moral issues with practical, vital, economic and security interests.

Schooled by the likes of Ron Dellums, former Oakland mayor Lionel J. Wilson, Willie Brown, John George, Gus Newport, Maudelle Shirek, Hazaziah Williams and Bishop Will Herzfeld, Congresswoman Lee knows how to “connect the dots.”

She matches money to needs. Knowing that money, economic and financial interests are the mother’s milk of politics, Lee has managed to stand alone in the fiery furnace of opposition to votes on the White House’s agenda and still bring home the bread and bacon to her district. Oakland’s port, schools, housing community development and health programs, such as AIDS funding have increased during her tenure.

Even though she doesn’t sound her own trumpet or spend excessive time raising funds for her own campaign coffers, she’s not about to allow the vital concerns of her constituents to be drowned out by the noisy symbolism of political rhetoric.

Last week the Lee/Lee World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act (H.R. 3519) passed the House by a unanimous voice vote. Lee has surprised and floored her fellow congresspersons with the passage of H.R. 3519 because she put together a bi-partisan effort around an explosive and contentious issue. And, what is more, she assembled legislative leaders on both sides of the aisle by expanding the understanding of the global AIDS crisis. By skillfully demonstrating that the AIDS scourge threatens our national security and financial institutions, she connected needs to resources.

Lee garnered the support of Republican committee chair James Leach and thanked the former Oakland mayor Lionel J. Wilson, because she knows how to meld pressing social and moral issues with practical, vital, economic and security interests.

Lee utilized her membership on the Domestic and International Monetary Policy Subcommittee to talk with the U.S. Secretary of Treasury, United Nations officials, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other financial institutions to develop seed money. The funds would then be leveraged 9.1 from funds donated by other 7 nations and the private sector.

If the moral and humanitarian arguments don’t work, then the economic and security interests will,” said Lee as she pointed to...