

October 12, 2000

expanded from 68 programs in 1995 to 525 programs now serving 39,800 children. Without her energy and vitality, the Early Head Start program would be far less developed today.

Helen's commitment to quality in Head Start is as much a part of her legacy as expansion of the program. As Associate Commissioner, she spearheaded an initiative on performance measures; revitalized the program's research agenda; established a new monitoring system; and revised the training and technical assistance system to strengthen ongoing efforts to improve quality.

Helen also worked hard to create community partnerships by fostering linkages between Head Start programs, community colleges and other institutions of higher education. She established partnerships between Head Start and child care through expansions of full-day, full-year services for children of parents in school, training and employment.

Prior to her appointment as Associate Commissioner, Helen was Executive Director of the National Child Day Care Association in Washington, D.C., where she oversaw a network of more than 20 school centers providing services to more than 1,300 children each year.

Her career is studded with awards, among them the prestigious National Public Service Award, an honor bestowed only on those individuals who have made an important difference in public administration over a sustained period of time.

In a tribute last week to Helen's lifetime achievements, HHS Secretary Donna Shalala said:

I shall miss Helen Taylor deeply. Helen believed in the potential of every child to learn. She devoted her life to Head Start and the education and healthy development of young children. Millions of children have benefited from her vision, compassion, and inspiration. She was a remarkable, vital, courageous woman who spent every day giving with all her heart to make the lives of children better. Her immeasurable contributions to early education will endure for years to come.

Secretary Shalala said it just right. I want to add my words to hers and say thank you, Helen. America's children will miss you, too.

IN HONOR OF HIS DIVINE HOLINESS PRAMUKH SWAMI MAHARAJ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of His Divine Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the spiritual leader of the worldwide BAPS (Bochasanwasi Shree Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Santhsa). He visits the Greater Cleveland area on Tuesday October 17.

HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj is the fifth spiritual successor of Lord Swaminarayan, the spiritual figurehead of the BAPS. At the age of 79, he continues to demonstrate the highest order of caring for others. In his role as religious leader, he has visited over 15,000 vil-

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lages, 250,000 homes and personally counseled over 610,000 people. He also had the distinguished honor of delivering an inaugural address at the recent Millennium World Peace Summit at the United Nations. His compassion for humanity and his altruistic tendencies have formed the basis for a wide range of noble projects. All his work is united by the common goal of improving the condition of humanity as a whole. As such he is an example to us all.

BAPS is a remarkable organization which has reached out and touched over one million followers across the world. It has over 6,800 international centers for youth, women and children. Under the leadership of HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj, BAPS has built the largest traditional Hindu Mandir outside India. In a nation of religious freedom and diversity, we should pay our respect to such outstanding work for the betterment of humanity.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today to honor the arrival of HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj to the Greater Cleveland area.

LUPUS RESEARCH AND CARE AMENDMENTS OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 762, the Lupus Research and Care Amendments of 2000, of which I am a proud co-sponsor. This important legislation will provide vital funding to strengthen research activities and extend medical care for poor or uninsured individuals suffering from this disease.

While lupus affects nearly 2 million Americans, this is a disease that disproportionately affects women, and especially African American, Hispanic American, Asian American, and Native American women. Women are nine times more likely to develop lupus than men. I have women friends who have been diagnosed with lupus, thus I know first hand how devastating this disease can be on individuals and families.

In Metropolitan Kansas City and the state of Missouri combined, there are approximately 29,565 persons diagnosed with lupus. Fortunately, the Kansas City and Missouri Chapters of the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc., among other groups, coordinate excellent support services for those affected by this disease.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in full support of H.R. 762, because there is not yet a cure for lupus, and there are still too many people diagnosed with this disease who do not receive the medical care and support they need. I applaud the commitment of this Congress to enact this important measure.

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HONORING JOHNSON & JOHNSON
ACTIVITIES CENTER INC.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Andrew and his wife DeMonica Johnson as they celebrate the grand opening of their new non-profit elder care facility in the 25th District of Texas. The Johnsons have named their center Johnson & Johnson Activities Inc., with emphasis on the word "activities." The Johnsons' vision is to offer a place where senior citizens obtain more than just adult day care; they are offered a chance to continue to enjoy life and grow through participation in volunteer activities, and they can receive access to services to help overcome some of the obstacles that older Americans face.

The Johnsons, who are members of the South Post Oak Baptist Church which also lies in my District, have designed Johnson & Johnson Activities Inc. to accommodate life in the new millennium. As people are living longer than ever, the Johnsons are offering an alternative for the thousands of seniors in our area who possess time, talent, and the inclination to share their gifts with the community. There are many opportunities for senior citizens to share their experience and expertise to help others, such as caring for latch-key children, aiding at-risk seniors and their caregivers, counseling small business owners and working in our national and local parks.

In addition to offering a day activity program that includes volunteer activities, Johnson & Johnson will also provide rides for seniors to health care services; run errands; visit homebound seniors; counsel seniors on health, nutrition, legal and financial concerns; and serve as an ombudsman to resolve resident facility disputes and ensure the safety and well-being of residents.

Just having a place for a caretaker to drop off a senior for a day can make all the difference. The Johnsons know first-hand what it is like to experience the exhaustion and helplessness that can accompany the noble duties of caring for an elderly friend or relative. Running errands, catching a child's ball game or recital, even paying bills can become impossible when a relative or loved one needs constant care. When Andrew Johnson's own mother needed him, he was there to help. But when he needed a day off to tend to his own life, there was nowhere for his mother to go. That is when the dream to open an adult day care and activities center began.

Johnson & Johnson Activities is designed to assist individuals in acquiring and/or improving self-help and socialization skills. Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more with the Johnsons' premise that senior citizens have much to share and bestow on a community willing to help and listen. I commend them on their new Activities Center, and thank them for their dedication.