

my appreciation and regard for Mr. Ricardo Diaz and Ms. Bobbi Marsells, of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee. Today, Monday, April 26, 1999, the residents of Milwaukee's Hillside Public Housing Development are honoring Ricardo and Bobbi for their work to revitalize Hillside.

Ask anyone familiar with HUD's HOPE VI public housing revitalization program, and they'll tell you that Hillside's transformation wasn't just another 'revitalization'; it was more like a resurrection. In 1993, most of the residents in Hillside lived below the poverty line and had no earned income at all, the facilities were ugly and outmoded, the neighborhood was plagued with drugs and crime, and most public housing applicants preferred to wait longer for help than to move there. Today, earned income is way up, poverty and crime are way down, the design and appearance of the buildings and neighborhood are contemporary, attractive, and functional, and Hillside has a waiting list of eager would-be residents.

Hillside is special not just for Milwaukee, but as an example for the national of what public housing can be. Hillside shows us that revitalization means more than just, safe, structurally sound, and comfortable buildings. Hillside demonstrates that co-locating supportive services offered in partnership with committed, community-based organizations can help public housing residents to work their way out of poverty. Hillside also reminds us that removing design barriers like dead-end streets and tree-line screens, and actually integrating a public housing development into the surrounding neighborhood, can reduce crime and raise the quality of life for the residents of the development.

Many people contributed to Hillside's transformation, but the indispensable element, the driving force that made it happen, was the team of Ricardo Diaz and Bobbi Marsells. Ricardo and Bobbi helped political leaders convince HUD that the revitalization strategy was sound and they built and energized a coalition of local supporters. As a result, Milwaukee won a \$47.5 million HOPE VI award that made Hillside's remarkable transformation possible. They also took a very personal and active role in the implementation of Hillside's HOPE VI project, and the end result is a reflection of their commitment and vision.

Ricardo and Bobbi were not content to stop at Hillside. They worked tirelessly over the past few years to help secure a \$34 million HOPE VI grant to revitalize the Parklawn Public Housing Development. Today, they are planning Parklawn's transformation, and I am confident that a few years from now, Parklawn will reflect the same innovative vision that Hillside represents today.

Mr. Speaker, very few people can look back on a body of work and say that they helped change a whole community and set a new standard for the nation. Fewer people still can say that they're planning to do it again. Because of their determination, their devotion, their ingenuity, their charm, and their very, very hard work, Ricardo Diaz and Bobbi Marsells are among the those few. On behalf of the people of Milwaukee, I thank them for their efforts to make our city a better place to live.

IN HONOR OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

**HON. DOUG OSE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 1999*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the sister city relationship between Yuba City, CA, an agricultural community which I represent, and Fujishiro, located in the Ibaraki Prefecture of Japan. Over the course of the last ten years, this relationship has allowed for educational, cultural, industrial, community and governmental exchanges which have benefitted the residents of both cities.

In July of 1989, a delegation from Fujishiro came to Yuba City and a declaration of intent to enter a sister city agreement was completed. Other visits ensued, culminating in a signing ceremony in Yuba City in November 1989. In February 1990, a Yuba City delegation traveled to Fujishiro for a similar joint signing. In the ensuing 10 years, there have been several exchange delegations of adults and students.

Sutter County Supervisor Dennis Nelson, President of the Sister City Association, has encouraged the relationship with Fujishiro in order to provide the citizens of both cities with a better understanding of each other through exchanges which enhance the educational and economic well-being of each city.

These exchanges have allowed hundreds of children and adults to have "once in a life time experiences" and to build friendships that span the Pacific Ocean, contributing to peace and prosperity by transcending cultural diversities through realizing our similarities and understanding our cultural differences.

The citizenry of Fujishiro-machi have provided vision, leadership and countless hours of volunteer time furthering the Sister City Relationship, providing significant cultural benefits not only to the Yuba City delegations, but also for the people of Fujishiro.

The International Friendship Association of Fujishiro was formed by involved citizens, businessmen and government leaders to promote the newly established Sister City Relationship between the two communities. I rise to recognize just a few:

Yasuo Kobayashi-san, Mayor of Fujishiro, has provided leadership through personal and civic involvement and pursuit to the goals of our Sister City Relationship. He has accompanied a number of delegations from Fujishiro-machi to Yuba City. His achievements in furthering the Sister City bond have awarded him great respect throughout the community in Yuba City.

Mamoru Sakamoto-san, President of the International Friendship Association of Fujishiro and former President of the Fujishiro Town Council, is recognized for his personal and civic involvement in pursuit of the goals of the Sister City relationship.

Yukio Takegasa-san, Secretary General of the International Friendship Association and a rice farmer, became acquainted with Sutter County as an exchange student and assured the success of the sister city relationship.

Today, involved in international trade, he continues to frequent the Yuba City area many times a year.

Shin Kawaguchi-san, former president of the International Friendship Association of Fujishiro is recognized for his personal involvement and relentless pursuit of the goals of our Sister City Relationship by being awarded the honor of "Honorary Citizen" of Yuba City.

And lastly, it is fitting to pay tribute to Hisao Yoshida, the late mayor of Fujishiro, for his vision and leadership in the search for a sister city relationship. He accompanied early delegations from Fujishiro-machi to Yuba City to experience our lifestyle and build everlasting friendships.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the citizens of Yuba City, CA and Fujishiro, Japan, on their tenth anniversary as sister cities. I extend my best wishes to both cities as they celebrate the happy occasion this month in Japan, and wish them many more years of friendship, cooperation, and cultural exchange.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TRINIDAD TROJANS FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 1999*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today in recognition of a group of young athletes from the Fifth Congressional District for an outstanding year in athletic achievement. On Saturday, December 12, 1998, the Trinidad Trojans became the first Henderson County high school football team to gain a state football championship in any division, by winning the six-man state championship game. This team of exceptional young athletes displayed the determination and tenacity required to achieve a perfect season by finishing the year with an unblemished record of 15-0.

I would also like to recognize the Trojans' Coach, Kevin Ray for guiding these young men through training, practice and each test they met on the gridiron. The lessons that we learn from our High School Coaches apply throughout our lives and will resonate with Coach Ray's players for years to come. Thank you Coach Ray for your leadership and for preparing these players to achieve such monumental goals. I wish you luck in the 1999 season and Godspeed to your graduating seniors. Way to go Trojans!

INTRODUCING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA \$5,000 HOMEBUYER CREDIT ACT OF 1999

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 1999*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have chosen today to introduce the District of Columbia \$5,000 Homebuyer Credit Act of 1999, a permanent version of my \$5,000 homebuyer

credit, because Franklin Raines and the Fannie Mae have significantly increased the credit's value to D.C. residents by monetizing the \$5,000 credit. This means that D.C. residents will be able to convert the \$5,000 homebuyer credit to cash to help make the down payment on a house. The credit alone will be the down payment on a \$100,000 house in the District. As a result, for a \$100,000 house, no down payment will be necessary.

I am pleased that the President has already agreed to a one-year extension of the credit in his budget, and I am hopeful that Congress will approve this extension. The President acted because, like the Congress, he realizes that if the District is to regain permanent solvency, there is no substitute for rapidly increasing the number of residents. The indispensable increase in the home sales we are seeing in the city today cannot continue without a stable incentive that will be here for the foreseeable future. The tax base loss has been so devastating that the job before us is literally one of repopulation. The District has not yet regained a tax base sufficient to sustain the city. Its competitive position with the suburbs means it will not regain its tax base without very substantial incentives.

The \$5,000 homebuyer credit, limited by income, has proven itself as cheap way for the federal government to have a large effect on reviving the city. The credit has been significantly responsible for the phenomenal result that D.C. is now number one in home sales in the country. Home sales in the District increased an extraordinary 50% last year, "the fastest pace in the nation," according to a local analysis. We have gone from 14,206 homesales in 1997, when the credit was enacted, to 21,406 last year. We have come from a few years back when people couldn't sell to today, when people can't buy. This is why Fannie Mae's effort to increase the supply of affordable housing and to monetize the tax credit are so welcome.

The \$5,000 homebuyer credit, coupled with a rapid increase in housing stock and investment, are the best hope for increasing our population on a permanent basis. When people buy homes, they lay down roots and are less likely to flee. The District has already lost three times the population in this decade as the city lost during the entire 1980s, and D.C. is still losing population. The credit helped stimulate new population and could ultimately help turn the city's population loss around.

For years, I have searched for natural ways to increase revenue for the District. My large tax cut bill, the progressive flat tax, is a major leap forward and is still the most important initiative we could take to make the nation's capital thrive on its own. I will soon be announcing a bill to make the entire city an enterprise zone. It will spread citywide the lucrative tax breaks for D.C. businesses I won in the 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act.

However, as the city looks for revenue, it must not lose sight of the reality that there can be no permanent increase in revenue without a permanent increase in our population. Investment in housing is the best way to achieve not only a livable city in all eight wards, but a thriving city of taxpaying residents who own their own homes.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation critical to the continued revitalization of the nation's capital.

WESTERN PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION HONORED ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Western Propane Gas Association on the auspicious occasion of their 50th anniversary.

Western Propane Gas Association has spent the last fifty years breaking down the barriers and building bridges between its members in the West and legislators in California and Washington. From legislative advocacy to economical insurance, its efforts promote industry awareness and provide a great service to their members and to the legislators representing our shared constituency.

Western Propane Gas Association maintains constant communication with state regulatory agencies through its interaction and lobbying. At the state level, WPGA is a pivotal voice at the California Assembly and Senate hearings, presenting the industry position on legislative topics. Through their Government Affairs Committee, WPGA informs its members of valuable federal regulatory alerts, safety bulletins and an industry specific bi-monthly newsletter. WPGA provides its members with professional and knowledgeable assistance on numerous issues that impact the propane industry.

Recently WPGA accepted the responsibility of managing the propane industry's interests in the growing field of Clean Air Alternate Motor Fuels. They assembled a Clean Fuels Task Force to bring their members research, testimony, and technical information from regulatory boards and engine manufacturers. WPGA's leadership in alternative fuel regulations is crucial not only to the success of their members, but also to the safety and preservation of its environment.

In addition to its legislative review and advocacy agenda, the Western Propane Gas Association also provides liaison advisory services to its members. For example, WPGA maintains contacts and facilitates interaction with statewide organizations such as the California Highway Patrol, the Air Resources Board, The Department of Industrial Safety, and many other local regulatory agencies.

In an industry where change is constant and technology is king, WPGA has taken a leadership role in developing standards for safety and training. The Association holds educational seminars on topics ranging from an Emergency Response Rollover Program and the Certified Employee Training Program to the Gas Check Program. WPGA also brings crucial situation training to its members through its Fire School Seminars. The fast-changing regulations and technologies of the propane and fuel industry needs a membership organization dedicated to upholding the

highest standards of safety and service, and WPGA has proven its commitment to its industry and community.

Mr. Speaker, Western Propane Gas Association brings a united, regional voice for local businesses that might otherwise be lost amongst today's regulatory environment. I rise today to commend the organization and its members for their successes and offer my best wishes for the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. DONALD DIX

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the enormous accomplishments and contributions made by Dr. Donald Dix of McLean, Virginia, a distinguished public servant who is retiring from the Department of Defense after 18 years of government service.

Dr. Donald M. Dix will retire as Director of the Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering. During this time, Dr. Dix managed two critical national technology programs—the Integrated High Performance Turbine Engine Technology program and the Integrated High Payoff Rocket Propulsion Technology program.

The Integrated High Performance Turbine Engine Technology (IHPTET) program aims to double the national turbine engine performance capability by the turn of the century. The F-117, B-2, F-15E, F-16C/D, and Tactical Tomahawk are possible because of the leading edge work of the IHPTET.

The objective of the Integrated High Payoff Rocket Propulsion Technology (IHRPRT) program is to double the national rocket propulsion capability by 2010. Systems such as the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle, X-33, AIM-9X, and Trident D-5 Life Extension are supported by the fine work conducted by the IHRPRT.

Dr. Dix's leadership on both of these programs have allowed this country to maintain its edge in these critical technology areas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Donald Dix for his significant contribution toward maintaining this country's national security. I wish him well in his retirement and all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK, MICHAEL AND SEAMUS DOYLE

HON. PAT DANNER

OF MISSOURI  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 1999

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, Peter and Virginia Doyle of Kansas City, Missouri, it is my privilege to bring to your attention the exemplary service of their three sons to the United States Army. Their sons are Major Patrick Doyle, Captain Michael Doyle, and Captain Seamus Doyle.

Major Patrick Doyle was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy, West