

As the Subcommittee's new Staff Director in 1995, Ron immediately employed his strong grasp of the nation's welfare system by working with then-Chairman CLAY SHAW, and other Members of the Committee, to craft the 1996 Welfare Reform Act—the most significant change in social policy in this country in the last 60 years. Thanks to Ron's tireless efforts, millions of American families are breaking a cycle of dependency and are working and gaining independence in our nation's economy.

As Ron moves on to other opportunities in his life, I join my colleagues in thanking Ron for his service to the Committee and to the country, for his good counsel, and for his energetic presence. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

SUPPORT FOR LIBERTY DAY
CELEBRATION IN KANSAS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 28, 2000

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the celebration of Liberty Day in my home state of Kansas.

Liberty Day is a non-partisan statewide celebration of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. It is celebrated annually on March 16th, the birthday of James Madison, the "father of our Constitution." On this day, and throughout the year, elected and previously elected officials volunteer their time to speak to students about how our country was established, how our system of government operates, what it means to be an American, and what our rights and responsibilities are as citizens of this great country. This year, Liberty Day was observed in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio and Wyoming. In Kansas, March 16, 2000, was proclaimed as Liberty Day by Governor Bill Graves, who urged all Kansans to join in the observance.

On October 10th of this year, I was pleased to join with my colleagues in voting in favor of H. Con. Res. 376, expressing the sense of Congress regarding support of the recognition of a Liberty Day. This resolution was approved by a voice vote of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the House of Representatives for the 106th Congress, it has been my honor to have the opportunity to distribute hundreds of copies of the Constitution to constituents who have visited my office, Kansans who have attended my regularly-scheduled community office hours in the Third District, and secondary school teachers, study group leaders, and ministers who have contacted me asking for copies of the Constitution for distribution. I welcome this opportunity to share with you my support for this worthy endeavor, which will bring the living words of our Constitution closer to the minds and hearts of Kansans who, as I do, revere its meaning in our lives today.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GIL CORONADO

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 28, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I honor the achievements of a fellow Texan who has been serving as a key appointee in the Clinton Administration for the past six years. Gil Coronado is one of San Antonio's favorite sons, and is currently serving as the ninth Director of the Selective Service System. He is also the first Hispanic Director in the Agency's 60-year history.

Since his nomination by President Clinton and Senate confirmation in October 1994, Director Coronado has been leading this small but vital Federal agency into the 21st Century with unprecedented modernization and innovation, through the institution of on-line registration and registration by telephone. Nearly three-quarters of a million men have registered on-line to date.

More than half of all registrations today are electronic and the ratio of electronic registrations vs. paper registrations increases monthly, making it faster and easier for America's young men to comply with the registration requirement. These improvements also make it less costly to administer, something for which this body has a great appreciation.

Gil Coronado's influence as Director extends beyond Texas and Washington, D.C. Through his tireless advocacy in encouraging state and local government support of the Federal registration program, the number of states enacting laws that directly support the Military Selective Service Act has risen from 18 to 28 since 1994. This year two states—Oklahoma and Delaware—became the first states to link Selective Service registration with application for state drivers' licenses.

Gil Coronado is dedicated to making sure that our nation's young men are reminded about their civic and legal obligation to register.

Gil Coronado is a tremendous role model. He was born in Corpus Christi and grew up in the barrios of San Antonio. Orphaned at the age of five, his youthful years sometimes found him on the wrong side of the law. He dropped out of high school and was a member of Hispanic gangs. But he soon followed a more productive path in life, leading to great personal achievement and dedicated public service.

He enlisted in the military when he was only 16 by being more patriotic than honest about his age, earned a GED diploma, a college degree, and devoted a total of 30 years to a distinguished Air Force career, retiring as a Colonel with over 35 awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star. A long-time crusader for Hispanic issues, he advocated creating National Hispanic Heritage Month, designated by the Congress in 1988.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the service and accomplishments of one of its most effective appointees, Selective Service System Director Gil Coronado. His selfless contributions to our great nation, from his years as a very young airman to the approaching conclusion of his current assign-

October 28, 2000

ment as the longest serving SSS Director since General Lewis B. Hershey, are inspirational to us all. In every respect, Gil Coronado is a patriot, a good friend, and a great American.

A TRIBUTE HONORING MR. JOSEPH
ACOSTA ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 28, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special American citizen, Mr. Joseph Acosta of San Gabriel California who celebrates his 90th Birthday today. Mr. Acosta is the quintessential example of a devoted American family man, who has led an exemplary life of service to God, family and country, and who is deserving of our highest commendation and gratitude.

Joe Acosta is a simple man, a quiet man, a man of great character. Born on October 28, 1910 in Sonora, Mexico, he moved at the tender age of three, along with his beloved parents Joseph and Teresa Acosta, and his siblings to the United States, where the family settled in Tucson, Arizona.

Like many new immigrant families working the great agricultural fields of the southwest, Joe had to leave school early in life in order to help the family survive. He took upon his shoulders the hard and grueling work, without complaint, in order that he and his seven brothers and sisters could have a better opportunity to seek the American dream.

Perhaps his greatest achievement, but certainly most fortuitous happenstance was meeting, courting and marrying the lovely and charming Cecelia Palomares, scion of one of California's proud pioneer families. United in Holy Matrimony on September 26, 1936, Joe and Cecelia Acosta recently celebrated their 64th Wedding Anniversary, a milestone reached by few couples. Together they raised a fine family consisting of two sons, Robert and Vincent Acosta, and a daughter Patricia Acosta Williams. They enjoy six grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren, with two more on the way!

Attaining American citizenship in 1937, Joe Acosta was part of the "Greatest Generation" that contributed to the triumph of freedom over tyranny during World War II. While he did not serve in the military, he worked sixteen-hour days in the rubber industry to provide materiel for the war effort. Later, the great skills he exhibited in his work brought his company profits exceeding seventy thousand dollars per month that helped usher in a period of unprecedented prosperity for the United States and created the great middle class of Americans.

Through their courage, effort and devotion, Joe and Cecelia, Acosta achieved the American dream for their family. They are proud homeowners and citizens of San Gabriel, California, and devoted parishioners of San Gabriel Mission Catholic Church. Along with the multitudes of simple, quiet unsung heroes, who contributed so enormously to the collective greatness of American society, Joe Acosta has done his part. In the warm embrace of his loving family, he has earned the pleasures of a long retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to Joseph Acosta, faithful servant of God, honorable citizen of the United States, proud and devoted husband and father. From the hallowed halls of Congress we say to you Joe, "Well Done! God bless you and your family. And God bless America!"

COMMENDING THE BROOKLYN CENTER, MINNESOTA LIONS CLUB FOR 46 YEARS OF SUPPORTING COMMUNITY NEEDS

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 28, 2000

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I proudly salute a remarkable organization in my district which has been working hard for nearly half a century to raise badly needed resources to fund countless community efforts and held people in need.

For 46 years, the Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, Lions Club has always been there to help with a wide variety of critical needs. There are no words to adequately convey my admiration and thanks for all that the Brooklyn Center Lions have accomplished through their inspiring public service.

Mr. Speaker, it is organizations like the Brooklyn Center Lions Club which keep our country strong. As a fellow Lion, I want to salute the Brooklyn Center Lions who quietly volunteer their time, energy and talent to meet pressing demands in their community. I also applaud the Brooklyn Center Rotary Club for honoring the Brooklyn Center Lions last week.

Mr. Speaker, the great city of Brooklyn Center is greater because of the many important contributions of the Brooklyn Center Lions over the last four decades. The Lions live by the motto "We Serve," and the Brooklyn Center Lions personify community service.

In 1999 alone, Mr. Speaker, the Brooklyn Center Lions donated \$30,203 to the city to provide extra special help wherever and whenever needed. Over the years, the size and scope of the Lions' generosity paints a vivid picture of public service. Through the years, the Lions have donated \$160,000 to the city, \$125,000 to the schools and \$110,000 to youth sports.

Since I was first elected to Congress, I have made expanded opportunities for people with disabilities one of my highest priorities. The Lions of Brooklyn Center share that passion and know that our nation is underutilizing a very talented and hard-working population by not offering more people with disabilities the opportunity to contribute. That's why the Brooklyn Center Lions built ramps for people in wheelchairs so they can lead more independent, fulfilling lives.

Mr. Speaker, the Lions Club in Brooklyn Center each and every year comes through with funds to get civic projects off the ground. The Lions Club lifts spirits by supporting the hometown Earle Brown Days, concerts, special festivals and the Park and Recreation Department's annual Halloween party.

The Brooklyn Center Lions have donated money for a training tower for the Brooklyn

Center Fire Department, bikes for the Brooklyn Center Police Department's bike patrol, fitness equipment for police officers and the picnic shelter in Lions Park.

Mr. Speaker, the needs of children are always foremost in the minds of Brooklyn Center Lions Club members. Memories will last a lifetime for all the elementary school students who were able to travel to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum because of the generosity of the Lions. The club gives to the Brooklyn Center Charitable Foundation to help children get coats, gloves and school supplies.

Clubs like the Lions of Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, are the lifeblood of our communities. That is literally the case with the Lions of Brooklyn Center when they support events like the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life." The Brooklyn Center Lions for almost half a century have rung bells with the Salvation Army, gathered food for the hungry and helped clean up the city parks.

Mr. Speaker, the Brooklyn Center Lions truly represent the best in public service, and I am very proud to represent them in Congress. The Brooklyn Center Lions are a model for the nation and a great community resource.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting the tremendous public service performed by the Brooklyn Center Lions for 46 years! Thank you, Lions, for all you have done and will continue to do in the years ahead.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4942, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of section 1012 of the Launching Our Communities Access to Local Television Act of 2000, title X of the Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and related agencies appropriations conference report. Section 1012 provides for independent testing of terrestrial technologies in the 12 GHz band. My support for this section is conditioned on the understanding that this provision will not add any delay to any current FCC proceeding.

The Satellite Home Viewer's Improvement Act ("SHVIA"), which we passed a year ago, required the FCC to act on applications to provide local television service in unserved and underserved areas. We gave the FCC one year to make its determinations regarding these applications, which at that time had already been pending before the FCC for nearly one year. I am highly aware of the need for local television and broadband services that can be provided by new terrestrial wireless technologies. The deadline for FCC action under SHVIA is fast approaching and I expect the FCC to act on the applications by November 29, 2000 as required. The residents of my rural district have waited too long for service that matches that which is available in our nation's more populated area.

VICTIMS OF TERRORISM CLAIMS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 28, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, following enactment of the Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act, to provide payment by the U.S. Government to persons holding final judgments pursuant to the 1996 Anti-Terrorism Act against the governments of Iran and Cuba for complicity in terrorist acts, many questions have been raised about the impact of this legislation on other pending claims, especially those of the families of the victims of Pan Am Flight 103 against Libya.

In this regard, I wish to reaffirm the statement contained in the Conference Report to the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Act of 2000, which provides that "The Committee intends that this legislation will similarly help other pending and future Antiterrorism Act plaintiffs as and when U.S. courts issue judgments against the foreign state sponsors of specific terrorist acts. The Committee shares the particular interest of the sponsors of this legislation in ensuring that the families of the victims of Pan Am Flight 103 should be able to collect damages promptly if they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of a U.S. court that Libya is indeed responsible for that heinous bombing."

The families of the victims of Pam Am Flight 103 were instrumental in their pursuit of justice in supporting enactment of the 1996 Anti-Terrorism Act. Because of this law, U.S. courts are now empowered to take jurisdiction over claims against foreign governments accused of state sponsored terrorism. We continuously have these families in our minds, as well as their loved ones who died in what President Clinton justly called a "direct attack on America".

It was the intention of the 106th Congress, in enacting The Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act that these same enforcement of judgment opportunities should apply equally to any final judgments that may be obtained by the families of the victims of Pan Am Flight 103 in pending or future litigation, if they so desire to pursue that civil course of action, along with our nation's own efforts to bring all those responsible to justice.

IN HONOR OF CARL REINER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 28, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the comedic legend, Carl Reiner, and in recognition of his remarkable achievement of being awarded the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. A writer, performer, humorist, producer and director, his range of talent and contributions to American television are without bounds.

Reiner, now 78, has had a lengthy and multi-faceted career. In 1950 Reiner joined Sid Caesar's "Your Show of Shows," the precursor to sketch-comedies such as the "Carol