

TRIBUTE TO GABRIELLA
CONTRERAS AND RYAN LEYBAS

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, today I met two young people from the 5th District of Arizona who are really making a difference in their communities. Both of them are Prudential Spirit of Community State Honorees for 1999, and were hosted in Washington, DC by Prudential and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. While nearly 20,000 youth volunteers submitted applications for these awards, Gabriella Contreras and Ryan Leybas are among 104 students from across the United States who were chosen for this honor.

Gabriella Contreras, a 13-year-old 7th grader at Roskrige Middle School in Tucson, had the additional honor of being named one of America's top ten youth volunteers by Prudential. When she was nine, Gabriella organized a community service club at her school in response to a nearby high school's problems with violence, gang activity, and drug use. Now in its fifth year, Gabriella's "Club B.A.D.D.D.," which stands for "Be Alert—Don't Do Drugs," helps students channel their time and energy into community service projects. These projects have included clothing and food drives, annual "peace" marches, recycling campaigns, schoolwide cleanups, and anti-drug art gallery, and a citywide youth volunteer summit. Club B.A.D.D.D., known as the club that does good, now draws more than 500 people to some events and is being promoted at other schools.

Ryan Leybas, the other honoree from Arizona's 5th District, is an 18 year old senior at Casa Grande Union High School. Five years ago, Ryan founded a leadership camp for junior high students to teach them skills to succeed in school and life. With the support of the Pinal County school superintendent, what started out as a requirement for a Boy Scout merit badge has expanded into 120 participants this year, with at least two students from almost every school in Pinal County attending the three-day camp. Ryan, who is developing the leadership camp into a model that can be used in other states, continues to recruit students, coordinate logistics and find motivational guest speakers for the camp.

Both of these young people have shown exceptional talent in working with their peers for the betterment of their communities and their schools. I'd like to recognize them for their achievements as Prudential Spirit of Community State Honorees, and I look forward to working with them as they become tomorrow's adult leaders of Arizona.

THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT
ACT—MAKING AMERICA STRONGER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

sent a clear and loud message to Congress—stop the attack on the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). Enough is enough.

I wholeheartedly agree.

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights is an impressive coalition of more than 180 national organizations, representing people of color, women, children, labor unions, persons with disabilities, older Americans, major religious groups, gays and lesbians and civil liberties and human rights groups. In a collective voice, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, once more, made it known to those who stubbornly want to believe otherwise, that the Community Reinvestment Act is a success.

Since its enactment in 1977, financial institutions have made more than \$1 trillion in loans in low-income communities. More than 90 percent of these loans came in the past seven years. As a result, neighborhoods have prospered, communities have flourished, small businesses have succeeded and the quality of life for many has improved.

Today's Washington Post wrote,

... Since 1977 federally insured banks have been subject to the Community Reinvestment Act, requiring them to seek business opportunities in poor areas as well as middle-class and wealthy neighborhoods. The law, a response originally to clear evidence of bias in lending, has worked well. It doesn't force banks to make unprofitable loans, but it encourages them to look beyond traditional customers, and it's had a beneficial effect on home ownership and small-business lending.

Many banks share this view. John B. McCoy, President and CEO of one of the largest and profitable banks in the nation, Bank One, testified before the House Banking Committee on February 10 that his bank is "working effectively and successfully with CRA."

However, there are those in Congress who are attempting to undermine the success of the Community Reinvestment Act, either by refusing to expand it or calling for its outright end.

I hope that my colleagues were listening today. The Community Reinvestment Act is a wise investment with a sure return. I applaud the efforts of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and join in their crusade to protect and expand the Community Reinvestment Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I'm recorded as having voted "nay" on House rollcall vote No. 107. I intended to vote "aye." Isn't it ironic that on the day that I am putting the finishing touches on the revised K-12 Education Excellence Now (KEEN) Act, which now explicitly offers a federal tax credit of up to \$250 annually for teachers who purchase school supplies for their students with their own money, I would make this error.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI ABRAHAM
KELMAN

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to Rabbi Abraham Kelman on his being honored by the Rabbis and Congregations of Flatbush and Vicinity on the occasion of their Annual Breakfast on behalf of the Ezras Torah Charity Fund.

Rabbi Abraham Kelman is an eighth generation Rabbi in his family, a tradition which is continued today by his son, Rabbi Lieb Kelman. The Kelman family has traditionally been involved in Chinuch and community activities as a means of helping those who are unable to help themselves.

Before coming to New York, Rabbi Kelman was a Rabbi in Toronto for nine years. He received Smicha in Toronto, as well as a B.A. and M.A. in Oriental Languages from the University of Toronto. In addition, Rabbi Kelman was a chaplain in the Canadian army during World War II.

Rabbi Abraham Kelman is the founder and Dean of Bnos Leah Prospect park Yeshiva. Since its founding in 1952, the school has provided thousands of youngsters with a strong secular and Jewish education. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Rabbi Kelman, Bnos Leah Prospect Park Yeshiva has seen its enrollment rise to more than 1,300 students. He is also the Rabbi of the Yeshiva Congregation of Prospect Park.

Rabbi Abraham Kelman is the author of a number of books such as "Prospectives on the Parsha." He was instrumental in organizing the Prospect Park Nursing Home, a nonprofit facility in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn dedicated to meeting the needs of our senior citizens.

Rabbi Abraham Kelman has long been known as an innovator and beacon of good will to all those with whom he has come into contact. Through his dedicated efforts, he has helped improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of his many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations to Rabbi Abraham Kelman on the occasion of the Rabbis and Congregations of Flatbush and Vicinity's Annual Breakfast on behalf of the Ezras Torah Charity Fund.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 4, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FLORIDA TO BECOME BATTLEGROUND STATE ON RACIAL, GENDER PREFERENCES
(By John Pacenti)

MIAMI—The California businessman who plans to launch a ballot initiative to abolish