Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend those associated with the fourth Pratham Gala held last month in Houston, Texas. Pratham was established in the United Nations and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, with the mission to achieve "Universal Primary Education" in Mumbai by the year 2000.

This mission is now growing in scope and scale. Throughout India, individuals, corporations and the state governments are taking the initiative to ensure that every child in their respective cities receives a formal education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to include a recent article from the Indo-American News regarding the recent successful Gala in Houston and again add my congratulations.

"From the Indo-American News, Sept. 30, 2001"

"Pratham Continues To Build Momentum And Funds"

"(By Bidisha Roy Banerjee)"

"Houston—Targeted to reach out to the slum-children across India, Pratham has found tremendous amount of success in such a short time. The support Pratham received so far has been overwhelming and much more than anticipated. Since the last gala, Pratham has made great strides in both India and USA."

"Not only has Pratham doubled the number of children it reaches (180,000 to date), it has also successfully established programs in 12 cities and nine rural areas with another seven cities expected this year. Several Pratham chapters have spread in a number of cities and college campuses in America."

"The fourth Pratham Gala in Houston served as an evidence that a"

"Emceed by radio show hostess Meena Dutt, the event started with an invocation by Uma Mantravadi, singer and attorney, who performed a beautiful selection of songs."

"The first speaker of the event, Vijay Goradia, Chairman of Pratham USA was introduced by Meena Dutt as the "man who does not want to speak," a man who contributed the major chunk and the man who brought Pratham to Houston."

"Goradia amused the audience by mentioning a conversation that he overheard just before the program started."

"Three kids were discussing how they could contribute to Pratham. The first one said, "I would draw a circle, throw his allowance in the air, and donate to Pratham and keep the rest to himself. The second kid said the same. The third kid, a Gujrati boy, said he would draw a square, stand outside it and throw all of his allowances in the air. Whatever dropped outside the square, he would donate to Pratham."

"Clearly impressed by the eloquent speech of Disha Katharani, Vaghul said, "I have never seen a young person with so much passion and commitment. Even after a quarter-century of public speaking, I feel I should not talk tonight after Disha's speech."

"Vaghul said that India is the world that builds together. On the positive note, he added a sweetness and pride on the other, sadness. A sadness because a country with so much potential cannot reach the top position in poverty. A choice for all this is selfishness and greed in every sector which is pulling our country down."

"We are not the masters of our own destiny and we were afraid of being taken over. When we woke up, it was impossible to catch up with the revolution. But in the 21st century, we have 20 million qualified individuals, ready to race the Knowledge revolution. This time we are wide awake and we have the brain power. So we will not let this revolution bypass us. By the year 2010, my gut feeling tells me that we will turn this 20 million into 200 million and race with the entire universe. This is where Pratham is needed."

"Congressman Nick Lampson's commitment to the South Asian community goes much beyond the duties of his elected office. Pratham was honored to have him grace the event with his presence. Nine years as a teacher, Congressman Lampson believes that "teachers are blessed because they see the future every day from their students.""

"Congressman Lampson cited the example of Parveen Shaikh who is a Bridge Course teacher at Zakariya Bandar in Mumbai. Coming from an illiterate family, Parveen's dream was to become a teacher. And Pratham gave her that chance, encouraged her to pursue that dream by teaching at Pratham and following a successful career. During the committee meetings of the community members who have played a key role in the fast expansion of Pratham, Lampson said, "You are touching the heart of hundreds. We have missed the industrial revolution of the 19th century because we were not the masters of our own destiny and we were afraid of being taken over. When we woke up, it was impossible to catch up with the revolution. But in the 21st century, we have 20 million qualified individuals, ready to race the Knowledge revolution. This time we are wide awake and we have the brain power. So we will not let this revolution bypass us. By the year 2010, my gut feeling tells me that we will turn this 20 million into 200 million and race with the entire universe. This is where Pratham is needed."

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Paul Lima of Northwest Mutual Financial Network, the sponsors of the Gala Event spoke about the need for social responsibility of his country. ‘‘When I heard about Pratham and understood their cause, I felt humbled,’’ said the VP, Emerging Markets.

‘‘The high level of integrity and the fact that Pratham is considered the top organization in what it does, makes us at Northwest Mutual very honored to sponsor this event and we sincerely hope to be involved in this for many more years in the future.’’

A vote of thanks was passed by Pratham President Yogi Patel. ‘‘Pratham has a very special meaning to me because I can relate to those kids,’’ Patel recounted his own childhood, growing up in a small town in India where his parents were illiterate. There was no formal Pratham in that town but there definitely were people with the Pratham spirit. These were the people who paid for Patel’s tuition and books and tickets to USA when he got admitted to Rice at the tender age of 17. And today, due to these generous and compassionate people, he has been able to carry on the spirit through his two daughters, Shikshita Patel, M.D., and Anuja Yogendra Patel, B.A. Double Major. Thanking Dr. Madhav Chauhan, Patel said ‘‘You are a modern day architect. You have created a beautiful vehicle.’’ Mr. Vaghuil and Vijay Goradia for their intensive support. He thanked all the donors who paid time and money and made Pratham a success story. ‘‘If education has worked for my family and my kids, it sure should change the lives of every individual out there waiting for an opportunity.’’

After dinner, his program was performed by Uma Mantravadi and her music group. The gala raised $390,000 with 560 ardent supporters attending the event promising their integrity to a cause so great that it can change the life of mankind and the destiny of a country. The current target of Pratham is now $500,000.

TRIBUTE TO ARLETTE T. GATEWOOD

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

THE BIOGRAPHY OF ARLETTE T. GATEWOOD

Born to Mayhue and Ella (Jackson) Gatewood, in the late 1920’s, the fourteenth child of fifteen children, Arlette T. Gatewood began her journey of life. Raised on the Eastside of Youngstown, she attended the Brier Hill Plant of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company. A member of Local Union 1482, United Steelworkers of America AFL-CIO-CIC, where she served in various capacities as a Local Union Vice President, Treasurer, and Grievance Committee member also served as a member of the Civil Rights Committee, and the Worker’s Compensation Committee. A dedicated trade unionist, he was appointed to the position of Staff Representative January 16, 1978 by Frank Levesque, former Director of District 26. Though retired from work, Arlette continues to fight for the rights of labor and labor relations.

Arlette is a member of Reeds Chapel A.M.E. Church where he serves on the Trustee Board, a member of the Board of Directors of Inpatient Home Maintenance Service, Leadership Youngstown, Chairman of the Labor Advisory Committee for Congressman Traficant.

He is also a board member of Youngstown Community Action Council, a past board member of the Youngstown Employment and Training Corporation (YETC) where he served as president for 4 years, a member of Citizens Participation Organization (Model Cities), Mahoning Valley Council of Church Economic Task Force, and Labor-Management Citizens Committees of Youngstown.

Arlette serves as a member of the Youngstown Area Urban League, Youngstown Chapter of N.A.A.C.P., Associated Neighborhood Centers, Leadership Youngstown Class of 1987, A. Phillip Randolph Institute; and Board of Trustee of the United Way.

Arlette Gatewood is and has been an asset to the entire community and has shared his experiences so that the future generations can benefit from his knowledge. He is a silent storm throughout the valley.

To My Husband, Our Father and Our Grandfather:

HERE’S TO THE MAN

Here’s to the man who knows who he is and where he stands, the man with enough confidence in his own beliefs that he isn’t afraid to let others express theirs . . .

Here’s to the man who doesn’t claim to know the answers until he has tried to understand the questions, the man with the strength to hold an unpopular opinion and the courage to change his mind . . .

Here’s to the man whose warmth and wisdom and humor have earned him the respect of his friends and family and who makes this world a better place in which to live . . .

Arlette, Daddy, Papa

HERE’S TO YOU!!!

With Love,
Emma, Pam, Raymond, Roslyn “Bunny”, Ray Austin, Shani, Jelani, Marques, and Pap

THE RETIREMENT OF DR. SARAH HARRIS

HON. TONY P. HALL
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. My community of Dayton, Ohio is losing one of its most respected citizens. Fortunately, she is just retiring and moving to Nevada, but it is a loss of Montgomery County nonetheless.

Dr. Sarah E. Harris has been a stalwart of Montgomery County and the Miami Valley of Ohio all of her life. She exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. Her life has been dedicated to serving others and improving the lives of all her neighbors. She has been the perfect example of a Good Samaritan, always willing to lend a hand and meet a need. Like a good neighbor, Dr. Harris was there.

She is also a good friend and I will miss her a great deal. I have had the pleasure of working with her for many years, in a variety of capacities. She has worn a number of hats in her lifetime and is still retiring early. We thought we had a few more good years left and I am happy that she will return to Dayton to continue her relationships and work on bringing in our community.

Dr. Harris is a product of the fine education from Dayton’s public schools and Miami University of Ohio. She immediately started her career of public service by becoming first a teacher and then a principal in Dayton. She continued by also working with Central State University and the Dayton Urban League. In 1987, she began her service as Montgomery County Treasurer and continued as one of our three county commissioners from 1990 through 1992.

As she has stated, ‘‘nobody likes to lose an election, but I think it catapulted me into different things.’’ Yet another testament to her commitment to our community is that she did not leave public service, after leaving elected office. She continued her work as the director of our chapter of the National Conference on Christians and Jews, now the National Conference on Community and Justice.

Her recent service as co-chair of the Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations (DDRR) continued her dedication to improving the lives of people from all backgrounds. She has brought all her intellectual energy and her commitment to the current initiative. I am pleased that U.S. District Judge Walter Rice, County Commissioner Vicki Pegg and City Commissioner Dean Lovelace will continue their work and be joined by former Common Pleas Judge Adele Riley.

I am particularly touched by Dr. Harris’ tireless work with this latest endeavor. She has volunteered full-time to ensure the success of the DDRR and its signature dialogue groups. These groups meet in people’s homes, with people of all ethnic backgrounds. They have conversations about their personal experiences with issues of race in an informal setting. Instead of just speaking of black and white, people are building relationships that will allow them to think of friends who happen to be of a different race.

The last time I was together with Dr. Harris was on the steps of the United States Capitol. We were there for a conference on “Connecting Communities for Reconciliation and Justice,” sponsored by Initiatives for Change and The Cities of Refuge. I was proud to have her introduce me to her fellow participants and glad to have her representing Dayton at this international gathering.