

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF BARBARA KREYKENBOHM

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contributions Barbara Kreykenbohm has made to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District. A Brookings Fellow from NASA, Barbara became an invaluable part of my Washington, D.C., office over these past eight months.

As a fellow Tennessean, Barbara started in my office as a NASA Fellow eager to assist me with my work as the Ranking Member of the House Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee. But, she soon assumed a wide variety of responsibilities.

Throughout all the pressures exerted in such a fast-paced workplace, compounded with the tragic events of September 11 occurring in her first days with my office, her commitment has been a positive influence on everyone. Barbara accomplished each and every assignment with thoroughness and commitment. Her standards are high and her efforts reflect a commitment to excellence.

Although Barbara was originally assigned to work in my office for only a few months, her work ethic, research skills and desire to continue to learn the workings and intricacies of Capitol Hill soon prompted me to ask her to extend her fellowship and stay on as part of my staff.

But, her skills and talents are needed back at NASA. This is her final week as a member of my staff. Although my staff and I are sad to see her leave, Barbara's dedication to science and man's quest for discovery will continue to serve NASA and the American people well.

SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in support of Israel and its right to defend itself and its people from terrorism. The struggle between the Israelis and the Palestinians is one of the most longstanding and explosive of all the world's conflicts. It has its roots in the historic claim to the land which lies between the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. Both peoples have suffered greatly as they struggle to coexist and maintain their cultural and political identities.

However, the continued suicide attacks over the past six months have triggered the worst crisis in the Middle East since the outbreak of the Palestinian intifada 18 months ago. The terror and violence must be stopped. The Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat, has not consistently opposed or confronted terrorists or renounced terror. The situation in which he finds himself today is largely of his own making. Given his inability to stop terrorist attacks, the Israeli government feels it must defend itself against the terrorist networks that are killing its innocent citizens. Israel is our most dependable and only demo-

cratic ally in the Middle East, and it is important that the United States steadfastly stand by Israel at this critical juncture to fight terror. The United States and Israel have suffered terrible losses and stand shoulder to shoulder in the war on terrorism. For these reasons, I support Israel and urge my colleagues to join me.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. MICHAEL LOPEZ: EAST CHICAGOAN OF THE YEAR

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and esteem that I wish to congratulate Mr. Michael Lopez for being selected as the East Chicagoan of the Year. For thirteen years, the Twin City Community Services in East Chicago, Indiana has awarded prominent members of the community with this title. This year's activity will be held on Thursday, April 25 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in East Chicago. During this prestigious event, his family and friends will participate in a roast held in his honor.

As a child growing up in East Chicago, Mickey Lopez, as he is affectionately known to his friends and family, understood that if he were armed with patience and determination, he would overcome all obstacles as he ventured on the path to success. After graduating from Washington High School, Mickey left the confines of the Harbor to attend Indiana University in Bloomington. While on campus, a patriotic spirit awakened within him, and he sought an outlet for its release. Selflessly setting aside his own aspirations so that his natural leadership abilities could serve a greater good, Mickey enlisted into the United States Marine Corps, where he served as a sergeant for over three years. The ideals of discipline, honor, and loyalty that he presently upholds were fomented during these years as he fulfilled his duty to his country.

Having completed his commitment to the Marine Corps, Mickey returned to East Chicago, eager to establish himself among the business leaders of the city. His years spent at the Laidlow and Industrial Disposal companies became the foundation from which his entrepreneurial spirit flourished. Ever conscious of the relationship between industry and community, Mickey keenly observed the growing need for an industrial and environmental cleaning organization in East Chicago that would serve both the Northwest Indiana and Chicago steel mills. Bolstered by his ambition, he approached his childhood friend John Hurubean, and together in 1980, the two partners opened Actin, Inc. Now more than twenty years later, from this small seed has sprouted many other services spanning different types of business throughout Northwest Indiana and the Chicagoland area. In spite of the vast area the company covers, the business is still intimate and family oriented, employing roughly 100 people. More impressive, however, is Mickey's commitment to extending his success to underrepresented individuals in the business world, 85 percent of his employee base are minorities.

Under the leadership of Mickey Lopez, Actin Inc. continues to provide a valuable service to

the residents and businesses of Northwest Indiana. Yet his devotion to his fellow East Chicagoans is not limited to this particular enterprise. His philanthropic nature extend to various civic organizations in his native city. Among those touched by his generosity and his tireless efforts are the Northwest Indiana Business Development Commission, the Saint Catherine's Hospital Foundation, the East Chicago School Foundation, Twin City Community Services, the Lake Shore Chamber of Commerce, and the Lake Area United Way. He is one of the founders of American Legion Post 508 and most recently he was asked to participate in the newly developed High Tech Business Incubator sponsored by Purdue University. These organizations, as well as various minority organizations, reciprocate in kind—their gratitude is evident as they bestow upon him and Actin, Inc. awards commending his service to the community and to his field of expertise. As always, Mickey accepts these accolades with a deep sense of humility.

The Knights of Columbus Hall will be filled with individuals who have been blessed with the opportunity to enjoy Mickey's quick wit, his friendly winks, and his warm, inviting smile. Perhaps the most fortunate are his sister Cathy and his six children—Laura, Michael, Melissa, Chris, Mark, and Eric—all of whom have been able to glean from him an appreciation for all the opportunities life has to offer, and a respect for the delicate relationship forged as one interacts with the greater human family. The next generation of Lopezes, which currently includes ten beautiful grandchildren, will undoubtedly embrace these virtues as they continue to uphold Mickey's tradition of civic mindedness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Michael Lopez on being recognized as the East Chicagoan of the Year. His commitment and dedication to the citizens of the First Congressional District deems him worthy of this commendation. I wish him continued success, both personally and professionally, and I am honored to represent him in Congress.

HONORING MICHAEL BURR FOR HIS CHARITABLE WORK AND HIS SELECTION AS THOMASTON ROTARY CLUB CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the achievements of Mr. Michael Burr of Thomaston, Connecticut. Mr. Burr has been selected by The Thomaston Rotary Club as its Distinguished Citizen of the Year for 2002.

Mr. Speaker, as an airline pilot with American Airlines, Mr. Burr organized AAmericans United Flag Across America, a tribute to the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks. Beginning on October 11th, at Boston's Logan Airport, airline employees ran 3,800 miles across the country, carrying an American flag. Their run followed the planned flight paths of American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175. Nearly 4,000 runners took part in