

year-old chapter became a certified HealthStart prenatal care provider.

Successfully directing such an active health care organization requires great managerial ability, as well as considerable skills to enlist and motivate thousands of volunteers and supporters who make a community-based organization like PPAMA possible. Leslie Potter has shown that ability and skill to an extraordinary degree. She has also shown great political skill as a public speaker for women's health and women's rights.

Before taking the helm at PPAMA Leslie spent five years as the Director of Planning for Central New York Health Systems Agency. It was here that she worked to establish family planning and primary health care centers throughout upstate New York.

Once again, I applaud the efforts of Leslie Davis Potter and ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing her steadfast commitment to serving our community.

HONORING WALTER F. PAYNE

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Walter F. Payne, president and chief executive officer of Blue Diamond Growers, on the occasion of his retirement. A cooperative owned by nearly 4,000 almond growers, Blue Diamond is the world's largest nut-tree marketing and processing company. Under the steadfast leadership of Walt Payne, Blue Diamond processes nearly one-third of the world's crop of almonds, making that commodity California's largest food export. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in honoring the dedicated service of Walt Payne.

Mr. Payne joined Blue Diamond in 1973 as the director of marketing and planning. In 1990, Mr. Payne was appointed chief operating officer and in 1992 became president and chief executive officer. His prior 17 years as a marketing executive provided him with the necessary tools to lead Blue Diamond into a period of unprecedented growth and fundamental change. Under this leadership, the cooperative was transformed into a more efficient and organized business dedicated to cutting unnecessary costs and increasing production and sales. However, it is his inclusive management style, in combination with his desire for open and honest communication that will truly be remembered.

Mr. Payne has worked tirelessly to include the views of management, member growers and plant workers alike to create a more effective business. In an organization that had previously been run from the top down, Walt found it more productive to establish an environment that encouraged the inclusion of employees, at all levels, in the development and implementation of ideas. In fact, it is this inclusive management style that has proved to be an integral component to the unprecedented success of Blue Diamond.

When Walter Payne was named CEO, he vowed to spend 15 percent of his time in the fields meeting with growers, listening to and

addressing their concerns. It was this commitment to open and honest communication that won him national acknowledgment as "CEO Outstanding Communicator of the Year" in 1998, awarded by the Cooperative Communicators Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to pay tribute to my friend, Walt Payne, a truly outstanding member of our community. As CEO, he fostered an atmosphere based on teamwork, open communication and productivity at all levels. As a testament to his success, Payne's first crop as a young marketer at Blue Diamond totaled 145 million pounds. His last crop set a state record at 830 million pounds. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the accomplishments of an extraordinary leader and wish him all the best as he begins a new phase in his life.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
371

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, in September Congress ratified H. Con. Res. 371, which resolves that Congress supports the goals and ideas of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. Clearly, each Member shares the commitment to keep America's youth drug-free, and return those who have used drugs to a drug-free life. I add these comments in an effort to help achieve this goal.

First, H. Con. Res. 371 states that "26 million Americans currently suffer the ravages of drug or alcohol addiction." This statistic is presumably based on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' 1999 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, which finds that roughly 26 million Americans are heavy drinkers or are casual-to-dependent users of one or more illicit drugs. The report does not state that these individuals are suffering from an addiction. The absence of this distinction could result in misdirected program development and misappropriated funding. Affected are those who direct public and private resources; to counselors and treatment professionals who develop protocols for assistance; to employers who strive to maintain drug-free work environments; to the criminal justice system which must be accountable to the public they serve; and to our Nation's families who rely on accurate information, accurately communicated.

H. Con. Res. 371 also states that adolescents who undergo addiction treatment report less use of marijuana, less heavy drinking, and less criminal involvement. Let us hold ourselves and treatment outcomes to a higher standard. While interim goals can be applauded, the fact that youth who receive treatment continue to use drugs—albeit less often—and continue to be involved in criminal activity—albeit less often—cannot become our Nation's standard for success.

Nelba Chavez, Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, spoke of the need to provide bet-

ter focus of the treatment programs that serve young people, when she said that, "few seek help, and those who do often receive treatment that is inappropriate. Many treatment programs are designed for adults and are ill-equipped to meet the needs of adolescents."

Although abstinence from illicit drug use is the central goal of all drug abuse treatment, researchers and program staff involved with adult treatment commonly accept reductions in drug use and criminal behavior as realistic goals. Surprisingly, we are now advised by the National Institute on Drug Abuse that "a good treatment outcome may be a sizable decrease in drug use and long periods of abstinence."

Our Nation's policy goal regarding drugs is the creation of a drug-free America. Specifically, in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, drug abuse is to be curbed by preventing youth from using illegal drugs, reducing the number of users, and decreasing drug availability.

Let us hold this vision of a drug-free America and hold ourselves to this standard. Anything less is a disservice to ourselves, to the adults who currently use drugs and, most certainly, to our most precious resource—America's youth.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANDREAS
COMODROMOS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andreas Comodromos for his outstanding contributions to the Greek community. The Greek Orthodox community will honor Mr. Comodromos at the 65th Anniversary of Evangelismos Tis Theotokou. The parish has chosen to commemorate the event with a special presentation entitled "Remembering Out Past . . . Looking to Our Future."

Mr. Comodromos, the former Supreme President of the Cyprus Federation of America, was born on the island of Cypress in 1949, where he was raised by his parents in the Greek Orthodox faith. There, he attended high school and performed his compulsory military service before gaining employment with the Cyprus offices of the American Life Insurance Co.

Mr. Comodromos and his wife, Anna Zachariades, had their first child, Eliza, in 1974, the same year Turkey invaded Cypress. To realize a better life for himself and his wife and son, Mr. Comodromos and his family immigrated to America, where he could pursue a college education. In the United States, they became members of the Evangelismos Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox community, and in 1978, Mr. Comodromos graduated Magna Cum Laude from St. Peter's College with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting.

In the following years, Mr. Comodromos celebrated the birth of his second child, Demitrios, while working at the international accounting firm Ernst & Ernst. In 1982, he became a CPA and co-founded the accounting firm of Comodromos Associates with his brother Michael. He is currently the president and managing partner.