

flood insurance, to make it more cost effective and efficient.

It is time for us in Congress to heed the Prophet Isaiah and to be about this important work of making our communities more livable.

□ 1630

AMERICA'S LEADERS, PAST AND PRESENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to highlight tonight the accomplishments of Jennifer Valoppi, a woman who has served as a wonderful example for teenage girls in my community of South Florida, and at the same time she has committed herself to her profession, rising to excellence within her chosen field as a television anchor.

In 1997 Jennifer conceived, created and founded what is now a very successful program in South Florida called Women of Tomorrow. She convinced her employer, NBC 6, to sponsor this wonderful, ambitious program that has helped so many teens who otherwise might not have successful role models to look up to.

"Women of Tomorrow" is structured in such a way that it pairs professional women in our South Florida area with teenage girls in order to improve their self-esteem, and it also provides guidance and nurturing in their lives. This fantastic program is designed to show young women the endless possibilities ahead of them as they embark on the beginning of their adult lives.

Mentors meet with small groups, usually no larger than 10 girls in a group, to discuss the girls' ambitions, their motivations, their positive attitudes, the achievement of their dreams, in addition to sharing personal stories of triumph and, of course, temporary setbacks and obstacles.

In addition to launching this wonderful organization devoted to teenage girls, Jennifer Valoppi is a multi-Emmy award winning journalist who has twice been named "Best TV News Anchor." She inspires us with her dedication and her drive to improve the world around us.

Madam Speaker, Jennifer Valoppi has made a tremendous mark on our community. I applaud all of her efforts, and I hope that more women of South Florida get in touch with Jennifer and also become part of this teen mentoring program, Women of Tomorrow.

THE DANTE FASCELL NORTH-SOUTH CENTER

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, another leading citizen of our community unfortunately is no longer with us, and I would like to say a few words about this very unique individual.

In Latin there is a phrase "sui generis" which refers to something

unique and rare. I can think of no other way to describe our former South Florida colleague, Dante Fascell. Dante was a man of vision and of skill, whose intellect and political sense were instrumental in the passage of countless foreign policy measures throughout his tenure in this House, and in particular during the 14 years that he had the great privilege of chairing the Committee on International Relations which was then called the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Dante Fascell was a vital figure in the fight for democracy in my native homeland of Cuba, in all of Central America. He authored programs such as the Cuban Refugees Assistance Act, and he advocated the founding and was successful in establishing Radio and TV Marti. The freedom fighters throughout our Western Hemisphere always knew that they enjoyed the support of Chairman Dante Fascell because he not only fought to protect the national security interests of his country, our beloved United States, but he was unwavering in his efforts to help those who are struggling to regain their rights as freedom-loving human beings, as citizens of the world, and as brothers and sisters in the greater family of nations.

Dante Fascell understood the idiosyncracies, the internal political dynamics, the historical context, and the global developments which impacted our region, especially the North-South relations, and for this reason he spearheaded and was successful in the creation of the North-South Center in his hometown of Miami and his beloved university, the University of Miami. He did this in order to promote an even greater understanding of the issues, in order to move the discussions toward a proactive solution-based approach.

It is appropriate that the father of the North-South Center, the man whose vision and perseverance helped make this dream a reality, be honored by having the North-South Center carry his name and the University of Miami, and in this fashion the legacy of Dante Fascell will continue to inspire future generations of leaders.

So I am honored today to say some words of praise to a man who is no longer with us, Dante Fascell, but also to praise today's leaders who are very much with us, like Jennifer Valoppi, and who are leading the way for the women leaders of tomorrow.

WELCOMING MEMBERS TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor this afternoon to wel-

come all Members, especially new Members, to the 106th Congress. Whether one is Republican or Democrat, I am your Congresswoman away from home, and I want to tell you a little bit about this city and a little bit about the assistance I can offer you while you are here, because you are going to spend more time in the District of Columbia than you will spend in your own district.

Some of you live here, all of you work here. Many of you will have your entertainment here. Matters arise in the city. If you need help, including help for your constituents, I hope you will call me. If you live in the city, there are inevitable problems that arise with your trash, with rodents. No tickets, please. We cannot take back tickets, for the most part, although there are a few instances where the District cannot write tickets for Members of Congress, and I suppose we will submit those to the District. What we really love are shortcuts to getting a marriage license. Since I have been in Congress, I have helped at least three Members get marriage licenses.

In any case, when one is wondering where to turn when anything arises in this city, whether it is city services or the city at large, please call my office.

On Monday, February 23, 1999, we are having a formal event called Ask Me About Washington. You and your staffs are invited, with a free lunch.

I want to tell you about hometown Washington. Forget what you have heard. A revolution has occurred in this city. It has a new mayor, a reinvigorated city council, and a control board that operates with a much reduced capacity. The city is in the hands of its new mayor, Tony Williams, the man who helped repair the city's finances and, as a result, got elected mayor. I work closely with him and have great hopes in what he can do for this city, because he has already done a great deal for the city when he was chief financial officer.

The city's problems came largely from the fact that since its establishment 200 years ago, it has been the only city in the United States that has carried State, county and municipal functions. It is a miracle that the District was up and standing so long carrying State functions, despite its big city urban problems that all of you have in your own States.

Congress has relieved the city of some of its State functions, much to the credit of the Congress and the President. So the District has had three years of surpluses and is no longer even close to insolvent.

You should also know about the city that it is a city at the very top in so many ways. We are fifth per capita in the United States in the number of residents who have a bachelor's degree. The residents keep this city running for the 25 million people who come here