

political cooperation between our two countries. Among other things, the U.S. side regularly presses the government of Kazakhstan to improve its human rights record and undertake economic and political reforms.

I understand that U.S. officials pressed the Kazakh side especially hard this year, because of international criticism of parliamentary elections that were held last October, heightened corruption, and an acceleration of abusive action taken against opponents of President Nazarbayev's government. In an apparent move to blunt the severity of U.S. pressure as the Joint Commission meeting approached, President Nazarbayev reportedly issued a statement on November 4th, 1999 saying that he was ready to cooperate with the opposition in Kazakhstan and that he would welcome the return of former Prime Minister Akhezan Kazhegeldin, the exiled leader of the main opposition party.

On November 19th, Mr. Kazhegeldin responded to President Nazarbayev by calling for a "national dialogue" to examine ways to advance democracy, economic development and national reconciliation in Kazakhstan. Mr. Kazhegeldin pointed out that convening a national dialogue would be an ideal way to initiate cooperation between the opposition and the government.

President Nazarbayev, however, has reacted with silence to Mr. Kazhegeldin's proposal and a court reportedly convicted an opposition leader for having the temerity to criticize Nazarbayev's government. Finally, investment disputes with foreign companies that have lost millions of dollars because the government failed to honor its commitments remain unresolved and an investigation and trial seem to have failed to find anyone to blame for the delivery last year of 40 MiG fighter aircraft from Kazakhstan to North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, the cause of freedom and democracy in Kazakhstan appears to be in jeopardy. Our government should consider supporting a national dialogue along the lines proposed by former Prime Minister Kazhegeldin. At the very least, the government of Kazakhstan should make an hour of state-controlled television available every week for the use by the opposition. For its part the U.S. should also assist the democratic opposition by providing printing presses to replace those that have been confiscated by the government. It is time to stand up for democracy in Kazakhstan.

HONORING THE RECIPIENT OF THE
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD, BILL PETTY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce has named the recipient of the 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award, Bill Petty.

Bill is a respected business leader who has had a substantial positive impact on the overall quality of life in Grand Junction, Colorado. He has focused time, energy and resources

by serving on business organizations such as the Chamber Board, Downtown Development Authority Board and most recently the Western Colorado Business Development Corporation. Bill has also served on the St. Mary's Foundation Board and the St. Mary's Hospital Board since 1996. Bill became President of Norwest Banks, Grand Junction in 1992. He has also had a commitment to the arts by serving on the Western Colorado Center for the Arts Board, the Avalon Board of Directors and the Colorado Public Radio.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute to a valued member of the Grand Junction community and a close personal friend, Bill Petty. He is committed to making his community a better place to live.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF HELENA ASHBY

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the March 31st retirement of Chief Helena Ashby, the first female Division Chief in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Chief Ashby began her work with the Sheriff's Department in 1964 absent a role model; 36 years later, she is herself a role model for women and African Americans. Her leadership and dedication will be missed.

During her tenure with the Sheriff's Department, Ms. Ashby has also commanded the Detective Division, as well as the Court Services Division. She spent five years as a Commander within Field Operations Region II and the Detective Division and has served as Captain of the Juvenile Investigations Bureau, Court Services West, Sybil Brand Institute for Women, and Personnel Bureau of the Administrative Division.

Chief Ashby holds degrees from the University of Southern California and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She is a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy and the National Interagency Counterdrug Institute.

The demands of her work in the Sheriff's Department have not precluded Ms. Ashby from establishing herself as a leader in the Los Angeles community. She sits on the Board of Directors of the Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County, the Coro Foundation, and the Association of Independent Colleges of Southern California. Her contributions to the community have been recognized by the Soroptimist Club, the YWCA, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

Chief Ashby has said of the Sheriff's Department that "Most of us leave here a better person than when we arrived." In Helena Ashby's case, her positive influence will also leave the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department a better place than when she arrived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, February 29, 2000 I had to delay my return to the Capitol in order to attend to personal business in my district. During my absence, I missed rollcall vote 26.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the Indian Tribal Economic Development and Contract Encouragement Act (S. 613).

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
RONALD L. GUTSHALL AS CHIEF
OF THE RESCUE FIRE COMPANY
NO. 1 IN HARRISBURG, PA

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Ronald L. Gutshall on the announcement of his retirement as Chief of the Rescue Fire Company No. 1 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Gutshall has been an esteemed member of the Rescue Fire Company No. 1 since 1960. Since then, he has continually, selflessly, and honorably served and protected the citizens of Susquehanna Township in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. At the start of Mr. Gutshall's career, he immediately began proving his leadership qualities, commanding skills, expertise, and willingness to ascend professionally. By 1964 he successfully attained the rank of Lieutenant and Assistant Chief. A year later, the Rescue Fire Company No. 1 elected Mr. Gutshall to his first term as Fire Chief, a truly remarkable accomplishment in such a short period of time. Mr. Gutshall remained as Chief from 1970 until the announcement of his retirement on January 18, 2000.

Throughout his career, Mr. Gutshall has not only served and protected the citizens of Susquehanna Township from the disastrous forces of nature, but also served administratively in the Rescue Fire Company's office. Since 1962, Mr. Gutshall has served as Treasurer, in efforts to maintain and ensure the future financial security and prosperity of the Rescue Fire Company. Mr. Gutshall was also instrumental in the acquisition of the Township Fire Tax which helped provide all the Township Fire Companies with state of the art fire equipment to sustain and assure the protection and safety of the employees.

Mr. Gutshall has led his career and company with compassion. He upholds and preserves the tradition of volunteer service and commitment, a vital part of community functions. He instructs and educates members in the highest moral and ethical values which is proven in their discipline and attitudes. My Gutshall has been a tremendous mentor too all those who have worked beside him, a hero to those who know him, and teacher to both the fire services and county.

Mr. Gutshall has served as a leader of the public safety community for more than forty years, thirty-one of those years as Chief. He has served the members of Rescue Fire Company No. 1, the Edgemont and Progress Fire Company, and was instrumental in forming and serving the Township's Public Safety Committee since its inception. Susquehanna Township is a secure and protected community as a result of Mr. Gutshall's prospects in public safety.

Mr. Speaker, we are all very proud of Mr. Gutshall's accomplishments and I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to him and his family. We wish him health and happiness in his retirement years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLIFTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the congregation and clergy, both past and present, of the Clifton Christian Church as they celebrate their 90th Anniversary.

The Clifton Christian Church was chartered in 1910 by a group of people that were determined. This determination has led the congregation over 90 years of service to the Clifton and Grand Junction communities.

The Church has built three buildings during the course of growing and changing. The first building was dedicated in 1921. The congregation raised \$34,000 to pay the remaining balance for construction. In 1982, this building was entered into the National Register of Historic Places. By 1919, only nine years after the first building was dedicated, the congregation was too large for the present facility. Construction for the second church began in the summer of 1920 and by January 1921.

The present building was put into use in February of 1977. The congregation has steadily grown and flourished. With that growth has come more opportunities to serve the community, supporting active community projects such as: Missions, WWIT (Widows & Widowers In Touch), Adventure Club, Teen Discipleship Groups, Salt-n-Light Elementary Youth Worship, Never Too Old, Genesis Christian School, and the Food & Clothing Ministry have given the church an outstanding reputation in Clifton.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer this tribute in honor of the 90th Anniversary of the Clifton Christian Church, the "Church By the Side of the Road". Their contributions to the spiritual health and well-being of our community deserve our highest gratitude and praise.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3768 TO ENSURE ZIP CODE ALLOCATION

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, it's deja vu all over again. In the 105th Congress I stood before this body and introduced a bill designed to ensure fairness in ZIP code allocation. I had hoped not to be here again in the 106th Congress. I had hoped to be in my district, announcing the creation of a unique ZIP code for the City of Signal Hill by the United States Postal Service. Instead, I am back before this body, reintroducing a bill I hope will be the end to this decade-long problem.

I rise today to re-introduce a bill that would ensure fairness in ZIP code allocation. This issue was brought to my attention by the ongoing plight of one city in my district—the City of Signal Hill. Signal Hill is a bustling community of over 9,000 residents located in Southern California, surrounded completely by the City of Long Beach. Unfortunately, this community's growth and economic expansion are hampered by the three-way division of the city among ZIP codes. While the issuance of five little numbers may not seem like a big deal to many of those in Washington, it is of paramount importance to this community back home.

Dividing a community results in mail addressing and delivery problems and higher insurance rates for residents. It is unfair at best and inefficient at worst to punish residents of Signal Hill with unnecessarily high costs simply because the Postal Service mandated this division without any input from this active community. I have worked with the United States Postal Service since I came to office over five and a half years ago to find a solution to this issue that benefits both parties, however I am afraid we have come to an impasse. The Postal Service refuses to allocate a unique ZIP code to this city despite the overwhelming evidence that Signal Hill needs and deserves its own ZIP code. The time has come for a new approach to this ongoing problem.

The bill I am re-introducing would ensure that all cities like Signal Hill can count on efficient mail service and a distinct community identity. It says any city with a population of at least 5,000 residents that is completely surrounded by another city would not have to share its Zip code with any other city. This legislation takes the politics out of Postal Service decision-making and institutes instead, a straightforward, fair system for ZIP code allocation. This bill will put an end to years of delivery problems, community identification problems and insurance rate problems. Simply put, an economically independent community should not be forced to share their identity with anyone else simply due to geography and Postal Service bureaucracy. The City of Signal Hill is a distinct and viable city and deserves to be recognized as such.

Mr. Speaker, the bill follows:

H.R. 3768

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ZIP CODE REQUIREMENT.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Effective 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, no ZIP code that is assigned to a city (or portion of a city) that is completely surrounded by any other city may also be assigned to any area outside of the city so surrounded.

(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term "city" means any unit of general local government that is classified as a city, town, or municipality by the Bureau of the Census, and within the boundaries of which 5,000 or more individuals reside.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is a little known fact that March is Professional Social Work Month. Why is it that at a time when healthcare and child welfare are of utmost importance, we tend to overlook the middlemen? Is it that we forget about their role in today's society, or is it that we never learned about it in the first place?

I tend to think it is the latter reason. Social workers are the people who translate their education and training into commitment to making a difference in all aspects of people's lives. They are everywhere: in the courts, healthcare settings, schools, public and private agencies, congressional offices and industry, just to name a few. Often the public decries social problems that they would like solved; these are the people who work on a daily basis with individuals affected by them.

As a nurse, I am deeply concerned with the social problems plaguing the nation, and I worry about what is to come for future generations. As a legislator, I work to improve current problems by addressing these issues in Congress. In doing so, I recognize the vital importance of social work as a professional field of practice. It is one thing for us to acknowledge something as being a problem, it is another to be the person trying to fix it on a personal, case-by-case basis. I admire those who take on the responsibility of helping others help themselves.

It is easy to see why we overlook the importance of social workers. They work in the background, not in front of the television camera. They are not national figures, but ordinary people who make a living out of helping others. At the end of the day, one cannot measure in grand terms the effect they have had. But if we asked one of their clients, I am sure the difference they make would be obvious. They alter real lives.

I encourage you to take time to acknowledge the importance of social workers in everyday life. In a country that celebrates its diversity, culture, and history, it is appropriate to proclaim March to be Professional Social Work Month, and recognize the difference that these people have made and continue to make.