

Ruthie and I have met hundreds of individuals who are committed to making our communities a better place in which to live and raise our children—we call them “Hoosier Heroes”.

I recognized this genuine Hoosier Hero in Adams County, Indiana at a Lincoln Day dinner speech. He is Alan Converset, who is a sales manager at WZBD Adams County Radio. By working tirelessly on behalf of the less fortunate, Alan epitomizes a “Hoosier Hero”.

Alan served as the president of the Decatur Rotary Club and Chairman of the United Way golf outing to raise money for those who need a helping hand from someone who cares. He also works on the March of Dimes Walk America Committee.

Alan's work has given so many people the most precious gift possible, hope. He doesn't do it for the pay which is zilch; he does it for the smiles and laughter. You are a true hero in my book, doing good work for others with no other motive than Christian charity.

Alan Coverset deserves the gratitude of the country, state, and nation, and I thank him here today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

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A.J. HERRERA SELECTED AS  
PLAYER OF THE YEAR FOR PARADE  
MAGAZINE'S 21ST ANNUAL  
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER  
TEAM

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**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention a young man in our community, A.J. Herrera, who has been selected Player of the Year on Parade magazine's 21st annual High School Boys Soccer Team.

A.J. Herrera has represented the United States in France, Slovakia, and Russia as a three-year member of the U.S. National Team. He has hopes of playing on the U.S. Olympic Team. In discussions regarding his soccer ability, A.J. references the support he has received from family, friends, teammates, and coaches. Although he has an athletic gift to play soccer, A.J.'s No. 1 priority is earning a college degree.

A.J. Herrera is an example of young people throughout our communities who are involved in sports and other extracurricular activities that build character and citizenship. Learning lessons about setting and achieving goals, staying physically fit and being part of a team. The community is proud of his accomplishments. Join me in recognizing A.J.'s achievements and contributions to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

A TRIBUTE TO THEODORE  
BUTCHER

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**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a faithful Chester County man upon his retirement from West Chester University, where he served as a faculty member and administrator. Mr. Theodore Butcher's contributions to his family, community, and country deserve to be noted.

Over the past thirty years, Mr. Butcher has worked tirelessly to ensure fair and equitable treatment of people with regards to education, race, religion, economics and disabilities. He has given of himself both personally and financially to the causes in which he believes and for which he works. Through his community service with the West Chester Community Center, the Community Housing Resource Board, the Fair Housing Council, Mental Health/Mental Retardation, The Community Service Council of Chester County, The Swope Foundation, the West Chester Rotary Club, the YMCA, NAACP and on the original board of the Chester County Water Authority.

Clearly, this is a man with a deep commitment to his community. I can venture to say that Mr. Butcher has added much value to West Chester University and to Chester County, Pennsylvania. I am pleased to honor him today, and would like to submit for the RECORD a letter from his daughter Joacqueline Butcher. My congratulations and best wishes go with this community servant.

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SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL  
LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE

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**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay special tribute to our letter carriers in Santa Barbara, California. On Saturday May 8, our local letter carriers will be participating in the seventh annual “Stamp Out Hunger” food drive, sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Our local letter carriers will be joining their fellow letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities and towns across the nation in collecting non-perishable food items and donations along their postal routes for local food banks. The Stamp Out Hunger food drive is expected to help feed nearly thirty million needy children and adults in our communities.

On behalf of the people on the Central Coast and across the nation, I would like to thank our letter carriers for their leadership in this very worthy cause.

*May 4, 1999*

TRIBUTE TO THE GRAN PARADA  
DOMINICANA DE EL BRONX, INC.  
ON THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

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**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to pay tribute to a great organization, the “Gran Parada Dominicana de El Bronx, Inc.” which celebrates its tenth anniversary of celebrating Dominican culture in my South Bronx Congressional District today, Monday, May 3rd, 1999.

The Gran Parada Dominicana de El Bronx, Inc. was created on May 3, 1990. Each year thousands of members and friends of the Dominican community march from Mt. Eden and 172nd Street to East 161st Street and the Grand Concourse during the annual Great Dominican Parade and Carnival of the Bronx. Under its Founder and President, Felipe Febles, the parade has grown in size and splendor. It now brings together an increasing number of participants from all five New York City boroughs and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, as one who has participated in the parade in the past, I can attest that the excitement it generates brings the entire City together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It feels wonderful to enable so many people to have this experience—one that will change the lives of many of them. It is always an honor for me to join the hundreds of joyful people who march each year and to savor the variety of their celebrations. There's no better way to see our Bronx community.

The event usually features a wide variety of entertainment for all age groups. Past years' festivals included the performance of Merengue and Salsa bands, crafts exhibitions, and food typical of the Dominican Republic.

In addition to the parade, President Febles and many organizers each year provide the community with nearly two weeks of activities to commemorate the contributions of the Dominican community, its culture and history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Gran Parada Dominicana de El Bronx, Inc. and in wishing the Committee continued success.

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TREVOR P. SCHMIDT WINS THE  
VFW'S 1999 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY  
BROADCAST  
SCRIPTWRITING CONTEST

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**HON. BILL BARRETT**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to call my colleagues' attention to the following script written by my constituent, Trevor P. Schmidt, a senior at Chadron High School in Chadron, Nebraska. Trevor won the VFW's 1999 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest for Nebraska.

MY SERVICE TO AMERICA

The other day my friend Shawn and I went out to lunch. I was driving so I said, “Where

would you like to eat today, Shawn?" He said he didn't care, so we went where I wanted to go. Once we got there, Shawn started to complain like you wouldn't believe, and I thought to myself, what right do you have to complain? I gave you a choice, and you deferred to me. In America today, the constitution and our fellow citizens are asking us, "Where do we want to go today?" Unfortunately, the majority of Americans are saying, "I don't care". However, if you read the news, the majority of people do care. They are just not motivated enough to do anything about it. Oh sure they like to complain once they see where the country has ended up, but complaining can't move a speck of dust and it isn't going to help our country. Democracy is based around participation, and it is only successful when used properly. Like a car's engine, America can run using only part of its cylinders, but in order for America to reach its highest potential, all parts must be working at the same time.

Democracy is a tool just waiting to be picked up, but like any other tool it is useless until someone puts it to work. Throughout time, it has been used by a plethora of individuals, and now it is my time and the time of my peers. It is time for us to accept the torch of America that is slowly being passed down. We cannot let the flame die, so we must hold it high and let it light the way for the world. For many of my peers, action in Democracy will begin as they cast their votes in this fall's election. While I'm not able to join others in voting at this election because of my age, I have taken my own road to ensure that the tool of Democracy does not sit idle. Since voting was not an option for me, I wanted to ensure that those who did have the right to vote were making use of it. I approached the county clerk and arranged it so that I could be their extension. Over a course of three days, I worked for them and registered over fifteen new high school voters. While this really isn't comparable with running for office, it was something I could do to help my country. This action was just another step in my maturation as a citizen of democracy.

I began my service years ago, when as a child I first began to read. At first I only read simple stories, but as the years passed, I began to read and hear a much grander tale; one of a nation that rose up around a noble theory, a nation that was to be ruled by the people. I learned of America. I thrived on this utopian story for many years, but once again as time passed the story got more complex. I learned of the mistakes America and its people had made, and I learned of the great people who struggled to rectify these mistakes. I have absorbed many people's opinions over the years, and now I have my own and I know that I can give them voice.

Langston Hughes once wrote, "I too sing America, I too am America." This is where I stand now and forever, I will sing my voice along with my fellow Americans and though my voice may be lost in the chorus at times, I will keep singing, keep supporting my nation. A person singing a solo is limited to his/her options, but a choir combines each individual's choices into a complex splendor. Choral music depends on each member singing his or her own distinctive part. Sometimes the chords clash, and sometimes the parts slide into near unison; always each part must be heard. So too with democracy, I must speak my opinion, but I also must hear and accept my fellow citizen's opinion and recognize that my nation will be nothing with just my part. One thing that is of key importance though is that I must know my

part; therefore, my quest for knowledge must never end. I must also encourage those around me to speak their mind. Even though I may not like what I hear, it is an essential part for the success of democracy. This is how I will serve my country. I will learn all that I can, I will take in others' opinions and learn from them, and then without reservation I will speak my mind and let my nation know how I feel. I too am America, and I am not about to let anyone forget.

REPORT FROM FLOYD COUNTY

HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my "Report from Indiana" where I honor distinguished Hoosiers who are actively engaged in their communities helping others.

Mr. Speaker, it has always been my strong belief that individuals and communities can do a better job of caring for those who need help in our society than the federal government. The wonderfully kind and committee Hoosiers who I have met traveling around Indiana have not changed my view.

Ruthie and I have met hundreds of individuals who are committed to making our communities a better place in which to live and raise our children—we call them "Hoosier Heroes".

I recognized this genuine Hoosier Hero in Floyd County, Indiana at a Lincoln Day dinner speech. He's Kevin Boehnlein, who is a local director here for junior achievement and whose motto is "Looking out for the future of the community". By working tirelessly for his community, Kevin epitomizes a "Hoosier Hero".

Kevin may be young but he has a giant's heart and he cares deeply about his community. Kevin is in the Jeffersonville rotary club, and has helped build homes for the needy as a member of Habitat for Humanity. He is also very active in his church. Kevin and his wife Kristen serve as a leadership team at Oak Park Baptist Church. They serve as counselors to young couples to help them maintain a strong love and faith.

Kevin's work has given so many people, the most precious gift, hope. He doesn't do it for the pay, which is zilch; he does it for the smiles and laughter. You are a true hero in my book doing good work for others with no other motive than Christian charity.

Kevin Boehnlein deserves the gratitude of the county, state, and nation, and I thank him here today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

HUMANITARIAN AWARDS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to recognize the organizers and honorees of the 1st Annual Tan

Chong Padula Humanitarian Awards. The awards night will be held on May 8, 1999, at the Garden Grove Community Center in Garden Grove, CA—an endeavor to recognize and honor individuals of Chamorro descent for volunteerism and service to the community. Proceeds from this event will fund the Tan Chong Padula Scholarship. The first such award is scheduled to be presented in the year 2000.

The idea was first proposed by Lola Sablan-Santos, the executive director of the Guam Communications Network. Contrived with the full support of the Padula/Roberto family, the annual event is a celebration of the life and accomplishments of the late Connie "Tan Chong" Padula. Tan Chong was born on May 8, 1917, on the island of Guam. She moved to the State of California and became a long-time resident of Orange County, maintaining a home in Santa Ana from 1968 until 1992.

Her civic-mindedness, in addition to her kindness, generosity, and compassion, earned her a very respected niche in her community. Never one to keep to herself, Tan Chong volunteered her services to a host of civic activities ranging from church fundraisers to the manning of polling stations during elections. As one of the founders of the Guamanian Society of Orange County, she spearheaded community activities which were almost always held at the Garden Grove Community Center. She was widely known for her great support to Chamorro community organizations throughout the State of California and for her willingness to be of assistance to those in need. Sadly, she passed away in Orange County on June 19, 1992.

This year's event will be held on the anniversary of her 82nd birthday. All honorees will receive a medallion especially crafted for this annual event by Chamorro artist Ron Castro on Guam and the top award will be presented to the individual chosen as "Humanitarian of the Year."

This year's awardees in the "Adult" category are George Afleje, Maria "Kitalang" Borja, Heidi Chargualaf, Carmen Cruz, Pacing Cruz, Perci Flores, Maria Laguana, Joaquin Naputi, Ann Pangelinan, Joe Pangelinan, Celia Perez, Suzanne Robert, Juana Sanchez, Juanita "Nita" Santos, Ernie Tajalle, and Maria Tajalle. In the "Youth" category, Michael Maguadog, Sarah Mesa, Stefanie Mesa, Bryanna "Berry" Quenga, Nikki Quenga, Michael Van Langeveld, and Tara Van Meter were selected. The honor of being chosen as the first recipient of the Tan Chong Padula Humanitarian of the Year Award goes to Juana Sanchez.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate the organizers, honorees, and, most of all, the Humanitarian of the Year awardee of the 1st Annual Tan Chong Padula Humanitarian Awards. Miles away from their home island of Guam, these folks managed to combine their resources in order to benefit the community in a manner that best represents our island culture. Keep up the good work! Si Yu'os Ma'ase'.