

about the positive steps that have been made by the government of Hungary to provide equal opportunity for the disabled. President and Mrs. Goncz are figures of great integrity and have given important moral leadership to this effort. I am honored to have them as my friends.

Mr. Speaker, Secretary General Kofi Annan made the following statement commending Hungary for its receiving the Roosevelt Award: "The full and equal participation of people with disabilities is the main message of the United Nations World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons. I commend the initiative of the Roosevelt Institute and the World Committee on Disability in establishing this award, and I heartily congratulate the Government of Hungary for its work to build a world in which each and every person can participate fully, actively and equally."

Alan Reich, Chairman of the World Committee on Disability also praised Hungary for its commitment to the U.N. World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons: "Proactive efforts such as Hungary's should inspire other countries throughout the world. There are Half a billion of us on our planet with disabilities. This crisis that demands action. We urge all nations to respond to the U.N.'s call as Hungary has."

Mr. Speaker, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Award, established in 1995 by the Roosevelt Institute and the World committee on Disability, consists of a bronze bust of Franklin Roosevelt and a \$50,000 grant for an outstanding disability program in the selected nation. Previous winners of this award are Ireland, the Republic of Korea, and Canada. President Roosevelt, for whom the award is named, contracted polio at the age of 39 and from that time on could not walk without assistance. Despite this serious disability he was elected President of the United States four times, lead the U.S. through the Great Depression and World War II, and was a founding father of the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel, the Chairman of the Roosevelt Institute emphasized the role of the former President of the United States in dealing with disabilities: "President Roosevelt's role in the founding of the United Nations was one of his proudest accomplishments. It is wonderful to be in this institution more than 50 years later, celebrating progress in the rights of people with disabilities-progress that he would fully endorse as a person who lived with a significant disability for much of his life."

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Hungary and to Zsuzsa and Arpad Goncz on the occasion of Hungary's receiving the fourth annual Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award.

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#### TRIBUTE TO ROY ORR

### HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a dear friend and a great public servant Roy Orr of DeSoto, Texas.

Roy has served his hometown of DeSoto in almost every capacity imaginable, and he has been elected to numerous public offices. First he was elected to the DeSoto Independent School District Board of Trustees, then he served as mayor of DeSoto, and most recently he served as County Commissioner. Recently, Roy finished his term as Chairman and Charter Member of the DeSoto Economic Development Commission. To list all of the boards, commissions, civic and church related activities that Roy has been a part of would be impossible.

Recently, DeSoto's Mayor Richard Rozier and the City Council decided it was time to honor Roy Orr for his many years of service. Friday, June 2, 2000 will be declared Roy Orr Day in the City of DeSoto, and the linear trail system along DeSoto's Ten Mile Creek will be named the "Roy Orr Trail" in his honor.

I deeply regret that I will not be able to join Roy on this special occasion for him. Therefore, I want to thank him now for all he has done to make DeSoto the wonderful place it is today. Congratulations on these tremendous tributes Roy, they are richly deserved for a lifetime of service.

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#### HONORING PICKENS MIDDLE SCHOOL IN PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA

### HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Pickens Middle School in Pickens, South Carolina. This school has been recently named a 1999-2000 school year "Blue Ribbon School" by Secretary of Education, Richard Riley.

Since its inception in 1982, more than 3,800 of the most successful and challenging schools in the country have been honored by inclusion in the Blue Ribbons Schools Program. The schools chosen for this program fulfill stringent, research-based criteria for overall academic excellence. To be eligible to be a Blue Ribbon School, schools are judged in all areas of academics, instruction, professional development, and school curriculum. In addition, honored schools exhibit exceptional levels of community and parental involvement, high student achievement levels and rigorous safety and discipline programs within their schools.

Pickens Middle School was one of only four schools in South Carolina honored with this prestigious award this year. In fact, they were one of an elite 198 schools nationwide chosen for this honor for the 1999-2000 school year.

Pickens Middle School is an outstanding example of effective public school and is well deserving of this national award. Their parents, students, teachers, administrators, and school officials should all be proud for achieving this special honor. This school is a strong example of excellence in academics in the 3rd District of South Carolina and should serve as a model for schools across the country. I am proud to have this blue ribbon school in my district of South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my fellow colleagues will join me in congratulating Pickens Middle schools for their commitment to educational excellence.

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#### IN HONOR OF THE NEW JERSEY ARYA SAMAJ MANDIR, INC., AND ITS FIFTH ANNUAL COMMEMORATIVE FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc., and the fifth annual commemorative flag-raising ceremony in celebration of the 34th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Guyana.

This fine organization was incorporated in 1988 to promote Indian culture, while also assisting with the sometimes trying period of adjustment that immigrant families experience upon entering, settling, and residing in a foreign land. Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc., serves the educational, cultural, religious, and social needs of New Jersey's Arya and Hindu immigrants in a way that improves the quality of their American experience.

Guyana's independence is the primary reason for this flag-raising ceremony, and in honor of Guyana's Independence and its many years of struggle to realize that independence, it is important to provide overview of its history.

'Guyana' is an indigenous Indian word that means land of many waters. In 1622, the Dutch began colonizing Guyana and in 1640, the first group of slaves arrived. Following the 1763 Berbice Slave Rebellion, British captured the colony in 1781, were ousted a year later, and they returned in 1812. Laborers were brought from Portugal in 1935, from India in 1838, and from China in 1853.

Under universal suffrage, the first elections were held in 1953. The People's Progressive Party (PPP) won the election, but it was removed 133 days later by the British. The PPP was reelected in 1957 and again in 1961. In 1966, Guyana became an independent nation. However, corrupt elections led to 28 years of unpopular rule. It was not until 1992 that the Republic of Guyana held free and open elections. Today, the PPP-Civic government is in power under the Presidency of Dr. Cheddi Jagan.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc., and the fifth annual flag-raising ceremony in honor of Guyana's independence.

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#### THE U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues excerpts of a