

women and families. Mr. Speaker, that is why it is crucial for there to be safe havens for children. Ideally our communities, schools and homes should be places of refuge for them. Today, more and more of our children are victims of abuse, and far too many children live in fear; a fear that is compounded by the prospect of violence occurring in their own classroom and homes.

Mr. Speaker, violence is learned behavior. Our children witness aggressive behavior, anger, and hatred to others as a matter of routine and often to a parent as a matter of course. Is there any wonder then, why children demonstrate anti-social behavior that they learn from those closest to them when they commit violent acts? For this reason, it is important to learn the signs and patterns that lead to violent behavior and address them before lives are lost. I am saddened and appalled by the extent of youth violence that has proliferated into an epidemic. The consequences of abuse are now being equated with the impact of war. The fact of the matter is, violence and neglect are more devastating than polio, AIDS, or motor vehicle crashes. The problem of violence in the United States is especially acute because we have the highest youth homicide and suicide rates among the 26 wealthiest nations. I am committed to protecting the lives of our children by: Introducing H.R. 233, the "Child Safety-Lock Act"—meaningful gun control legislation designed to limit children's access to firearms; encouraging collaboration and coordination among education, mental health, social service, and juvenile justice agencies; creating legislation that will re-establish and strengthen the mandate of juvenile judges to use discretion and creativity in sentencing children and adolescents; and by supporting any legislation that brings us closer to an end to youth violence and protects the interests of our children.

Violence of any kind weakens families and especially hurts our children. Regardless of its form, youth violence and violence against children must be stopped. Tragically, children die as we contemplate recommendations. We must act quickly and responsibly to reestablish safe havens in our communities. Our children and our nation deserve nothing less.

CONGRATULATING JOHN F. KEANE
ON THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE FOUNDING OF KEANE, INC.

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John F. Keane, a true American success story. This Saturday Keane, Inc. will host their annual employee recognition dinner. John Keane will be recognized, along with other employees who are celebrating significant milestones with the company. John Keane has dedicated 35 years of service and has successfully built Keane, Inc., headquartered in Charlestown, Massachusetts, into one of the world's most successful information technology consulting companies.

John Keane began building his consulting business above a doughnut shop, with one employee. From those humble beginnings

Keane, Inc. has grown into a \$1 billion international powerhouse. I am proud to acknowledge the fact that John's monumental business success has not hampered his ability to personally make a significant, positive impact in the community.

Many businesses in this country do make efforts to be good neighbors. Keane, Inc. however, takes community involvement to a higher level. For instance, Keane has adopted the Edwards Middle School in Charlestown as their business partner. This is not merely a symbolic gesture by a big company to show they care about the community. It is truly a working relationship that has witnessed extreme success in the lives of students. An Annual Spelling Bee, sponsored by Keane, gives adults the opportunity to show to students what they have learned over the years, while also raising money for after-school programs.

Although John's accolades include serving on the President's Commission for Y2K, the Coalition for H-1B Visas and other high profile posts, it is his smaller scale, local efforts that impress me as his most important work. John himself has at times become personally involved in some of the many programs that take place at the Edwards school. When students were taking part in a program to teach peer mediation and negotiation skills, Mr. Keane himself participated in these sessions. It is this type of personal touch that makes John Keane the type of businessman you want to have headquartered in your community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate John Keane on his 35 years at Keane, Inc. and thank him for the manner in which he has conducted business during his tenure. He is truly an asset to our community. I'm honored to have Keane, Inc. in my congressional district.

GRADE-A: GOVERNMENT RESERVATION ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATION ACT—ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION OF MILITARY FAMILIES

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today 21 of my bipartisan colleagues and I are introducing a bill—entitled the GRADE-A Act, the Government Reservation Accelerated Development for Education Act. This is major legislation intended to improve education around the nation.

In the average \$10 million American school district, \$9.3 million are raised from state and local taxes. This system works well when the children attending the local school live on property subject to local tax.

This system does not work well when the federal government houses many children on land not subject to tax—such as a military base or Indian reservation. In these schools, the children report to class without financial backing—too many of these kids and the school district can go bankrupt.

For many years, the federal government has made payments through a program called "Impact Aid," intended to mitigate the impact of the federal presence on local schools.

Between 1950 and 1969, the Impact Aid Program was fully funded. Since that time the

funding level has not kept pace with the amount required to cover the Federal Government's tax obligation. In Fiscal Year 2001, the program will pay only 46% of the total amount required to cover the cost of the two formula driven provisions of the Impact Aid Program—Section 8002 (Federal Property) and 8003 (Federal Connected Children).

While school administrators and teachers across the country appreciate Impact Aid payments, they are usually paid late and fail to cover the cost of the children who enter school. For example, the Highland Park, Illinois, school district pays approximately \$11,000 a year to educate a student. The Impact Aid program provides just \$500 per child. Local taxpayers living on civilian property must then pay the extra \$10,500 per year to educate that child. Too many of such children entering a school can bankrupt a whole school district.

This nearly happened in North Chicago, Illinois. This community is home to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center where 50,000 naval recruits are trained annually. Hundreds of children from military housing came into the local school district each year. Several years ago, North Chicago's district 187 nearly went bankrupt under the weight of children coming to school from property that cannot be taxed. Impact aid payments had been late and inadequate. Thanks to the work of my predecessor, Congressman John Porter, this school system was saved through additional appropriations. Now, this bill will help all schools in the nation to welcome and educate military and other federally-housed children.

GRADE-A would alter the current status of two sections of the Impact Aid program, making them into an entitlement program. The goal of this legislation is to improve federal impact aid for military dependents and other children living on federal lands. Impact Aid was created in 1950 when Congress recognized the obligation of the Federal Government to assist school districts and communities that experience a loss in their local property tax base due to the presence of the Federal Government. To offset this revenue loss to public school districts due to the tax-exempt status of the Federal Government, Congress established the Impact Aid Program.

GRADE-A would ensure the effective delivery of Impact Aid by creating an Impact Aid Trust Fund to guarantee that local school districts are able to offer the best education to all students, whether they are of military parents or civilians. It guarantees prompt payment to schools without needless waits or bureaucracy. Under GRADE-A, Section 8002 of the current Impact Aid Law would become an entitlement, mandating that the local school districts receive the full value of the federal land which has been taken off the tax rolls.

GRADE-A would also turn Section 8003, the Basic Support Payments, of the current Impact Aid law into an entitlement program. GRADE-A mandates that according to a pre-existing weighted formula, each school district receives full payment for each federally connected child. Currently, additional funding is provided in this section for special education children. Section 8003(d) under GRADE-A would now mandate that each school district receive all the monies currently granted under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for each Impact Aid child.

GRADE—A honors our commitment to military families and other families, especially American Indians. It guarantees that those families who serve to protect our freedom and in turn protected by the federal government.

TRIBUTE TO THE ROMEO CHAPTER
19 LADIES OF THE ORDER OF
THE EASTERN STAR OF THE
STATE OF MICHIGAN

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Romeo Lodge #19 Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star of the State of Michigan, who celebrated their 106th birthday on March 31, 2001.

Since the Grand Chapter of Michigan recognized the start of the Romeo Chapter #19 Order of the Eastern Star on October 10, 1895, the Romeo Chapter #19 has been a thriving sister center of social, religious, and political life to all its members and their families. Dedicated to education, morality, and improving the quality of life for its Masonic family, the Ladies of Romeo have worked tirelessly to improve the community through their contributions in charity, scholarship, and service.

Through the years, the Romeo Chapter #19 Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star have devoted their time and efforts to maintaining the tenets of Masonry, encouraging kindness, respect, and good will towards all men and women. They have proudly organized philanthropic activities for members and non-members, assisting in times of hardship, sickness, death and disability. As they celebrate 106 years, I am confident they will continue to lead the community through their benevolent service.

Demonstrating outstanding leadership and commitment, the success of the Romeo Lodge #19 Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of its members and its community. I applaud Romeo Lodge #19 for their leadership, sisterhood, and commitment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their 106th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE MIGUEL
MIQUELI AND THE JOSÉ MARTI
STUDENT AID FUND

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miguel Miqueli, founder of the José Martí Student Aid Fund, Inc., for his contributions to education and to the Hispanic community in West New York, New Jersey. To celebrate the success of the José Martí Student Aid Fund and to honor Miguel Miqueli, an award dinner and dance will be held on May 5, 2001.

Miguel Miqueli was born on July 11, 1937 in San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba. He received his elementary education in El Colegio Belen

in Havana, Cuba. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Science and Philosophy from the Pitman Academy, and concluded his studies in Business Administration at Havana University. In April, 1961, Mr. Miqueli emigrated from Cuba to the United States, where he and his father opened a jewelry store in West New York.

In 1965, Mr. Miqueli became a member of the Lions Club of West New York, and he later co-founded the Hispanic Mercantile Federation, to which he was elected president in 1973; he is currently a member of the board of directors. In February 1978, along with a group of dedicated teachers, he founded the José Martí Student Aid Fund, Inc., and served as the president until 2000. As a collaborative effort with the Cuban-American Foundation he coordinated the project "Mision Martí" in 1992.

Through his work as an educator and community activist, Miguel Miqueli has truly been a valuable asset to Hudson County. He has compassionately dedicated himself to the field of education and to the Hispanic community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Miguel Miqueli and the José Martí Student Aid Fund.

A SALUTE TO DAVID HECKER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and achievements of David Hecker, as he is honored by The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring in Oak Park, Michigan on May 6, 2001.

The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring is a national fraternal organization committed to the pursuit of social and economic justice while fostering Jewish identity through culture, education, friendship and mutual aid.

I have had the honor and pleasure of knowing David for many years. It is not surprising that David's life's work has embodied these ideals. His union roots run deep, back to Poland where David's paternal grandfather was active in the Bund (a Jewish labor organization). David's parents, Arnold and Josephine, were both activists in the labor movement: Arnold in the United Auto Workers and Josephine in the Health Care Union in the Bronx, New York.

David has pursued advanced degrees in labor relations and has worked his entire adult life on behalf of working people. He has been active with the American Federation of Government Employees, the Allied Industrial Workers, the Michigan AFL-CIO, the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO, and the Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel.

David embodies the values of social and economic justice in every aspect of his life. His passion for his work and beliefs shines through in his personality. David is a gifted organizer, motivator and strategic planner. He has used his talents in numerous roles to the benefit of many.

David is truly devoted to creating A Besere Un A Shenere Velt (A Better and More Beautiful World). His commitment to community is evident through his work as a board member of the Jewish Community Council and the

Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders, as well as his political activity in the Democratic Party.

We are truly fortunate that such a talented individual has committed his life to working for economic and social justice. We are especially fortunate that he and his wife, Alice Audie-Figueroa, have chosen to make the Metro Detroit community their home.

So, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating David and wishing both David and Alice, along with their children, Joelle, Jose and Gustavo, the very best.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF
INCREASING AUTISM AWARENESS

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my support for H. Con. Res. 91, the Increase Awareness of Autism and Support Greater Research, Treatment & Training Resolution, to honor Autism Awareness Day, and to pay tribute to parents and families of autistic children everywhere.

As a result of autism, an estimated 400,000 Americans have lost the ability to communicate and interact with others. In my home state of Rhode Island, autism had become an absolute crisis. The incidence of the disorder has risen by over 1000% in the past seven years, and by over 300% in the past five years alone.

Caring for people afflicted with autism costs more than \$13 billion per year, and the majority of these costs are borne by the families of the victims of autism. These parents have sacrificed tremendously to provide the specialized education and support services that their children need. Yet, they still do not receive the support they deserve from the government.

My nephew has a form of autism so I know firsthand the challenges these families face. Many days, my nephew's parents cannot hold conversations with their son. Communicating with him takes extraordinary patience. Had his parents not engaged him in an intensive intervention program immediately after his diagnosis, he would have made much less progress today. It was not many years ago that children with autism would have been misdiagnosed and often institutionalized for the rest of their lives.

Parents of autistic children regularly encounter people who do not understand the difficulties associated with autism. Friends and teachers become impatient. They repeat the same phrase over and over, as if the child will understand if it is repeated one more time. Teachers are often ill-equipped to deal with the special challenges of autistic children. H. Con Res. 91 calls upon federal, state and local governments to allocate sufficient resources to alleviate the shortage of appropriately trained teachers of autistic children; and recognizes the importance of worker training programs tailored to the needs of developmentally disabled persons, including those with autism.

The resolution further expresses Congress' support for increasing federal funding for research to learn the causes of autism, identify