

James E. Richmond, Charles County public schools have made the success of all students a major priority, and addressing the performance of minority students is a major component of this effort. Charles County public schools has developed a 5-year plan for academic achievement, personal responsibility, and career readiness. In this plan, everyone is responsible for successful attainment of the objectives. The superintendent, board members, instructional staff, principals, certificated and support staff, all play major roles in addressing the "success for all" approach.

Designing programs that best meet the needs of the students is a major key of their success. In order to make programs like these work, systems must first look at the needs of the students and then develop the programs. Charles County public schools sought to fit the program to the students, not the students to the program. Their programs are successful because of the dedication and commitment of their teachers. They truly believe that all children can and will learn to read if given instruction and additional time to read and write in an environment that supports and challenges them. This system provides continuous training for teachers and assistants, limits class size, and provides current, appealing, and appropriate materials for their schools.

Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, please join with me in wishing the Charles County public schools continued success and congratulations on their achievements toward the academic success of their students.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR NANCY HEIL

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tireless worker and a devoted public servant. After eighteen years of public service, Nancy Heil, who began her service on the city council in 1983 and has served as Mayor of Westminster, Colorado, for six years, is retiring.

Throughout her public career, Mayor Heil's priority has been preserving the quality of life for Westminster residents. During the forty years she has called Westminster her home, she has watched it grow from a small suburban town of 12,000 residents to a city of over 100,000. Ensuring that people are still able to enjoy the lifestyle they came to Westminster for has always been of top importance to the Mayor. She has been a constant, positive force in the community, displaying an unmatched passion for the welfare of her citizens.

Mayor Heil was a leader in focusing attention on the importance of removing the radioactive wastes from the U.S. Department of Energy's Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Facility—which is located just west of Westminster. She spoke out about the importance of finding secure locations to remove the dangerously contaminated material from such a well-populated urban area and thereby safeguard the millions of people in the Denver-metro area.

She was also one of the leaders and original proponents of preserving the open space

resources at Rocky Flats and in calling for the site to be transformed into a National Wildlife Refuge once it is cleaned up and closed. In such a fast growing area of the Denver metropolitan region, Mayor Heil saw an opportunity to keep much of this area as a natural asset for future generations.

Through her ability to forge coalitions and collaborate with neighboring communities, Mayor Heil was able to bring out the best in other leaders and ensure that it was always the citizens that benefited. I am proud to have had the opportunity to work with a community leader of her quality. She put the people first and I consider it an honor to represent her and her community in Congress. She is an example of what we all should look for in our leaders: commitment, selflessness, and passion. It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to recognize her and thank her for her years of dedicated service. The city of Westminster and indeed the state of Colorado have greatly benefited from her contributions and leadership. Her talents and resourcefulness will be sorely missed.

Her accomplishments and the esteem in which she is held were recently reported in the Denver Post. For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching a copy of that report.

[From the Denver Post, December 11, 2001]

HEIL LEAVES OFFICE ON HIGH NOTE

(By George Lane)

WESTMINSTER—When Nancy Heil first took her seat on the City Council in 1983, she might have been one of the most naive politicians around.

Consider that she wondered if "Dr. Cog" might be a family physician. DRCOG is the acronym for the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

Since then, Heil's growth and political maturity have resulted in her twice being named Westminster Woman of the Year and becoming the city's first elected mayor.

Now, after almost two decades of service, in the middle of the term to which she was elected in 1999, Heil is resigning from office Dec. 31. She says it's time for something new.

"These are extraordinary times, and they have caused me to re-think the importance of the office of mayor," she said during a recent interview. "I have willingly given 18 years of my life to work for the city I love. I have given it my best, and now I believe it is time for me to take a new direction."

Councilman Ed Moss, recently elected major pro tem, will complete Heil's unexpired term, as dictated by the city charter.

Government observers here say following Heil won't be easy.

"Nancy, she's a class act," said Adams County Commissioner Elaine Velente. "Her shoes are going to be tough to fill. I think she's done a tremendous job representing the city of Westminster."

Heil was a teacher in upstate New York before she met her husband, Jay, and moved to Colorado. Jay Heil is a Colorado native who went back East for dental school. The couple now have four adult children.

The mayor said that Westminster was a town of about 15,000 people when she moved here about 40 years ago, and there was almost no place to live. She now points proudly at a city of more than 100,000, the Westin Hotel that opened several years ago and Westminster Mall, where sales tax has been Westminster's major source of revenue for a number of years.

The mayor said she has resolved some health problems over the past few years. During the past year, she also has faced a sometimes-divided City Council over whether one of their own should be removed because of expense-account irregularities.

"She had a good vision for the city, wanted the city to improve its image and it did, wanted the city to be known as a good place to live and I think she achieved that," said Vi June, mayor from 1985 to 1991.

HONORING DR. HUGH C. AVALOS OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Hugh C. Avalos of Morris, Illinois as he prepares to retire at the end of this year. For more than 40 years, Dr. Avalos has served his community in a great many ways.

First and foremost, Dr. Avalos has always demonstrated the greatest concern for and commitment to his patients. A physician of great skill, Dr. Avalos received a solid education at the University of Mexico, the Little Company of Mary Hospital in Chicago and Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Avalos has displayed his professional dedication throughout his career by pursuing additional educational opportunities on four continents and winning Board certification in English, Spanish and German.

Although not a native of Morris, Illinois, Dr. Avalos has spent the past 42 years working to better his adopted community. Active membership in service organizations such as the Moose, Shriners and especially Rotary International, which he served as president of the local club, has been a large part of his volunteer efforts along with important leadership positions at the local bank and hospital.

A very special interest of Dr. Avalos, though, has been serving the youth of the City of Morris. For more than 30 years, Dr. Avalos used his considerable professional skills to protect the health and condition of the youth of Morris as the team physician for the Morris Community High School football, basketball and baseball teams.

From a personal perspective as a resident of Morris, I am proud to have been able to consider Dr. Avalos a good friend now for well over a decade. I am well aware of the great esteem in which he is held by his patients and our community as a whole. It gives me great pleasure to both congratulate Dr. Avalos on a tremendous professional career and also to wish him much happiness during his retirement years.

Mr. Speaker, using the life and career of Dr. Hugh Avalos as an example, I urge the Members of this body to identify, recognize and honor other individuals in their own districts whose actions have greatly benefitted our communities and nation.