Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I’d like to say a few words today about one of my constituents, Damon Szymanski. Damon recently finished his 50th assignment as an ACVDIOCA volunteer, a truly extraordinary achievement.

During Dr. Starzl’s missions, he has played a crucial role in helping improve agricultural development around the globe, particularly in central and eastern Europe. He has contributed dramatically to our national goal of opening global markets through an infusion of our values of democracy and economic freedom. Dr. Starzl has served as a strong bridge between the United States and the rest of the world.

He is here in Washington this week to receive an award from ACVDIOCA for his record of outstanding service. On behalf of all of us, I’d like to say “thank you” to Damon— for everything he’s done to improve U.S. foreign relations and for everything he’s done to improve the quality of life of people in other nations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Thomas E. Starzl, a true national hero.

TRIBUTE TO THE DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter on their decade of public service.

In 1913, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded at Howard University by twenty-two African American Women. Since then, over 200,000 women have joined chapters all over the world. The Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter in my district was founded on February 10, 1991 by 27 civic-minded women who saw the need for public service in the western suburbs of Philadelphia.

The Valley Forge Alumnae Chapter has been active in a number of areas such as economic and educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health and political/international awareness. Through their efforts, they have successfully produced many community programs and projects. One such program, “Patriots of African Descent,” commissions artists in memory of African Americans who fought for our nation’s independence.

I am pleased and honored to celebrate this outstanding occasion with the alumnae. They have played an important role in our community and for this they should be commended.

WOMEN’S CENTER OF MONMOUTH COUNTY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. RUSH D. HOLT
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Women’s Center of Monmouth County’s 25th Anniversary. Over the last quarter of a century, the Women’s Center of Monmouth County (WCMC) has made a tremendous difference in the lives of women and their families throughout Monmouth County.

The WCMC is a New Jersey-based private, non-profit organization dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault. Since its inception in 1976, the Center has helped more than 100,000 women, children and men gain control of their lives and stop the violence. Through the help of individuals, government agencies, small businesses and corporate
partners, the WCMC has had an open door to a safe shelter and critical services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

According to the 1999 New Jersey Crime Clock, a rape occurs every six hours in New Jersey. In Monmouth County, 70 rapes and 12 sexual assaults were reported in 1999. In fiscal Year 2000, the WCMC Rape Care program received 1,201 calls, e-mails or walk-ins from women seeking assistance. A total of 298 survivors and their family members were accompanied to medical, legal and law enforcement agencies.

Services offered by the WCMC include a hotline, emergency shelter, transitional housing, counseling, crisis intervention, advocacy, education and prevention that help end the cycle of domestic violence and abuse. The Center works to mobilize concerned individuals, organizations, and civic and religious groups to end violence and abuse against women and children through public education, public policy reforms, and training of allied professionals. The Center also provides a liaison program to family and municipal courts and an art therapy program for children and non-offending, parents.

The WCMC has received three national awards: 1998 United States Crime Victim’s Rights Service Award for Karen Wengret; the 1998 United States Sunshine Peace Award for Domestic Violence Administration and the 1999 American Art Therapy Award for Outstanding Programming for their Amando’s Easel program. The Center has also received numerous accolades from New Jersey and local organizations for community service and leadership.

For the past 25 years, the Women’s Center of Monmouth County has provided a much-needed service for families affected by domestic violence or sexual assault. I urge all my colleagues to join me today in recognizing WCMC’s dedication to ending domestic violence and sexual assault.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE HEARING ON H.R. 1, “NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND”

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I submit my testimony regarding H.R. 1 the No Child Left Behind Act. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.R. 1, the “No Child Left Behind” bill.

The President has made this legislation a priority because Americans are concerned about the quality of their children’s education. They are also troubled about the decline in our nation’s values and its effect on our children. Polls consistently reveal that virtue and ethics are issues of top concern. Parents should be the primary developers of character but educators play an increasingly important role.

Unfortunately, too many of our children are bombarded daily by negative influences. Society pays the price when we mock values. To reap the rewards of a virtuous society, we must sow the seeds of character when we educate children.

Communities across the nation recognize that character education is an integral part of a well-rounded curriculum. Our Nation’s teachers are aware that character education helps to establish a set of standards for behavior, provide role models, and create caring environments. For instance, many students in Texas participate in character education programs and the lessons they learn now will serve them well in the future.

President Bush has made character education an important component of his education reform bill. By allocating $25 million to character education, States, local education agencies, parents and students will have an opportunity to promote character and values.

However, there are additional steps to be taken if we are to be strong. This legislation provides a grant to develop initiatives and disseminate up-to-date information about character education and also funds a study that will examine whether or not character education programs are successful and sustainable.

H.R. 1 calls for states to base their character education efforts on the findings of scientific research, yet educational experts have not been given the opportunity to develop those sound scientific conclusions. It is not even known where and how character education has found its greatest success. To support character education in its entirety, we must include research and the dissemination of useful information.

In our changing and challenging world, children need affirmation that society respects men and women of character. It is imperative that we teach our children the values that strengthen their character and make our country strong.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS IN ISRAEL

HON. DAVID VITTER
OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the violent terrorist attacks that have wracked Israel and to extend my sympathy to the victims and their families. I would like to especially extend my condolences to Yitzhak Pas, who just two days ago lost his 10-month-old daughter and was himself shot in the legs by a Palestinian sniper.

The next day, Islamic Jihad executed two terrorist bombings that rocked Jerusalem, with the clear intention of taking more innocent Israeli lives. During Jerusalem’s morning commute, a booby-trapped car was detonated at the side of a busy road, injuring five Israelis. Later in the afternoon, a suicide bomber boarded a bus loaded with students on their way to Hebrew University and detonated his nail-laden bomb of explosives, injuring over thirty passengers.

Only PÀ Chairman Yasir Arafat can stop the violence, and of this he clearly has no intention. He has organized and instigated the violence since his rejection of peace at Camp David. I urge my colleagues to sign the Hyde-Lantos letter to President Bush, which calls for a reassessment of the U.S. relations with the Palestinian Authority, and reaffirms the United States’ enduring support of Israel in this time of crisis.

IDAHO GIRL SCOUT HONOREES
HON. C.L. “BUTCH” OTTER
OF IDAHO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize five outstanding Idaho women who are positive role models for young girls in the Gem State. Maria Berain, Sandra Bruce, Susan Eastlake, Marjorie Findlay, and Sam Sandmire portray a lifestyle to which young girls can look for inspiration. In a time of constant change and difficulties for our youth today, statistical evidence and observations show girls have a lack of everyday role models to look to. These women are leaders that all young people can look to and learn from.

They were recently recognized by the Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council as Women of Today and Tomorrow. Each of them excels in their professional careers and positively impacts their communities.

Maria Berain is a mentor with the Boise State University College Assistance Migrant Program. She supports Hispanic women to pursue their college education by counseling them on study habits and course selection.

Sandra Bruce is president and CEO of Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center. In addition to guiding the hospital in growth and success she engages in civic organizations including Boise Public Schools Education Foundation and Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Susan Eastlake is the founder of the Southeast Neighborhood Association and an Ada County highway District commissioner. She also has worked on the Simplot Sports Complex and on behalf of the Les Bois Soccer Tournament.

Marjorie Findlay was chosen to be the first woman senior warden of St. Michael’s Cathedral. She is a two-term president of the Idaho Botanical Garden. Her many cultural and educational contributions include fund-raising for the Discovery Center and chairing UNICEF drives.

Sam Sandmire is the head gymnastics coach at Boise State University and partner of the Bronco Elite Arts and Athletics Club. She was voted conference Coach of the Year of 2000 and is recognized as an advocate for women in competitive sports.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, these women have accomplished great things and are examples of hard work, character, and leadership. I congratulate them and am delighted to have them reaching out to share their values with today’s youth. They are true assets to Idaho and the nation.