

19000

children toward healthy and full lives. As we in Congress work to make our communities safe and beautiful with clean air and clear water, it is inspiring to know that children across the country are learning to protect these natural assets. Furthermore, as we struggle with health care costs for our elderly, it is vital that the habits of a healthy lifestyle are taught to our children.

Mr. Speaker, I commend all who have helped organize this important day. Their dedication and leadership truly distinguishes my Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO THE HUNGER
PROJECT

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of an outstanding group called the Hunger Project. The Hunger Project is a strategic organization and worldwide endeavor focused on ending hunger throughout the world. The Hunger Project strives for a more permanent, wide reaching solution to assure that all of us, including the citizens of underdeveloped societies in Africa, Asia and Latin America will one day know a world without hunger.

Each region, country, city and village that suffers from hunger is unique. It is this simple truth that guides the work of the Hunger Project. Instead of relying upon solutions that have been successful in other places, each situation is approached as a new initiative and a plan is designed specifically with the particular area in mind. Through the mobilization of both the grassroots and the local leadership, effective, specialized plans are devised and implemented. The Hunger Project stresses self-reliance and enablement; when people are given the right tools, they can create societal structures that will not only end their hunger, but also prevent it from ever happening again.

The key component of the Hunger Project's strategy is the empowerment of women. The unique position of women in society allow them to be the most effective agents of change in the battle against hunger. The responsibilities of nutrition, family planning, education and others typically fall to women, yet women are traditionally shut out of their society's development and decision making process in developing nations. The Hunger Project mobilizes women to fight for the ability to take control over their own lives and the future of their families.

This Saturday, the twenty-third of September, the Hunger Project is launching a new crusade against hunger targeted at South Asia. According to the Hunger Project's President, Joan Holmes, studies show South Asia suffers from the highest levels of childhood malnutrition in the world as a direct result of the oppression of women in this area. However, new laws in both Bangladesh and India allow women to serve in their local governments. The Hunger Project is utilizing this new opportunity to help women in those nations or-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ganize, mobilize and exercise these new rights to make hunger in their communities a memory.

Mr. Speaker, the mission and work of the Hunger Project are both admirable and vital. The dedication and commitment of individuals such as Karen Herman and other supporters of the Hunger Project are making the end of global hunger a goal within our reach. I salute their noble undertaking and look forward to working in partnership to assure that one day their vision of a world without hunger is realized.

GOVERNORS ISLAND
PRESERVATION ACT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce H.R. 5242, the Governors Island Preservation Act. This legislation is a historic opportunity to preserve and protect the third and final jewel of New York Harbor, Governors Island.

Governors Island was owned and operated as a military facility by the British and American armed forces for more than 200 years. This national treasure has played an important role in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the American Civil War, World Wars I and II, as well as hosting the site of the 1988 Reagan-Gorbachev Summit, during the cold war.

In 1800, in order to provide for the national defense, the people of the State of New York ceded control of Governors Island to the Federal Government, then, in 1958, transferred the island outright for only \$1.

The U.S. Coast Guard has now vacated Governors Island because of the high costs involved in maintaining its base there. The now unused island is being maintained by General Services Administration with an annual appropriation and, by law, must be disposed of by 2002.

New York State and New York City need our help to preserve and protect one of our Nation's most important and beautiful landmarks, and turn Governors Island into a destination with significant open and educational spaces for public use.

The State and the city of New York have worked out a detailed plan that will protect the historic nature of the island while transforming the southern tip into a 50-acre public park, complete with recreation facilities and stunning views of the Statue of Liberty and the harbor. New interactive educational facilities, including an aquarium and a historical village, are planned, as is moderately-priced family lodging and a health center. The awe-inspiring opportunity we have to establish this new public space to complement both liberty and Ellis Island is unprecedented and mandates decisive action.

Accordingly, the Governors Island Preservation Act will open the doors to this opportunity by transferring the island back to the citizens of New York for the same nominal price the Federal Government paid.

September 21, 2000

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to call upon all my colleagues in asking their support for the Governors Island Preservation Act. Governor Pataki, Senators MOYNIHAN and SCHUMER, Mayor Giuliani, Speaker Silver, Representatives, NADLER, FOSSELLA, MALONEY, and myself, have all worked extremely hard to address every concern and develop bipartisan legislation which will open Governors Island up not only to the people of New York, but to our entire Nation.

HONORING GEORGE ALTAMURA
AND HANDS ACROSS THE VALLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary humanitarian from my congressional district whose tireless efforts will ensure that hundreds of individuals and families in our Napa Valley will not go to bed hungry tonight.

On Saturday, September 23rd, George Altamura will chair the 7th Annual Hands Across the Valley benefit to raise funds for local food programs. Mr. Altamura has made countless contributions toward improving our community including his work with Catholic Charities providing services to at-risk youths, victims of Alzheimer's and the homeless. None, however, are as significant and far-reaching as his efforts regarding this monumental event.

As a founding father and pioneer, George Altamura has been a driving force behind this community benefit's success. He joined Eleanor and Francis Ford Coppola as well as Linda and Johnny Miller in opening up his wonderful restaurant Bistro Don Giovanni to host the first Hands Across the Valley event in 1994. Five hundred guests participated in that inaugural evening to reduce hunger in our county.

Thanks in large part to George's leadership and determination, this event has grown every year. Because of him and his many friends, Hands Across the Valley has donated over \$600,000 to feed Napa's hungry families. This year's event is expected to be bigger and more successful than ever, with nearly 2,000 guests and volunteers working together to ensure none of our neighbors are without food.

Mr. Speaker, George Altamura has put his heart and soul into this event because he understands its importance. He knows that not everyone has shared in our nation's recent prosperity. He also understands that despite the media perception of Napa as a community for the wealthy, more than 7 percent of the county's population is below the poverty level and more than 21 percent are near the poverty level. A recent survey by the University of California and the Redwood Empire Food Bank found that 43 percent of individuals seeking food assistance each month at Napa food pantries and soup kitchens are children. The average household seeking assistance has four people. More than 30 percent do not have a stove or oven and 28 percent do not have a refrigerator.