

TRIBUTE TO THE CHALDEAN
FEDERATION OF AMERICA

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 21st Anniversary Celebration and 10th Annual Awards Banquet of the Chaldean Federation of America. On Friday, October 18, 2002 the Chaldean Federation will mark more than two decades of service to the Chaldean community in Metro-Detroit and one decade of recognizing outstanding citizens in their midst.

Over these many years, I have been privileged to witness the establishment and blossoming of this exceptional organization. The Federation serves the growing Chaldean community of Metro-Detroit, which now numbers over 160,000. Their service to the community has been extensive, from employment and social services, to language and translation support, to computer training and immigration services.

For new immigrants, the Federation has served to bridge the cultural gap between their native land and that of their adopted home. For first, second, and third generation Americans of Chaldean descent, the Federation has been a place of education and celebration, keeping alive the traditions of the Chaldean homeland.

In addition to serving the Chaldean community, the Federation has been an invaluable resource to our community as a whole. By providing cross-cultural education and sensitivity training to schools and other groups they have helped to promote tolerance and understanding in an increasingly complex world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to salute the Chaldean Federation of America, its key activists and countless volunteers, many of whom I have known personally for years. We have been enriched by the Chaldean culture and are deeply appreciative of the role that the Chaldean Federation of America continues to play in our community.

HONORING AN OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER—DOUGLASS DISTRIBUTING

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill and Joan Davis, owners of Douglass Distributing an "Outstanding Employer of Older Workers for 2002". Douglass Distributing has established a long-term commitment to the region of North Texas and Southern Oklahoma, proven by their community partnerships and contributions to local service organizations. For this reason, they have been selected as one of Prime Time's Outstanding Employers of Older Workers award winners.

Since 1981, the Douglass family has shown a strong belief in the value of older workers and has supported that belief by maintaining an age-balanced group of employees. They have been a family owned and operated petroleum products distributor in Sherman,

Texas who view older workers as "productive, reliable, and versatile with a strong work ethic." Their winning combination of younger workers and their older counterparts create a work environment where age and experience can assist in training, advice, and counseling.

Owners Bill and Joan Douglass have created an outstanding company that is a role model for a nation and state whose workforce is rapidly aging and whose businesses are facing a shortage of skilled, reliable workers. Douglass Distributing has led the way by putting their faith and trust in older workers who bring valuable experience, skills and work habits to the job. The company has no mandatory retirement age and provides flexibility in scheduling of employees' hours. They also believe that expertise and a positive attitude are the most important qualities in an employee, regardless of his or her age.

Douglass Distributing has shown a new path and winning blueprint for success. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us acknowledge the contributions and the achievements of Douglass Distributing and Bill and Joan Douglass, as they have shown the business world a new model of distribution worthy of replication and appreciation.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MEMBERS
OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, last evening in the main hearing room of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, we held a reception honoring eight Members who are retiring from the House at the end of this Congress. In the spirit of bipartisanship that so truly characterizes our committee, Chairman DON YOUNG and I joined voices in tribute to these eight men—three Republicans and five Democrats—who are moving on to new challenges: BRIAN KERNS of Indiana, JOHN THUNE of South Dakota, STEVE HORN of California, JOHN BALDACCI of Maine, FRANK MASCARA of Pennsylvania, JIM BARCIA of Michigan, BOB CLEMENT of Tennessee, and BOB BORSKI of Pennsylvania.

Before I go any further, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize the leadership of Chairman YOUNG and call attention to some of the accomplishments of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee during the 107th Congress: The Railroad Retirement Act, the Kennedy Center Act, and the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, represent what our Committee does best—moving bipartisan bills to the President's desk. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the 108th Congress on TEA 21 reauthorization, AIR 21 reauthorization, RIDE 21, and water and other critical infrastructure investment legislation, regardless of whether Republicans or Democrats are in the majority.

Mr. Speaker, on the Republic side, the Committee is losing three of our colleagues, Cong. BRIAN KERNS, Cong. JOHN THUNE, and Cong. STEVE HORN. Cong. KERNS (Indiana) joined the Committee last year with a fresh perspective on our Committee's issues that

will be missed. Cong. KERNS and I share a common background: we both served as Administrative Assistant to the Member we replaced. Of course, Cong. KERNS was also a TV reporter, so our work histories diverge there.

Cong. THUNE represents the state of South Dakota and he has been a consistent advocate for rural America and the Great Plains. I have had the opportunity to share an occasional workout with Cong. THUNE in the Members' Gym. Let me tell you, when Cong. THUNE approaches the weight machines, the machine start to shudder.

Cong. STEVE HORN has not only effectively advocated the interests of the Long Beach and Los Angeles ports, but he has also spent the last decade in Congress working to improve the accountability and management of the Federal government and its agencies. His thoughtful, academic approach to these issues will be greatly missed by our Committee and this institution, as will his historical perspective on the legislative process, reading back to his service on the staff of California's highly respected Senator Tom Kuchel.

On the Democratic side, we are losing five colleagues, each of whom has contributed enormously to the work of our Committee.

Cong. JOHN BALDACCI—Cong. BALDACCI was elected in 1994—a real accomplishment for a Democrat in a year when the Republicans were sweeping to control of the House and Senate—and joined our Committee in 1998. He has served as an active Member of our highway and aviation subcommittees. Cong. BALDACCI has been an aggressive advocate on behalf of Maine. Whether it's ensuring that the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act includes funding for the Essential Air Service program or clarifying that the Committee's airline antitrust immunity bill does not adversely affect small communities, Cong. BALDACCI has actively worked to help Maine keep its air service.

Cong. FRANK MASCARA—Cong. MASCARA is another one of the rare Democrats elected in 1994 and joined our committee at the beginning of his tenure. Prior to being elected to the House of Representatives, Cong. MASCARA served as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission. As this Committee developed TEA 21, we called upon FRANK MASCARA's planning expertise and seasonal understanding of highway issues to help ensure that our Federal highway, transit, and highway safety policy would achieve the intended objectives.

Cong. JIM BARCIA—Cong. BARCIA joined our committee in 1993. As a Member from Northern Michigan, whose district runs along the shores of Lake Huron, JIM has played an active role in water resources issues throughout his service. He spent the last several years aggressively working on a program to improve our Nation's wastewater infrastructure and authorize grants to states and cities for combined sewer overflow and sanitary sewer overflow projects. In the 106th Congress, his efforts paid off and we included his bill (H.R. 828) in the omnibus Labor-HHS appropriations act at the end of the Congress. The Wet Weather Quality Act authorizes \$1.5 billion to control overflows from combined and sanitary sewers and \$45 million in EPA assistance for an urban wet weather watershed pilot program.