

The members of the Chapter are proud of their Polish Heritage and culture and proud to have accomplished so much in the past 65 years. I am confident that the Polish Legion of American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary will continue their commitment to work for the veterans well in to the next millennium.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the work and dedication of The Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

IN CELEBRATION OF REV. MSGR.
GERARD LA CERRA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has devoted his life to God and who has served faithfully as a priest for 30 years. Reverend Monsignor was born on March 12, 1943, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 24, 1969, after completing his seminary studies at St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami and St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, FL. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Divinity, Master of Theology and Doctor of Sacred Theology.

His many ecclesiastical achievements began in 1969 when he was Regional Coordinator for Religious Education in Broward County. From 1970 to 1977 he was Director of the MA Program in Religious Studies. A member of the Faculty of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary from 1972 to 1974, he was also Secretary of the National Conference of Diocesan Directors of Religious Education from 1974 to 1978.

In 1978 he was appointed Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Miami and served in that capacity until 1993. In addition, he was appointed Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia in 1984, a position in which he served until March 1995. In this capacity he served as Executive Director of the Ministry of General Services. Besides membership on various Archdiocesan boards and commissions, he is also Chaplain to the Daughters of Isabella.

At a Pastoral level, Msgr. La Cerra was Associate Pastor at Annunciation, Little Flower (Coral Gables) and St. James Parishes. From 1978 until May 15, 1991 he was named Pastor of St. Mary's Cathedral.

In December of 1992 he was appointed administrator of St. Timothy Parish in Miami and currently he holds the Pastoral position. He was given the title of Reverend Monsignor by the highest authority of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II, in September of 1995. We are fortunate to have this admirable Monsignor in South Florida and I commend Reverend La Cerra for his many accomplishments.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOL
ANTI-VIOLENCE EMPOWERMENT
ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, juvenile crime today tends to be more violent and involves younger children than in the past. The recent tragedies involving school violence has prompted parents, teachers, administrators, and elected officials to work together and set the safety of our children as a national priority. Congress needs to get its priorities in line as well and act on legislation that would stop youth violence and make our schools safe.

According to a 1995 GAO report on school-based violence prevention programs, successful programs have the following characteristics: a comprehensive approach; an early start and long-term commitment; strong leadership and disciplinary policies; staff development; parental involvement; interagency partnerships and community links; and a culturally sensitive and developmentally appropriate approach.

I am proud to join my colleague from New Jersey, Congressman ROBERT MENENDEZ as a cosponsor of the School Anti-Violence Empowerment Act because it includes many of the recommendations of the GAO report. This bill would:

Provide grants for school districts to hire crisis prevention counselors and fund anti-school violence initiatives. 50% of the grants would go to fund crisis prevention counselors and crisis prevention programs. 50% would go to school districts who would have the flexibility to spend these funds on projects which would best improve security at their schools.

Increased funding for COPS. 50% of the funding would be targeted for cooperative school-police partnerships to place safety officers in schools.

Implements after school and life skills programs for at-risk youth.

Directs the Department of Education to work with the Department of Justice to develop a model violence prevention program for school districts to use. In addition, the Department of Education would create a clearinghouse of anti-school violence to allow school districts to see what types of initiatives are working in other schools across the nation.

It is imperative that we implement aggressive and comprehensive approaches to keep our children safe. They deserve to have an educational experience free from fear or the threat of violence.

LAW ENFORCEMENT
APPRECIATION MONTH

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Law Enforcement Appreciation Month to pay tribute to our nation's more than 700,000 men and women who serve our com-

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munities as law enforcement officers. We owe these individuals a tremendous debt of gratitude for the many sacrifices they make so that we might enjoy safer places to live and work.

Each day, America's law enforcement officers put their lives on the line as our first defense from violent crime. But these public servants do so much more than apprehend criminals: law enforcement officers are community activists, role models for our nation's young people and defenders of law and order.

This month, in honor of Law Enforcement Appreciation Month, I hope that Americans will take time to thank their local law enforcement officers for their dedication and hard work. We should also take this moment to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by the many officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty and pay our respects to the families these individuals have left behind. Most importantly, as this month comes to a close, we should strive to honor these brave officers each day and give them our support so that together we might make our communities an even better place to live.

CONGRATULATING LEON MED-
VEDOW ON HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize Leon Medvedow as he celebrates his 70th birthday. This evening friends, family, and the New Haven community will gather to pay tribute to Leon for a lifetime of contributions to the City of New Haven.

A respected leader of the community, Leon has served the City of New Haven and its residents with an unparalleled commitment for over fifty years. His distinguished record of public service began with his election as New Haven's Old Third Ward Alderman in 1953. For decades, Leon continued his leadership and vision for New Haven in many other capacities including City Clerk, Chairman of the Board of Finance, and Chairman of the 25th Ward Democratic Committee.

Leon was honored by former President Jimmy Carter with an appointment to the Federal Small Business Administration Advisory Council in recognition of his professionalism as a small business owner. Today he remains president of Leon A. Medvedow & Associates, Inc., a printing company he built from the ground up, and continues his political career as Campaign General Chairman for New Haven's current mayor, John DeStefano, Jr. His exceptional talents remain focused on the improvement of the New Haven community.

The generosity Leon has shown throughout his life has made him a true friend to the community. He gives his seemingly endless time and energy to many community organizations. Currently, he is a member of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel as well as the Board of Directors for the New Haven Jewish Community Center, overseeing a myriad of social programs for New Haven's Jewish community. He is a former trustee of the University of Connecticut's Alumni Association and a founder