

Fortunately, we live in very exciting and hopeful times for the development and renewal of the Hungarian society and the steady improvement of U.S.-Hungary ties. It's hard to believe for some, impossible to forget for others, that just a few years ago the people of Hungary were trapped by the harsh realities of the Cold War, which they did not create but which nonetheless dominated their existence.

Hungary was a leader among Central European nations in establishing a democratic system, before the fall of the Berlin Wall. In the last decade, Hungary has steadily transformed itself into an independent, democratic, market-oriented society, integrated into Europe and the international trading network, a member of NATO and a serious candidate for membership in the European Union. Unlike other areas of Europe where ancient hatreds have been allowed to fester, Hungary has worked to repair damaged relations with its neighbor Romania. Hungary, in particular among its neighbors, has shown an impressive degree of stability. Even during the Cold War, Hungary worked very hard against tough odds to establish itself as a society independent of Soviet domination in certain key political and economic spheres, and was granted Most Favored Nation status by the U.S. in 1978. Free and fair elections and a proliferation of political parties allow Hungarians of all viewpoints to participate in society. Even parties affiliated with former Communists maintain a commitment to maintaining integration with Western institutions.

A sister-city relationship has been established between New Brunswick, the county seat of Middlesex County, and Debrecen, Hungary, an arrangement to benefit the people of both communities. Developing business partnerships between New Jersey and Hungary will be good for business on both sides of the Atlantic, creating jobs and providing an increased flow of, and access to, goods and services. It's also good for peace and stability, removing the shadow of fear and suspicion that so often got in the way of U.S.-Hungarian relations during the bad old days of the Cold War.

I also want to pay special tribute to Hungary for its contributions to NATO in the operations in the former Yugoslavia, and in taking in refugees from those terrible conflicts. The instability in many of the surrounding lands will continue to test the ability of the new Hungarian democracy to be a force of stability. I am confident that democracy, civil and human rights and a healthy growing economy will triumph in Hungary, given the strong character, values and traditions of the Hungarian people and the help and support from the United States and other Western democracies.

To the leaders and members of the Middlesex County American Hungarian Democratic Organization, I say, Kosonom! (Thank you) and Egeszsegere! (To your health).

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO LA AGENCIA DE ORCI AND ASOCIADOS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to a new business which is locating and office on my Congressional District. La Agencia de Orci and Asociados, is one of the most successful Hispanic owner and operated advertising agencies in the United States and I pay tribute to them for their vision and commitment to better serve the needs of the Hispanic/Latino and other communities.

Established in 1986, in Los Angeles, California, La Agencia de Orci and Asociados opened offices (today), in Chicago, Illinois at 401 N. Michigan Avenue to better provide service to its clients in the Midwest and throughout the Country. The people and the business community of Chicago, unique in their diversity, will greatly benefit from La Agencia's innovative marketing philosophies such as "Share of Heart." Acknowledged as 1998, Established Business of the Year by the Latin Business Association, La Agencia clients include Allstate Insurance, American Honda, Bell Atlantic, Hormel Foods, Ricosito Corn, Shell Oil and Washington Mutual.

This tribute is to recognize and honor the individuals who have demonstrated leadership, volunteerism and dedication. La Agencia de Orci Partners, Hector Orci and Norma Orci, founders and co-chairs, Roberto Orci, President, and Mariene Garcia, Executive Vice-President are committed to their industry leadership. La Agencia was instrumental in forming the Association of Hispanic Advertising Agencies (AHAA) with Hector Orci elected as its founding President. Actively engaged in building relationships with organizations in meaningful ways, La Agencia consistently develops solutions that make a positive difference for individuals and communities throughout our country.

La Agencia and their 83 agency associates actively participate in cultural and civic programs by providing award winning pro bono advertising to the United Way, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF). The National Association of Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO). Census 1990 and 2000, and the Children's Bureau of Southern California.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to La Agencia de Orci as they continue their extraordinary commitment to the community. They have earned and deserve our recognition, respect, and praise.

HONORING MR. JEROME COHEN,
SOUTHTOWN COUNCIL 1999 AMERICAN CITIZEN

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary Kansas Cit-

izen and extraordinary friend, Mr. Jerome Cohen. This week Jerry Cohen will be recognized as the Southtown Council's 1999 American Citizen for his historic record of civic service and volunteerism. This philanthropy and devotion to our community is an extraordinary model for all of us to follow. It is often said that Jerry's life is the consummate 20th Century Horatio Alger's story. He created a successful business and then focused on charity and helping those most in need. This tribute acknowledges his amazing capacity to give and the monumental impact he continues to have in our community.

Annually, the Southtown Council nominates an outstanding leader whose efforts greatly serve the area. This year's beneficiary of their American Citizen award, Jerry Cohen, is no exception. Born to Lithuanian immigrant parents and equipped with a strong work ethic, Jerry Cohen built a prosperous modern copier and business machine enterprise. Our community recognizes his friendship and an amazing six decades worth of charitable support to organizations like the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund, the Starlight Theatre, the Shriners, the Liberty Memorial, the Parks and Recreation Department, the American Humanics Foundation, and the Boy Scouts of America.

The Southtown Council was created by businesses, organizations, neighborhood associations to address the community concerns of Southtown Kansas City specifically from 47th to 75th Street and Prospect to Main Street. The Southtown Council has a 17 year record of philanthropy and is committed to the public development of South Kansas City. Mr. Cohen's involvement as a civic and business leader supports the Council's remarkable success and mission to preserve the priceless legacy not just of Southtown Kansas City but of the Greater Kansas City area as well.

I take great pride in knowing Jerry Cohen as a friend and mentor. Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Jerry Cohen as a model American Citizen.

THE DAKOTA WATER RESOURCES ACT OF 1999

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a revised version of the Dakota Water Resources Act of 1999. The bill I introduced today makes important changes to legislation I introduced earlier this year, H.R. 1137. In addition to technical clarifications, the vast majority of these changes represent the culmination of an agreement reached between the state of North Dakota and the Administration which lead to the Administration's support of the bill. I want to highlight the key items of agreement incorporated into the bill that I am introducing today.

First, this improved Dakota Water Resources Act provides \$200 million in funding for statewide municipal, rural and industrial (MR&I) program, a \$100 million reduction from H.R. 1137. Further, the bill clarifies that if a MR&I revolving loan fund is established, the