

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CHALDEAN FEDERATION OF AMERICA IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 20th Anniversary Celebration and 9th Annual Awards Banquet of the Chaldean Federation of America. This anniversary marks 20 years of the federation's distinguished commitment to the Chaldean community in Michigan and 9 years of presenting awards to exemplary citizens within the community.

The Chaldean Federation of America was established in 1980 as a nonprofit organization, as part of the nationwide group of the Association of Chaldean Americans. The federation is a beacon of support for Chaldean American citizens living in the metropolitan Detroit area, providing valuable assistance to the Chaldean American community. Today the Chaldean Federation of America represents over 120,000 Chaldean Americans living in the Detroit metropolitan area.

Community and public service are tenets of the Chaldean Federation of America. Their organization provides help for Chaldeans seeking to adjust comfortably into American society. The organization is also involved in numerous community action programs, including, but certainly not limited to, serving needy families, protecting civil and legal rights of all Chaldeans promoting volunteer opportunities, offering language enhancement classes, promoting greater understanding of cultural differences, and working with youth to ensure they have an equal opportunity. Services like these are why we must all look with great pride upon the work on behalf of the community done by the Chaldean Federation of America.

Without an organization like the Chaldean Federation of American, the large population of Chaldean Americans living in Michigan would be without one of the greatest resources within the community. Too often we tend to ignore minority groups, forcing them to live in isolation from the whole community. The Chaldean Federation of America is committed to breaking down walls that at times exist between communities, fostering great understanding of cultural differences, and providing Chaldean Americans with valuable services that benefit not only Chaldeans, but the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Chaldean Federation of America for 20 years of outstanding support in the community and I ask that all of my colleagues join me in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

RECOGNIZING RED RIBBON WEEK AND ENCOURAGING AMERICA'S YOUTH TO STAY DRUG-FREE

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this fall I was invited to share a Red-Ribbon Week Message with students in Missouri's Eighth Congressional District. Although my congressional responsibilities required me to remain in Washington, I wanted to share with our students why I believe its so important to learn from your parents, teachers, community leaders and your peers about the danger of drugs and why you should stay away from drugs—now and forever.

I know that it seems like parents, educators, and grownups have been telling you forever that drugs lead you one way—the wrong way. You might even think that you've heard it all before and that we are nagging you because we keep bringing it up. I mean you get it from everywhere right? Your parents tell you at the dinner table about the dangers of drugs. Your teachers tell you at school that drugs lead you to a life of loss and destruction. And others, like your local law enforcement officers tell you that drugs lead to death and destruction.

Well, you know that? They are all right. And believe it or not, they aren't hollering at you just because they have to, they are hollering at you because they love and care about you and they want you to have productive, happy and healthy lives.

Now, even though I think parents, teachers, and other grown ups are doing a good job of warning you about the dangers of drug use, I believe kids can help keep other kids from using drugs. In fact, I think that each of you can lead the way in the fight against drugs by teaming up and sending the rest of America a message. The message is this—not everyone is trying drugs and using drugs is not normal. And to prove that point, you aren't going to use drugs—and neither are your friends.

It works like this. Imagine that you are at a party or just hanging out with a group of kids after school. Someone, maybe even another student, starts smoking marijuana. They ask you to join in. They tell you it's great, that it won't hurt you and that you are a loser if you say no. What would you do?

You know deep down that the best thing to do is say no and walk away. But as a mom, and believe it or not, someone who was once a kid, I know that it's really tough to be the only one that says no. You feel alone and you feel like everyone else won't think you're very cool.

But you know what? If you, as friends make a pact to be a team—to say no and leave—then you have made a real statement. Not only are drugs not okay for you, but they

aren't okay for your friends either. These tips and suggestions were developed by students like you. They call it, "keepin it REAL." And for them, REAL stands for:

R: Refuse—a simple "no" goes a long way—but it goes even further when you all say "no" together.

E: Explain—You can say, "I am not that kind of person, or that is not for us." And if you are forceful, your "no" will go a very long way.

A: Avoid—You know just as well as the police and others, that there are places where the likelihood that drugs are around is more prevalent in some places than others. If you know where those places are, then you'll know to avoid them. In other words, stay away.

L: Leave—Like the story I mentioned earlier, you can leave—and you should leave.

You can keep it real, and you can get some of the support you need in that effort from your parents, your teachers, your teammates and others in the community. One of the organizations in your area that is helping out is PAWSPT/Narc with a Bark. PAWSPT or Prevention Awareness With Students, Parents and Teachers is a unique program using trained canines to sniff out drugs in your school. They also come into your schools to teach you about the danger of drug use. The program is run by Rosa and Doug Wallis and is a great effort on their part to open up the lines of communications about drugs and drug use prevention. I encourage every one of you to learn more about what they've been doing to help keep drugs out of your schools.

Mr. Speaker, before I go, I want to leave the children of Missouri's Eighth District and the children of our Nation with one more thought. You students are the most valuable and important resource that we have—you are the future leaders of our country. But this year, more than 2.4 million students just like you will try drugs. But if you all team up and stand together to refuse, explain, avoid, and leave drug-related situations, then you have a REAL chance to have a wonderful life full of promise, hope and success. I believe you can do it and so do your teachers, parents, and your community leaders. We're depending on you and if you need help, then I hope you know, you can depend on us.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2001*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to Charles County public schools. The Charles County public schools received the Daisy Bates National School District Award for its minority achievement program. Under the direction of Superintendent

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.