

We are truly fortunate that such a talented individual has committed his life to working for economic and social justice. We are especially fortunate that he and his wife, Alice Audie-Figueroa, have chosen to make the Metro Detroit community their home.

So, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating David and wishing both David and Alice, along with their children, Joelle, Jose and Gustavo, the very best.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF
INCREASING AUTISM AWARENESS

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my support for H. Con. Res. 91, the Increase Awareness of Autism and Support Greater Research, Treatment & Training Resolution, to honor Autism Awareness Day, and to pay tribute to parents and families of autistic children everywhere.

As a result of autism, an estimated 400,000 Americans have lost the ability to communicate and interact with others. In my home state of Rhode Island, autism had become an absolute crisis. The incidence of the disorder has risen by over 1000% in the past seven years, and by over 300% in the past five years alone.

Caring for people afflicted with autism costs more than \$13 billion per year, and the majority of these costs are borne by the families of the victims of autism. These parents have sacrificed tremendously to provide the specialized education and support services that their children need. Yet, they still do not receive the support they deserve from the government.

My nephew has a form of autism so I know firsthand the challenges these families face. Many days, my nephew's parents cannot hold conversations with their son. Communicating with him takes extraordinary patience. Had his parents not engaged him in an intensive intervention program immediately after his diagnosis, he would have made much less progress today. It was not many years ago that children with autism would have been misdiagnosed and often institutionalized for the rest of their lives.

Parents of autistic children regularly encounter people who do not understand the difficulties associated with autism. Friends and teachers become impatient. They repeat the same phrase over and over, as if the child will understand if it is repeated one more time. Teachers are often ill-equipped to deal with the special challenges of autistic children. H. Con. Res. 91 calls upon federal, state and local governments to allocate sufficient resources to alleviate the shortage of appropriately trained teachers of autistic children; and recognizes the importance of worker training programs tailored to the needs of developmentally disabled persons, including those with autism.

The resolution further expresses Congress' support for increasing federal funding for research to learn the causes of autism, identify

the best methods of early intervention and treatment, and promote understanding of the special needs of autistic persons. It urges swift implementation of the Children's Health Act of 2000, particularly the establishment of at least three "centers of excellence" at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and at least five centers at the National Institutes of Health, in order to monitor the prevalence of autism at the national level.

As a proud member of the Coalition for Autism Research and Education (C.A.R.E.), I will fight for increases in support this year, to correct years of under-funding of organizations and programs that deal with autism issues.

In addition, the federal government must honor its promise to contribute up to 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure for special needs funding. To date, the maximum the government has ever contributed is 15 percent. As an original co-sponsor of H.R. 1330, the Helping Children Succeed by Fully Funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, I am fighting to ensure that the federal government honors its commitment to local districts.

It is of utmost importance to me that the federal government keep its promise to special needs students so they receive the first class education they deserve. I commend my colleagues for honoring this special day and implore them to work together to guarantee that the national crisis called autism receives the critical attention and financial support it merits.

THE PASSING OF REVEREND LEON
SULLIVAN, AUTHOR OF THE SULLIVAN PRINCIPLES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay a special tribute to the passing of one of America's greatest crusaders for civil rights and human rights both here at home and around the world, the Reverend Leon Sullivan. He left a rich legacy of activity and awareness, each new endeavor serving his vision of racial harmony and understanding, and he will be remembered for his crucial role in the right against Apartheid in South Africa.

As a Philadelphia minister with the Zion Baptist Church in the early 1960's, Rev. Sullivan organized a nonviolent boycott of local companies that would not hire blacks. The boycotts proved to be highly effective, but in order to bring about a genuine turn-around in the employment situation for black residents of Philadelphia he knew that many people would need professional training opportunities. In 1965, Rev. Sullivan attempted to address this training need through the creation of Opportunities International, a job-training program that has trained to date 1.5 million people in 142 centers worldwide.

Rev. Sullivan not only tackled tough problems, he also broke new ground in generating presence and visibility for the civil rights movement. He became the first black board member of General Motors Corp. in 1971—"the conscience of the board" according to then-

secretary to the GM board Rod Gilleum. Rev. Sullivan used his influence in this elite corporate environment to promote what would become his most famous civil rights manifesto: the Sullivan Principles.

The Sullivan Principles were designed to guide U.S. corporate behavior in apartheid South Africa. He described these principles as "a code that companies of America and the world came to follow to end apartheid peacefully, starting with the workplace." In explaining how one must go about reforming a system as entrenched as apartheid was in South Africa, he once noted that "if you take a hammer and chisel and pound a rock 100 times, it's going to crack. I pounded and pounded, and it cracked."

After retiring from Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Rev. Sullivan then created the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help. This foundation aided hundreds of thousands of people in Africa and the United States.

Rev. Sullivan's lifetime of service and achievement fortunately did not pass unrecognized. In 1992, then-President Bush recognized Rev. Sullivan's contribution to the promotion of civil rights with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1999, following the release of an updated version of the Sullivan Principles, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said of Rev. Sullivan, "He showed us all how much one individual can do." Rev. Sullivan's principles will live on to encourage corporations around the world to engage in fair employment practices.

Together with his wife Grace, his three children Hope, Julie, and Howard, and to the countless lives he touched and minds he opened, this Congress stands today in admiration and in gratitude of this extraordinary man and his very good works. Thank you, Rev. Sullivan, and may each of us learn from your example.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTOPHER SCHMUS, SBA YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to salute a man from my district who, at a relatively young age, has become quite the success story. Christopher Schmus, President and Chief Executive Officer of ProDriver Leasing (PDL) Systems, Inc., has been honored by the Small Business Administration as its Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Four years ago, after rising through the ranks of the trucking industry, Chris recognized the un-met need for highly qualified, professional truck drivers and set about to establish a business to fill that void. In 1997, at the age of 23, with only \$3,000 in cash, Chris started PDL out of his basement with only three drivers, including himself. The business recruits and trains its drivers, who are then placed with trucking companies who don't have enough drivers of their own, for a day, a week, or longer.