Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Sonoma County, which I represent, as well as Stanislaus County in California, currently face a potential crisis in their mental health communities. In order for these County staffed inpatient psychiatric units to keep their Medicare provider status, under last year’s HCFA rule, the hospitals would have to take over employment of County health care workers who currently provide the psychiatric care. Today I am introducing legislation that will enable the hospitals to keep their Medicare provider status while allowing the health care workers to retain their County employment. This is a win-win for Sonoma County because it would result in the termination of approximately 60 County employees. That’s why I am pleased to offer the "Mental Health Community Partnership Act," because I agree that the regulations were never intended to eliminate this form of public-private management contract arrangements or threaten access to essential health care services. Specifically, this bill allows a hospital to contract with a public entity to provide inpatient psychiatric services, if the health facility is operated or managed by a state or local government. It’s a win-win for everyone because it preserves the rule’s original goal to curb Medicare abuse, the Norton Center will keep its Medicare provider status, County workers will keep their job status, and Medicare and Medicaid patients will continue to receive access to essential health care services. Congress should seize this opportunity to protect quality jobs and provide access to comprehensive health care for our most needy.

HONORING JERRY POOLE ON HIS RECEPTION OF THE DOROTHY RICHARDSON AWARD FOR RESIDENT LEADERSHIP

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO
OF CONNECTICUT

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of the New Haven, Connecticut community and my dear friend, Jerry Poole. Jerry was recently honored here in Washington by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation with the Dorothy Richardson Award for Resident Leadership.

Dorothy Richardson emerged as a community resident leader in the mid-1960s in response to an urban renewal effort that threatened her neighborhood. Her diligent work with lenders, city officials, foundation heads, community organizers, and her neighbors served as the vehicle to improve her neighborhood’s housing stock. She later founded the first Neighborhood Housing Service in Pittsburgh and served as a model for the development of NHS partnerships across the nation. Each year the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation honors individuals who reflect the character and spirit of Dorothy Richardson. Jerry is one of only nine selected from thousands of volunteers in the 1,800 communities across the country served by the NeighborWorks network of nonprofit organizations for this prestigious national recognition.

Jerry has been the Executive Director of New Haven’s Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America for the last fifteen years. He has dedicated his professional career to ensuring that the unemployed and their families are sustained through a period of hardship. His incredible dedication has opened up employment opportunities for thousands throughout Greater New Haven. In addition to his professional career, Jerry has spent innumerable hours working with his neighbors and community leaders to change the face of the West River neighborhood—giving residents a renewed sense of pride and hope in this community.

A dynamic neighborhood leader, Jerry’s vision and tenacity has not only made a real difference in the West River Neighborhood but across the State of Connecticut. It was only eight short years ago that he joined the West River Neighborhood Association, a group of residents dedicated to improving their community. When they first started, the Association was a group of neighbors who met regularly at each others homes and never had much more than one hundred dollars in their checking account. Based on Jerry’s simple belief that residents should give ten percent of their time to their neighbors, the group developed a strategic plan that is now coming to fruition. Under his leadership, the West River Neighborhood Association focused their attention on an ambitious plan. Partnering with the City of New Haven and the Mutual Housing Association of Southern Connecticut, the group worked hard on plans for the West River Memorial Park and to rehabilitate housing along George Street—a section of their neighborhood that had lacked attention for years. I had the opportunity to work closely with Jerry and his group to bring federal funding to the West River Memorial Park project and earlier this year, the West River neighborhood Association joined Mutual housing in breaking ground on a $1.3 million rehabilitation project on blighted properties.

The commitment and dedication Jerry has shown to our community and to the State of Connecticut is unquestionable. His advocacy and strong voice have gone a long way in enriching the lives of his neighbors and their families. I am honored to stand today to join with his wife, Joyce, daughter, Summerleigh, family, friends, and the New Haven community in congratulating Jerry Poole on this very special occasion.

HONORING KAREN MATHEWS’ RETIREMENT

HON. GARY A. CONDIT
OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Karen Mathews on the occasion of her retirement.

Karen dedicated Stanislaus County Clerk-Recorder in 1990, her retirement on September 30, 2001, capped a 17-year career of dedicated public service. Perhaps most compelling is the price she paid for that public service. In 1994, fax protesters assaulted Karen in her home because of her refusal to file fraudulent tax liens against local officials. Earlier, she had been subjected to repeated threats of violence but not once, for one moment, did she succumb to these threats.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the importance of Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15th—October 15th. A culture that began over 500 years ago as a fusion between Spanish and indigenous societies across the Americas, the Hispanic community has helped forge our Nation’s identity and today the Latino population is the largest minority group in the United States. The Hispanic community enriches the ethnic diversity that makes our Nation unique, contributing greatly to the cultural, artistic, economic and political life of this country.

Like many other immigrants who came to this country in pursuit of the American dream, Hispanics have struggled to overcome adversity, fighting stereotypes and discrimination. This battle has not been easy and I salute all those that have worked to advance the prosperity of our Latino population. While this fight is far from over, we can see the results of our efforts throughout the Country, beginning with our Congress. Today, I am joined by a constantly growing number of Hispanic colleagues, each with a strong work ethic and committed to public service and the preservation of our democracy.

At home in my district of Washington Heights to El Barrio, it is an essential part of the cultural Mecca that defines the 15th congressional district and I am honored to speak for one of the Nation’s most distinct groups.

More than our fellow citizens, Latinos are our brothers and sisters. I would like to honor and thank the entire Hispanic community its contributions to the past, present, and future of the United States.

IN HONOR OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF GRACE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Our Lady of Grace Church. This church has served the community of Hoboken, New Jersey for many generations. The church will celebrate its anniversary on Saturday, October 20, 2001, at the Casino-In-The-Park Restaurant in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Our Lady of Grace Church is one of the largest Roman Catholic Churches in New Jersey. It was founded in 1851. Today, Our Lady of Grace Church stands as the focal point of Hoboken’s Church Square Park. Its cornerstone was laid in 1875, construction of this grand edifice was completed in 1878 and dedicated by Bishop Corrigan. Francis G. Himpler, a well-known 19th Century architect, designed this grand gothic structure. After the church dedication in 1878, members of the Italian and French royal families donated ceremonial works of art to decorate this magnificent dwelling.

This Church is well known for its kindness, charity, and for its involvement in the parish. Our Lady of Grace Church stands poised to continue to make invaluable contributions to the ongoing success of the Hoboken community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Our Lady of Grace Church on its 150th Anniversary.

REMARKS OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DONALD RUMSFELD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to share with the Members of the House the excellent remarks of Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld yesterday at the Memorial Service in Remembrance of Those Lost on September 11th. The fine statement is set forth as follows:

We are gathered here because of what happened here on September 11th. Events that bring to mind tragedy—but also our gratitude to those who came to assist that day and afterwards, those we saw at the Pentagon site everyday—the guards, police, fire and rescue workers, the Defense Protective service, hospitals, Red Cross, family center professionals and volunteers and many others.

And yet our reason for being here today is something else. We are gathered here to remember, to console and to pray.

To remember our comrades and colleagues, friends and family members—those lost to us on Sept. 11th.

We remember them as heroes. And we are right to do so. They died because—in words of justification offered by their attackers—they were Americans. They died, then, because of how they lived—as free men and women who are proud of their freedom and of their country and proud of their country’s cause—the cause of human freedom.

And they died for another reason—the simple fact they worked here in this building the Pentagon.

It is seen as a place of power, the locus of command for what has been called the greatest accumulation of military might in history. And yet a might used far differently than the long course of history has usually known.

In the last century, this building existed to oppose two totalitarian regimes that sought to oppress and to rule other nations. And it is not exaggeration of the facts to say that without this building, and those who worked here, those two regimes would not have been stopped or thwarted in their oppression of countless millions.

But just as those regimes sought to rule and oppress, others in this century seek to do the same by corrupting a noble religion. Our President has been right to see the similarity—and to say that the fault, the evil is the same. It is the will to power, the urge to oppress and to rule other nations. And it is not have been stopped or thwarted in their oppression of countless millions.

And to remember them as believers in the heroic ideal for which this building stands and for which this building exists—the ideal of service to country and to others.

Beyond all this, their deaths remind us of a kind of evil, the kind of evil that both great and menace to which this nation and the world has now fully awakened, because of them.