

been recognized by the prestigious 1999 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program. This award salutes the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

With today's media focusing on tragic stories of troubled adolescents, we must not overlook those teenagers with high ideals and strong community values. Gabriella personifies those qualities and is a true role model in guiding other youth into positive activities that enhance their communities.

As an elementary student, Gabriella was concerned over the gang violence, riots, and drug use which was evident within a neighboring high school. Determined to become part of a solution before her class entered that school, she organized a group of eight friends who picketed the school with placards bearing anti-violence and anti-drug slogans. Through the years, that core group continued to grow as it organized activities aimed at channeling teenagers into constructive endeavors. Today, Gabriella's group has become a community service organization which fills the dual role of improving local neighborhoods while providing a positive group setting for teenagers to identify with as an alternative to gang membership.

Gabriella Contreras and the other recipients of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award have demonstrated outstanding initiative and act as an inspiration to other youth. As such, they represent a warm ray of sunshine during these times of bewildering incidents involving violent and disturbed young people. They are the individuals who will lead their generation into a productive and bright future, and I salute their efforts on behalf of their communities and our Nation.

FRANK J. PASQUERILLA: A GIANT
OF A MAN

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on April 21, 1999, Frank Pasquerilla, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Crown American, a Fortune 500 company, entered life eternal.

Frank Pasquerilla was a giant of a man. His intellect and energy was exceeded only by the size of his heart. When he and his wonderful wife, Sylvia, joined my wife and me for the Kennedy Center Gala last December honoring America's most outstanding artists, at the conclusion of the evening as they were entering their hotel, he paused and said to me: "Don't believe the rumors. I'm not retiring." And then with a grin, he added, "I'm never going to retire!" As usual, he was true to his word. Up until the very day of his sudden passing he was working, caring and building: For his family, his company and his community. Leonardo DiVinci said "To understand is to construct." Frank understood that in the best and broadest sense of the word. He was a builder. But his 29 malls, 30 shopping centers and 21 hotels were only the physical structures that gave him the opportunity to build better lives for his family, his associates and his community. When his mall in Altoona burned to the

ground, as we slogged through the debris I ask him, "What are you going to do, Frank?" and without hesitation, he replied, "Start over and rebuild." And, of course, he did just that. He was the driving force behind pushing for a new West End Bypass for Johnstown, not because it benefited him, but because it was good for the community. We were to have dinner to discuss a project important to Pennsylvania on the very night he died. His son, Mark, called from his hospital room to express his Dad's apology for not being able to attend, and I told him to assure his Dad that we would do everything in our power to help make his latest dream come true.

If anyone dare suggest that Frank Pasquerilla is no longer with us, they simply didn't know this giant of a man. His extensive and extraordinary philanthropies have made life better for thousands of people, young and old, and will continue to do so far into the next millennium. For as long as the Allegheny mountains turn green in Spring, for as long as our rivers and streams run down to the sea, or the stars shine above and our fields flower under, this giant of a man will live in us and his dear family through his good works which have touched so many lives, and will live in our hearts, forever moved by the afterglow of his example of what all our lives should be.

TRIBUTE TO POLISH-AMERICANS

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, as we approach May 3, the 208th anniversary of the adoption of the first Polish constitution, I rise today to pay tribute to Polish people around the world.

This is an important anniversary to note because few people realize that the Polish constitution of 1791 was the first liberal constitution in Europe. Although the constitution was in effect for less than two years, its principles, such as individual and religious freedom, remained embedded in the national consciousness through two centuries of foreign occupation and intimidation. As a result, after years of forced totalitarianism the people of Poland have miraculously transformed their country into a modern, progressive State in less than a decade.

I am glad that Poland is now a full partner in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization—NATO. As the Polish people know full-well, freedom isn't free. It is heartening to know that those who suffered so long under oppression are now willing to share in the burden of preserving freedom.

So Mr. Speaker, once again, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Poland and their descendants around the world on this historic anniversary.

HONORING NATIONAL ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Colorado's top high school students, Ms. Payal Kohli upon receiving a National Advanced Placement Scholar from the College Board. The academic achievement of Payal places this student among the best young scholars in the nation.

Payal was one of only 1,451 students to earn the distinction of being named a National AP Scholar out of 635,000 students who took Advanced Placement (AP) exams in 1998. To qualify for this high honor, each scholar had to achieve grades of 4 or above (the top grade is 5) on at least eight AP exams and have accumulated the equivalent of the first two years of college prior to high school graduation. By choosing this most challenging curriculum, Payal can expect to attend any one of this nation's most demanding universities.

The College Board established the AP program in 1955 to challenge high school students with rigorous college-level academic courses. The program is recognized nationally for its high academic standards and assessments. In 1998, more than one million AP exams were administered in 32 different subject areas. Of the nation's 21,000 high schools, almost 12,000 currently offer at least one AP course.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Payal Kohli. I hold this student up to the House, and to all Americans, as an example of the best of America's students.

A 50TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE TO THE PHILIP MAMOLEJO POST 650, AMERICAN LEGION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the fine work and outstanding public service of thousands of Hispanic-Americans and particularly, the Philip Marmolejo Post 650, American Legion, in Redlands, CA. On May 15th, the Post will celebrate its 50th anniversary commemorating a distinguished record of contributions to our community, our state, and our nation.

Hundreds of thousands of Hispanic-American citizens served honorably in our armed forces during World War II, facing the enemy with courage and exhibiting many brave and heroic actions in battle and the line of duty. In fact, 12 Hispanic-American soldiers were presented with the Congressional Medal of Honor by the U.S. Congress during World War II.

Following the war, veterans of the allied effort organized the Philip Marmolejo Post 650, American Legion in Redlands. On June 22, 1949, the post opened to recognize the contributions of Hispanic-American servicemen in