

speeches and events along a "whistle stop" tour in several other communities in the county.

Butler County is a thriving part of Western Pennsylvania with some of the fastest growing areas in the region and in the state. Agriculture and industry coexist in this community providing jobs and opportunities to the hard-working families who call Butler their home. With its beautiful state parks and gamelands, Butler County attracts visitors from all over the state seeking to enjoy the forests and lakes that make this area of Pennsylvania so unique.

On my many trips to Butler County I have received nothing but good wishes from the people of this community. Their support has been invaluable to me during my years in Congress, and I will never forget their kindness.

Once again, I urge my colleagues to rise and recognize the citizens of Butler County on this truly momentous occasion. Their commitment to family and community spirit represent the finest qualities of the Fourth Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF JAMES K.  
PASQUARIELLO

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of an outstanding Fire Chief and a valued member of my community, James Kenneth Pasquariello of Paterson, New Jersey. Jim is being honored tonight by the Northern New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America. It is only fitting that we are gathered here in his honor, as he is named Boy Scout's "Man of the Year," for Jim defines caring and generosity of spirit.

Chief Pasquariello, a member of the Passaic Valley High School class of 1963, found his calling at Passaic County Community College in Paterson. It was there that he received an Associate Degree in Fire Science Technology. Jim also possesses a Fire Official license from the Bureau of Fire Safety of the State of New Jersey.

Jim's time spent working in the fire safety has instilled the attributes necessary for him to become the stellar positive force in the community he has now become. It was the small steps in the beginning of his career that taught him the fundamentals that would make Jim a role model to the firefighters he now leads.

Known for his ability to get things done, Jim Pasquariello was appointed to the Paterson Fire Department on August 1, 1968. He was promoted to Captain on August 1, 1980. On February 19, 1998 Jim attained the rank of Battalion Chief. Always respected and well liked, he continued to rise within the department. When Jim became Deputy Chief on June 3, 1994 he assumed command of Tour Number 3 as Shift Commander. Only three short years later, Jim reached the pinnacle of his fire service career when he was promoted to Chief of the Paterson Fire Department on

October 31, 1997. During his distinguished career of 31 years of service, Jim has served in numerous fire companies in various capacities. In addition, he has been cited on three occasions for conduct above and beyond the call of duty.

As the Chief of the Paterson Fire Department, Jim Pasquariello is a member of six professional associations: the Paterson Firefighter's Association, the International Association of Firefighters, the New Jersey Deputy Fire Chiefs' Association, the New Jersey Career Fire Chiefs' Association, the Passaic County Mutual Aid Association and the New Jersey Firefighter's Relief Association. Chief Pasquariello also serves on the Eighth Congressional District Public Safety Advisory Board, the New Jersey Department of Personnel Advisory Board and is a member of the Passaic Valley B.P.O. Elks Lodge #2111.

A native of Paterson, Jim was born on October 13, 1945 at Paterson General Hospital to James, Sr. and Cecilia. On January 15, 1966, Jim married his sweetheart, the former Marsha Helene Smith at Our Lady of Pompeii R.C. Church in Paterson. Jim is the father of three lovely daughters, Janine Brownley, Virginia and Suzanne.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not say for the record that as the former Mayor of the great City of Paterson, New Jersey, I had the distinct privilege of working closely with Jim Pasquariello on a regular basis. He was and still is the epitome of devotion and professionalism. More than all this, however, I am proud to call Jim my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Jim's family and friends and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of James Kenneth Pasquariello.

HONORING REBECCA DICKISON OF  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate and honor a young Alaska student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Rebecca Dickison of Anchorage, Alaska has just been named one of my state's top honorees in The 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Ms. Dickison is being recognized for her hard work and dedication in collecting new and used books and organizing a reading corner for children at the Intermission Crisis Nursery. She has volunteered her time to bring happiness and joy to those in need.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has

made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Dickison are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, was created by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. In only five years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 75,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Ms. Dickison should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Ms. Dickison for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can, and do, play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL  
DIALOGUE IN KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last December President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan was in Washington for the annual meeting of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Joint Commission. The purpose of these meetings, which are held alternately in the United States and Kazakhstan, is to promote political and economic cooperation between our two countries. The United States side regularly presses the government of Kazakhstan to improve its human rights record and to undertake much-needed political and economic reform.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that in December U.S. officials pressed the Kazakh participants because of serious American concerns about the sham parliamentary elections which were held last October, increased corruption, and an increase in abusive action taken against opponents of President Nazarbayev's increasingly repressive government.

Prior to last December's meeting and in an apparent move to blunt the expected pressure from the United States, President Nazarbayev issued a statement on November 4 saying that he was ready to cooperate with the political opposition and that he would welcome the return to Kazakhstan of former Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin, the exiled leader of the principal opposition party.