

ripped through the industrial state of Gujarat. Early estimates indicated that this was a particularly bad earthquake, but I doubt that anyone could have thought that it would turn out to be the most devastating natural disaster in India for several centuries. Several high ranking Government of India officials have already said that the death toll may rise above 100,000.

The resolution that we have introduced simply expresses our sympathies for the victims and supports the continued relief efforts. The physical destruction in Gujarat will not be erased for many years, and the psychological scars may never be eliminated. It is in this time of tragedy that we must stand by our friend India and the Indian people and offer all we can to aid their efforts.

In recent years, we have grown increasingly closer to India and the Indian people because of common interests and values, as well as a strong Indian-American community who have made an amazing impact on our nation in the past several decades. It has been this community that has come together to truly lead the American people's response to this natural disaster, and I wish to thank them for that. Indian has become a trading partner, a strategic partner in various international issues, and a true partner for stability and democracy in Asia. I truly hope that our token of support is received by India and the people of India with our deepest sympathies.

This resolution has strong support on both sides of the aisle as well as both bodies of Congress. I am happy that this body will quickly pass this resolution. I urge my colleagues to voice their strong support of the resolution, and by doing so, voice their support for the people of Gujarat.

HARRY WAYNE CASEY'S FIFTIETH  
BIRTHDAY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2001*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Harry Wayne Casey of KC & the Sunshine Band on his fiftieth birthday, January 31, 2001. KC's music has not only enhanced the cultural vibrance of the Miami community, but has become an important part of 20th century American music.

During the course of his remarkably successful career, KC has made a profound impact on popular music as we appreciate it today. His influence helped to shape an entire decade of music; one which has continued to excite fans and earn critical acclaim for the past twenty years.

A native of Hialeah, Florida, KC began his career at age 17 when he began working at Miami's T.K. Records/Studios. By 1973 he had formed the Sunshine Band and embarked upon his meteoric rise to stardom. The Band's second album, released in 1975, went triple platinum and third album, released in 1977, also went triple platinum. KC & The Sunshine Band had amassed an amazing nine Grammy nominations, three Grammy Awards, an American Music Award, four number one singles in

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

the span of one year, and nine Top 10 singles.

KC has maintained an active philanthropic presence in South Florida where he continues to give back to his community. His many charitable acts include the purchase of thousands of Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for poor families in the Miami area and regular guest appearances on Radio Y100 in Miami to support child abuse prevention. In addition, he performed in a major benefit concert for the victims of Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

I am proud to recognize KC for his outstanding contributions to our community and to our nation's rich music history. I join his family and friends in honoring him on this very special occasion. My best wishes for a wonderful birthday and many more to come.

HONORING ROBERTO PEREZ

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Roberto Perez for his years of dedicated service to the community.

Roberto grew up in Atwater, CA and graduated from Atwater High School in 1973. He studied accounting and business administration at Merced Junior College. After college, he served for six years as a security specialist in the U.S. Air Force. After leaving the military, Roberto became secretary and financial officer for his family's business working alongside his father, Joe Perez, owner of the Atwater Tile Company and La Nita's Restaurants.

Roberto's interest in the community has led him to become involved in several organizations. In 1978, he became a member of Livingston Lodge and was elected as the worshipful master in 1993. In 1979, he became a member of the Scottish Rite of Fresno and Shriners of Fresno, where he rose to assistant executive director general Tehran Temple. He joined the Merced/Mariposa Shriner Club in 1979 and served as president in 1998. After many years as a member of the Mariposa Masonic Lodge he was elected as worshipful master in 1998 and reelected in 1999. He is a former Grand Bible Bearer of the State of California Freemasonry for the year 1999-2000. Roberto has been active in his local Chamber of Commerce. He has served on the board of directors and was elected in 2000 as president of the Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce.

Roberto is married to Amy. They have two children, Katrina and Roberto Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Roberto Perez for his active and distinguished community involvement. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Roberto Perez many more years of continued success.

*January 30, 2001*

TRIBUTE TO NANCY J. SPIKER'S  
RETIREMENT

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2001*

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Nancy J. Spiker, who recently retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Ms. Spiker is the State Director for USDA's Rural Development Mission Area in Pennsylvania. That appointment by President Clinton caps a nearly 40-year career of service dedicated to improving the quality of life in rural America.

While most of Ms. Spiker's career in USDA was spent in her native Maryland, I have had the good fortune to work with her since she came to the Pennsylvania state office in February 1993. She arrived as the Chief of Community and Business Programs, and among her accomplishments is the complete turnaround of the state's performance in the programs under her leadership. These programs were critical to rural Pennsylvanians, especially in my district. Yet, before he arrived, Pennsylvania had been regularly turning back much of its funding allocations for programs that provided clean water and safe waste disposal and rural communities, created and saved rural jobs, and financed essential community facilities, such as hospitals, schools, and emergency services. As a direct result of Ms. Spiker's leadership, Pennsylvanians now receive the full benefit of funding available, plus additional funds derived from national reserves. Many rural communities, including my district, have benefitted from her resolve and her hard work.

Nancy Spiker has exemplified "public service" in the finest sense of the term. She has vigorously protected taxpayers' interests. At the same time, she ensured that those who most needed financial assistance learned of USDA's programs and got whatever help they needed to navigate the application process. Whether it was starting the first minority-owned steel business in Pennsylvania, opening a shelter for battered women in a rural community, or helping the residents of a small town ravaged by acid mine drainage get clean drinking water for the first time in decades, Ms. Spiker has consistently gone the extra mile. She didn't just spend taxpayers' money, she invested it wisely in projects that have touched thousands of lives over her career.

As Assistant State Director, Ms. Spiker helped the Pennsylvania Rural Development staff successfully implement a major reorganization, and was instrumental in retraining staff to maintain service to the public. As State Director, she led what has become one of the most robust state operations in Rural Development, and completed a personal journey that began in 1961 as a file clerk.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Nancy for her exemplary career in civil service, and a lifetime of lasting achievements in rural America.