

October 19, 1999

Schmidt to the close ties between Germany and the United States. His efforts merit our great appreciation and our respect.

RECOGNIZING MR. RAMON GONZALES AND THE "MIRACLE ON WEST 31ST STREET"

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ramon Gonzales, a generous man of limited means who works hard to ensure that the Spirit of Christmas touches all of South Tucson's children.

Twenty-nine years ago, Mr. Gonzales held a neighborhood Christmas party for his own children and a few of their friends. Because the party was so successful and appreciated, he gave another one the following year and every year since. Throughout the years, the celebration has radiated from Mr. Gonzales' small stucco house and onto West 31st Street. Now, on the day of the party, the street is blocked off and there are refreshments, balloons, clowns, mariachi music, piñatas, face painters, live radio broadcasts, and presents.

During the festivities, Santa Claus arrives to hand presents out to the children, sometimes in a red fire truck and other times in a helicopter. However he arrives, children, parents and volunteers alike thrill to the renewal of Christmas magic and the promise of a better tomorrow. Because of the happiness the celebration generates, Tucson's residents have come to call it the "Miracle on 31st Street." This year's event is expected to benefit approximately 4,000 local children, who undoubtedly will have a memorable Christmas because of Mr. Gonzales' kindness and compassion.

Mr. Gonzales, a former sheet metal worker now on disability, works all year to organize and develop resources for the Christmas Eve celebration. Always modest, Mr. Gonzales insists that "It's the volunteers that make the party," and he, along with 200 other volunteers, works tirelessly to ensure the success of the annual event. Many of the volunteers are Mr. Gonzales' union friends, and he has been praised by his union president, who said "I wish we all could be as selfless and as giving as Brother Gonzales." Volunteers also come from businesses, radio stations, friends, neighbors, nonprofit groups, and government agencies who enjoy generating positive feelings for the children and within the volunteer corps.

Although many of the children who come to the party are from low income families who may not have another Christmas celebration, Mr. Gonzales welcomes all children to join in the festivities. He understands that childhood dreams are nurtured through a caring community that transcends the individual's situation and emphasizes positive concepts: sharing, love, involvement, generosity, and kindness. The block party on West 31st Street in South Tucson has become a beacon for those ideals.

I commend Ramon Gonzales for his dedication and personal sacrifice that has generated

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

so many positive emotions and wonderful memories for thousands of children. He is an outstanding model for our nation of one person truly making a difference. May his energies and commitment continue for many years to come.

PROMOTING HEALTHY HEARTS AND HEALTHY LIVES: DEAN ORNISH, M.D.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to pay tribute to Dr. Dean Ornish, a man who has dedicated his career to building healthier lives. Dr. Ornish is considered by many as the leading authority on the effects of diet and lifestyle on health and well-being. His groundbreaking research has resulted in the discovery that comprehensive changes in diet and lifestyle can reverse even severe coronary heart disease without drugs and surgery. Dr. Ornish has produced valuable research that can empower individuals and build healthier communities. He is a talented, dedicated researcher whose work must not go unappreciated or unnoticed.

Dr. Ornish is the founder, president and director of the non-profit Preventive Medicine Research Institute in Sausalito, California, where he holds the Bucksbaum Chair. He is Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, and a founder of the Center for Integrative Medicine at the university. Dr. Ornish received an M.D. from Baylor College of Medicine, was a clinical fellow in medicine at Harvard Medical School and completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Dr. Ornish is the author of five best-selling books, including New York Times bestsellers: Dr. Dean Ornish's Program for Reversing Heart Disease; Eat More, Weigh Less; and Love & Survival. His research and writings have been published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, The Lancet, Circulation, The New England Journal of Medicine, the American Journal of Cardiology, and elsewhere. A one-hour documentary of his work was broadcast on NOVA, the PBS science series, and was featured on Bill Moyers' PBS series, "Healing & The Mind." His work has been featured in virtually all major media; he was on the cover of the March 16, 1998, issue of Newsweek magazine.

Dr. Ornish has received several awards, including the 1996 Beckmann Medal from the German Society for Prevention and Rehabilitation of Cardiovascular Diseases, the U.S. Army Surgeon General Medal, and the 1994 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award from the University of Texas, Austin. He is listed in the Dictionary of International Biography, Who's Who in America, and in Men of Achievement. He was recognized as one of the most interesting people of 1995 by People magazine and by LIFE Magazine as one of the 50 most influential members of his generation.

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Mr. Speaker, I have great admiration for Dr. Dean Ornish. He is truly a remarkable individual whose outstanding research and effective programs have improved the overall quality of life for many people. His proven research on behavior modification has the potential to revolutionize the way modern medicine approaches heart disease. Dr. Ornish's promotion of healthy hearts and healthy lives is an inspiration for all Americans.

HONORING WILLIE ARTIS AND VERONICA ARTIS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to rise before you today to acknowledge the achievements and contributions to the Flint, Michigan community of a wonderful couple who have cultivated a successful business partnership, as well as a life partnership. On Tuesday, October 19, members of the Charles Stewart Mott Community College Foundation will gather and, in the spirit of Minority Business Month, will honor Mr. and Mrs. Willie and Veronica Artis of Genesee Packaging, Inc.

It was in 1979 that Willie Artis and Buel Jones founded Genesee Packaging. Using an opportunity granted from minority business programs sponsored by General Motors, Artis and Jones ventured into business together and reached over one million dollars in revenue within the first year. In the 1980's, once again due to the benefit of General Motors, the company expanded with Genesee Corrugated, Inc. Now, instead of creating the packaging, they were manufacturing the materials to create the packaging as well.

Following the retirement of Buel Jones, Willie Artis began overseeing daily operations of the companies. The companies, which eventually merged, served to be profitable, not only to its owners, but to the community as well. Currently, Genesee Packaging employs nearly 300 people in three plants throughout the Flint area. The company constantly serves as one the city's strongest economic resources.

As Willie Artis can claim to over 28 years of experience in the packaging field, his wife, Veronica can claim an equal amount of experience in the business administration field. After obtaining an education from such schools as the University of Wisconsin, Dartmouth, and Harvard, Veronica began a noted work history with Ameritech, holding positions including District Training Coordinator, Personnel Manager, Marketing Manager, and Purchasing Manager. Veronica joined Genesee Packaging in 1989 as Vice President of Administration, and currently sits on the company's Executive Staff.

Mr. Speaker, not only will the Mott College Foundation celebrate the contributions of Mr. and Mrs. Artis, but, to further establish the impact they make on Flint residents, the evening will also mark the creation of a scholarship in their name. I am pleased to be witness to all they have done on a corporate level, and what they have done in serving as positive role