

of the State of West Virginia. Joining Governor Wise in ratifying this landmark agreement were David C. Hardesty Jr., the president of West Virginia University; Patrick R. Esposito Sr., the president of Augusta Systems Inc., on behalf of the tenants of the Collins Ferry Commerce Center; and Ralph A. Carabetta, deputy director of the National Energy Technology Laboratory, or NETL.

These officials, and the organizations they serve, are to be commended on their efforts to more fully integrate NETL-developed technologies into the marketplace. Their memorandum of understanding re-affirms Senator ROBERT C. BYRD's foresight in promoting energy research, and will further capitalize on his success in building a strong fossil-fuel portfolio at NETL.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to salute the partners in this agreement, and to wish them much success in their new collaboration.

IN HONOR OF THE SUCCESS OF ST. MICHAEL AND UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise in congratulations to the success of St. Michael Hospital in maintaining the tradition of high quality, community health care.

Last year, the life of St. Michael Hospital, a full service community hospital, was threatened by a buyer who sought to close it. Without notice, patients were told to find other physicians, wards were closed, ambulance service was stopped and units were shut down. Once the community learned of the pending closure, they sprang into action to save St. Michael. A massive effort began. Neighborhood residents spoke out, the City Council supported, doctors and nurses worked tirelessly and my office filed an amicus brief to prevent the closure, supported by hundreds of constituents.

Today, St. Michael Hospital is not only in stable condition, but growing its services and expanding its facility. Not even a year after it stood at the brink of closure, it is now in the middle of plans to increase the size of the emergency room by 50 percent. Construction will begin in a few months to allow the hospital to create more treatment areas for trauma patients. Later this month, two renovation projects are slated to begin. A new inpatient gero-psychiatric ward was opened last December after renovation was completed on the fourth floor. St. Michael has even started a shuttle service for patients without transportation.

For 117 years, St. Michael Hospital (formerly St. Alexis) has done a remarkable job of tending to the health of Clevelanders. It has provided high quality health care to hundreds of thousands of patients, no matter their color, country of origin, age or ability to pay. Over 20 percent of its patients are unable to afford health care, but they are treated at St. Michael.

Our community has long known the institution's strength of compassion, and we are now so lucky to witness its strength of determina-

tion and resilience. St. Michael has rebounded with new medical care programs, an increase in patient volume and an improved financial situation. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the work of St. Michael Hospital and the University Hospital Health Network which came to its rescue. I ask that you join with me in congratulating all who have brought St. Michael Hospital back to life.

CONGRATULATING WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION JOHNNY "THE QUIET MAN" RUIZ

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, Johnny "The Quiet Man" Ruiz, a young man from my district, for winning the World Boxing Association Heavyweight title this past weekend in Las Vegas. I do not stand here today to boast about the athletic prowess of a world class champion but rather to commend Johnny for the grace and dignity with which he has carried himself throughout his climb to the upper echelons of the boxing world.

As the first Latino heavyweight world champion, Johnny is truly a hometown hero to the people of Chelsea, Massachusetts. Johnny was a hero long before his upset victory over four-time champion Evander Holyfield on Saturday evening. Last August, after losing a very close and controversial decision to Holyfield, Johnny came home from Las Vegas to find hundreds of his supporters waiting on his doorstep to cheer his arrival. They knew they already had a champion among them.

Like many young husbands and fathers throughout the country; Johnny spends his free time coaching Little League baseball, Pop Warner Football and is actively involved in the parent's group at his children's school. That is the man that is the new heavy weight champion. That is Johnny Ruiz. Like many of his neighbors, Johnny Ruiz is a hardworking family man, who proudly represents a city of hard working people. Johnny just happens to go to work at the Somerville Boxing Club under the watchful eye of his trainer Norman Stone.

Years from now we will surely be hearing many stories about the boxing triumphs of this heavyweight champion from Chelsea. People will talk about how they used to watch him run by their house or storefront while he was training. We will hear about rematches and world rankings. However, there is one story that stands out in my mind. On the evening of the first Holyfield-Ruiz fight, the then-WBA champion Holyfield was hosting a postfight victory party at the Paris Hotel. Accompanied by his boyhood friends, Ruiz, an exhausted and defeated challenger walked through the many reporters, cameras and Holyfield fans to extend a congratulatory hand to his most recent opponent. This gesture caught Holyfield by surprise more than Johnny's overhand right last Saturday night. The champion told Johnny "that was the most class an opponent has ever shown after a fight". That story truly embodies Johnny Ruiz.

It is reassuring to know that behind all the hype and trash talking in professional sports

there are still athletes out there who are true gentlemen. There are still men like Johnny "The Quiet Man" Ruiz: a neighborhood kid who had a little bit more talent and worked a little bit harder to get his shot. More importantly, he never forgot his roots—he never forgot the neighborhood and city he was fighting from. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate "the neeewww WBA heavyweight champ of the worlllld Johnny Ruiz!!!"

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Peace Corps as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

The Peace Corps is a powerful symbol of America's commitment to encourage progress, create opportunity, and expand development at the grass roots level in the developing world and at home.

Today, its volunteers are working to bring clean water to communities, teach children, help start new small businesses, and stop the spread of AIDS.

Since its beginning, in 1961, more than 161,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps Volunteers in 134 countries. These are people who are dedicated and committed to making this a better world.

After serving and teaching in other countries, Peace Corps volunteers return to the U.S. with a greater understanding of other cultures and peoples.

It is truly a mutually beneficial cross-cultural exchange.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the thousands of Peace Corps volunteers, past, present, and future, and in commending the Peace Corps for empowering and encouraging progress around the world for the past four decades.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday March 5, I missed two votes numbered 26 and 27. I missed these votes on account of illness. If present, I would have voted "yea" on both suspension bills.

OPPOSING NATIONAL TEACHER CERTIFICATION OR NATIONAL TEACHER TESTING

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to forbid the use of federal funds to develop or implement a national system of teacher certification or a national teacher test.