

the 200th RED HORSE Squadron as the Vehicle Maintenance Superintendent and Logistics Manager.

Chief Charlton began his service to his country as an active duty Air Force Generator/Barrier Maintenance NCO. His first duty assignment took him to 6314th Civil Engineering Squadron, Osan Air Base, Korea, where he performed maintenance and repair of generator and aircraft arresting barrier systems.

After leaving active duty to become a member of the Ohio Air National Guard, 200th RED HORSE Squadron, Chief Charlton served as the full-time Aircraft Arresting Systems Barrier Team Chief for over 17 years, requiring him to spend numerous weeks away from his home, family and unit. His barrier team supported numerous deployments worldwide insuring safety of flight, life and equipment in performance of fighter aircraft operations.

Chief Charlton was instrumental in the success of the world-wide RED HORSE realignment and conversion process for both active duty and Air Reserve component forces enabling the vehicle sustainment, reallocation and acquisition process to drive change and successful support of the new RED HORSE Concept of Operations. During his assignment as Non-Commissioned Officer-In-Charge of Vehicle Maintenance, Chief Charlton consistently insured a unit vehicle-in-commission rate of 94% enabling the unit to respond to any type of military crisis world-wide, anytime, anywhere, within hours of notification.

Chief Charlton's dedication and service have earned him the highest regard for his character, professionalism and dedication as a Citizen-Airman. His exceptional knowledge of RED HORSE is universally known throughout the active duty and Air Reserve forces military community. No award is more appropriate, nor more fulfilling for him, than the knowledge that his efforts helped give America a clearer understanding of the important work of America's men and women in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, I ask each of my colleagues to join me in extending Chief Master Sergeant Mark W. Charlton our very best wishes as he begins this exciting new chapter in his life. Mark Charlton has earned, many times over, the title of Citizen-Airman and Patriot. May he fully enjoy the blessings of the very freedom he has so ably defended as a Non-Commissioned Officer in the Air National Guard.

A TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S SOCIAL WORKERS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's social workers. March is National Social Work Month and I think it is fitting that we take time to thank these outstanding citizens for their honorable work.

Since I was first elected to the House over four years ago, I have employed at least one social worker as a member of my district staff. I had worked with social workers before during my tenure as North Carolina's Superintendent

of public schools, and I was impressed with their versatility and the positive impact of their work on people's lives. Together the social workers on my staff and I have assisted veterans and seniors, and helped new immigrants pursue the American Dream in our great country.

About a month ago, I held a meeting with my youth advisory committee to talk about youth and school violence. We had a great meeting and we talked candidly about the issues that the young people of my district face on a daily basis. At one point during the meeting, we broke into small groups, which were led by faculty, administrators, and school social workers. I was particularly drawn to one of the small groups led by Kelly Lister, a school social worker from Zebulon. She did a marvelous job of interacting with the students and offered some practical and poignant thoughts for her group to consider.

Unfortunately, there are not enough school social workers in our schools. For example, in Johnston County, North Carolina, there is only one school social worker for all 29 schools in the system. We need more school social workers, like Kelly to work with our students, to help them grow and mature. In many instances they are a link between home, school, and community. They help students increase academic performance, deal with crisis situations, learn how to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence, practice important problem-solving and decision-making skills, and most importantly remain in school and graduate. School social workers are a critical component in a child's education and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their hard work and service.

Social workers effect our lives in so many ways. Their work touches all of us as individuals and as whole communities. They are educated, highly trained, and committed professionals. They work in family service and community mental health agencies, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and many other private and public agencies. They listen. They care. And most importantly, they help those in need.

Mr. Speaker, social workers are an integral, irreplaceable part of our society. I urge all of my colleagues to take the time to honor all the social workers in their districts for all of their contributions and accomplishments during the remainder of National Social Work Month.

CELEBRATING THE WILLOWRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call special attention to the achievements of the Willowridge High School Boys Basketball team of Sugar Land, Texas. This year, the Willowridge Eagles won their second consecutive 5A State championship on March 9th, 2001.

Undefeated in 39 games last season, the Willowridge Eagles extended their winning

streak to 62 games over two years. Led by a veteran group of seniors, the Eagles also defeated three nationally ranked schools when they traveled north to win the "Slam Dunk to the Beach" Tournament in Lewes, Delaware. Willowridge was recognized as the Number Two team in the country in USA Today's Super 25 boys basketball rankings.

On their journey to the championship, Coach Ronnie Courtney and the Eagles have proven that they are one of the best high school basketball teams in the country. Their commitment to teamwork on-and-off the court has brought them both the state championship and national accolade. I congratulate the Willowridge Eagles. They have not only won the championship, but also the appreciation of their fans in Sugar Land, Texas, and across America.

APRIL CITIZEN OF THE MONTH—
KARAN "BOBBY" KUMAR

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named Karan "Bobby" Kumar, Chairman of the Board at Nassau Health Care Corporation, as Citizen of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for April 2001.

Bobby is a prominent leader in both the Indian Community on Long Island and in his health care profession. As a nurse, I know how important the Nassau Health Care Corporation is to our district.

Kumar is a charismatic and hard working individual who has grown from a simple beginning into a respected individual in the society. The Nassau Health Care Corporation employs over 4,200 employees and is comprised of a 631-bed medical center, five health centers and is one of the largest nursing homes in the country with 889 beds.

An entrepreneur who has worked his way up from a bus boy to a successful businessman, Kumar now owns many successful businesses including a publishing company, and a construction and environmental company. Kumar Enterprises, a manufacturing company specializing in paint, is his most recent startup.

His leadership role in the Indian community is extensive. In the past, he has published the Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and American Yellow Pages. He is the chairman of the International Punjabi Welfare Council, and has received awards from the American Federation of Muslims of Indian Origin, the Indian Association of Long Island, the Indian Professional Engineers Association of USA, and the News India Times.

Yet his community involvement reaches outside the Indian community. He has been honored by various organizations including the Battered Women's Association, Nassau Association for the Help of Retarded Children, and the Convenience Stores Association. He was recognized by Newsday as the January 2000 Long Island Man of the Century.

Kumar and his wife, Roisin Meegan, have five children. I congratulate Bobby and his family on this achievement.