

will best serve the interests of all Israelis, all Palestinians and indeed, all of us throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, my personal sense of commitment to Israel has only been strengthened by recent developments. We must put an end to this terror and return to a period of goodwill. I believe the same is true for many of my colleagues. Let us reaffirm our solidarity with Israel as they commemorate their independence and struggle for freedom.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK

**HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I express my support for the 34th Annual National Nursing Home Week. When the very first National Nursing Home Week began, the theme was to let millions of Americans know the "fuller life" elderly lead in America's nursing homes.

Mr. Speaker in Woodmere, New York, there is an outstanding nursing home that I commend for giving Long Island's elderly a fuller life. Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center offers incredible rehabilitation services and skilled nursing services to Long Islanders. This year, Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center celebrates its 30th year and I am proud of their work they do.

I especially thank Director Anthony Matese, whom made changes and improved the Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. The 2001 theme is the effect Nassau County nursing boxes have on the community and that nursing homes in the Nassau County area have had on the community, and how the administrators are striving to create a warm, homelike environment without an institutional atmosphere.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Woodmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center on their success and wish them and all our nursing homes the best during National Nursing Home Week.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA A. PHILLIPS, 2001 ATHENA AWARD HONOREE

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today to honor Judge Virginia A. Phillips, the recipient of the 2001 ATHENA of the Inland Valleys Award, which recognizes Judge Phillips for her professional excellence, community service and mentoring of fellow women.

The ATHENA Foundation Award Program originated in 1980 by Martha Mayhood Mertz, who realized that in the 75 years of presenting community awards, her Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, of Michigan, had only once honored a woman. This realization led

her to establish ATHENA so that focus would be given to the incredible number of professional women found throughout our communities nationwide.

In the 43rd congressional district Judge Virginia Phillips not only epitomizes all that the ATHENAs stand for but also all that we could possibly hope for in a role-model for the young women of today.

Judge Phillips received her B.A., Magna Cum Laude, from the University of California, Riverside in 1979, and later obtained her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law. Additionally, her professional and community activities include: Board of Directors member of the Federal Bar Association—Inland Empire Chapter; Chairperson of the City of Riverside Law Enforcement Policy Advisory Board; Board of Directors member with the Riverside Youth Center; member of the Riverside Human Relations Committee; and much, much more. Judge Phillips' lifelong commitment to the Inland Empire community is obvious and compelling.

Presently, Judge Phillips serves as the first female district court judge from the Inland Empire appointed to the Central District of California, which encompasses over 18 million people, with more than three million people in the Eastern Division—the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino, California. And Riverside County, while being one of the fastest growing areas in the nation, has over 1.5 million people alone. In this position, Judge Phillips fills a critical need given the sheer number of cases that come before the Central District each month.

Mr. Speaker, my district is fortunate to have a dynamic and dedicated community leader in Judge Phillips. She has given her time and talents providing motivation and inspiration to the young women with whom she comes into contact.

Judge Virginia Phillips' outstanding work makes me proud to call her a community member and fellow American. I know that all of Riverside, including myself, is grateful for her contribution to the betterment of our community and salute her on May 10th with the 2001 ATHENA Award.

I look forward to continuing to work with her and the many professional women of Riverside County for the good of our community. I would like to close with the ATHENA Foundation motto by Plato: "What is honored in a country will be cultivated there."

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MARIA OCHOA

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Maria Ochoa, Ph.D. Dr. Ochoa has been director of the Sun Gallery in Hayward, California, for five successful years and is leaving to conduct art history research. Her exemplary leadership at Sun Gallery will be missed.

Sun Gallery is a community based gallery that obtains its funding through foundation grants and community support. Through Dr.

Ochoa's numerous programs and outreach activities Sun Gallery has become a true community based art gallery in which individuals feel invested and point to Sun Gallery with pride of ownership.

Dr. Ochoa was hired in April 1996 to serve as the Director of Sun Gallery. During her tenure, the growth at Sun Gallery has been remarkable. She developed a comprehensive educational program for children, increased the Gallery's funding base, brought a wide range of internationally and nationally regarded artists to exhibit at the gallery, and most importantly, brought the community to Sun Gallery. She tripled the number of school children served annually by the gallery.

Sun Gallery's classroom field trip program is now regarded as one of the premiere art education programs in the region. Dr. Ochoa also developed, in tandem with local artists and teachers, a bronze-casting curriculum that is now offered in high schools in Hayward, California.

Dr. Ochoa has stated that she is quite honored to have been selected to bring Sun Gallery into the 21st Century and is deeply humbled to have been able to serve the community, while working in a visual arts setting.

We are honored that Dr. Ochoa chose to lead Sun Gallery with her energy, commitment and talent. She leaves a legacy and her indelible mark on Sun Gallery. I join her friends and admirers in thanking her for a job well done.

HONORING ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL HOSPITAL'S NATIONAL MAGNET AWARD

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital for earning a Magnet Award, the highest honor a hospital can receive for patient care. St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital is the first hospital in Houston and one of only 31 hospitals nationwide to win this coveted distinction. This Magnet Award is presented by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for the patient care provided by the St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital's nursing staff. As the representative for St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, I want to congratulate the entire nursing staff for the quality health care services that they provide not just to local residents, but also to patients from throughout the world.

On Monday, May 7, 2001, I participated in the Magnet Award Ceremony at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital to honor these dedicated nurses who provide top quality care. I can personally attest to the care provided at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital through my family's experience. Several years ago, my uncle former Senator Lloyd Bentsen was treated at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital where he received the best available care to treat his illness. Also participating at this Awards Ceremony to honor the nursing staff of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital were two prestigious patients, former Houston Mayor Bob Lanier and