

100 Women for Major Owens was organized in order to provide an opportunity for women of diverse backgrounds and cultures to work together in order to improve the quality of life for their community.

On May 5, 2000, 100 Women for Major Owens will formally celebrate its 10th Anniversary with a dinner and a special viewing of "Grace In The Light" at the famous Billie Holiday Theater in Brooklyn, New York. This milestone highlights the many years of service this organization has given Central Brooklyn by serving as mentors and role models for young women and their families. Through programs that range from educational seminars focusing on health care, teen pregnancy prevention, HIV-AIDS awareness, public education reform and a number of other important initiatives, the leadership has guided its members to becoming a powerful force for the residents of our community. In addition to also providing scholarships to deserving students in Brooklyn, Ms. Alice Spratley and Ms. Audrei Boyce have skillfully, since the beginning of the program administered the Congressional Awards Program which will, this year nominate several candidates for the Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, in celebration of their 10th Anniversary, I am honored to salute this prestigious and spirited group of leaders, their past Presidents, Ms. Celeste Green one of the founding members and first President, Ms. Bernice Carter and their current President, an outstanding educator, Ms. Verdeen Gaddy and wish them continued success.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge with deep gratitude, the officers and members of this stellar organization: Verdeen Gaddy, President; Audrei Boyce, 1st Vice President; Bernice Carter, 2nd Vice President, Norva Butler, Recording Secretary; Edena Gill, Corresponding Secretary; Eileen Graham, Financial Secretary; Theopia Green Treasurer; Evy Papillon-Juste, Chaplain; Adelaide Wyllie, Parliamentarian; Celeste Green, Historian.

Ms. Mattie Pusey, another dedicated public servant is serving as this year's Anniversary Committee Chairperson. She is being assisted by Ms. Margaret Wiseman, Ms. Annie Nicholson and Mr. Gary Tilzer of my Brooklyn Staff. Her committee consists of Ms. Ann Munroe, Ms. Adelaide Wyllie, Eddy Elijah, Erma McEachine, Martha Greene, Sylvia Whiteside, Alice Spratley, Audrei Boyce, Edena Gill, Lorraine Smith, Orette Spence and Mart Blake.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE REESTABLISHMENT OF LATVIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate the Republic of Latvia on the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of its independence from the former Soviet Union.

On May 4th 1990, the people of Latvia solidified their full sovereignty which served to further the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Latvia has since successfully pursued policies to build democracy, protect human rights,

expand the rule of law, develop a free market system and pursue a course of integration into the community of free and democratic nations, including the seeking of membership in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Latvia, together with the Republics of Estonia and Lithuania, continues to make a significant contribution toward maintaining peace and stability in the surrounding region, especially in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo.

In honor of Latvian Independence Day, I am introducing a concurrent resolution to commemorate this special occasion. I hope you will join me today in supporting this legislation.

Once again, I congratulate the people of Latvia on their anniversary of independence. I look forward to witnessing all of the future successes from this prosperous emerging democracy.

25 GRAND RAPIDS GIRL SCOUTS HONORED WITH ORGANIZATION'S HIGHEST AWARD

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 25 young women, ages 14 through 17, from my home city of Grand Rapids, Michigan who are being honored by the Girl Scouts with the organization's highest honor during a ceremony today in Grand Rapids. The young women will receive the Girl Scout Gold Award symbolizing outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development.

These future leaders have dedicated the last two years to achieving this award. To be considered for the Girl Scout Gold Award, candidates must earn four interest project patches: the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge, as well as designing and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project. The latter is accomplished by working closely with an adult Girl Scout volunteer. It should also be noted that these Girl Scouts accomplish all of this in addition to their school work, chores at home, and extracurricular activities.

The 25 young women receiving the Girl Scout's highest honor are: Rachel Voorhees, Carla Kaiser, Rachael Goodstein, Anne Clocklin, Nora Hauk, Holly Morris, Theresa Whitaker, Barbie Gatchel, Jennifer Bryant, Jennifer Kelly, Kelly Slezak, Elizabeth Gillis, Kim Farrell, Eda Koning, Jamie Wakely, Kate Chisholm, Jeannette Durham, Melissa Springloed, Abby Caldwell, Katherine Muszkiewicz, Cristin McNamara, Andrea Tenkel, Nicole Flanagan, Mindy Peterson, and Libby Bode.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great delight that I honor these young women for their outstanding contributions to the Girl Scouts and our community. Their accomplishments and dedication should serve as a model for their peers and future Girl Scouts. To be the best, one must give it their all, and that is what

these leaders have done. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating each of these young ladies in reaching this milestone. I wish each of them continued success in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER WILLIAM "BILL" BURGSTINER

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Officer William "Bill" Burgstiner, United Nations police officer, of Savannah, Georgia. Officer Burgstiner is serving as a U.N. police officer in Kosovo, he is a hero by any other name. In late March, 2000, in a war torn Kosovo, an abandon baby lay by the side of a road wrapped in a bloodied blanket and bleeding from its umbilical cord. The baby's good fortune began when Officer Bill Burgstiner was returning from a meeting and driving through the village of Prilep, about 50 miles southwest of the provincial capital of Pristina.

A villager flagged him down and took Officer Burgstiner to the baby, who was lying on a step, wrapped in a blood soaked blanket. Bill used a table cloth to stop the bleeding. He then whisked the child to the Italian military hospital, rushed through the front gate and delivered Fortunato (the baby's new name) into the arms of Roberto Bramati, a doctor. Doctor Bramati credited Officer Burgstiner with saving the precious life of little Fortunato.

A Savannah native, Bill joined the Brunswick Police Department after graduating from the police academy. He served from 1990 to 1993, and helped organize the department's K-9 unit. A role model in the local community he has again shown that his compassion and strength of character crosses international borders. It is with great pleasure that I recognize Officer William "Bill" Burgstiner for his kind humanitarian and heroic act.

IN TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE HOPE, SBA VETERAN ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Claire Hope, who has been recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration as the 2000 Veteran Advocate of the Year.

Claire Hope is the founder and president of Claire Hope Enterprises in Camarillo, California, in my district. She has more than 30 years experience in human resources management, and has offered that experience pro bono to many veterans. Since 1992, she has served on the California Employer Advisory Council Veteran Committee. She specializes in assisting veterans to become small business owners.

Claire Hope is also President and Founder of the Industry Education Council of Eastern Ventura County, implementing strategic plans that included the employment of veterans. Other avenues she has used to promote employment of veterans and small business ownership by veterans include: Regional Vice President of the California Employer Advisory for six years, Committee Member of the Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, and Task Force Member for Workforce Development for the Conejo Valley Community Foundation.

Claire also served as President of the Simi/Conejo Valley Employer Advisory Council (SCVEAC). In 1997, SCVEAC was chosen as the outstanding EAC in the State of California and outstanding EAC in the United States for encouraging veteran business ownership.

Claire Hope is a very capable and dedicated advocate for veterans and is very deserving of this honor.

I have the pleasure of working with Claire on Ventura County Stand Down 2000, which she founded and chairs and for which I serve as honorary co-chairman. A Stand Down is where homeless veterans gain rest for a weekend from the daily battle for survival, by sleeping in comfortable tents and taking advantage of services that could lead to jobs and housing.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Claire Hope for her recognition as the U.S. Small Business Administration Veteran Advocate of the Year and in thanking her for all her hard work and dedication on behalf of our veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I unfortunately missed two recorded votes on suspension bills, H. Con. Res. 295, and H. Con. Res. 304. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both resolutions.

However, I would like to share that my absence from the House floor was because I was hosting a press conference with three women from Afghanistan, Nigeria, Iran on global discrimination against women. These brave women shared their stories of discrimination and suffering living under the restrictive regimes in Iran and the Taliban government, and of being genitally mutilated as a young child in Nigeria. Their horrifying stories were true anecdotes of why the Senate must ratify CEDAW, the United Nations Convention in the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

CEDAW, which was first adopted by the United Nations twenty years ago, formally codifies women's equality and promotes women's inclusion in business, government and other economic and social sectors. While I am very pleased that the House International Relations Committee held a hearing on my bill that urges the Senate to ratify CEDAW (House Resolution 107) I am outraged that it is being held up by one person in the Senate. The Senate Foreign Relations Chair, Jesse Helms,

had outright refused to hold a hearing on CEDAW and continues to block its consideration on the Senate floor. This means that the chamber's 99 other Senators cannot express their views on this important treaty. It is unacceptable that the democratic process is being held captive by one person. I am hopeful that today's hearing in the House International Relations Committee is a first step in reversing Congress' inaction on CEDAW and will ignite a true dialogue in the Senate on CEDAW's ability to help empower women around the world. Until then, I will continue to push Chairman HELMS and the Senate to ratify it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to necessary medical treatment, I was not present for the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

MAY 2, 2000

Rollcall vote 131, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 300, commending the successful preparation of our Nation to withstand the Y2K computer problems, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 132, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 2932, the Golden Spike/Crossroads of the West National Heritage Area, I would have voted "yea."

MAY 3, 2000

Rollcall vote 133, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 295, relating to human rights violations in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 134, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 304, expressing condemnation of the continued egregious violations of human rights in the Republic of Belarus, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 135, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass S. 1744, continued submission of certain species conservation reports, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 136, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 1509, the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 137, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 310, supporting a National Charter Schools Week, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 138, on passage of H.R. 2957, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Act, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 139, the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass S. 2323, the Worker Economic Opportunity Act, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 140, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 4055, the IDEA Full Funding Act, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 141, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 1901, the Kika de la Garza United States Border Station, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF THE PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Philippine Nurses Association of America, which is holding its 21st annual convention on June 21–23, 2000 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Philippine Nurses Association of Ohio will co-host the event along with the chapters from Michigan and Indiana. This year's convention, titled Nursing Odyssey: New Realities, New Vision, will reflect the dynamic role of nurses in a changing health care delivery system.

The Philippine Nurses Association of America was established in 1979 in response to the growing need to address the concerns and issues important to Filipino nurses within this country. The Ohio Chapter was formally established in 1992. The PNA of Ohio is a voluntary, non-profit organization encompassing the areas of Cleveland, Akron, Medina in Ohio. There are over one hundred paid members in the chapter.

The objectives of the Philippine Nurses Association reflect their commitment to community service and the promotion of activities and programs that unify the Filipino nurses of the United States and advance health care of Filipinos throughout the nation. Their contributions to the betterment of their community is noteworthy. Their dedication, caring, and love for others is most evident, and I am grateful for their service to others.

My fellow colleagues, I ask you to join with me in recognizing the important accomplishments and essential contributions of the Philippine Nurses Association of America.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my colleague from Louisiana, JOHN COOKSEY, who also serves with me on the House International Relations Committee, I would like to take a moment to recognize and congratulate the Bulgarian Government—particularly Prime Minister Ivan Kostov and Deputy Prime Minister Peter Zhotev—for the significant efforts that the Government has made over the last two years to strengthen Bulgaria's economy, and in particular, Bulgaria's energy sector.

After years of economic decline and mismanagement under socialist rule, we are pleased to see that the country's economic picture is now showing solid signs of improvement. In 1999, inflation dropped to 6.2 percent and the country's economy grew by 2.5 percent. In 2000, a 4% level of growth has been targeted and appears to be achievable.

There is no doubt, that Prime Minister Kostov and his team have played a key role