

SUPPORT OF CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH AND THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL FLAG DAY

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advise my colleagues that every day in the United States, three children die from physical abuse or chronic neglect. Additionally, I remind my fellow House Members that ten children die each day as a result of firearm use. It is important for us to remember the lives of children lost due to physical abuse, and to commemorate those youth who have died as a result of violence. As a mother, the issue of child abuse and neglect evokes strong and negative emotions within me. My maternal instincts and my sworn duty as a Member of the House dictate that I wage a vigorous fight to protect our society's most vulnerable segment, our children.

Unfortunately, child abuse has many faces. Mistreatment occurs in a variety of ways such as physical, emotional, sexual abuse or by neglect. In 1997, almost 300,000 children in the United States were subjected to abuse, and over half a million more were found by child protective services to be neglected. Unreported cases of maltreatment are estimated to be as high as three million a year. Abusive behavior threatens and imperils entire families. An alarming and startling statistic is that in approximately 60 to 75 percent of families in which a woman is battered, the children are also battered. The effects of abuse reverberate throughout the lives of victims. Studies indicate that abused children are 53 percent more likely to be arrested as a juvenile offender and are 38 percent more likely to commit a violent crime. Furthermore, children who are abused or neglected are far more likely to abuse their own children later in life.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's issues, I am committed to combating this pervasive and horrific problem in order to protect the lives of children and strengthen women and families. Mr. Speaker, that is why it is crucial for there to be safe havens for children. Ideally our communities, schools and homes should be places of refuge for them. Today, more and more of our children are victims of abuse, and far too many children live in fear; a fear that is compounded by the prospect of violence occurring in their own classroom and homes.

Mr. Speaker, violence is learned behavior. Our children witness aggressive behavior, anger, and hatred to others as a matter of routine and often to a parent as a matter of course. Is there any wonder then, why children demonstrate anti-social behavior that they learn from those closest to them when they commit violent acts? For this reason, it is important to learn the signs and patterns that lead to violent behavior and address them before lives are lost. I am saddened and appalled by the extent of youth violence that has proliferated into an epidemic. The consequences of abuse are now being equated with the impact of war. The fact of the matter

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is, violence and neglect are more devastating than polio, AIDS, or motor vehicle crashes. The problem of violence in the United States is especially acute because we have the highest youth homicide and suicide rates among the 26 wealthiest nations. I am committed to protecting the lives of our children by: Introducing H.R. 233, the "Child Safety-Lock Act"—meaningful gun control legislation designed to limit children's access to firearms; encouraging collaboration and coordination among education, mental health, social service, and juvenile justice agencies; creating legislation that will re-establish and strengthen the mandate of juvenile judges to use discretion and creativity in sentencing children and adolescents; and by supporting any legislation that brings us closer to an end to youth violence and protects the interests of our children.

Violence of any kind weakens families and especially hurts our children. Regardless of its form, youth violence and violence against children must be stopped. Tragically, children die as we contemplate recommendations. We must act quickly and responsibly to reestablish safe havens in our communities. Our children and our nation deserve nothing less.

CONGRATULATING JOHN F. KEANE ON THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF KEANE, INC.

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John F. Keane, a true American success story. This Saturday Keane, Inc. will host their annual employee recognition dinner. John Keane will be recognized, along with other employees who are celebrating significant milestones with the company. John Keane has dedicated 35 years of service and has successfully built Keane, Inc., headquartered in Charlestown, Massachusetts, into one of the world's most successful information technology consulting companies.

John Keane began building his consulting business above a doughnut shop, with one employee. From those humble beginnings Keane, Inc. has grown into a \$1 billion international powerhouse. I am proud to acknowledge the fact that John's monumental business success has not hampered his ability to personally make a significant, positive impact in the community.

Many businesses in this country do make efforts to be good neighbors. Keane, Inc. however, takes community involvement to a higher level. For instance, Keane has adopted the Edwards Middle School in Charlestown as their business partner. This is not merely a symbolic gesture by a big company to show they care about the community. It is truly a working relationship that has witnessed extreme success in the lives of students. An Annual Spelling Bee, sponsored by Keane, gives adults the opportunity to show to students what they have learned over the years, while also raising money for after-school programs.

Although John's accolades include serving on the President's Commission for Y2K, the

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Coalition for H-1B Visas and other high profile posts, it is his smaller scale, local efforts that impress me as his most important work. John himself has at times become personally involved in some of the many programs that take place at the Edwards school. When students were taking part in a program to teach peer mediation and negotiation skills, Mr. Keane himself participated in these sessions. It is this type of personal touch that makes John Keane the type of businessman you want to have headquartered in your community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate John Keane on his 35 years at Keane, Inc. and thank him for the manner in which he has conducted business during his tenure. He is truly an asset to our community. I'm honored to have Keane, Inc. in my congressional district.

GRADE-A: GOVERNMENT RESERVATION ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATION ACT—ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION OF MILITARY FAMILIES

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today 21 of my bipartisan colleagues and I are introducing a bill—entitled the GRADE-A Act, the Government Reservation Accelerated Development for Education Act. This is major legislation intended to improve education around the nation.

In the average \$10 million American school district, \$9.3 million are raised from state and local taxes. This system works well when the children attending the local school live on property subject to local tax.

This system does not work well when the federal government houses many children on land not subject to tax—such as a military base or Indian reservation. In these schools, the children report to class without financial backing—too many of these kids and the school district can go bankrupt.

For many years, the federal government has made payments through a program called "Impact Aid," intended to mitigate the impact of the federal presence on local schools.

Between 1950 and 1969, the Impact Aid Program was fully funded. Since that time the funding level has not kept pace with the amount required to cover the Federal Government's tax obligation. In Fiscal Year 2001, the program will pay only 46% of the total amount required to cover the cost of the two formula driven provisions of the Impact Aid Program—Section 8002 (Federal Property) and 8003 (Federal Connected Children).

While school administrators and teachers across the country appreciate Impact Aid payments, they are usually paid late and fail to cover the cost of the children who enter school. For example, the Highland Park, Illinois, school district pays approximately \$11,000 a year to educate a student. The Impact Aid program provides just \$500 per child. Local taxpayers living on civilian property must

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then pay the extra \$10,500 per year to educate that child. Too many of such children entering a school can bankrupt a whole school district.

This nearly happened in North Chicago, Illinois. This community is home to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center where 50,000 naval recruits are trained annually. Hundreds of children from military housing came into the local school district each year. Several years ago, North Chicago's district 187 nearly went bankrupt under the weight of children coming to school from property that cannot be taxed. Impact aid payments had been later and inadequate. Thanks to the work of my predecessor, Congressman John Porter, this school system was saved through additional appropriations. Now, this bill will help all schools in the nation to welcome and educate military and other federally-housed children.

GRADE-A would alter the current status of two sections of the Impact Aid program, making them into an entitlement program. The goal of this legislation is to improve federal impact aid for military dependents and other children living on federal lands. Impact Aid was created in 1950 when Congress recognized the obligation of the Federal Government to assist school districts and communities that experience a loss in their local property tax base due to the presence of the Federal Government. To offset this revenue loss to public school districts due to the tax-exempt status of the Federal Government, Congress established the Impact Aid Program.

GRADE-A would ensure the effective delivery of Impact Aid by creating an Impact Aid Trust Fund to guarantee that local school districts are able to offer the best education to all students, whether they are of military parents or civilians. It guarantees prompt payment to schools without needless waits or bureaucracy. Under GRADE-A, Section 8002 of the current Impact Aid Law would become an entitlement, mandating that the local school districts receive the full value of the federal land which has been taken off the tax rolls.

GRADE-A would also turn Section 8003, the Basic Support Payments, of the current Impact Aid law into an entitlement program. GRADE-A mandates that according to a pre-existing weighted formula, each school district receives full payment for each federally connected child. Currently, additional funding is provided in this section for special education children. Section 8003(d) under GRADE-A would now mandate that each school district receive all the monies currently granted under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for each Impact Aid child.

GRADE-A honors our commitment to military families and other families, especially American Indians. It guarantees that those families who serve to protect our freedom and in turn protected by the federal government.

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TRIBUTE TO THE ROMEO CHAPTER  
19 LADIES OF THE ORDER OF  
THE EASTERN STAR OF THE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Romeo Lodge #19 Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star of the State of Michigan, who celebrated their 106th birthday on March 31, 2001.

Since the Grand Chapter of Michigan recognized the start of the Romeo Chapter #19 Order of the Eastern Star on October 10, 1895, the Romeo Chapter #19 has been a thriving sister center of social, religious, and political life to all its members and their families. Dedicated to education, morality, and improving the quality of life for its Masonic family, the Ladies of Romeo have worked tirelessly to improve the community through their contributions in charity, scholarship, and service.

Through the years, the Romeo Chapter #19 Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star have devoted their time and efforts to maintaining the tenets of Masonry, encouraging kindness, respect, and good will towards all men and women. They have proudly organized philanthropic activities for members and non-members, assisting in times of hardship, sickness, death and disability. As they celebrate 106 years, I am confident they will continue to lead the community through their benevolent service.

Demonstrating outstanding leadership and commitment, the success of the Romeo Lodge #19 Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of its members and its community. I applaud Romeo Lodge #19 for their leadership, sisterhood, and commitment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their 106th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE MIGUEL  
MIQUELI AND THE JOSÉ MARTI  
STUDENT AID FUND

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miguel Miqueli, founder of the José Martí Student Aid Fund, Inc., for his contributions to education and to the Hispanic community in West New York, New Jersey. To celebrate the success of the José Martí Student Aid Fund and to honor Miguel Miqueli, an award dinner and dance will be held on May 5, 2001.

Miguel Miqueli was born on July 11, 1937 in San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba. He received his elementary education in El Colegio Belen in Havana, Cuba. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Science and Philosophy from the Pitman Academy, and concluded his studies in Business Administration at Havana Uni-

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versity. In April, 1961, Mr. Miqueli emigrated from Cuba to the United States, where he and his father opened a jewelry store in West New York.

In 1965, Mr. Miqueli became a member of the Lions Club of West New York, and he later co-founded the Hispanic Mercantile Federation, to which he was elected president in 1973; he is currently a member of the board of directors. In February 1978, along with a group of dedicated teachers, he founded the José Martí Student Aid Fund, Inc., and served as the president until 2000. As a collaborative effort with the Cuban-American Foundation he coordinated the project "Mision Martí" in 1992.

Through his work as an educator and community activist, Miguel Miqueli has truly been a valuable asset to Hudson County. He has compassionately dedicated himself to the field of education and to the Hispanic community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Miguel Miqueli and the José Martí Student Aid Fund.

A SALUTE TO DAVID HECKER

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2001*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and achievements of David Hecker, as he is honored by The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring in Oak Park, Michigan on May 6, 2001.

The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring is a national fraternal organization committed to the pursuit of social and economic justice while fostering Jewish identity through culture, education, friendship and mutual aid.

I have had the honor and pleasure of knowing David for many years. It is not surprising that David's life's work has embodied these ideals. His union roots run deep, back to Poland where David's paternal grandfather was active in the Bund (a Jewish labor organization). David's parents, Arnold and Josephine, were both activists in the labor movement: Arnold in the United Auto Workers and Josephine in the Health Care Union in the Bronx, New York.

David has pursued advanced degrees in labor relations and has worked his entire adult life on behalf of working people. He has been active with the American Federation of Government Employees, the Allied Industrial Workers, the Michigan AFL-CIO, the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO, and the Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel.

David embodies the values of social and economic justice in every aspect of his life. His passion for his work and beliefs shines through in his personality. David is a gifted organizer, motivator and strategic planner. He has used his talents in numerous roles to the benefit of many.

David is truly devoted to creating a Besere Un A Shenere Velt (A Better and More Beautiful World). His commitment to community is evident through his work as a board member of the Jewish Community Council and the Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders, as well as his political activity in the Democratic Party.