

"You should never doubt raising your voice in this chamber," she said assuringly. "Never doubt the importance of doing that."

The sorry truth is that the powerful testimonies heard in the Voices Forum have little chance of being incorporated into the UN's final declaration on racism, or its program of action.

"Cast out Caste" posters have been plastered all across Durban and activists have handed out thousands of information brochures in an effort to highlight the injustice of the caste system in Hindu society. But India has fought all attempts to include any mention of caste, and neither the UN nor any government is pushing the point. The strongest language in the draft declaration comes in a single paragraph that refers to discrimination based on work or descent—and even those watered-down words seem set to be withdrawn. Likewise, Eastern European countries refuse to acknowledge the discrimination endured by the Roma, or gypsies, no matter how many emotional stories they have told in Durban this week.

The African slave girl who told her story moved an audience to tears, too.

Inside conference rooms, however, African government delegates are so engrossed in debate about the slave trade of centuries past there has been almost no talk of how people like 17-year-old Mariama Oumarou and 20,000 others in Niger could be spared the horror of slavery today.

Will this conference change Ms. Manimegalai's life? The document under such hot debate is not an international treaty or a UN resolution. In fact, it's not a legal document of any kind and—if agreement is reached here by tomorrow—countries are free to ignore it.

But, Ms. Manimegalai lives with the hope her presence here will help the suffering Dalits of India break free from their oppression. "I am destitute," she said. "My house is just a matchbox and I do not have enough money to care for my children. They are living with relatives."

"But when I saw the big crowd in the room today, I was not afraid. I was happy. At least I can tell the world our story. There are many people back home who are relying on me here."

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50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE  
FOR VALLEY HOSPITAL IN  
RIDGWOOD, NEW JERSEY

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2001*

Ms. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, New Jersey, on the momentous occasion of their 50th anniversary of service to northern New Jersey. From a small and difficult beginning, the Valley Hospital has become a premier example of quality and commitment to medical excellence. This weekend, in celebration of their golden anniversary, the Valley Hospital "Old Fashioned Fair" will be held in the town of Ridgewood.

This remarkable hospital was once only a dream for the northwest New Jersey community. However, due to the perseverance of a small group of concerned community mem-

bers, this vision of a hospital was transformed into a reality. Plans began nearly forty years before ground was even broken. In 1910, community groups gathered to raise money for a hospital, however the stock market crash and the Great Depression stalled their attempts. With the leadership of the Women's Auxiliary in 1944, local residents rallied again to donate almost \$1,000,000 to break ground in 1949. Today we are able to congratulate the Valley Hospital on fifty years of outstanding service to northwest New Jersey. A passage from The Sunday News, dated June 19, 1951, illuminates the struggle and success of the hospital:

There has been discouragement and heartache, delay and disappointment. There have been set-backs of every conceivable variety during these years of construction but now at long last, comes the fulfillment of the dream—a community hospital completely equipped with every facility that modern medicine and modern science have developed, ready to take its place along with the best in the country in caring for those who are ill.

In August of 1951, the first patient walked through the doors of the Valley Hospital. That first year, over 4,000 patients entered those doors. In the following fifty years, the Valley Hospital expanded to meet the constantly changing needs of the growing community and implemented cutting-edge technology. Last year, the hospital administered to 42,540 patients and welcomed 3,221 babies. Thirty-five physicians of the Valley Hospital were named in the "Best Doctors in New York" list of the New York Magazine this year; a list compiled by their peers throughout regions of New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut. This month the Valley Health System, the hospital's umbrella organization, will be the nation's first health provider to feature Mayo Clinic health information on their website. As one can tell, this is a phenomenal group of people involved with the hospital.

The Valley Hospital has risen to pre-eminence on the national level in health care and medical technology for its patients. Under Mike Azzara's guidance as Chairman of Valley Health Systems, and Audrey Meyer's leadership as President and CEO of the Valley Hospital, the hospital has entered the 21st century as a premier provider of health care in not only New Jersey but the entire Northeast United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in commending the Valley Hospital for its service to the community in the past fifty years, and recognizing those committed to continuing its tradition of excellence in the future.

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A TRIBUTE TO THE BLIND AND  
VISUALLY IMPAIRED CENTER OF  
MONTEREY COUNTY, INC.

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2001*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Blind and Visually

Impaired Center of Monterey County, whose thirtieth anniversary was celebrated on August 12, 2001. The center has been assisting visually impaired individuals to transcend the loss of sight as independent, contributing community members of Monterey County, in my district. I am pleased to be able to honor their work here in the U.S. Congress.

The Blind and Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County offers a wide variety of services to its clients, and works to cater these services to each individual's needs. With such programs as Daily Living Skills and Braille Instruction, information and referral services, accessible technology, support groups, and an Orientation and Mobility Instruction course, this center offers much to the communities of Monterey County. Last year, the Blind and Visually Impaired Center provided direct services to three hundred forty-eight clients from twenty-two towns, cities, and villages. The clients live throughout Monterey County, from the coastline at Pebble Beach to the farm communities of Greenfield and King City.

I am proud to honor the work of the dedicated staff and volunteers at the Blind and Visually Impaired Center of Monterey County. The thirtieth anniversary of the center offers an opportunity to pay tribute to the hope of its founders and the diligence of those who work there. I look forward to their continued success.

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NATIONAL PAYROLL WEEK

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2001*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the tireless efforts of payroll employees of this nation. September 3–7 is National Payroll Week. In honor of this week, we should all thank the more than 130 million payroll professionals who work tirelessly to ensure that workers receive their wages and federal employment taxes and worker earnings are reported.

Company payroll departments prepare over 4 billion paychecks each year. In addition to paying workers accurately and on time, payroll professionals play a key role in crucial government programs including the enforcement of fair labor standards, child support deductions and payments, unemployment insurance, Social Security taxes and benefits, and Medicare.

Payroll professionals deserve our thanks for helping maintain this nation's system of preserving funds for the American community. Regular efforts are made to educate ordinary workers about the payroll tax withholding system. Nationwide, 20,000 members of the American Payroll Association organize outreach programs for their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby ask you and our colleagues to join with me in thanking the payroll employees who are indeed, "Working for America" and proclaim September 3–7, 2001, National Payroll Week.