

November 29, 2001

THANK YOU, DR. STEVEN E.
HYMAN

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Dr. Steven E. Hyman for his outstanding and dedicated work in the field of mental health through research, advocacy, and education. Dr. Hyman, director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), will be leaving to assume his new responsibilities as provost of Harvard University on December 10. A leading scholar at the intersection of molecular neurobiology and psychiatry, Dr. Hyman will be gravely missed.

I personally regret Dr. Hyman's departure, because he has been very helpful to me in my role as co-chair of the House Mental Health Working Group. He has shown strong and decisive leadership that has gone far to reduce the terrible stigma and discrimination that haunts those with mental disorders. As a leading scientist, Dr. Hyman very publicly and very often made the case that science has shown us that these disorders of the brain are real and they are treatable. As one who has focused on this issue for so long, I can tell you how necessary his strong and credible voice has been.

In 1996, Harold Varmus, then-director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), named Dr. Hyman as director of the NIMH, the federal agency charged with generating the knowledge needed to understand, treat, and prevent mental illness. His tenure has been marked by intensified efforts to bring molecular biology, genetics, neuroscience, and behavioral science all to bear, in integrated ways, on the understanding of mental illness and mental health. Most recently, Dr. Hyman has been a prominent voice for the NIH on the psychological effects both of the September 11th attacks and bioterrorism.

Dr. Hyman has been a great help to us here in the House of Representatives as we sought to understand mental illnesses and their effect on society. However the impact of his service has reached our constituents well. I am gratified by every person who tells me that they are no longer ashamed or guilty because they or a family member suffers from a mental disorder. I have had a long-time interest in the issues surrounding mental illnesses and I have valued Dr. Hyman's leadership and commitment to encouraging and supporting the basic research that will enable us to develop effective new treatments—based on an understanding of the disease process itself.

Dr. Hyman has accomplished much during his tenure at the NIMH and for this I am grateful. His success in bringing research on mental disorders to the forefront of public consciousness has left an important and lasting legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in gratitude for Dr. Steven Hyman's dedication. We wish him all the best for the future. Our nation looks forward to his continuing contributions to our health and well being as he honors the halls of Harvard University.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENT
OF KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION
CHAIRMAN, LEO COOPER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to officially recognize the recent accomplishment of my constituent and friend, Knox County Commission Chairman, Leo Cooper. Commissioner Cooper was recently reappointed as chairman of the Knox County Commission by a unanimous vote and is beginning his third term in this important role. Mr. Cooper's leadership and genuine desire to serve the public are reflected in the fact that he is now the longest-serving Chairman in the history of the Knox County Commission.

In Washington, we often overlook the critical role local governments play in the lives of the American people. By focusing on broad legislative initiatives, we can easily lose sight of the tremendous work that must be done at the county and city levels.

Commissioner Cooper's reappointment as chairman will not be covered by national news, but I believe it serves as an opportunity to highlight, not only his efforts, but also the efforts of all Americans who have committed themselves to serving in local elected office.

Since 1986, Commissioner Leo Cooper has served the men, women and families of the Seventh District of Knox County as a tireless advocate and friend. Prior to being elected to local government, Chairman Cooper's career was dedicated to education and improving the lives of Knox County's young adults. Whether as an elected official or a schoolteacher and principle, Mr. Cooper has continually committed himself to public service. The people of the seventh district recognize this, and I am pleased that the other dedicated members of the Knox County Commission do as well.

I add these remarks to the RECORD today so that every member of the House of Representatives can join me in thanking Mr. Leo Cooper and every elected official in our respective districts who play such vital roles in the well-being of our communities.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUSAN
MENCER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Susan Mencer on her new appointment as Director of the Office of Preparedness and Security for the State of Colorado. Susan will now play a key role in the defense of the State of Colorado and this nation from the threat of terrorism. This will be a challenging role for Susan, but I am confident she will prove herself most capable of leading Colorado in this time of national tragedy.

Protecting our country from terrorism is not a new role for Susan. She began her service

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in 1978 as an agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Her initial duties at the agency led her to the Office of Counterintelligence in New York. Serving as an agent, she was responsible for ensuring that foreign diplomats were not involved in spying or obtaining classified information concerning national security while posted in the United States. Susan's success propelled her to the FBI Headquarters in 1985, where she served in several high level roles as head of the budget unit for the Intelligence Division and Supervisor of Counterintelligence Operations.

In 1990, Susan came to the FBI Denver office and directed programs involving international and domestic terrorism, foreign counterintelligence. As a result of her dedication, Susan was named Director of the Joint Terrorism Task Force in Denver created in response to the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. Enjoying retirement since 1998, Susan was again called to duty following the Columbine shooting incident and served on the investigation panel. Her commitment to the safety for schools and our children led to an appointment from Governor Bill Owens to head the Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Speaker, the State of Colorado is fortunate to have Susan Mercer lead our efforts to counter terrorism in the State of Colorado. Her impressive resume speaks volumes for Susan's dedication and commitment to keep this nation safe and free from terrorism. I am honored to have Susan in this position and extend my thanks for her service to Colorado and her commitment to this nation.

NEW YORK CITY CONGRESSIONAL
SESSION GAINS MOMENTUM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you an article that appeared in the Hill newspaper on Wednesday, November 28, 2001. This news story is concerning H. Con. Res. 249, a resolution that I recently introduced, which provides for a joint session of Congress to be held in New York City early next year. I am pleased to have this opportunity to share this story with my colleagues.

[From the Hill, Nov. 28, 2001]

NYC CONGRESSIONAL SESSION GAINS
MOMENTUM

(By Kerry Kantin)

Despite the logistic hurdles that confront the notion of convening a session of Congress outside of Washington, D.C., momentum is building behind the movement to conduct a symbolic, one-day joint session in New York City.

A resolution introduced last month has already captured the bipartisan support of 165 House members. The House effort is spearheaded by New York State delegation Democratic chairman Rep. Charlie Rangel, who is from Manhattan.

Rangel, working with New York State GOP delegation dean, Rep. Ben Gilman, has been actively corraling support from both his Democratic and Republican colleagues.

"It would be historic. It would be a way of symbolizing the strike we took for the nation and their appreciation for it," said the