

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO ART VALENTI, PRESIDENT OF U.A.W. LOCAL 900 RETIREE CHAPTER

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a man who has dedicated more than 62 years to the United Automobile Workers, Art Valenti. As one of the original in-plant organizers who fought to bring the union to the Ford Motor Company, Art Valenti has dedicated his life the union movement. This year, as U.A.W. Local 900 members gathered to celebrate their 60th Anniversary, they recognized the Art "Little Caesar" Valenti for dedicating his life to Local 900 and the U.A.W. organization.

Beginning work at the old Ford-Lincoln plant on Livernois in 1939, Art was discharged just a year later on Friday, December 13, 1940. This marked the start of his long and laborious fight against the anti-labor programs in place at the Ford Service Department. Regardless of the many obstacles, Art began his efforts to organize workers in Detroit. Holding dances that raised countless funds to support union efforts, Art began organizing at his base, and was actively involved in many battles and a strike at the Ford Rouge Plant. When the U.A.W. Ford Agreement was signed in June of 1941, Art was reinstated to his job at the Ford Lincoln Plant and became an organizer and Charter member of Local 900, then a part of Local 600. Art "Little Caesar" Valenti continued as a union representative, and while Treasurer and activist continued his fight against unfair practices of the Ford-Lincoln supervision and Service Department. In the years following, Art served his local and cause as a trustee, guide, and Executive Board member to Local 900, as well as served as District Committeeman, Bargaining Committeeman, and finally President of Local 900. His hard work and tireless efforts established dinners for Retirees as appreciation for their years of service, won the largest individual back pay award at the time, and was one of only 25 American Trade Unionists to be sent to Denmark to visit with Danish Trade Unionists in 1952.

Art's dedication only continued with time, gaining appointment to the Vice President of the International Union's staff in 1957, where he remained until his retirement in June of 1980. Even after retirement, "Little Caesar" Valenti's commitment carried him to become elected as President of the U.A.W. Local 900 Retiree Chapter in 1981, where he has continued to bring the same fire and loyalty to his brothers and the union cause.

I applaud Art Valenti for his leadership, commitment, and service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his exemplary years of leadership and service.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN E. HYMAN

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Steve Hyman, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health at NIH, recently left NIMH to become Provost of Harvard University. While I am very happy that he has chosen to take this important step, I very much regret that public service is losing such a significant figure working on behalf of patients and families affected by mental illness.

Steve is a very well known neuroscientist, and also a gifted communicator. We have worked together on several issues and events, most recently a briefing for Members and staff on the mental health effects of terrorism in the wake of the awful events of September 11, 2001. Steve has a remarkable ability to leave his audience—whether it is lay or scientific—with a more complete understanding of whatever complex issue he is addressing. This is critical to those of us who work to reduce and eliminate the entrenched stigma about mental illness that so unfairly plagues patients and families. As a scientist, Steve has many times asserted that science shows us absolutely no reason to treat those with mental illnesses as anything other than respected individuals affected by treatable illnesses who deserve health insurance coverage completely commensurate with the coverage provided for physical ailments. In fact, NIMH recently held a meeting in which I participated, focusing on the very real relationship between depression and physical disorders—something that is critical to understand.

For too long, those suffering from depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, anxiety disorders, or any of the other diseases that affect our brain and behavior, have faced discrimination, shame, and even scorn. Leaders like Steve have given us the tools we need to argue forcefully and credibly for equal treatment and equal justice. I believe that his leadership, scientific expertise, and his active participation in trying to educate policymakers like us, as well as our constituents—the American public—have moved us far down the path to eliminating stigma. Steve and NIMH were very much involved in the development of the unprecedented Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health, a groundbreaking document that has had a major impact in this country. He also was a key participant in the equally groundbreaking White House Conference on Mental Health held in June of 1999, a public event that featured the President and First Lady, the Vice President and Mrs. Gore, and many, many Members of Congress.

While we will miss Steve Hyman, I am confident that the course he has set for NIMH, and the people he has left to steer it, will enable it to continue to move steadily forward. I know that Steve has left a strong institution, but he has also left a major challenge for his

successor—to continue the momentum that he has built up over the five and one-half years he served us as NIMH Director. I haven't known him for a long number of years, but I do know Steve Hyman well enough to know that he will continue his role as champion of patients and their families, and that we are all better off for it.

TRIBUTE TO AMANDA JENKINS, SARAH GOSHMAN, AND MELISSA NUNNENKAMP

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize three of New York's outstanding young students: Amanda Jenkins, Sarah Goshman and Melissa Nunnenkamp. In January, the young women of their troop will honor them by bestowing upon them the Girl Scouts Gold Medal.

Since the beginning of this century, the Girl Scouts of America have provided thousands of youngsters each year the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

These awards are presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. The Gold Awards represent the highest awards attainable by junior and high school Girl Scouts.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of these awards, as their activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Amanda, Sarah and Melissa and bring the attention of Congress to these successful young women on their day of recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, a previously scheduled commitment prevented me from being in Washington, D.C. and voting on H. Con. Res. 280 on December 4, 2001. Consistent with my record of strong support for

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