17678

Debbie will definitely be sorely missed, but she will never be forgotten. Her actions will live on as an example for all Americans.

I know I speak for myself and my colleagues, when I say, “Thank you, Debbie. For everything.”

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING EXEL OF HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, on September 27, 2001, the La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce will present Exel with the 2001 Industry of the Year Award at their Annual Salute to Industry. Although I will not be able to attend this ceremony, I want to congratulate all the employees at Exel, and in particular the Chief Executive Officer Bruce Edwards, for their excellence in operation and their ongoing commitment to our community.

The Industry of the Year Award, the highest honor presented by the La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce, is awarded each year to an area business whose mission emphasizes a strong commitment to the community. Exel is a world leader in supply chain services. Throughout their operations Exel has aggressively employed advanced technology, maintained an industry-focused approach, and expanded globally, boasting 1,300 locations in 120 countries. Within the gulf coast region alone, Exel employs over 780 people, operate on three local campuses, and services such companies as Dow, ExxonMobil, and Compaq Computers.

Exel has clearly demonstrated their commitment to our community. The Exel Foundation, working in close partnership with the employees, contributes over $1 million annually to local charities. At Exel, they value the importance of investing in our nation’s young people and plan to introduce educational programs in those nations where Exel has a material presence.

In closing, I want to congratulate the employees of Exel for their exemplary model of community activism and wish them continued success in future endeavors.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Armenian Republic on the nation’s Tenth Anniversary of Independence. Today, citizens of Armenia, as well as people of the United States and around the world celebrate their independence from the former Soviet Union. Sadly, they will also be mourning the victims of the September 11th attack on our country. Armenia’s early response to the attack was to assist American descent here in the United States.

President Kocharian joined other world leaders in expressing both his solidarity with America and his shock and sorrow in a letter sent to President Bush. I would like to ask unanimous consent to submit President Kocharian’s letter to President Bush for the record. Since its independence, democratic nations have welcomed Armenia into the family. I am proud that this Congress has consistently voted to provide humanitarian economic development assistance to help Armenia preserve democracy and the institutions of civil society and to continue its transition to a free market economy.

The United States has a fundamental national interest in bringing about stability in the strategically located Caucasus region and in supporting those emerging nations like Armenia that share our values. Given the horrific events of September 11th, it becomes even more important to ensure that the countries in the Caucasus move forward together—economically and politically. We must redouble our efforts to ensure that the tensions in the region subside and that the long-standing differences that divide the countries of the region are resolved. Winners and losers in the Caucasus will only foster greater insecurity and instability at a time when we need to bring everyone together to combat terrorism. We must be encouraged by Armenia’s ongoing attempts to reach out to its neighbors—Turkey and Azerbaijan—in a constructive manner.

Mr. Speaker, the story of the Armenian people is an unforgettable story of triumph over adversity and tragedy. Eastern Europe. In one of history’s most horrible crimes against humanity, 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children were slaughtered by the Ottoman Turkish Empire. We must continue to remind the world that this genocide is an historic fact—despite the efforts of so-called “revisionists,” many of them funded by the Turkish government, to deny the truth—and to make sure that our nation, the world community, and especially the Turkish nation come to terms with and appropriately commemorate this historic fact.

Mr. Speaker, it was the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 that allowed the Armenian people to re-establish a state and a nation, to create a country where other landlocked, where the language, culture, religion, and other institutions would prosper. The people of Armenia have endeavored to build a free and proud nation, based on the principles of democracy and a market economy. The tiny, landlocked Republic of Armenia is surrounded by hostile neighbors, who have imposed blockades that make the delivery of basic necessities and oil frightening economic development. Despite the dual blockades, Armenia continues to implement economic and democratic reforms. During the first six months of this year, Armenia’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by 6.4 percent over last year’s level. And during the last year, both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have publicly noted Armenia’s economic progress.

Despite this progress, I would like to say that the economic reality of daily life for the people of the Republic of Armenia continues to be extremely hard.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that as we mark future independence days, we can look back with pride in building peace and prosperity in the entire Trans-Caucasus region, so that the people of Armenia and their neighbors can enjoy a stable and hopeful future. I hope that the Republicans of Turkey and Azerbaijan will respond positively to Armenia’s repeated offers to normalize relations. Specifically, I hope that Turkey will allow
September 21, 2001

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Gale Cincotta recognized early on that the key to people’s advocacy was organization and she became an outstanding community organizer, empowering people to seek redress of grievances and pro-actively shape public policy to advance community interests.

Housing was a recurring and central issue for Gale’s attention and she led struggles to organize for an end to block busting, mortgage and insurance redlining, reform of federal first-time home-owners programs, and for an end to predatory lending practices.

Ms. Cincotta played a key role in the passage of federal legislation including Home Mortgage Disclosure and the Community Re-investment Act.

Her drive for empowerment and organization over time grew and evolved into a national organization known as the National Training and Information Center.

Mr. Speaker, during her lifetime, Gale was recognized for her advocacy with many honors and positions including a seat on the City of Chicago Commission on Women, a Chicago Commission on Human Rights Award and a “Woman of the Year” award from Ms. magazine.

But these awards only served to deepen her commitment to the community.

Mr. Speaker, we deeply mourn the passing of a tireless crusader for people’s empowerment, Gale Cincotta.

We will miss her, we will miss her energy, we will miss her guidance. But we are resolved to carry on. That would be what Gale expected from us. That is what this great American experiment in democracy is all about. That is what we are resolved to do.

HONORING THE PARTICIPANTS OF LEADERSHIP 2001

HON. MARK UDALL
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as some of my colleagues in this body know, before I was elected to Congress I was an instructor and later executive director of Colorado’s Outward Bound School. While Outward Bound gave me unparalleled opportunities to satisfy a passion for mountain climbing and other experiences in the outdoors, I believe my participation and involvement in Outward Bound may have been most rewarding for me because it began a life-long interest in the question of how we work to fully develop human potential and in the dynamics of leadership.

The credo of Outward Bound is that every human being has the inner potential to become a leader. This potential can be unlocked in many ways, but one of them is reaching a 14,000 foot mountain climb, beginning a trek across miles of desert and wilderness, working with a group of inner city school children, building a shelter for those who are homeless, or comforting a person in need.

How leadership is awakened is less important than acknowledging the diversity of ways in which each one of us faces deep challenge, whether it is physical, emotional or as part of a collaborative venture with others.