

TRIBUTE TO MS. ELIZABETH ROSE CARROLL—CELEBRATING THE FIRST PLACE WINNER OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ART COMPETITION, AN ARTISTIC DISCOVERY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I honor a very talented young lady from my congressional district, Elizabeth Rose Carroll of Springdale High School. Elizabeth is the top winner of the 2000 18th Congressional District High School Art Competition, An Artistic Discovery.

Elizabeth's pen and ink entitled "Petals in the Past" depicting a veiled woman of a bygone era holding a bouquet, was selected from a number of outstanding entries to this year's competition. I know that, with her obvious talent, many successes await Elizabeth.

I look forward to seeing "Petals in the Past" displayed along with the artwork of the other competition winners from across the country, and I am pleased to be associated with Elizabeth's artistic talents.

Congratulations, Elizabeth. I wish you the very best of luck in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING VIETNAMESE-AMERICANS AND OTHERS WHO SEEK TO IMPROVE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN VIETNAM

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce this House Concurrent Resolution which expresses the sense of Congress regarding Vietnamese-Americans and others who seek to improve social and political conditions in Vietnam.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the fall of Saigon to Communist forces. The current Socialist Republic of Vietnam continues under an oppressive Communist regime that limits and denies its citizens fundamental rights, such as the right to free speech, the right to religious worship, and the right to associate with others who do not agree with the government. During the past 25 years, many people, including Vietnamese-Americans have participated in peaceful protests, freedom rallies, candlelight vigils, hunger strikes, and other demonstrations to bring awareness and attention to the social and political situation in Vietnam.

It is important that we recognize the work of Vietnamese-Americans and others who labor continuously to bring attention to the injustices and human rights conditions in Vietnam. In addition, we must never forget those who risked and gave the ultimate sacrifice—their lives—in defending and attempting to bring freedom and democracy to Vietnam.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Traditionally, the former Republic of South Vietnam and presently in Vietnamese-American communities all across America, June 19 represents a day to commemorate and honor both fallen and living heroes who have dedicated or are continuing to dedicate their lives to bringing international attention to the human rights situation in Vietnam. The Vietnamese-American community may be relatively young, but it has a consistent record of bringing issues such as human rights abuses, political and religious persecution, and labor exploitations committed in Vietnam, to the attention of the American public.

Many of my own constituents have shared with me the horrors and their own personal stories of how they and their families have endured living under Vietnam's Communist regime without fundamental human rights. While many of them were lucky enough to escape from Vietnam, many more people have not been as fortunate.

It is my strongest hope that the citizens of Vietnam will one day be free: free to elect their own leaders and government, free to worship as they please, free to speak and print their own opinions without fear of persecution or harassment, and simply free to live their lives without government intrusion. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important resolution because it reaffirms Congress' commitment to Vietnamese-Americans and others whose work keeps the spirit of freedom alive for those still living in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MYRA (CASIMIRA) LENARD

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I have a heavy heart. It is in great sadness that I honor my dear friend, Myra (Casimira) Lenard, who fought her courageous and long bout with grave illness so valiantly. On Monday afternoon, May 1, Myra passed from this life after having served as the long time Executive Director of the Washington Office of the Polish American Congress. For nearly 20 years, she became the much revered force representing Polish Americans here in our Nation's Capital. Her fortitude was to be admired as she guided the Congress through the tumultuous times of Solidarity and Martial Law. What a gift that she lived to witness the fall of the Berlin Wall, and then saw the fulfillment of a life-long quest as Poland left the Warsaw Pact and became a member of NATO. She may be best remembered, though, for leading the charge to convert proceeds of the Polish American Enterprise Fund into the Polish American Freedom Foundation. It was Myra who worked tirelessly with the White House and Members of Congress ensuring that voices of Polish Americans in our country would be heard. It was Myra who sacrificed so much to fight for those unable to do it themselves.

Born in Poland, she emigrated to the United States as a small child, where she spent many years involved in Chicago's Polonian organiza-

tions. There she met the love of her life, Casimir I. Lenard, whom she married and then moved with him to Washington, DC in 1962. Once here, she immediately began volunteering her time to needy, worthy causes. Her talents were recognized as she ultimately achieved a leadership position at the Polish American Congress. Myra was the worthy recipient of numerous awards, including the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit—the highest civilian award granted by Poland, presented by Polish Foreign Minister Wladslaw Bartoszewski in 1995. At a meeting of the Supervisory Council of the Polish National Alliance in December 1998, she and her husband were enrolled in the PNA's Legion of Merit. The list of her accomplishments cannot fully capture the fullness of this dynamic, gracious, dedicated and politically brilliant woman. Truly she was a freedom-lover.

Mr. Speaker, may we gain some small comfort in knowing the spirit and fire that Myra carried through her life that helped bring freedom to her first homeland inspired thousands who have been touched with her light and love. May peace bless her always. And may the work to which she dedicated her life—with family and career—stand as a living testament to this regal and loving woman. America is fortunate indeed that she chose this nation as her permanent homeland.

THE E-COMMERCE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Electronic Enhancement Act of 2000, a bill that will identify the continuous challenges facing small and medium-sized businesses and will assist them in overcoming these obstacles when they enter the world of e-commerce. I developed this legislation after recently hosting an E-Commerce Forum in my District, which was designed to ensure that small and medium-sized businesses have access to the booming e-commerce industry. With more than 300 business people in attendance, it was obvious to me that while there is great interest from small and medium-sized businesses for going online, these businesses face a number of challenges as they enter the world of e-commerce.

Specifically, this bill will establish an outside Advisory Panel made up of representatives from the Technology Administration, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the Small Business Administration, the Modernization Forum, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, along with other relevant parties, to determine the needs of small and medium-sized businesses. Based on the assessment of the Advisory Panel the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) will establish a pilot program for assisting small and medium-sized businesses in e-commerce. Competitive grants would be awarded to existing MEP centers that submitted e-commerce assistance proposals. The

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