

May 4, 2001

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.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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.