

States. The Hispanic community plays an essential role in sustaining the viability of the nation's economy and the number of Hispanic-owned firms is growing rapidly. According to the Census Survey of minority-owned business enterprises, Hispanic-owned business in the United States totaled 1.2 million firms in 1997 and employed over one million people. These businesses generated nearly \$200 billion in revenues.

At the center of the growth is the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Over the years, the chamber has worked closely with the concerns and issues that affect Hispanic firms, developing business relationships, promoting international trade, and advocating to the Congress and Administration on behalf of these businesses. The Chamber's commitment to the Hispanic business community is a contribution to the economic empowerment of the Latino population as a whole and its impact has been felt throughout the Nation.

Promoting Latino-owned businesses is particularly important in my congressional district of Upper Manhattan. The Hispanic influence in this community is significant and the Chambers' continuing efforts to promote such ownership, particularly in the small business arena is critical to the economic viability of my community and its future. For the Chamber's initiatives, I commend them.

THE DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT
LEE BOLLINGER FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lee C. Bollinger, who will be leaving as president of the University of Michigan at the end of this month to become president of Columbia University in July.

For nearly 5 years, Mr. Bollinger has been a transforming leader at the University of Michigan, whose Ann Arbor campus is in my congressional district. During that time he has achieved a number of major accomplishments.

One of those efforts is the Life Sciences Initiative, which was launched in 1999. With a commitment of \$100 million in campus funds, a \$130 million endowment and additional revenues, the University will become a major source of research on human genomics, chemical and structural biology, and bioinformatics. A new six-story Life Sciences Institute is now under construction on the Ann Arbor campus. The university will also benefit from the state's Life Science Corridor, a 20-year program to develop new technologies in the life sciences statewide.

Mr. Bollinger has also overseen the most successful fund-raising campaign in history, raising nearly \$1 billion since 1997. In three of those four years, Michigan raised more money from alumni than any other public university. Research expenditures also reached record levels under his stewardship to stand among the highest in the nation.

By far, one of his most significant contributions has been his ardent and effective de-

fense of affirmative action in admissions. Mr. Bollinger has been a strong supporter of the need for diversity in higher education, and his willingness to fight several lawsuits on that issue underscore his strong commitment to that principle. I know of no president who has been so closely tied to students and who has related as well to the thousands of young men and women at the university.

From bringing the Royal Shakespeare Company to Ann Arbor to dedicating the new Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, Lee Bollinger has been a man of vision—a leader of compassion—and a strong advocate for the principles that he and the University embody.

I know he has mixed feelings about leaving behind the Michigan family as he moves on to Columbia next year. But those of us who have seen the progress and growth of the university under his tutelage can only say “thank you” to Lee for his outstanding service to the University, to the people of Michigan and to the nation.

I call upon all my colleagues to thank him for his legacy of service, and to join me in wishing him and his wife Jean well in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHAN WICHAR,
SR.

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Stephan Wichar, whose achievements span the decades and have touched the lives of so many in the city of Warren and beyond. As family, friends, and community members gathered together on Sunday, November 18, 2001, they honored Steve Wichar for his years of service, as a distinguished Ukrainian-American who has shown outstanding leadership and support in his community and beyond.

President of the Ukrainian Village Board of Directors and distinguished community activist, Steve Wichar has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to both the Ukrainian and American communities. President of the Board of Directors at Wingate Management, Steve has been providing leadership and expertise for over 14 years. He has worked hard to improve safety in Detroit Public Schools and lent countless hours to the Boy's Club of America. His efforts to help prenatally students overcome the challenges they face in public schools has been remarkable, and he has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Children of Chernobyl Fund.

Faithfully committed to his Ukrainian heritage as well, his unparalleled devotion to Ukrainian senior citizens is reflected in his 13-year tenure as president of the Ukrainian Village Corporation. Steve served in World War II, and his leadership on behalf of Ukrainian American Veterans has been extraordinary. But Steve's efforts and achievements do not stop at veterans' affairs. Steve is the longest serving president of the Ukrainian American Center. He has successfully lobbied for contin-

ued aid to Ukraine, has kept an unwavering focus on human rights, and continues to work hard to bring Ukraine into the international community.

Steve has devoted his life to his community, and his efforts have brought great accomplishments for schools, seniors, veterans, and foreign policy. He is a respected scholar, teacher, and friend. It gives me great pleasure to honor Steve, for his leadership and commitment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his exemplary years of dedication and service.

PROMOTING TOLERANCE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise again to urge this chamber to bring the Hate Crime Legislation H.R. 1342 to the floor for a vote.

This Nation has seen a sharp rise in hate crimes against individuals perceived to be of Middle Eastern decent or Muslim.

I stood right here 3 weeks ago and said there had been over 1,100 reported complaints since September 11th. That number has now jumped to almost 1,500.

What is it going to take to get people to realize that hate crimes aren't like other crimes?

People are attacked and intimidated because of how they look or where they pray.

Assault, harassment, discrimination, death threats, hate mail, and even death are occurring in schools, workplaces, airports, and homes.

My own family received a threat. My sister received a call about an anthrax letter being sent to her.

Hate crimes terrorize their victims. When a group is targeted no member of the group can feel completely safe.

There have been stories of Muslim men shaving their beards and removing their turbans just to feel safe.

Our Nation has the will to fight for the freedom of others in Afghanistan. We should make sure we have the will to fight for the freedom from hate crimes in our own country.

California has seen one of the largest increases in hate crimes of all the states.

Since September 11th in Los Angeles county alone, there have been 156 reported incidents against those perceived to be Arabs or Muslim. This includes 2 homicides.

This is a huge increase over last year, when there were just 12 reported incidents in Los Angeles County.

I am alarmed at these shameless acts.

Our diversity is our strength and we must remain united.

Our children learn prejudice and intolerance from us.

If we ignore acts of discrimination or make derogatory comments about other cultures, religions or ethnic groups what are we teaching our children?

Haven't we had enough? The violence, discrimination and intimidation against our Arab and Muslim neighbors must stop now.

Our children must be taught that it's not okay to use derogatory words against people of another race, religion or ethnic group.