

and 14, the project plans school schedules, recruits and trains teachers, designs curricula and materials and involves the community to overcome the traditional obstacles to girls' education. With a female literacy rate of only 40 percent (compared to 64 percent for males), India has 196 million females who cannot read or write. In some rural areas, the rate for women drops to 12 percent. Currently, the school drop out rates for girls is 57 percent at the primary stage, 57 percent at the middle stage, and 74 percent at the high school stage, according to CARE statistics.

MasterCard's gift will enable CARE to provide valuable information about this alternative education program for girls to the Indian government so that it can be replicated. I congratulate CARE and MasterCard for their commitment to this very important cause.

HONORING JANET CARLSEN OF  
NEWMAN, CALIFORNIA

**HON. GARY A. CONDIT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2000*

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to recognize the recipient of the John T. Silveira Award for 2000, my good friend, Janet Carlsen.

Janet is being recognized on Saturday, June 17th by the Newman Chamber of Commerce for her unselfish commitment to the community. Janet served as a member of the Newman City Council for twelve years. She then served 10 years as the first woman Mayor of Newman. Janet has never ceased to work on behalf of those who cannot help themselves. She has served with distinction on Gustine-Newman Soroptimist International, Orestimba 50-Plus Club, Newman's Women's Club, Newman Garden Club, Orestimba High School Booster Club, Rebekah Lodge, Newman Chamber of Commerce, Gustine Chamber of Commerce, the Newman Fall Festival Committee and the Stanislaus County Commission on Aging.

In 1993, Janet was recognized for her many civic contributions when the Newman City Council declared March 2, 1993 as Janet Carlsen Day. I consider it an honor to again recognize my dear friend, Janet Carlsen, for her fine leadership and dedication to our community.

COMMENDING ROGER HOLMES—  
RECIPIENT OF THE 2000 NA-  
TIONAL WETLANDS AWARD

**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2000*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Roger Holmes, a friend, former Director of the Fish and Wildlife Division at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and a recipient of this year's National Wetlands Award. The sky blue water of Minnesota's ten thousand plus lakes have kept

their sparkle because folks like Roger Holmes built a lifetime career around preserving Minnesota's precious resources.

A product of Minnesota's schooling, Roger received a bachelor's degree in zoology from the University of Minnesota where he also conducted graduate study in wildlife management. For the next 41 years, Roger received an even better education from the school of hard knocks learning how to combine on the ground know-how with academic knowledge, and at the same time, apply it to the political process. From his early days as a biologist on up to Assistant Supervisor at the Minnesota Conservation Department, and to his most recent position as Director of the Fish and Wildlife Division at the MDNR, Roger remained courageous and passionate, yet in tune with the bureaucratic process. In short, he knew his way around, suffered fools poorly, and made many directors and legislators look good along the way.

I had the pleasure as a State Representative of working with Roger during his stint with the Section of Game and Fish at the MDNR to pass the landmark Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Act with State Senator Willett, and enacting new protections for Minnesota nongame species. Throughout this time, Roger was outspoken and objective, not always giving answers that we "policymakers" wanted to hear during our brain storming sessions. Although the facts may not always have been pleasant, this process and Roger Holmes' forthright intellectual responses were translated into sound policy; the good result of a true public servant and defender of the environment.

More recently, Roger was one of the state's most outspoken supporters of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act which would provide \$350 million annually to the Pittman-Robertson fund for wildlife conservation and restoration. Receiving positive feedback from Holmes and other committed MDNR employees provided a good foundation for me to enter into negotiations for this legislation. Roger Holmes will not have the pleasure of directly using these funds, but it should be noted that indirectly this program is part of the legacy that Roger has shaped. Roger has become a fixture at the MDNR, and will be sorely missed in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, Roger Holmes deserves our utmost gratitude and admiration for all his hard work and dedication over the years. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Roger Holmes on this prestigious National Wetlands Award, and in wishing Roger, his wife Barbara, and his three children, Kristin, Brad, and Greg, all the best as they embark on a new beginning.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH AN-  
NUAL AMERICAN LEGION FLAG  
RAISING DAY PARADE

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2000*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Annual American Legion Flag Raising Day Parade cosponsored by the

American Legion and the Joint Veteran's Affairs Committee of West New York, NJ, in cooperation with the townships of North Bergen, West New York, and Guttenberg.

By honoring our veterans and our flag, the American Legion Flag Raising Day Parade expresses the enduring pride that we Americans feel in our country and our way of life; we can thank our veterans for both.

The two veterans organizations sponsoring this patriotic parade are vital to the preservation and celebration of American heritage. They understand the power and value of our history: Yesterday, they served in the armed services to preserve America; today, they serve in our communities to preserve our heritage.

It is important that we never forget our past and those who fought for our freedom and our future. That is why we remember and honor those who fought and died for our country—it is the least we can do for their sacrifice.

Today, I extend my gratitude to those who have come together to honor America's veterans, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 60th Annual American Legion Flag Day Parade.

HONORING KATHI McDONNELL-  
BISSEL FOR OUTSTANDING  
SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 2000*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to join the Milford Senior Center as they celebrate their 30th Anniversary and pay special tribute to an outstanding individual, and my dear friend, Kathi McDonnell-Bissell.

The senior community of Milford, Connecticut is indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated individual working on its behalf. As the Executive Director of this tremendous organization, Kathi has transformed the Milford Elderly Services Agency. When she first came to our community, the Elderly Services Agency was run by two full time and one part-time staff members and located in a church basement. Today, centered at the Milford Senior Center, the agency has grown into a quasi-municipal office, working with the Mayor and city officials to ensure that the ongoing needs of the elderly are a priority in the community. Kathi has been the driving force behind this incredible transformation—her unwavering commitment leaving an indelible mark on our community.

Kathi's extraordinary record of service to the residents of Milford extends beyond her work at the Senior Center. She has been an instrumental force in bringing a number of social service programs to Milford, as well as creating a city-wide network of social services. She has played an integral role in the development of the city's first food bank, furniture exchange, and emergency housing programs. Kathi also began a city-wide project to ensure that no child in the city of Milford would go to bed hungry. Her many contributions to the entire Milford community are truly invaluable.